

Food justice and food insecurity

Identify approaches to reduce food insecurity and promote more equitable access to food, particularly for vulnerable communities

Prof. ssa Rosalia Filippini

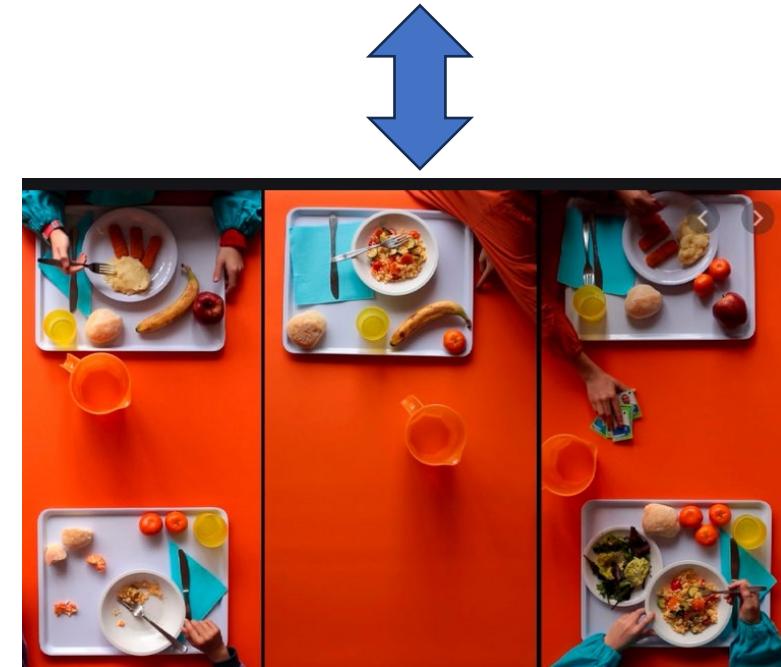
13/11/2025

Outline

- What is food security
- Governance issue
- Torino Food Metrics
- Research in Parma

Who I am and what I do

- LM in Economy & PhD in Agronomy
- Researcher Unipr in **Agricultural Economy**
- **Research** mainly on:
 - Agro-food supply chains
 - organic agriculture and food systems
 - innovation, smart agriculture
 - governance of local food systems (food policies, public procurement)



1. What is food security

Rome Declaration on World Food Security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

WFC, 1996

1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”



The level of analysis is the individual

1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The level of analysis is the individual

→ Food access

1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The level of analysis is the individual

Food access
Food availability

1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The level of analysis is the individual

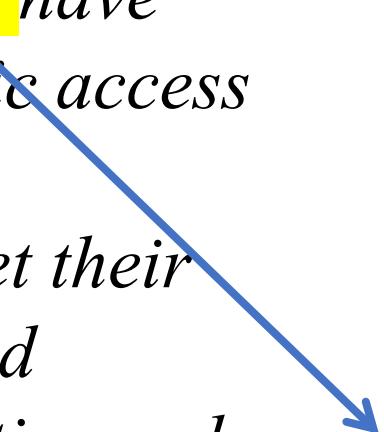
Food access
Food availability
Food utilisation



1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The level of analysis is the individual



- Food access
- Food availability
- Food utilisation
- Stability of food supply

1. What is food security

“Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The level of analysis is the individual

Food access
Food availability
Food utilisation
Stability of food supply

The 4 dimensions of Food security

1. What is food security

Dimension	Definition	Research questions
FOOD AVAILABILITY	Sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food	Is food actually or potentially physically present?
ACCESS TO FOOD	Households and all individuals within them have adequate resources to obtain appropriate food for a nutritious diet	If food is available, do households and individuals have sufficient access to that food?

1. What is food security

Dimension	Definition	Research questions
FOOD UTILISATION	Proper biological use of food, requiring a diet that provides sufficient energy and essential nutrients, potable water and adequate sanitation.	If food is available and accessible, are households and individuals properly utilising the food?
STABILITY	Reliable supply of food products available for all people at all times	The food system is stable? For everybody and always?

