

Food and agriculture systems: Current and emerging challenges for a sustainable future

Population Association of America, 23 April 2020

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Challenges for food stability and availability*

1. Improving agricultural production to meet increasing demand
2. Ensuring a sustainable natural resource base
3. Addressing climate change and intensification of natural hazards
4. Preventing transboundary diseases and emerging agriculture and food system threats

Challenges for access and utilization

5. Eradicating extreme poverty and reducing inequality
6. Ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition
7. Improving income earning opportunities in rural areas and addressing the root causes of migration
8. Building resilience to protracted crises, disasters and conflicts

Systemic challenges

9. Making food and agricultural systems more efficient, inclusive and resilient
10. Implementing coherent and effective national and international governance

COVID-19: Disruption of food and agricultural systems

Consumption: Purchasing power of people in precarious jobs

Logistics: e.g access to market for small holders/food distribution

Retailing: Poor food distribution for segregated people

Processing: proximity of operators and food safety

Institutional environment: budget diversion,

Migrations: precarious housing and physical distance

Labour: lack of supply from informal workers

Overlapping crises: COVID-19 in conflict areas and food security

COVID-19 impacts on Food systems: [FAO Policy Briefs](#)

Country policy responses to COVID-19: [FAO FAPDA database](#)

(Inter)dependencies among systems affecting food*

Cross sectoral interdependencies: ...tackling all forms of malnutrition is not the domain of any one sector alone: the health, education, agriculture, social protection, planning and economic policy sectors all have a role to play...(35)

Cultural dependencies: Changes [in food preferences] may signal a global convergence towards the consumption habits prevailing in Western Europe and North America ... (38)

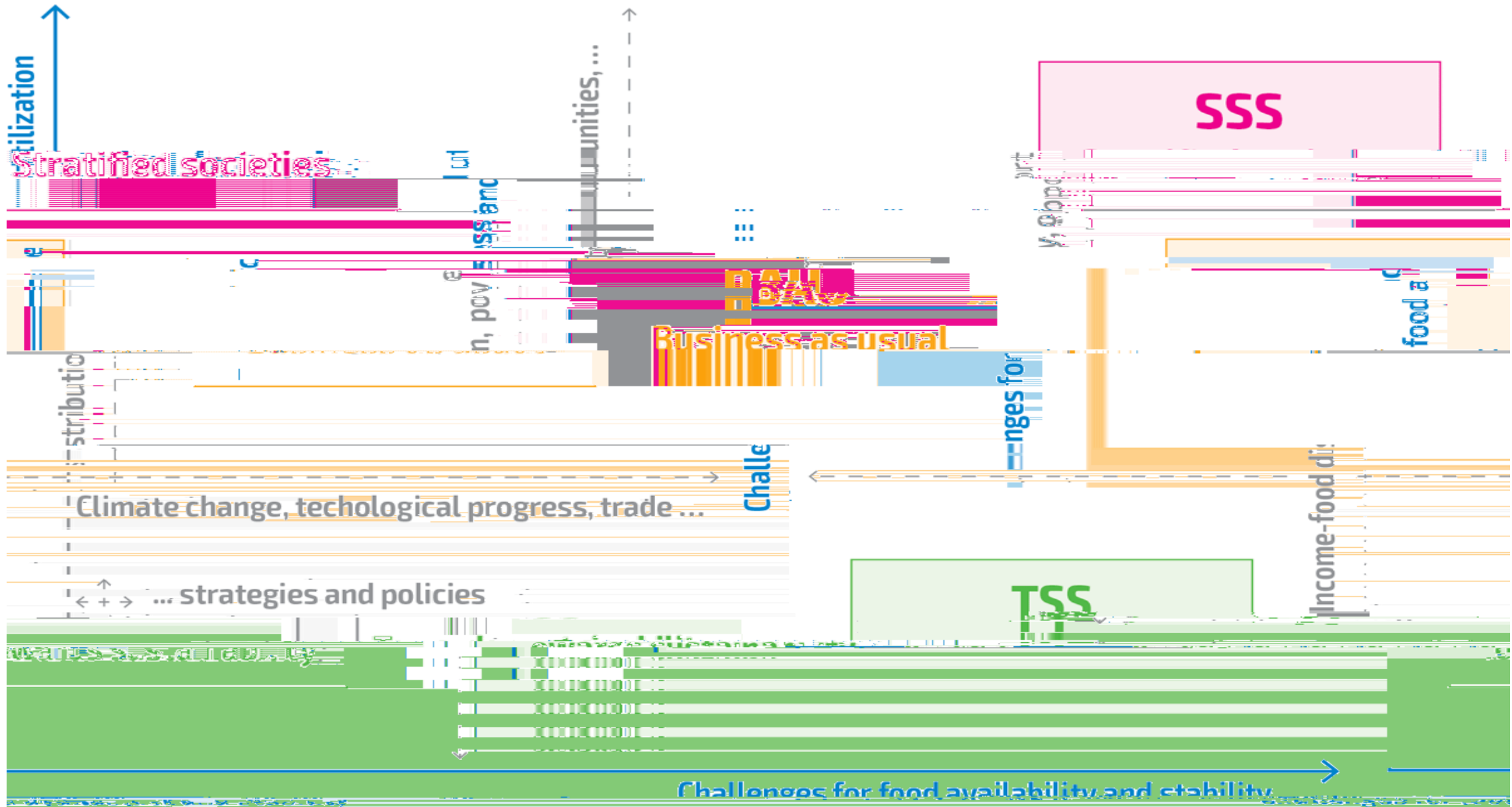
Cross-country interdependencies: Highly unequal income distribution within countries and [...] between low-, middle- and high-income countries help to perpetuate poverty and privation... (39)

