



FRAMEWORK PAPER

A FACCE-JPI Event on 'Understanding system shocks in European food systems'

Thursday, September 19 2024

1. Instrument

One day physical workshop

3 sessions, followed by 2 joint round table with Governing Board members chairing the Discussion

Full day attendance by participants is expected

2. Date, location

Thursday September 19 2024

Location: Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot Curie- Rue du Trône 100, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5FZ9vxSeNjxE9Y428>

3. Problem statement

Europe is the fastest-warming continent in the world. Extreme weather events, once rare, are becoming increasingly frequent at an alarming rate. Europe will face longer periods of drought and extreme heat. Recent system shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the two wars at the edge of Europe have underlined the risks of economic efficiency at the expense of food system resilience and security. Global supply chains are disrupted, having immediate and unprecedented effects on the European economy and security.

Two, often competing narratives, on economic competitiveness vs sustainability in the context of self-sufficiency are driving policy discussions with little scientific input. A lot of knowledge is furthermore contained in global reports with no details on the European food system. Recent reports have shown that the European food system is not prepared for climate shocks and that Europe is dependent on a small number of suppliers for key inputs. In the context of natural resources: soil, freshwater, and other ecosystem services the current European food system is predominantly dependent on the rest of the world.

A paradigm shift is needed to develop a less dependent and self-sufficient European food system. Furthermore, little is known about societal aspects how the impacts of these shocks will be distributed, and how to consider food justice aspects in climate shock risk assessments and policy-making. FACCE-JPI considers it a priority that 1. Europe is adapted to climate shocks 2. Europe increases its resilience through food system redesign 3. It ensures this process is just.

4. Objectives

The objective of the workshop is to identify key enablers for rethinking the future European Food System through the lens of climate change, addressing the impacts of climate shocks. The workshop will focus on the necessity of a food systems approach emphasising adaptation and resilience. This discussion will raise questions of equity and a just transition, exploring who bears the costs of risks and adaptation for future food policy developments and research and innovation priorities.

Special attention will be given to the potential role of Central and Eastern Europe, including the Western Balkan Countries, and new pre-accession countries Ukraine and Moldova in contributing to the resilience of the European food system. It will also delve into the role of the social sciences in better understanding the inequality and justice aspects of climate shocks in the future food system.

The central question guiding the workshop will be *how can we build a resilient European food system?*

5. Draft Agenda

09:15 – 09:30	Welcome and registration
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction to the workshop by the Chair
10:00 – 10:40	Understanding current climate risks and shocks to the European agri-food system
10:40-11:20	Discussion on what is needed now and where/when to intervene now and in the future
11:20 – 11:40	Analysing priorities for European agri-food system resilience and security
11:40 – 12:20	Discussion on what is needed now and where/when to intervene
12:20– 13:20	Lunch Break
13:20 – 14:20	Identifying a pathway for a just transition to a climate-resilient European agri-food system
14:20 – 15:00	Discussion on what is needed now –when/where to intervene now and in the future
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break
15:20 – 16:20	Roundtable with all keynotes and FACCE community: How can Europe prepare? Policies for action Do policymakers have enough information to act? What is the role of the bioeconomy in building resilience to these shocks? How can research support policy-makers on these topics? What are the thematic research gaps to support Europe in building a more shock-resilient agri-food system?
16:20-17:20	Roundtable with all keynotes and FACCE community: Research priorities for action What are the research gaps to support Europe in building a more shock-resilient agri-food system? How can European Partnerships (including FACCE-JPI) better integrate this into their work? Do we need new R&I partnerships? Should Europe dedicate an R&I partnership to use its potential to build overall European resilience/agri-food systems security?

6. Outcomes

For government representatives and key institutions: Convey that we are at a turning point that requires an agreed framework for disaster risk management and for resilience in our food and agricultural systems

This workshop is situated within a broader policy framework, occurring a few months prior to an event hosted by Hungary in December 2024, during its presidency of the Council of the European Union. The focus of this event will be on food system security, serving as one of its key themes. The conclusions of this workshop and a paper prepared by the Scientific Advisory Board will be presented to the Hungarian presidency for this event.

Better insights into the role of Central and Eastern European countries could play in a European food system security and systems resulting in pathways for future research.

Contribution to the future research and innovation pathways with insights towards the HEU Partnerships, the 10th Framework Programme and the 6th SCAR Foresight exercise.