

# Chapter 22

## Rethinking Global Food Governance From Historical Perspectives for a Sustainable Future

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### ABSTRACT

*The world food system faces climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, and malnutrition. This chapter examines global food governance's history to inform a sustainable transition. Analyzing institutions, policies, and initiatives from the 20th century onward, it identifies key issues and lessons. Dominant approaches prioritized production and trade over equity, environment, and rights. Alternative models like cooperatives, agroecology, and local food systems offer solutions. A new paradigm integrating sustainability, human rights, and justice is proposed, emphasizing policy reforms, agroecology, cooperation, and stakeholder engagement. A transformative*

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*shift in values and power is necessary for a just and sustainable food future.*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The key objective of global food governance is to attain food security with minimum environmental degradation through sustainable agriculture (Montagnini & Metzler 2024). Historically, many analyses were conducted, yet traditional models of governance could not unravel the complexities of the contemporary food system (Moragues-Faus & Battersby 2021). Food systems have been dominated by economic policy, cultural behaviors, and environmental concerns, leading to vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted such vulnerabilities and necessitates a multi-stakeholder integrated approach toward building resilience (Béné 2020; Akhai, 2023; Mala et al., 2025). This chapter sets out historical contexts and implications for modern governance strategies, highlighting the importance of historical insights for fashioning effective solutions to support sustainable global food governance.

### **1.1 Agroecology and Sustainable Food Governance**

Agroecology is a vital form for sustainable food governance because its practices are ecologically sustainable and socially just for agriculture. The enhancement of biodiversity, improvement in soil health, and reduction of chemical inputs altogether reduce environmental impacts; furthermore, agroecology empowers farmers to transform their climate changes as well to ensure food security of at-risk populations. Obstacles to transform a food system include inequality and poverty, environmental degradation, fragmented policymaking, and antistructural resistive tendency (Wezel et al., 2020; Oñederra-Aramendi et al., 2023; Anderson et al., 2021; López-García & Carrascosa-García, 2024).

### **1.2 Integrating Healthcare and Urban Planning**

Healthcare and urban planning can be integrated to reduce health risks caused by climate change. Efficient urban design can promote green infrastructure, reduce heat stress, and improve public health outcomes (Akhai & Wadhwa, 2024; Akhai, 2024). Climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure ensures continuous service delivery during emergencies. Integration requires interdisciplinary collaboration among urban planners, healthcare practitioners, and environmental specialists (Borelli et al., 2023; Huzenko & Kononenko, 2024).

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