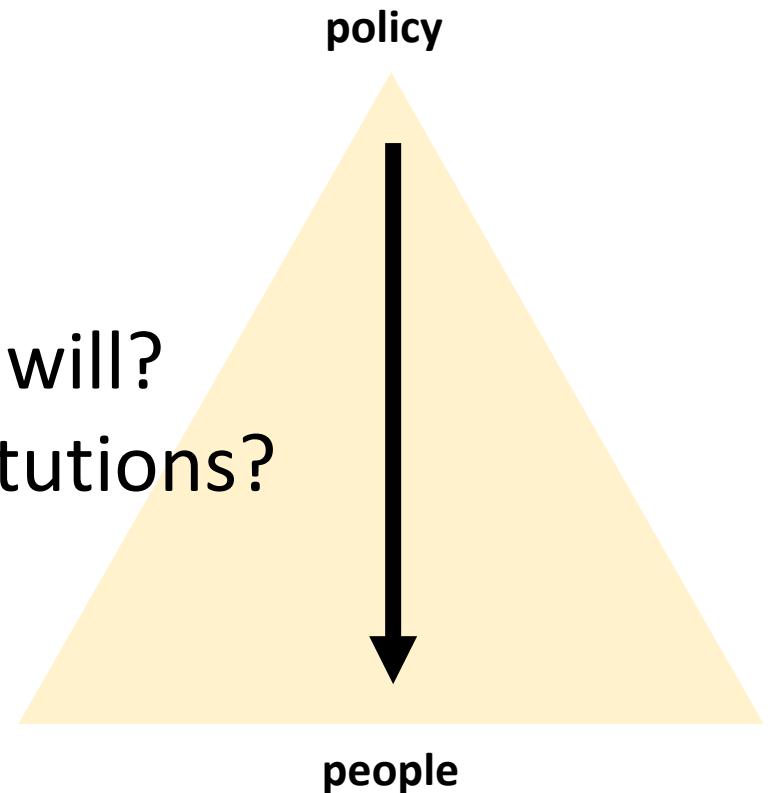
2. Governance issue

How to reach the food security?

What is not working?

It's a **Governance issue**:

- Is there a **political will**?
- Are the **institutions** supporting the political will?
- Horizontal and vertical **coordination** of institutions?
- Are **private** (economic) actors included?

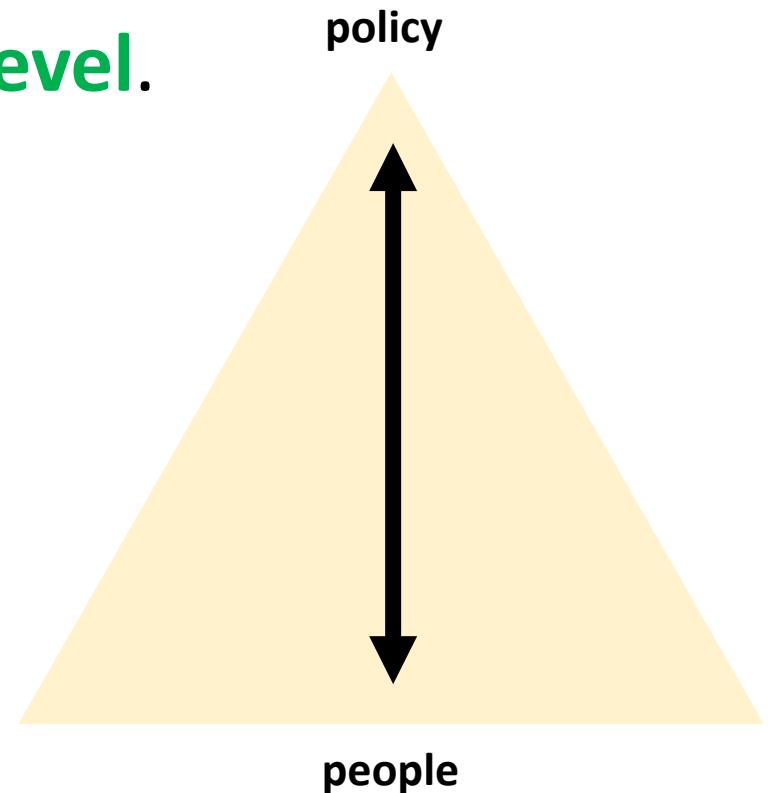


2. Governance issue

How to reach the food security?

It's a **Governance issue**

→ **Participation** and collective action at **local level**.



