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# The Food Systems Approach – Europe and emerging African and global perspectives by the InterAcademy Partnership

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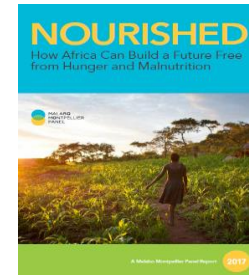
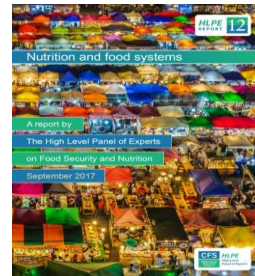
# New reports on food systems in 2017

Food and nutrition security, undernutrition, malnutrition, healthy diets, and future of agriculture

1. FoodSecure EU project, Navigator 2017
2. The Lancet Series on Nutrition (metabolism) 2017
3. EASAC / IAP Studies on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture 2017/18
4. Global Nutrition Report 2017, IFPRI et al.
5. FAO, WFP, IFAD “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World” 2017
6. HLPE of CFS Report on Nutrition and Food Systems 2017
7. Malabo Montpellier Panel “Nourished – How Africa Can Build a Future Free from Hunger and Malnutrition” 2017

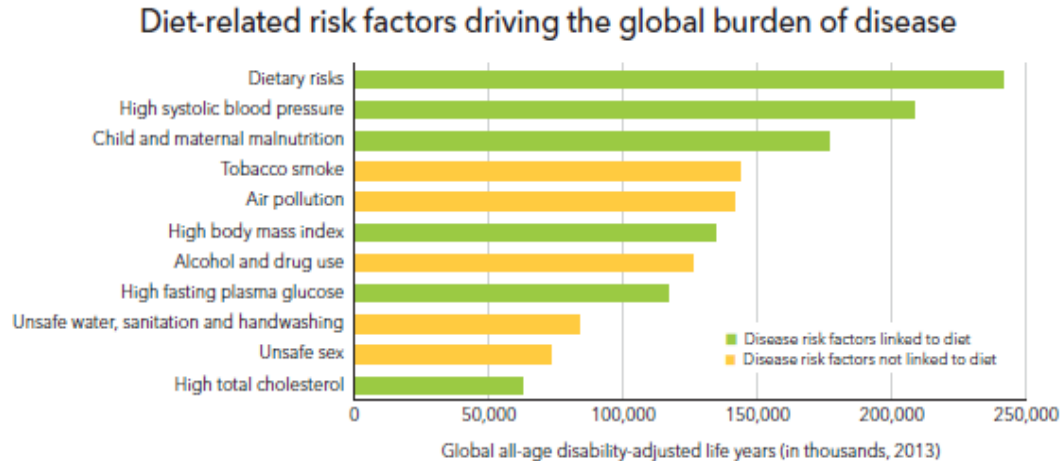


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# Why the growing science and policy attention?

- Burden of diseases and large population shares affected
- Increased complexity of causes of undernutrition and malnutrition
- Sustainability concerns
- Transformative science and technologies



Source: Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, *Food Systems and Diets: Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century* (London, UK: 2016).

