



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Using public food procurement as an instrument to pursue sustainable development objectives: The case of school feeding initiatives

BOND Regional Policy Round Table
**Collective action for Green public catering based on
quality food**
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Luana Swensson, PhD

Nutrition and Food System Division, FAO, Rome

GCP/GLO/775/ITA

**“Policy Support on Public Food Procurement for
Government-led Home Grown School Food
initiatives”**



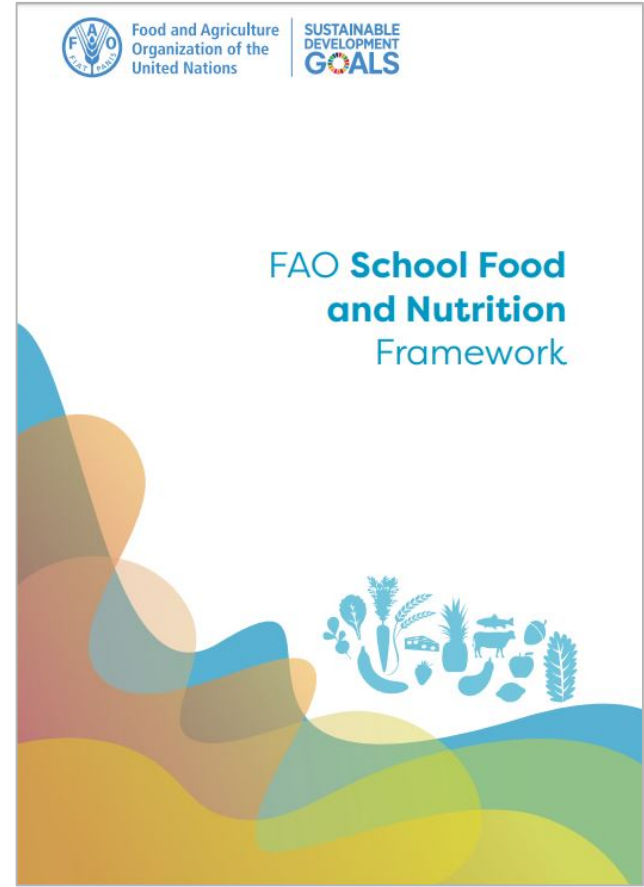
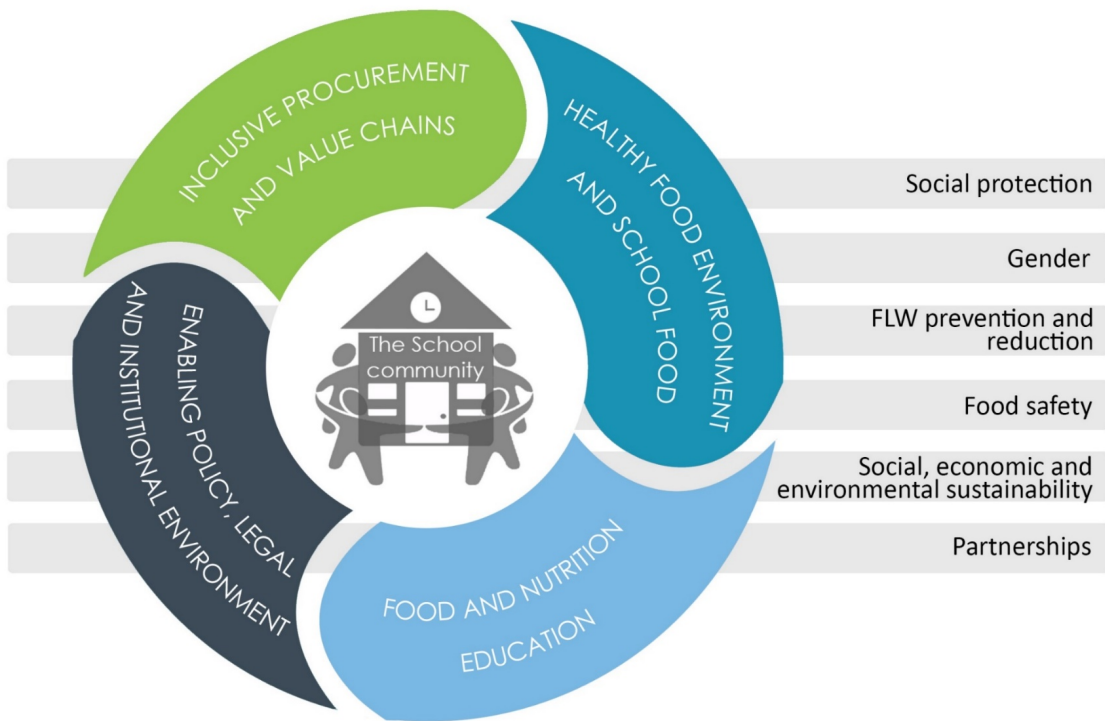


Sustainable school food procurement

Depending on the choice on:

- **What food** to purchase (such as local, diverse, nutritious, culturally adequate)
- **From whom** (e.g. local and/or smallholder farmers, small and medium food enterprises, women, youth and/or other vulnerable groups)
- **From what type of production practices** (e.g. from agricultural production that ensures environmental sustainability and biodiversity)

School Food and Nutrition Programmes (SFNP) hold the potential **to impact both consumption and production** patterns and to **advance social, economic and environmental development goals**





Food security and nutrition outcomes (school children)

- Depending on the choice of **what food to purchase** (such as local, nutritious, healthy, culturally appropriate) SFNP can **lead to an increase in the variety and quantity of healthy foods** served in schools
- Promote the value of local dietary habits and traditional nutritious food (+ food and nutrition education)
- It can have a direct effect on the **food consumption, dietary diversity and nutrition status of school children.**



(Niebylski et al, 2014; Sidaner et al, 2012; UNSCN, 2017).



