

## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

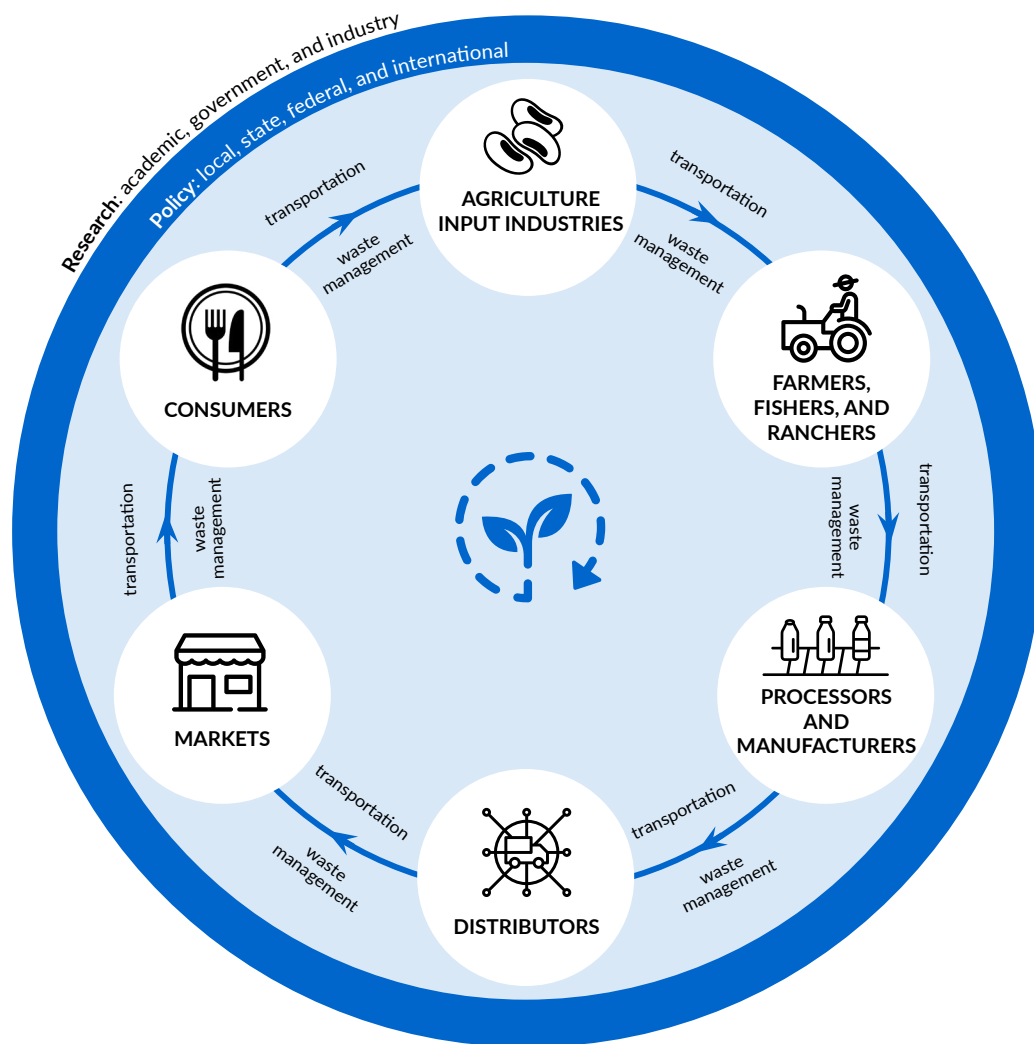
### Sourcing Nourishing Food for People and Planet

*A sustainable food system delivers food security and nutrition for all in a way that ensures the economic, social, and environmental resources to feed future generations.<sup>1</sup>*

#### Sustainability incorporates social, environmental, and economic elements<sup>1</sup>

A sustainable food system:

- Is profitable throughout: **economic sustainability**
- Offers broad-based benefits for society, including health and holistic well-being: **social sustainability**
- Creates positive or neutral impact on the climate and natural environment: **environmental sustainability**



1. UN Food and Agriculture Association, Sustainable Food Systems, [www.fao.org/3/ca2079en/CA2079EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca2079en/CA2079EN.pdf).

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Throughout each stage, each player within a sustainable food system prioritizes:

- Efficient, judicious, and circular resource use including soil and water management
- Biodiversity and resiliency
- Cultural and political responsiveness
- Equitable access to nourishing, health-promoting diets
- Food, climate, and societal security
- Consistent evaluation of trade-offs and feedback loops



## Agricultural Input Industry

The resources that are used in agriculture production, such as chemicals, water, labor, equipment, irrigation, feed, seed, and energy.



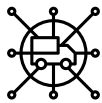
## Farmers, Fishers, & Ranchers

Those who plant, take care of, and harvest crops or raise livestock. These individuals produce agricultural outputs including food, fibers, biofuel, and commodities.



## Processors & Manufacturers

Processors and manufacturers include produce packers, meat packers, millers and bakeries, and consumer product goods companies that turn raw materials into packaged products. Processors aggregate, store, and provide initial processing of food products before shipping them either to distributors or manufacturers to further transform goods into finished products.



## Distributors

Distributors bridge the gap between those who produce food and those who sell it, by purchasing and storing food products, and selling them to markets. Food distributors often supply food to large businesses, like supermarkets and food service providers, by purchasing food from multiple sources to be able to sell items in bulk.



## Markets

Markets encompass the retail and food service sectors. Retailers includes grocery stores, convenience stores, vending machines, farmers markets, and other retail outlets where individuals buy food products for consumption. The food service sector includes restaurants, fast-food outlets, and institutional cafeterias where individuals buy both the food and the service of having that food prepared and served.



## Consumers

Consumers are individuals who purchase food to be prepared or eaten at home or elsewhere, or who eat in a food service establishment.



## Transportation

Transportation is involved at each stage of the food system, moving agriculture goods and food products using trucks, trains, planes, boats, and/or cars. This includes delivering inputs such as seeds or fertilizer to farms and consumers traveling to markets.



## Waste Management

Waste and loss management occur at every stage of the food system. Examples include farmers finding it economically unfeasible to send product to market, food producers or retailers deciding not to use products that fail to meet quality or cosmetic standards, and consumers discarding excess uneaten food or food that was improperly cooked, heated, or stored.

Sources referenced:

Committee on a Framework for Assessing the Health, Environmental, and Social Effects of the Food System; Food and Nutrition Board; National Academies Press (US); 2015 Jun 17. 2, Overview of the U.S. Food System. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK305173/>.  
Neff, R. (2015). Introduction to the US food system. San Francisco, Calif.: Jossey-Bass.