SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

FOOD FOR THOUGHT | Sustainable Food Systems

The fall harvest is upon us, and as we start thinking about what to make with all that extra squash, we may also find ourselves thinking about our food sources.

Creating sustainable and equitable food systems is a critical need around the world and a key area of socio-environmental research. Over the years, we've supported several projects and researchers seeking urgent solutions for how to make food systems more productive for an ever-growing population without putting additional strain on our ecosystems. You can learn about their work **here**.

To learn more about the science of sustainable food systems, check out our resources that incorporate published research on the topic as real-world examples of applied science, below.

To see even more related content on this topic, check out the publications and projects listed under our **Food Systems and the Environment** research theme.

Sustainable Agriculture Lesson: Resistance, Resilience, or Transformational Farming

This lesson focuses on analyzing techniques for improving soil health, ecosystem resilience, and ecosystem services, while providing diverse and nutritious food for the public. Learners will review an array of potential strategies and apply them to specific farming geographies. They will then

analyze ways to integrate multiple benefits and implement their strategies more broadly. **Learn more**.

Paradigm Shifts Applied to the Food System Lesson

In this lesson, participants will learn about three distinct paradigms in sociology that have environmental applications and apply them to a specific thought experiment on the industrial food system. Learners will use interdisciplinary approaches to evaluate land-sparing, land-sharing, and the need to improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat at the same time as we increase food production. **Learn more**.

Sustainable Agriculture Lesson: Community Gardens – Justice, Safety, and Climate Solutions

This lesson synthesizes the socio-environmental challenges and benefits of community gardens with the call for cities to designate more community garden space in planning for climate change, resilience, food security and sovereignty, and community integration. It takes the form of a town hall meeting with city officials and residents weighing in on policy choices that will affect the gardens and the city's climate resilience. **Learn more**.

Sustainable Agriculture Lesson: Strategic Reductions in Food Waste

This lesson engages with recent food loss and waste (FLW) research and online resources to enable learners to analyze the causes of and chart potential solutions to FLW. Learners will role-play as particular food-service sector actors to advise both incremental and systematic corrections that address FLW. These critical efforts respond to the UN mandate to bring our food system toward sustainable practices in this era of increasing need for low-carbon and nutritious food pathways. **Learn more**.

Sustainable Agriculture Lesson: Aquaculture Scenarios

In this lesson, learners will work together to embody the roles of diverse and novice aquaculturists. Their first charge will be to research entrepreneurial essentials such as technology and product. Building from there, they must consider the goals and constraints of their particular persona as they choose from four aquaculture economic-development scenarios as presented by Gephart et al. (2020). They will then articulate a development pathway that integrates economic, nutrition, and environmental goals by 2030. **Learn more**.

Collaborating with Communities to Address Risks to Gardeners

In this seminar, Dr. Melanie Malone explains how marginalized, urban community gardens often contain contaminated soils (and sometimes plants) and that risks to gardeners are not sufficiently addressed due to inadequate, unclear, and inconsistent guidelines for risk. This seminar will summarize methods used to address such issues, followed by more detailed recommendations of how community researchers can collaboratively work with communities and resist oppressive systems of risk. **Learn more**.
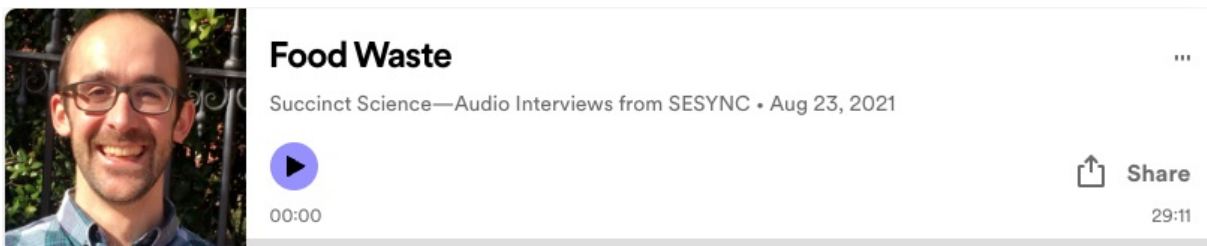

Advancing Sustainable Development Goals Lesson: Urban Agrobiodiversity

This lesson delves into the theory and science around urban agrobiodiversity: the variety and quality of food products made available to city dwellers across the globe. Better systems of food production, distribution, diversity, and inclusive cultural representation have the power not only to increase nutrition standards for city dwellers but also to make progress toward other related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like sustainable cities, reduced inequality, and decent work and economic opportunities. Learners will research and propose creative intersections among the UN SDGs to envision more equitable and sustainable urban agrobiodiversity outcomes by the mid 21st century. **Learn more**.

Audio Interview: Food Waste

In this audio, SESYNC's Erin Duffy talks to Dr. Quentin Read about his research to find real-world solutions to food waste and how these efforts are one piece of a larger puzzle to create a more sustainable food system. **Learn more**.

Food Waste

Succinct Science—Audio Interviews from SESYNC • Aug 23, 2021

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NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Have food supply chain policies improved forest conservation and rural livelihoods? A systematic review." Published in *Environmental Research Letters* by former SESYNC postdoc Florian Gollnow and colleagues Rachael D. Garrett, Samuel A Levy, Leonie Hodel and Ximena Rueda.

CONTACT US | We Want To Hear From You!

UHave updates or outcomes tied to your SESYNC research that would make for an interesting research spotlight? Looking for a resource on a topic that we haven't covered

yet? Want to share an idea? Contact us at **communications@sesync.org**.

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