

Toward a Long Food Movement: 2020-2045

An 18-month exploration of where business-as-usual will leave food systems in 2045, & how enhanced civil society collaboration could lead to more sustainable food systems

To address the enormous challenges facing our food systems in the decades ahead, civil society must strengthen existing collaborations, reach out to new allies, and develop long-term transformational strategies. In other words, a 'Long Food Movement' is required, with an outlook that extends not only to the conclusion of the SDG cycle in 2030, but onto a presumed third round of development goals (2030-2045).

Over the next 18 months, IPES-Food, ETC Group and CREPPA at UQAM will make the case for a Long Food Movement by painting a picture of what food systems might look like in 2045, depending on the extent to which civil society is able to collaborate and shift the balance of power in food systems. This will be a shared assessment: the outlooks and strategies of wide-ranging civil society groups will be built into the analysis through interviews and multi-partner dialogues. The project will yield:

- A review of how the **planetary boundaries** apply to food systems and what a 'safe operating space' for food systems looks like.
- An **agribusiness-as-usual scenario**, identifying the likely trajectory of food systems over coming decades, based on the business strategies of major firms, technological trends and consumer-retail shifts.
- An **alternative scenario of sustainable and equitable food systems**, based on the capacity of a highly-collaborative civil society to shift resources and structures in a way that avoids tipping points and significantly improves the social and environmental sustainability of food systems by 2045.
- An in-depth exploration of two key pathways for change: **influencing financial flows** and **transforming multilateral governance**.
- A discussion of how to plan for '**grey swans**': disruptive events (e.g. food price shocks) whose timing can't be determined but whose occurrence can be anticipated.

The 18-month exploration will provide a series of provocative snapshots, rather than an exhaustive view of food system scenarios and impacts to 2045. It will illustrate the interdependencies between key actors and trends, highlight major forks in the road, and identify the most promising leverage points for shifting the balance of power in food systems. Given that planetary boundaries could be crossed even under more positive scenarios, it may force food system actors to rethink their capacity for risk-taking, and to redouble their efforts to collaborate. In other words, it will provide information and impetus for a whole range of actors to work together over the coming years to make the Long Food Movement a reality.