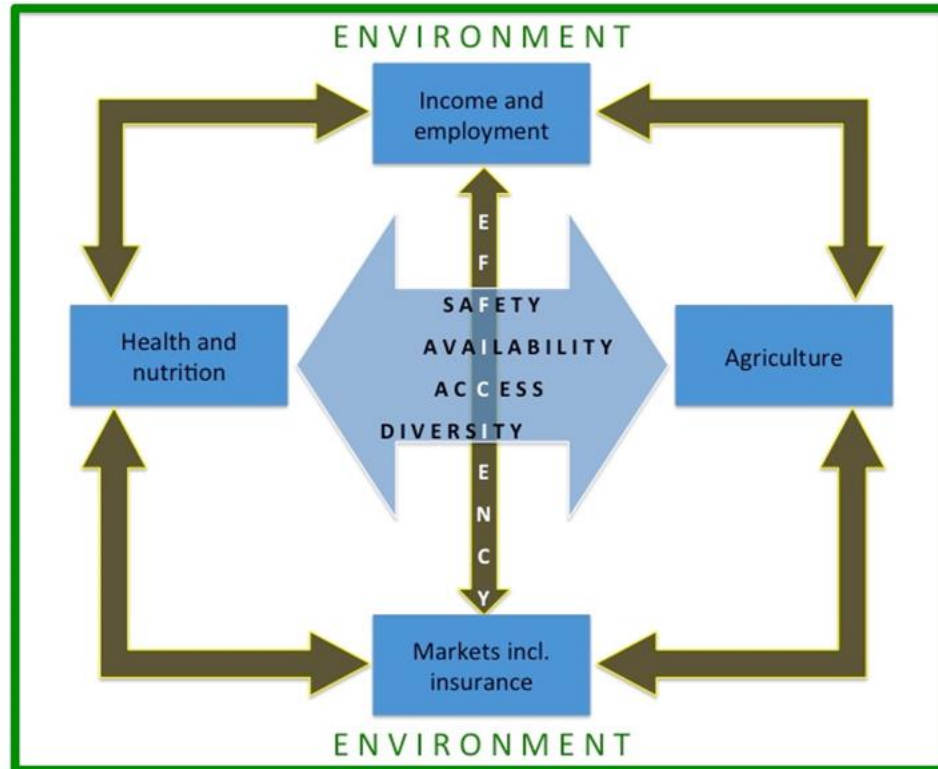
# IAP project on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture (FNSA) – focus on science

- IAP is the global network of science academies
- FNSA project:
  - 4 parallel regional expert working groups – Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe to share evidence
  - Agreed common template of themes taking *food systems approach* and emphasising diet-nutrition-health interfaces
- Global synthesis report in preparation for dissemination mid 2018 to advise on inter-regional matters, and link to science underpinning for SDGs

# EASAC and FNSA project in Europe

- **EASAC** is formed by national science academies of EU Member States, and wider Europe, e.g. Russia is part of Working Group
- Using **IAP template** to take food systems approach incorporating demand- and supply-side issues and covering obesity/overweight issues as well as undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies
- *EASAC report is not yet published – here emerging research points from EASAC analysis are presented only*

# Conceptual framework for aggregating research within the food systems context



# Report Themes: Efficiency, sustainability, innovation in food systems

- Agricultural **productivity** – minimising pressures on natural resources
- Tackling food loss and **waste** (including overconsumption)
- **Bioeconomy** and Circular Economy
- Applying advances in **food science** and technology
- Understanding **markets** and their instability in globalised food system
- Cross-cutting issues, e.g. **digitalisation**, big data, **climate change**
- Issues for **livestock** production and improved **plant breeding**
- Multiple issues for food and biomass from **ocean**
- **Land** use and soils, **water**

## Report themes (cont.): Nutrition, food choices and public health

- Options for better **data** collection, interpretation and sharing, e.g. on food consumption patterns and links with health
- Options for better integration of **agriculture and health** agendas
- Advancing science across multiple disciplines, e.g. **personalised nutrition**, human gut *microbiomics*, determinants of consumer **behaviour**
- **Innovative foods** and **healthy diets**



# Emerging strategic dimensions from EASAC analysis of FNSA

- **Research agendas** need to recognise importance of:
  - Basic research
  - Multidisciplinary research
  - Long-term commitment to research
- Critical interface between research **on nutrition-sensitivity of food systems** and on environmental **sustainability**
- Focus on food and nutrition security of **vulnerable groups** incl. in Europe

## IAP project related to Africa and globally

- **Africa:** has build its own important agendas (Malabo Declaration, CAADP) and the African network of science academies (NASAC) is finalising its own report based on African expertise
- **Europe:** EASAC identifies relevant issues for inter-regional collaboration and spill over of impacts. For example:
  - Underpinning role of **basic research** as a resource
  - African-EU R&D **partnerships** on FNSA
  - **Global spill-over** of European choices on FNA and resources
  - Similarly cooperation with **Asia and the Americas**

# Way forward: Europe to consider partnership & leadership in science for FNA

1. **Strengthen science agenda** to enhance SDGs on ending hunger, enhanced sustainable agriculture, healthy diets, and reduced waste
2. **Science base for CAP reform** when considering rebalanced priorities – from agriculture subsidies toward good nutrition through innovation with sustainability
3. Reform **international food and nutrition governance**, consider an “International Panel on Food Nutrition Agriculture”

**Need for more structured science and policy consultations accross all actors and their reports**