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May 2022

The EPHA Food Feed brings regular updates relevant to the debate on **food systems and health**.

This feed focuses on key materials published between **March and April 2022**. Several key features from May are also included, which support this issue's special focus on **food security**.

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## Food Systems & People's Health



### WHO European Regional Obesity Report 2022

By WHO/Europe

Overweight and obesity affect almost 60% of adults and nearly one in three children in the European region. Recent estimates suggest that overweight and obesity is the fourth most common risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Europe's foremost health challenge. This report examines the growing challenge of obesity and focuses on policies and actions to tackle obesogenic environments.

[READ MORE](#)



## Untapped Opportunities: Assessment Food Systems in Nationally Determined Contributions

**Global Alliance for the Future of Food**

This report assesses how 14 countries have incorporated food systems into their nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) — the national climate action plans which are at the heart of the Paris Agreement.

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## Europe Eats The World

**WWF**

This report shows that despite the EU being the world's largest agri-food exporter economically, this is only possible because of massive imports of resources. A shift in consumption can contribute to food security and lower the impacts of the EU food system.

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## Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

This IPCC report calls for demand-side measures to induce a shift to sustainable healthy diets. These include both plant-sourced foods (such as coarse grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds) and animal-sourced foods produced in resilient, sustainable and low-GHG emission systems.

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## Another perfect storm?

**IPES Food**

This special report argues that the failure to reform food systems has allowed the war in Ukraine to spark a third global food price crisis in 15 years. It presents what can be done to prevent the next one.

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## Commercial determinants



## The great climate greenwash: Global meat giant JBS' emissions leap by 51% in five years

**IATP, DeSmog and Feedback**

While promising to reach net zero emissions by 2040, JBS - the largest meat processor in the world - increased its annual greenhouse gas emissions by 51% between 2016 and 2021, according to author's estimates.

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## The hidden health impacts of industrial livestock systems

**World Animal Protection & Tasting the Future**

This report analyses the true hidden health impacts and costs of industrial livestock systems, which are described as damaging people's health through multiple and interconnected pathways of impact. This including through diet-related diseases and climate change.

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# EU Food & Drink Policy



## Rolling back the clock will not help food security in Europe, a sustainable transition will

Pushkarev, EPHA

Opinion piece argues that the narrow vision of food security that has set the tone for EU policy debates risks creating false paradigms and misconceived responses. It argues that food security and nutrition will be helped by a strengthened European sustainable food agenda, not by abandoning it.

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## War in Ukraine and food security: what are the implications for Europe?

IDDRI

This post analyses the causes of rising food commodity prices and what should be done to mitigate their impact. It argues that in the short term, support for dependent buyer countries and sectors is needed, not increased production. In the medium-term, reorganising the food system will be crucial.

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## Versailles Declaration

European Heads of State and Government

High level declaration calls to improve food security by reducing dependencies on key imported agricultural products and inputs, in particular by increasing the EU production of plant-based proteins. It invites the Commission to present options to address rising food prices and global food insecurity.

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## We need a food system transformation – in the face of the Ukraine war, now more than ever

Pörtner et al. Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Statement supported by over 600 experts calls for stronger action towards a healthy, just, and environmentally-friendly European food system. It puts special focus on the food security benefits of diets lower in animal foods.

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## Joint open letter: EU food supply and solidarity response to the war in Ukraine

Participants in the EU Food Policy Coalition

This joint NGO letter provides a reminder of how essential it is to implement the EU Green Deal and its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. This in response to attempts by vested interests to undermine sustainability ambitions.

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## Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems

European Commission

Commission Communication on food security in Europe and globally. Provides, among others, for humanitarian assistance and food aid to Ukraine and other countries in need. Mentions the need to increase access to food in the EU.

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## Need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

European Parliament

European Parliament resolution on the invasion of Ukraine and related global food security concerns.

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## Sustainable EU food system

European Commission

EU public consultation on the upcoming proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems. This horizontal framework law is meant to accelerate and facilitate the transition to sustainability and ensure that foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable.

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## Environmental degradation: Impacts on agricultural production

Institute for European Environmental Policy

This briefing reviews existing evidence on the impact of environmental degradation on European food availability in the long run, if food systems are to remain as they are. It focuses on climate change, biodiversity loss and soil degradation.

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## EFSA scientific advice related to nutrient profiling

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

EFSA's advice related to nutrient profiling for the development of harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods.

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## Research Highlights

[Land-based climate change mitigation measures can affect agricultural markets and food security](#) | By Fujimori et al. (2022), Nature Food

[Do not transform food systems on the backs of the rural poor](#) | By Davis et al. (2022) Food Security

[How distorted food prices discourage a healthy diet](#) | By Pancrazi et al. (2022) Science Advances

[Doubling of annual forest carbon loss over the tropics during the early twenty-first century](#) | By Feng et al. (2022) Nature Sustainability

[Nutrition in Abrupt Sunlight Reduction Scenarios: Envisioning Feasible Balanced Diets on Resilient Foods](#) | By Pham et al. (2022), Nutrients

[To Waste or Not to Waste: Questioning Potential Health Risks of Micro- and Nanoplastics with a Focus on Their Ingestion and Potential Carcinogenicity](#) | By Gruber et al. (2022), Exposure and Health

[Artificial sweeteners and cancer risk: Results from the NutriNet-Santé population-based cohort study](#) | By Debras et al. (2022) PLOS Medicine

[Ultra-processed foods: how functional is the NOVA system?](#) | By Braesco et al. (2022) European Journal of Clinical Nutrition

[Effectiveness of Web-Based Personalized Nutrition Advice for Adults Using the eNutri Web App](#) | By Franco et al. (2022) Journal of Medical Internet Research

[Association of Habitual Alcohol Intake With Risk of Cardiovascular Disease](#) | By Biddinger et al. (2022) JAMA Netw Open

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