2. Governance issue

- Global food system (price instability, climate change..)
- Urban population growth
- Food insecurity



Food must be an urban issue

2. Governance issue

- Global food system (price instability, climate change..)
- Urban population growth
- Food insecurity
- **Multifunctionality of Food:**

“The **multisectoral impact** that the food system has on the life of urban people” (Morgan, 2015)



Food must be an urban issue



2. Governance issue



2. Governance issue

Multifunctionality of Food

Food **affects** the local economy, the environment, public health, land use, and the social life of all the urban residents

“we need to resist the temptation to reduce the urban food question to a narrow nutritional agenda because a purely needs-based conception cannot possibly do justice to the **kaleidoscopic character of the food system** and the multiple prisms – social, economic, ecological, cultural, political, psychological, sexual – through which food is viewed, valued and used in society. How to **feed cities in a just, sustainable and culturally appropriate** manner in the face of looming climate change, widening inequality and burgeoning world hunger is how I define the urban food question, a nonreductionist definition that does justice to the multifunctional character of the food system”

Morgan, 2015



2. Governance issue

Successfully managing all the components of the food system is a key for a **sustainable urban development.**



Morgan, 2015

2. Governance issue

“a sustainable food system as a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised”.

HLPE, 2017

2. Governance issue

- **Food environment** refers to the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural context in which consumers engage with the food system to make their decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming food.

The *food environment* consists of:

- ✓ **Availability and physical access** → geographical and technical access; personal conditions
- ✓ **Economic access** → relative cost of food (income and purchasing power); globalization has created more diversity and opportunity vs shocks and vulnerability
- ✓ **Promotion, advertising and information** → information asymmetries?
- ✓ **Food quality and safety** → influence food affordability and consumers preferences.

