

Dr. Richard Gilmore, GIC Group

▶ The "New Normal":
Restoring and
Strengthening Food
Safety

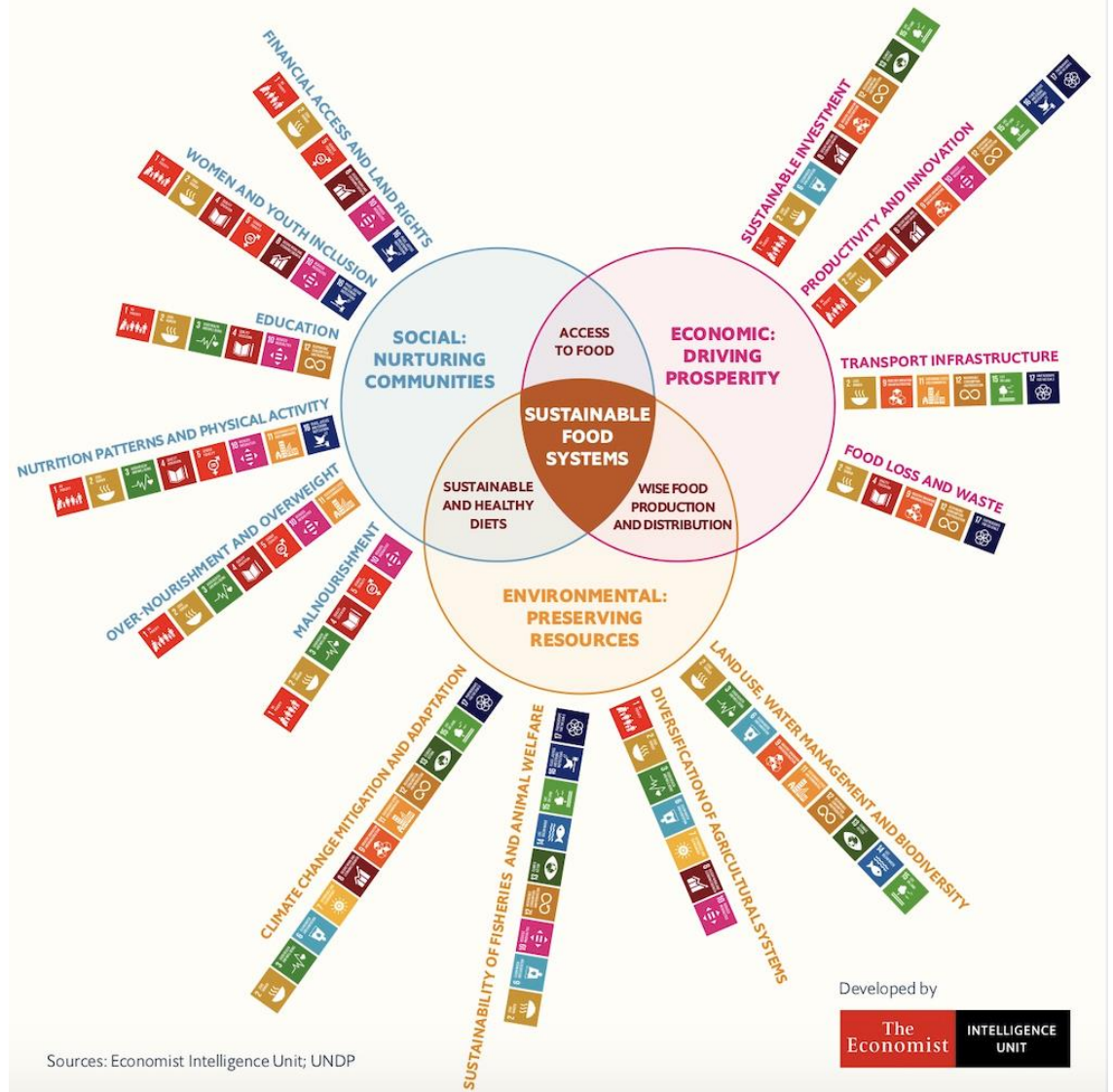
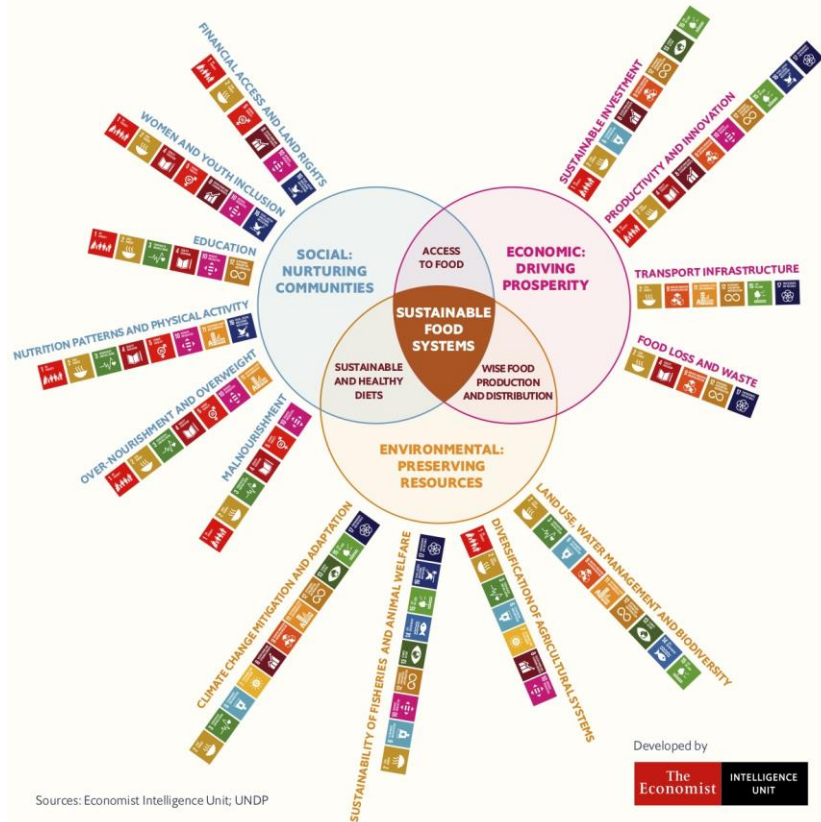


FOOD SUSTAINABILITY: KEY TO REACH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Food is a common thread linking all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given the **interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of food systems**. The Food Sustainability Index (FSI), developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit with the Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition, is a quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model gauging the sustainability of food systems globally across three key dimensions (environmental, societal and economic). The FSI includes three pillars: food loss and waste; sustainable agriculture; and nutritional challenges. The infographic below depicts the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the key food-system indicators included in the FSI. This can highlight the impact of food systems on the 2030 agenda to meet the SDGs.

The FSI allows for comparison between countries and food-system indicators, **highlighting best practices** that food-system stakeholders—including policymakers, civil society organisations, the private sector, academia and research, and the media—can use to design roadmaps toward more sustainable food systems and ultimately the SDGs. **Important drivers of sustainable food systems include education, advocacy and policies.**

The composing indicators can be **mapped very closely to the various SDGs**, as visualised below. The associated SDGs are the ones we think are the most closely linked to each category, but it is not an exhaustive list and the links between food systems and the SDGs remain subject to further study. **To explore the FSI, please visit <http://foodsustainability.eiu.com/>.**



THE NEW NORMAL: RESTORING AND STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY

- Covid 19 Pandemic:
 - Increase in global hunger
 - A broken supply chain
 - Breakdowns in surveillance and compliance with food safety standards
 - Overall inadequacies in national and international food systems

Post-Pandemic Food System Challenges

- Managing the surge in demand without sacrificing consumer confidence
- Mitigating expectations of a surge in recalls of food and feed products
- Synchronization of the restoration of supply chains, food safety site surveillance, compliance reinforcement
- Use of new detection and verification technologies to protect human health
- Re-tooling trade policies

Specific Issues Facing Eurasia

- Traditional markets in Europe
 - Risk of cross-contamination between live animals, Ready-To-Eat (RTE) food and humans
 - Lack of developed food safety emergency response plans and procedures for communicating between vendors, market authorities and health agencies
 - Weak enforcement of regulatory requirements

Specific Issues Facing Eurasia

- Russia
 - Changes in Russian regulations in the field of standardization and certification of production, manufacturing, and services occurred with the implementation of the Federal Law
 - Objects of regulation:
 - MPLs
 - Manufacturing
 - Storage
 - Transportation
 - Realization and utilization
 - Hygienic requirements
 - Labeling
 - GMO-products



Specific Issues Facing Eurasia

- Armenia
 - Compliance with international regulations and standards
 - Risk assessment capability in food control systems
 - Improved capacity to control animal diseases and plant pests
 - Sustainable use of natural resources, disaster risk reduction and management

Specific Issues Facing Eurasia

- Belarus
 - Lack of food safety management systems
 - Lack of adequate ability to respond to food safety threats
- Georgia
 - Outdated food safety regulations and practices
- Ukraine
 - Lack of food safety management system



New Cost-Effective Food Safety Technologies as Solutions

- Data digitization
 - Blockchain
 - Modular spectrometry
 - RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)
 - NanoRETE (Nanoparticle biosensors)
 - AI
- 

HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS

- Food Safety Rating Platform—a new initiative from Global Food Safety Forum (www.globalfoodsafetyforum.org), an NGO founded and managed by GIC Group.
- Fintech— incentivizing food safety performance
- Cultural shift: public/private sector recognition of the need for collaborative strategies for risk avoidance and mitigation.