

# WHAT IS THE FOOD SYSTEM?

The food system encompasses all the activities associated with producing, distributing, selling, and consuming food, including the actors—individuals, businesses, and organizations—doing those activities; the resources those activities use; the policies and other factors that influence those activities; the outcomes and impacts of those activities; and the complex relationships and interactions between the components in the system.

## OVERARCHING ELEMENTS: FOOD POLICIES, CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

### 1. FOOD PRODUCTION

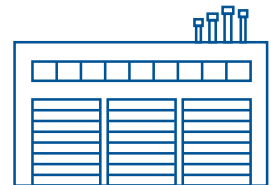


- Farm inputs
- Farms
- Farm workers



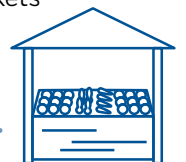
### 2. FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

- Transportation
- Processing & packaging
- Warehouses & storage



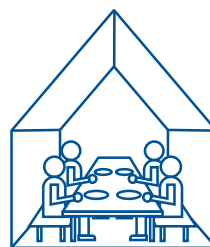
### 3. COMMUNITY FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

- Retail sales & marketing
- Farmers markets
- Restaurants



### 4. INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES

- Community resources
- Individual resources
- Consumer behavior
- Nutrition awareness
- Food purchasing & cooking



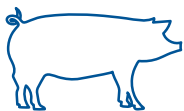
### 5. NUTRITION & DIET-RELATED HEALTH STATUS

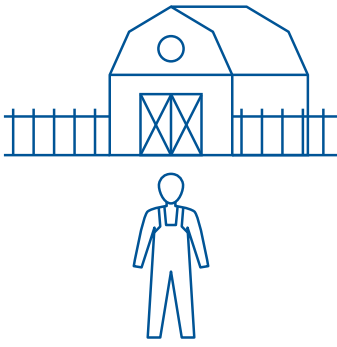
- Food security
- Hunger & malnutrition
- Weight status
- Diet-related disease



### 6. FOOD WASTE & LOSS

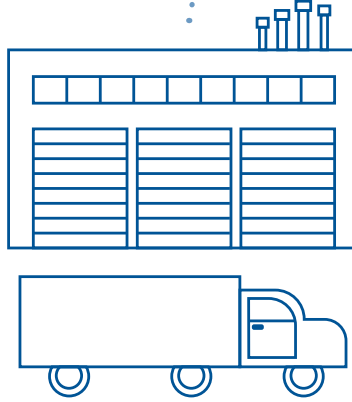
- Supply chain losses
- Food spoilage
- Composting





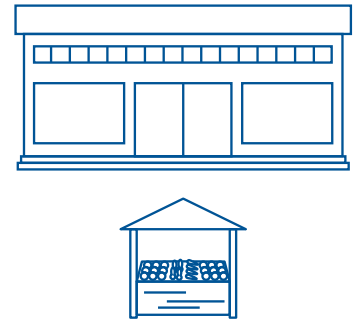
## 1. FOOD PRODUCTION

Food production includes farms, farm inputs such as natural resources and the land that is used for food production, the agricultural production practices used on farms, as well as the people who work on farms.



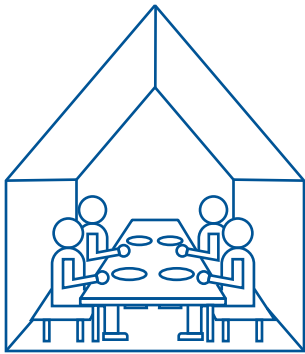
## 2. FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

Supply chains are the ways that food gets from the farm to consumers, and includes food distribution channels and transportation, food processing facilities, food packaging, warehouses, storage, and wholesale sales.



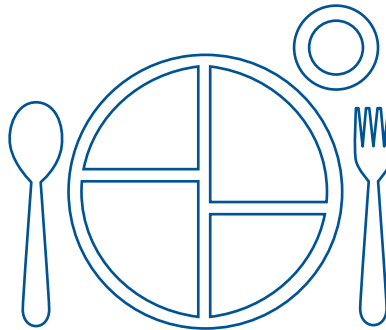
## 3. COMMUNITY FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

These are the locations where consumers access, purchase, and consume food. These include retail sales and marketing, such as grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets, as well as restaurants and fast food businesses.



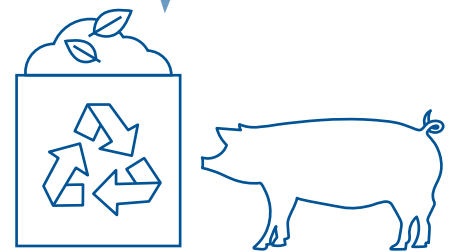
## 4. THE COMMUNITY

Community resources include the social norms and built environment of communities. Individuals and households have different economic resources, time, knowledge, skills, preferences, and values. Those individual and community resources affect consumer behavior, nutrition awareness, food purchasing, and cooking behavior.



## 5. NUTRITION & DIET-RELATED HEALTH STATUS

Food insecurity can disrupt eating patterns, reduce food intake, and lead to malnutrition. Weight status and diet-related disease, such as Type 2 diabetes and heart disease, are outcomes of the food system.



## 6. FOOD WASTE & LOSS

Food waste can occur all along the food system, including food that does not leave the farm due to quality issues, food waste that occurs in processing, and food waste due to spoilage in grocery stores, restaurants, and homes. Some food waste can be composted, which allows it to be used as an input in food production.