In this issue of food security—October 2021

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This June 2021 Issue of Food Security includes 15 very different articles. The first six articles are part of our Series:

Food System Transformations for Healthier Diets, Inclusive Livelihoods and Sustainable Environment, with Romina E Cavatassi, Leslie Lipper, Ruerd Ruben, Eric Smaling, Paul Winters as Guest Editors

These are followed by nine articles from various places in the world.

Food System Transformations for Healthier Diets, Inclusive Livelihoods and Sustainable Environment Series

- **Article 1:** Without food production, there is no food security, there is no food system to think about. In the article: "**The Future of Farming: Who will produce our food?**" by Giller et al., we read about the staggering diversity of farm sizes around the world; about the difficulty the immense majority of these farms, very small, often extremely small (less than 0.05 ha) faces in order to survive. This article provides an overview of the current challenges faced by farmers and farms; it also speaks of the tremendous challenges ahead for the food production

system to fulfil the needs of a growing world population under climate change and shrinking natural resources; and of the options that may be envisioned. This article is written by a team that includes some of the best experts in the field. It is a must-read.

- The following four articles of the series deal with a series of key aspects of the functioning, evolution and challenges of food systems. **Article 2** (Quisumbing et al.) addresses the key issue of women's empowerment and gender equality in food system, which acts as a road-block in the evolution and efficiency of many food systems. **Article 3** (Garbero et al.) makes use of supervised text mining, network analysis and LASSO regression on documentation pertaining to IFAD projects over a period of 40 years. The results provide a unique view of food system evolution. **Article 4** (Terwisscha van Scheltinga et al.) revisits the food security-water resource nexus in a case study. **Article 5** (Materia et al.) puts forwards fermentation as an oft-omitted, ancient, and vital element of food systems, which needs remobilising. **Article 6** (van Berkum and Ruben) proposes a new index to monitor the evolution of food systems.

A series of articles from different places, addressing very different topics, follow.

- **Article 7: "Livelihood, culture and patterns of food consumption in rural Burkina Faso"** (Turner et al.) is an exceptionally detailed case study on food security at the household scale. The Authors unravel the biological, physical, and crucially, cultural, sociological and economic factors that influence food security in a family, and what the status of a household will be depending on an array of factors.
- The rest of this issue addresses some essential elements of food security and the solutions towards its improvement. This includes the revival and use of African vegetables (**Article 8**, Mwadzingeni et al.), the empowerment of women towards food security in Niger (**Article 9**, Lentz et al.), the monitoring of global food security drivers via indices (**Article 10**, Allee et al.), the struggle for street vending that is heightened by the Covid crisis in

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African cities (**Article 11**, Kiaka et al.), the concerns of achieving the SDG #2? in South-East Asia (**Article 12**, Montesclaros), farmers' demand for seed of root, tuber and banana crops (**Article 13**, Pircher and Almekinders), the very special case of Israel as country with respect

to food security (**Article 14**, Griver and Fishhendler), and a very large, comprehensive analysis of the consequences of the Covid crisis on agricultural production, livelihoods, and food security (**Article 15**, Jaaks et al.).