

**Marcello Vicovaro, Ana Puhac, Sara Hoogerwerf**

[marcello.vicovaro@fao.org](mailto:marcello.vicovaro@fao.org)

FAO

**Agroecology Scientific Day 2024**

Workshop n°7, Session n°3

**Title:**

**The role of local and traditional food markets in ensuring access to nutritious food in urban areas**

**Abstract:**

Within food systems, food environments can be considered as the interface between consumers and the food supply. They are defined as the physical places where supply and demand meet, but also in terms of the availability, variety, price, and quality of foods that can be found in all types of food outlets, services and institutional settings where people procure and eat food (UNSCN 2016). Especially in low-income settings, local and traditional food markets (LTFMs) are at the core of food systems and are crucial not only for ensuring both food security and nutrition and incomes to smallholder farmers. LTFMs also play a critical role in ensuring a day-to-day access to fresh and seasonal food like vegetables, fruits, meat, and fish. Nonetheless, LTFMs are rarely considered as a main entry point when designing policies and programmes addressing malnutrition and diets. However, and precisely because LTFMs are at the core of food systems linking food supply and food demand, using these markets as entry point for multi-stakeholder policy dialogues can offer a unique opportunity to advance toward policy and programmes alignment across food systems.

Building on market data collected through the implementation of the FAO methodology to map territorial markets, this presentation will focus on the role that LTFMs play in ensuring availability of diverse and locally produced food products, as well as some insights on consumers' purchasing patterns and gaps limiting an increase in consumption of healthy food products.