2. Governance issue

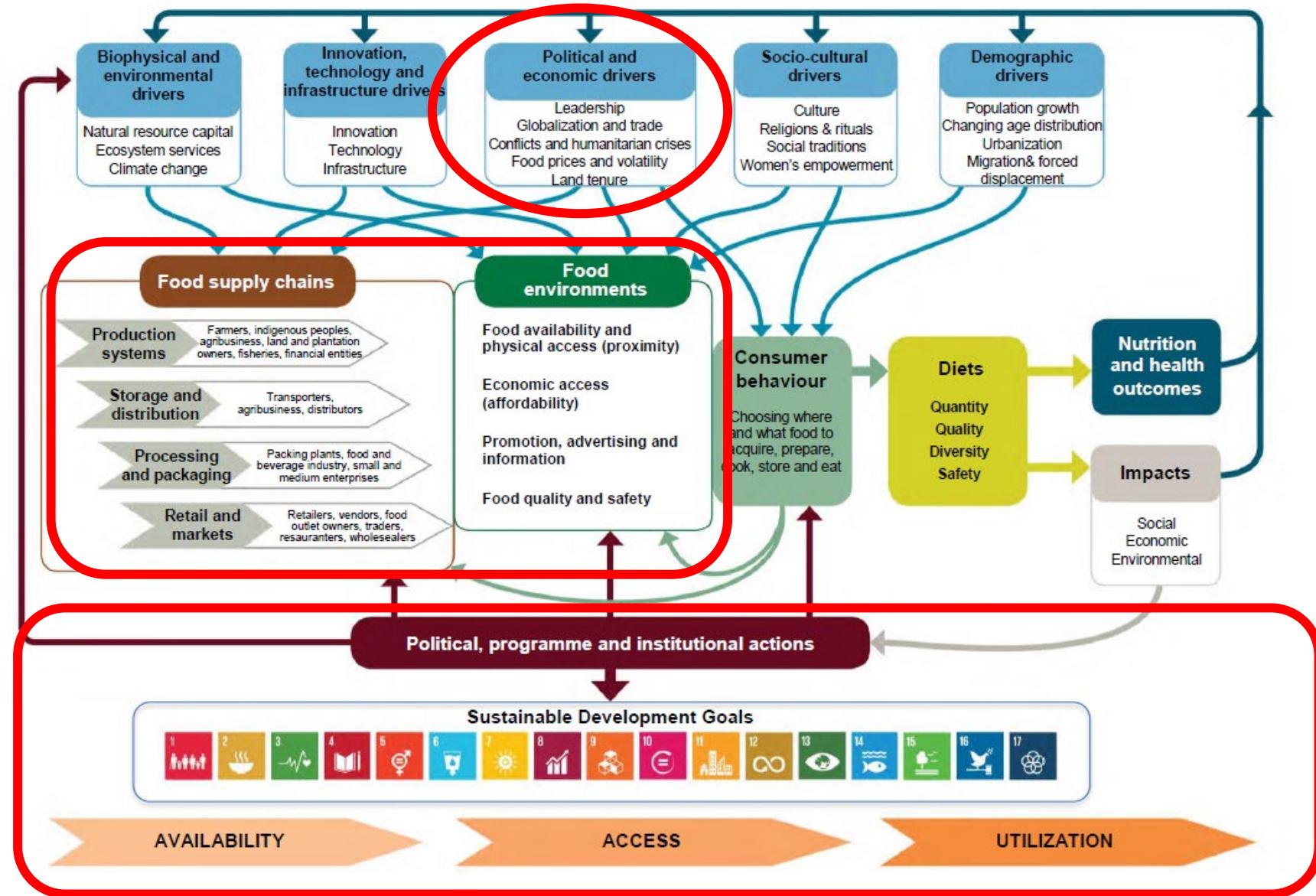
Food Environment

1. DRIVERS OF FOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE

2. FOOD SYSTEMS

3. POLICIES PRIORITIES («AMBITIONS»)

Figure 1 Conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition



3. Torino Food metrics

Food system **analysis** is a fundamental step for urban food policies

Drawing up a food balance sheet with **regular updates** makes it possible to assess the evolution of the system and the effectiveness of policies.

3. Torino Food metrics

A practical example:
Torino Food Metrics



3. Torino Food metrics

Division into 10 thematic areas with 111 indicators:

1. **Food supply:** Distribution and accessibility of fresh and processed food
2. **Processing industry:** Local production chain
3. **Urban agriculture:** Role of horticulture and city gardens
4. **Food poverty:** Vulnerability indicators and mapping of need
5. **Public Procurement:** Sustainability in public and social catering supplies
6. **Health and well-being:** Link between food and public health
7. **Circular Economy:** Waste reduction, recycling collection and sustainable economic models
8. **Training and research:** Food education and innovation
9. **Enogastronomic Tourism:** Analysis of tourism on the food system
10. **Food consumption:** Analysis of consumption patterns and preferences



TORINO FOOD METRICS REPORT 2022

Dicembre 2022



CITTÀ DI TORINO



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



ATLANTE
DEL
CIBO
atlantedelcibo.it



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 641200711.

3. Torino Food metrics

Food Offer

- Daily active open-air markets (excluding holidays): **39**
- Average daily stalls at the Porta Palazzo market (the largest): **732**
- Total weekly market stalls for food products: **7586**
- Weekly stands for fruit and vegetable stalls:
 - 2015: **5639**
 - 2022: **5215**
- Weekly stands for direct sales by producers:
 - 2015: **1910**
 - 2022: **1794**

Shops and Retail

- Active retail food shops in the city: **4155**
- Large sales areas in the city: **39** (20 more than in 2015)
- Total units of large and medium-sized sales areas: **275**
- **8579 eating establishments** (bars and restaurants) in the city, with the highest concentration in the centre and in the San Salvario district.
- **42 Solidarity Purchasing Groups (SPG)** in the metropolitan city, of which **26** in the municipality of Turin.

3. Torino Food metrics

Processing Industry

- Active food production and processing companies: **807**

Urban Agriculture

- **22 associative gardens** and **7 municipal gardens** active in Turin.
- Total surface area of urban gardens: **148,594 m²**.
- **Urban beekeeping: 58 apiaries** active in the city area.

Food Poverty

Torino Solidale Network:

- Families assisted monthly: **3740**
- People assisted monthly: **11,600**
- Number of hubs active in the distribution of goods: **17**
- Number of volunteers and operators involved monthly: **about 240**.

Banco Alimentare del Piemonte:

- Charitable structures accredited in 2022: **187**
- People assisted in 2022: **40,673**
- Food distributed in 2022: **3,296,030 kg** (with an average of **81 kg** per capita)

3. Torino Food metrics

Public Food Procurement and Catering

- **School canteens:**
 - Number of school meals provided in 2022: **6,035,196**
 - Total expenditure on school catering: **€34,398,825.54**
 - Proportion of organic products on school menus (by weight): **55%**.
 - Proportion of short supply chain products on school menus: **26%**.
 - Combined percentage of organic and short supply chain products: **81%**
- **Social catering:**
 - Total meals provided in 2022 (social canteens, day centres and home care): **240,344**
 - Total expenditure on social catering: **€1,128,295**
 - Meals are distributed to different categories, including users of socio-therapeutic day centres and charity canteens

