

Feedback on Qualitative Mapping

Ambitions/gaps/specific situation on FNS in ITALY –some main points

Ambitions

- Sustainable and efficient food production systems from farm to fork (environmental, economic and social sustainability)
- Increase quality of food products, also linked to specific dietary requirements and impact on health
- Introduction of innovation/new technologies (e.g. ICT, digitization, precision agriculture etc.) and business models along all the food production-distribution chain (agriculture, processing, marketing)
- Improve food safety, including transparency and traceability of agri-food products.
- Promote healthy diets (nutrition security and quality), fighting malnutrition in all its forms in relation to the "triple burden" (UN, WHO, FAO declarations): undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency and obesity.
- Reduce food wastes
- Development of food districts: strengthen cooperation among food system's actors and between them and other stakeholders, improve transparency of food prices and a better distribution of profits along the food chain
- Increase agri-food contribution to the bioeconomy adopting circular economy approaches.
- Improve coordination and alignment of national strategies and implementation plans with the EU agenda.

Gaps

- Climate change impact on agriculture (plant resilience/adaptation, long term effects on soil, etc.), the availability of raw materials for the food industry and of healthy accessible food for citizens
- New bio-resources, new technologies, new products, new logistics infrastructures
- Digitization along all the agri-food system
- Maintenance of a good food safety situation in Italy (transparency, traceability, malnutrition issues) linking to food monitoring programs already working (Ministry of Health and National Institute of Health) and R.A.S.F.F. (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) by Ministry of Health
- Small size of agricultural farms-enterprises and food industries and low level of involvement in R&I
- Progressive reduction of financial resources for R&I after 2010: most funding come from EU sources and lack of coordination between actors involved in R&I.
- Need to raise awareness about the role of agriculture and food systems in terms of environmental-socio-economic sustainability and human well-being.
- Improve links between the agri-food sector and education and extension services as a basis to promote the transfer of research results and innovation into the agri-food systems

- Dietary survey system to complete the production-to-nutrition data flow for decision making from farm-to-fork and from fork-to-farm (dietary survey are promoted by the European Food Safety Authority through the EU Menu Program). CREA-Food and Nutrition, Ministry of Health, National Institute of Health have started an initiative for recruiting and training highly specialist in this survey field and collecting data within the accredited learning path including various courses.

Specific situation

- Great variability of climate, soil and water resources and agri-food biodiversity in the country facing climate and socio-economic changes (strength/weakness)
- Rural area renaissance: young people come back to agriculture and agri-food production with new approaches and new business models
- Agri-food industry pay more attention to sustainability and healthy approaches
- Great attention at the level of public procurement to FNS issues

How integrated are the strategies and R&I policies on the scope of food and Nutrition security in your country?

The recent adoption of national strategies on different area (bio-economy, health, environment, industry 4.0, smart specialization, etc.) should facilitate integrated and concerted approaches among all the food system actors. FNS is one of the key themes as well as the knowledge and innovation system declined in such national strategies.

Recent initiatives with a more holistic/integral approach on FNS:

Technological platform National CLUSTER AGRI-FOOD (CLAN) <http://www.clusteragrifood.it/en/>
IT Bioeconomy strategy

http://www.agenziacoesione.gov.it/opencms/export/sites/dps/it/documentazione/S3/Bioeconomy/BIT_v4_ENG_LUGLIO_2017.pdf

PRIMA Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
<http://www.prima4med.org/>

The provided information is not exhaustive and can be subject to change
Date: April 2018, updated 08th November 2018