

## **Session title - Transforming Food Systems – lock-ins and levers to re-localize food systems**

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### **Session Abstract:**

Globalization of the agricultural market has become most pronounced over the last decades. As a result, supply chains extend to the entire world. Commodities thus travel long distances and go through several processing stages. While this global food system has proven efficient in terms of production and logistics, many authors point out its limits or flaws in terms of e.g. inequal access to food and many environmental issues, making it unsustainable.

In response, the concept of alternative food systems (AFS) has emerged in recent decades. As argued by the theory of sociotechnical systems, AFS can be seen as niches that emerge as a reaction to the limits of the locked regime with the hope and ambition of driving a transition, a reorientation of the dominant system. Despite their diversity, all AFS refer in one way or another to their territorial dimension and to the creation of new associated proximities. The transition to resilient territorialized food systems is however prevented by a number of lock-ins. Lock-in mechanisms can be conceptualized as mechanisms which reinforce a certain pathway of economic, technological, industrial and institutional development and can lead to path-dependency which will largely impede transition processes.

In this session, we particularly welcome contributions that explore the various lock-ins preventing the (re-)territorialization of food systems, and/or the associated levers that can be activated to foster food systems' transformations. We also welcome other contributions that take up a systemic lens towards this issue of transforming food systems.

### **Type of session:**

A mix of oral presentations and collective discussions (e.g. world café) focusing on lock-ins and levers to transform food systems.

### **Intended outputs:**

- A collectively established list and systems map of lock-ins and levers for the transformation and territorialization of food systems
- Recommendations about research priorities

**Duration:** 3 hours