3. Torino Food metrics

In producing the report, the research team interfaces with the following entities:

- Turin Chamber of Commerce
- Departments of the City of Turin:
 - Environment and Ecological Transition
 - Educational Services
 - Commerce

The other data can either be found online or are targeted emails

Strengths:

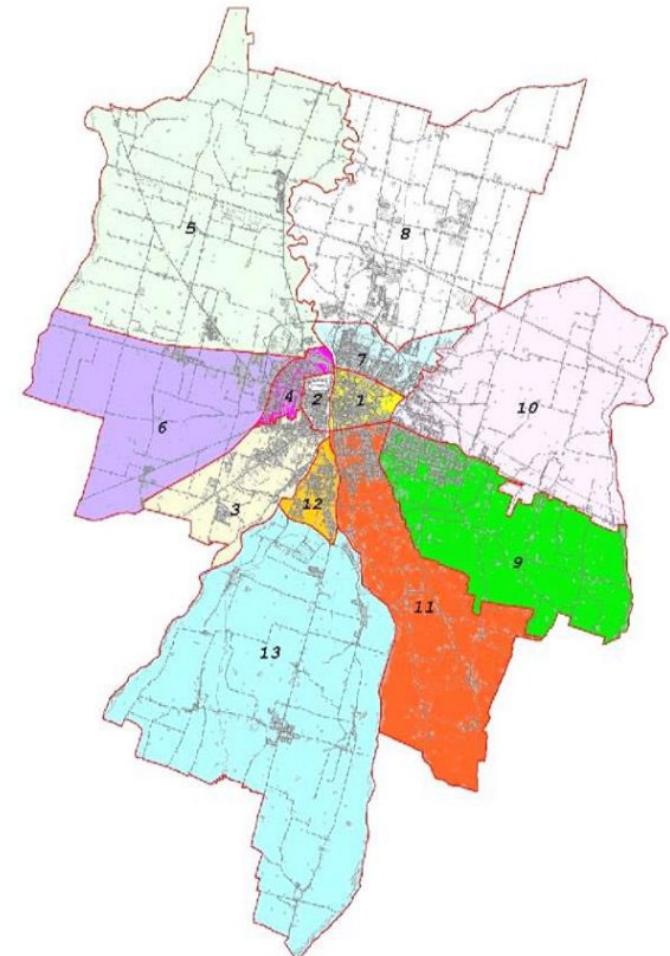
Ability to interact directly with the people who have the data and who know the situations in the city.

Weaknesses:

Difficulties in retrieval, the mechanism is very cumbersome and there is no interactive possibility for many of these data.

4. Research in Parma

Neighbourhood	Density (inh./sq. Km)	Area (sq. Km)	% of foreigners	Old age index	Dependence Index	FE/ 1000 inh.	Purchasing FE/1000 inh.	FE for on-site consumption/1000 inh.	FE/sq. Km
Centro	8.280	2,5	24,3	195,2	44,4	9,4	3,91	5,5	77,6
Oltretorrente	7.727	1,1	27,2	198,8	45,6	9,2	3,1	6,1	70,9
Pablo	7.750	2	25,8	189,0	53,1	3,3	1,4	1,9	25,5
Montanara	5.520	2,5	17,6	254,9	65,8	2,9	1,2	1,7	16,0
San leonardo	4.636	4,4	25,0	177,4	52,6	2,9	1,0	2,0	13,6
Molinetto	2.031	9,5	15,5	214,4	58,8	2,3	1,2	1,0	4,6
Cittadella	1.038	23,7	13,1	206,1	59,4	3,1	1,5	1,5	3,2
Lubiana	1.207	22,2	13,0	208,6	60,3	2,0	1,3	0,6	2,4
San lazzaro	362	30,4	14,1	212,2	57,2	2,9	1,3	1,6	1,1
San Pancrazio	454	22,9	17,4	156,2	54,8	2,3	0,8	1,5	1,0
Golese	205	47,8	11,8	148,4	49,9	2,3	0,7	1,6	0,5
Cortile san Martino	166	37,9	14,1	185,1	49,2	3,5	0,8	2,7	0,6
Vigatto	215	53,7	11,0	139,8	51,7	2,3	0,5	1,8	0,5
Average value	3.045,5	20,0	17,7	191,2	54,0	3,7	1,4	2,3	16,7



4. Research in Parma

Clusters of types of Food Environment

- Neighborhood with old and immigrant people → Small shops

More expensive?