Technological dependency: ...the digital technology needs of low- and middle-income countries depend increasingly on oligopolistic markets for big-data platforms, where a small number of corporations manage extraordinary amounts of information on production and consumption processes... (52)

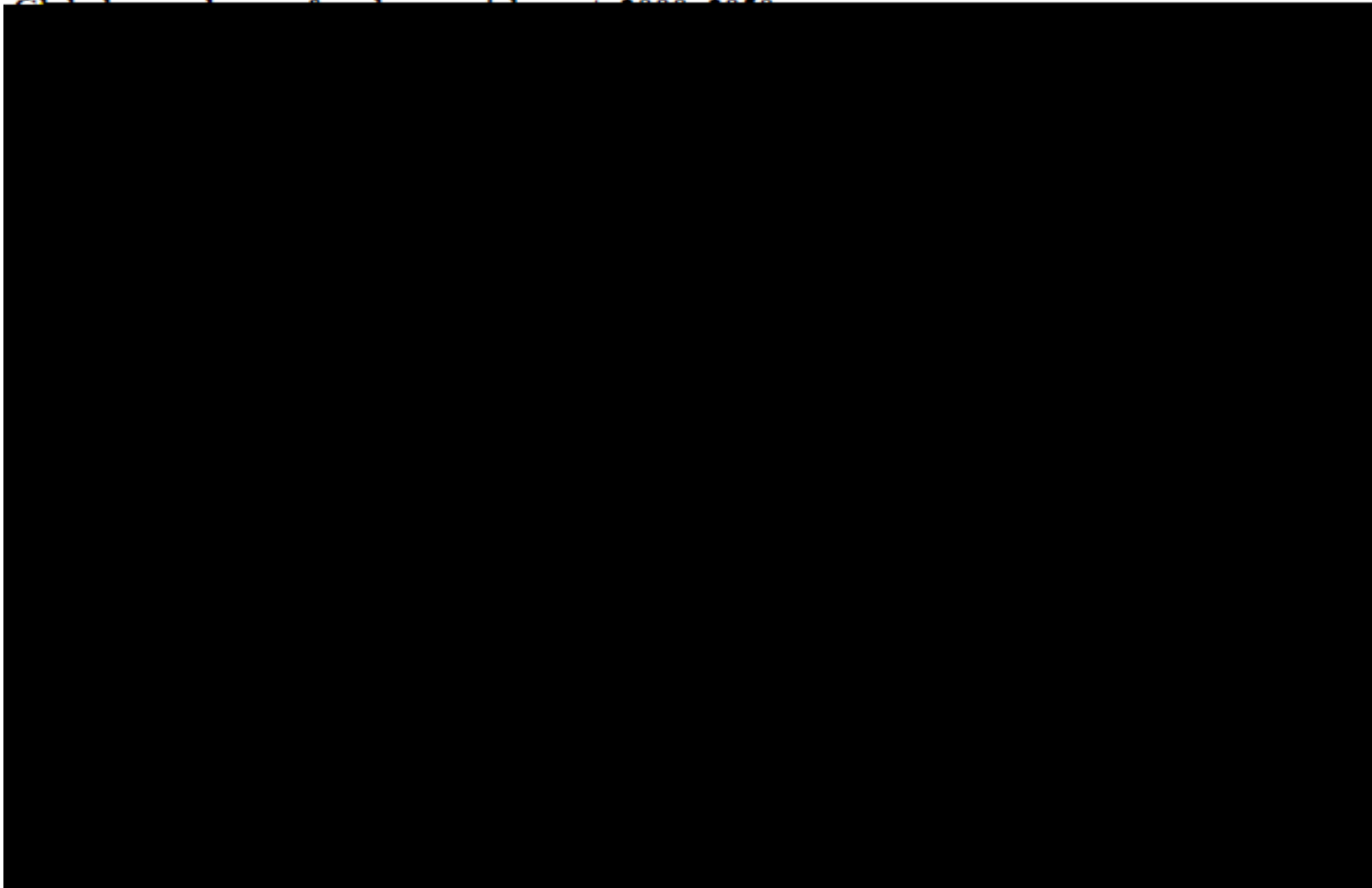
* UN, CPD 2020, [Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development](#) Report of the Secretary-General



Scenarios for the future of food and agriculture



Undernourishment: alternative pathways



Sources: UN CPD 2020, based on:

FAO, 2018. [The future of food and agriculture – Alternative pathways to 2050](#)

FAO et al. 2019. [The state of food security and nutrition in the world](#)



Long-term foresight at FAO

FOFA 2050 material

www.fao.org/publications/fofa

- Full report FOFA 2050
- Summary report
- Flyer
- Global country-level database
- Supplementary material

FAO long-term foresight exercises

www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies

