

4. Food systems exert increasing pressure on natural ecosystems and climate

Food systems are a major driver of climate change, contributing to 29% of greenhouse gas emissions. The agricultural sector is responsible for 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock production accounting for 14.6% and crop production for 8.4%. The food system also exerts pressure on natural ecosystems, with 70% of global land and 29% of global marine resources used for food production. The food system is also a major consumer of water, with 70% of global freshwater withdrawals used for agriculture.

5. Food systems are important sources of livelihoods

Food systems are a major source of livelihoods, providing employment for 2.5 billion people. The agricultural sector is a major source of income for rural populations, with 4.5 billion people dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. The food system is also a major source of nutrition, providing 30% of global calories and 33% of global protein. The food system is also a major source of micronutrients, with 70% of global iron and 80% of global zinc intake coming from food.

6. Gender-sensitive social protection measures contribute to food security

Gender-sensitive social protection measures contribute to food security by supporting the livelihoods of women and girls. These measures include cash transfers, food vouchers, and agricultural extension services. Gender-sensitive social protection measures can help to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly for women and girls. For example, cash transfers can help to improve food intake and nutritional status, while food vouchers can help to ensure that women and girls have access to nutritious food. Agricultural extension services can help to improve agricultural productivity and income, which can in turn help to improve food security.

7. COVID-19 is exacerbating challenges to both food security and nutrition

COVID-19 is exacerbating challenges to both food security and nutrition. The pandemic has led to a global food crisis, with 370 million people facing acute food insecurity in 2020. The pandemic has also led to a global nutrition crisis, with 1.9 billion people facing malnutrition in 2020. The pandemic has disrupted food systems, leading to increased food prices and reduced access to nutritious food. The pandemic has also led to a loss of livelihoods, particularly for women and girls, which has in turn led to increased food insecurity and malnutrition.