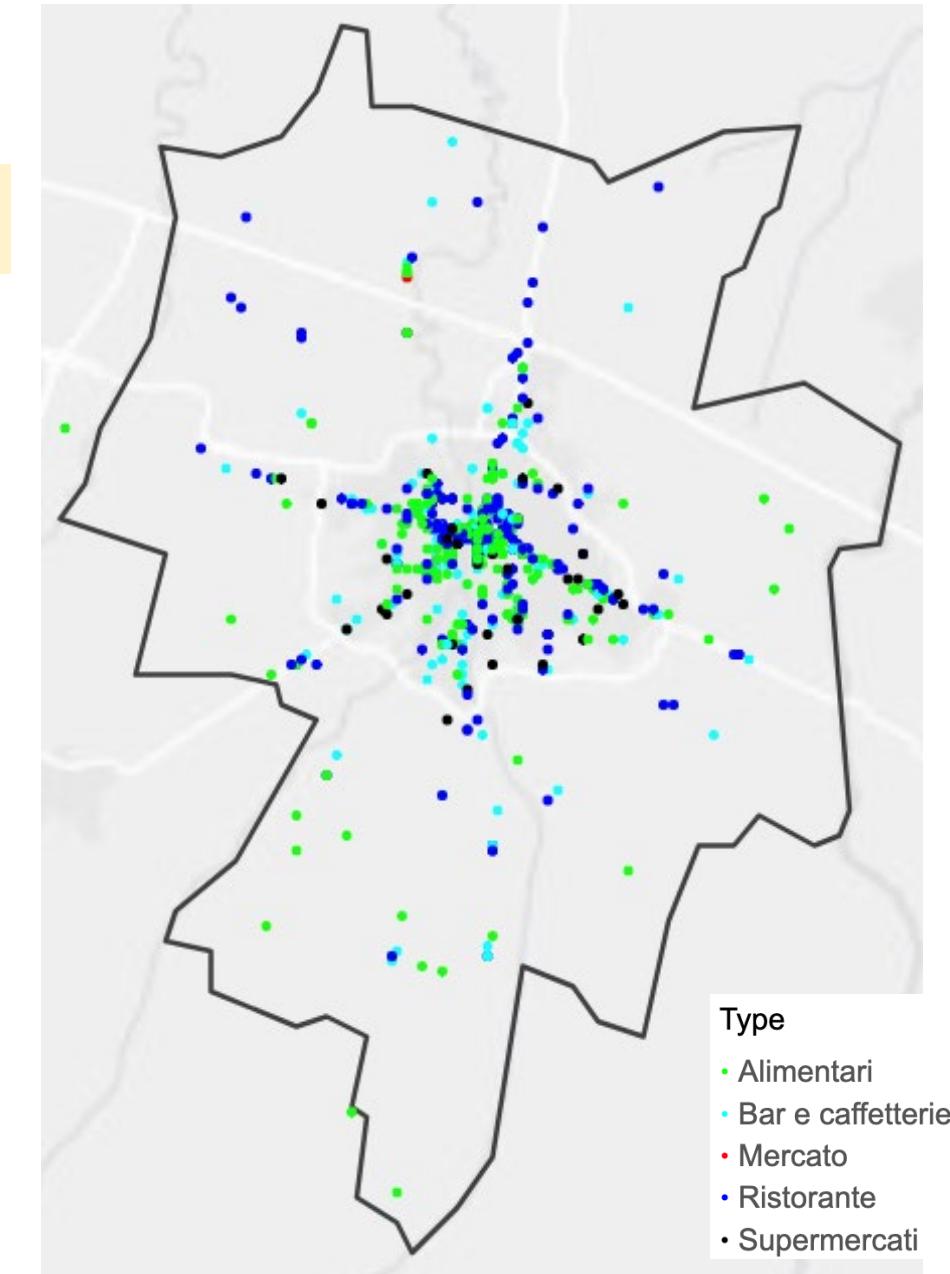
Less variability of product?

Sustain to local economy?

- Neighborhood with youth and families → concentration of few supermarkets

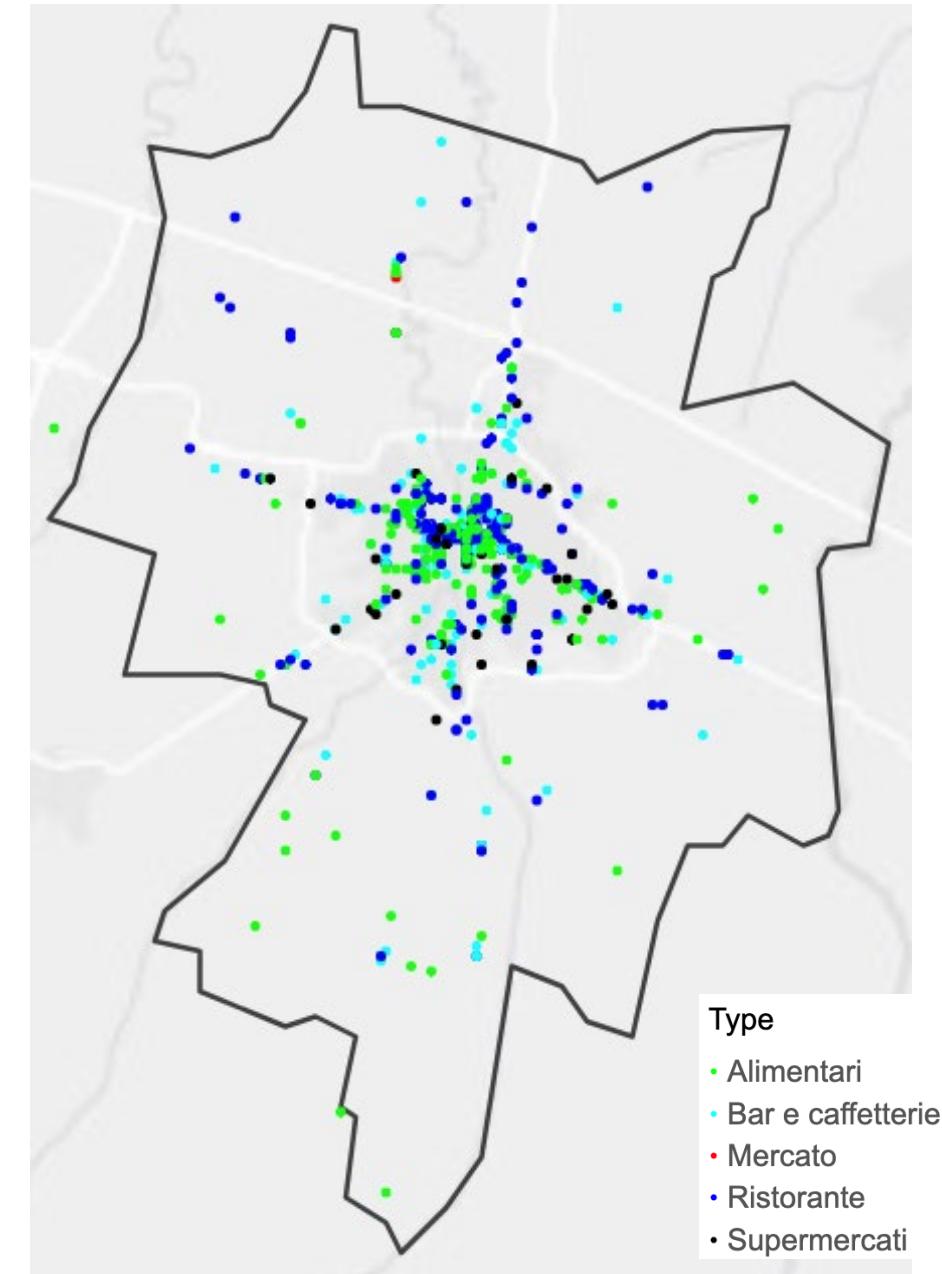
Monopoly of food economy?

Variability of products?



4. Research in Parma and elsewhere

- Data at disposition
- Coordination among different departments
- Long-term strategy...
- ... inheritance of past urban planning
- Competences and motivations of bureaucrats



References

Sassi, M. (2018). Understanding Food Insecurity. Springer international publishing

Torino Vivibile, 2023. Torino Food Metrics. Available at: https://www.torinovivibile.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/TFMR-2023_Eng_Web.pdf

HLPE (2017). Nutrition and Food system. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/I7846E/i7846e.pdf>

WFP (2023). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. (chapt. 3)

Morgan, K. (2015). Nourishing the city: The rise of the urban food question in the Global North. *Urban studies* 52(8): 1379–1394.

Thank you!

rosalia.filippini@unipr.it