Food security and nutrition outcomes (producers and community)

- Depending on the choices of **what food to purchase + from whom (local smallholder farmers)**
- SFNP can stimulate smallholders to produce more local, nutritious and diversified crops
- This production diversification may lead to increase in:
 - farmers' **consumption** of more diversified and nutritious food
 - the **availability** of more diversified and diverse products in **local markets**
- Have an impact on the food consumption, dietary diversity and nutrition status **of farmers and the community**





Economic development (farmers)

- Depending on the choice of **from whom food should be purchased** (e.g. local smallholder farmers)
- SFNP can become an instrument to **support the local and smallholder agriculture production** and stimulate community **economic development**
- It can **encourage, facilitate and reduce the risk of investments for farmers to increase and diversify their agriculture production**, which may contribute to **increasing their incomes and access to formal markets**



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Economic and social development

- SFNP can **generate benefits for a range of actors along the value chain**
- constitute an important market opportunity **for small processors and micro, small and medium food enterprises** (e.g. Brazil and India)
- Contribute to **youth** empowerment and **gender equity**
- **Create job opportunities** (food delivery and the preparation of school meals)

FAO and WFP, 2018; Global Panel, 2015





Environmental sustainability

- On **targeting food that is produced in a specific way...**
- SFNP can support and promote forms of agricultural production that ensure **environmental sustainability**
- Promote transition to agroecology- and biodiversity-attuned practices (Valencia et al, 2009)
- promote environmental benefits in terms of reduced packaging; food waste; and lower food miles

(Beltrame et al, 2016; Fitch and Santo, 2016; Foodlinks, 2013; IPES, 2016)





Powerful Policy Instrument



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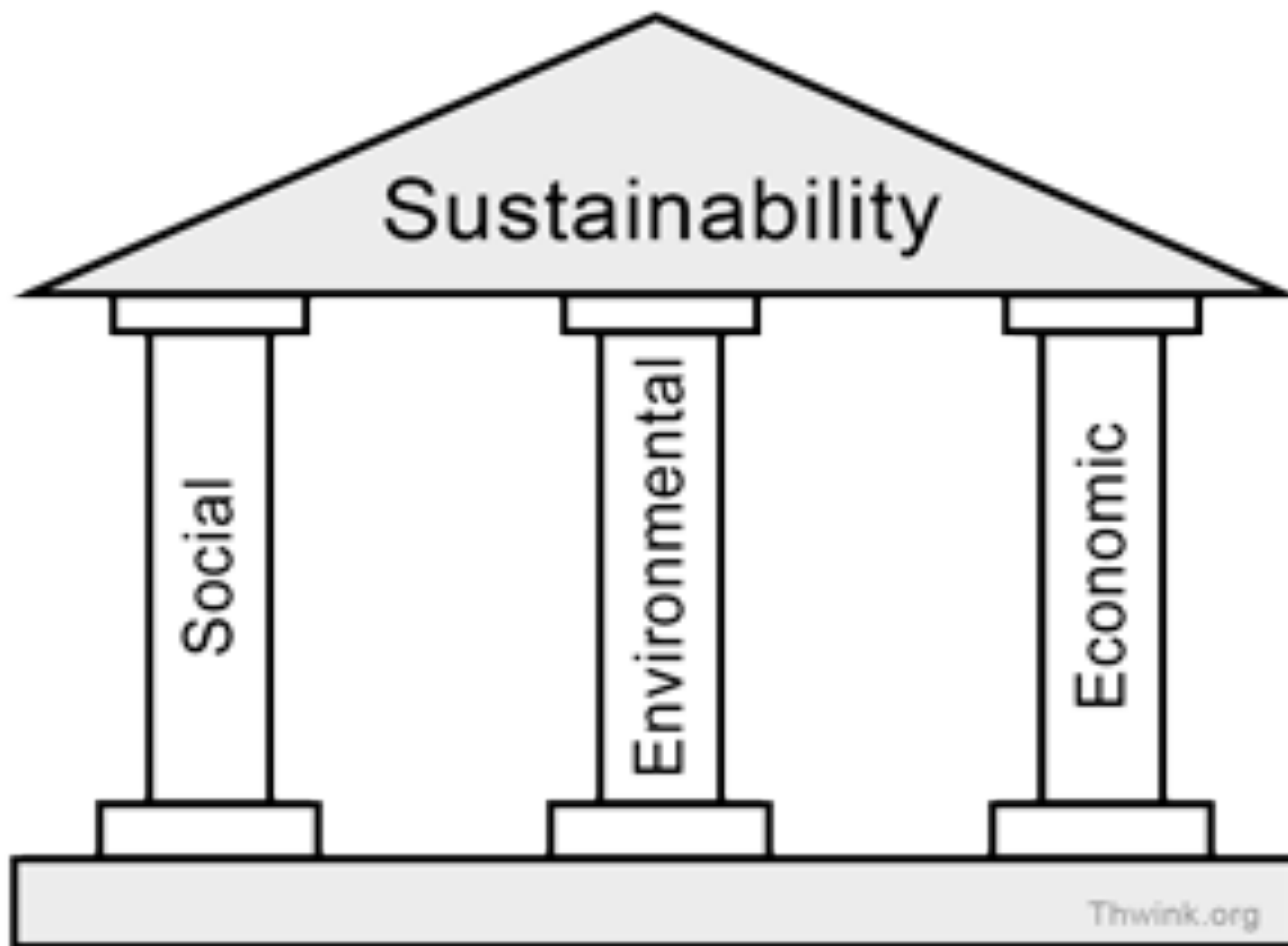


Powerful Policy Instrument



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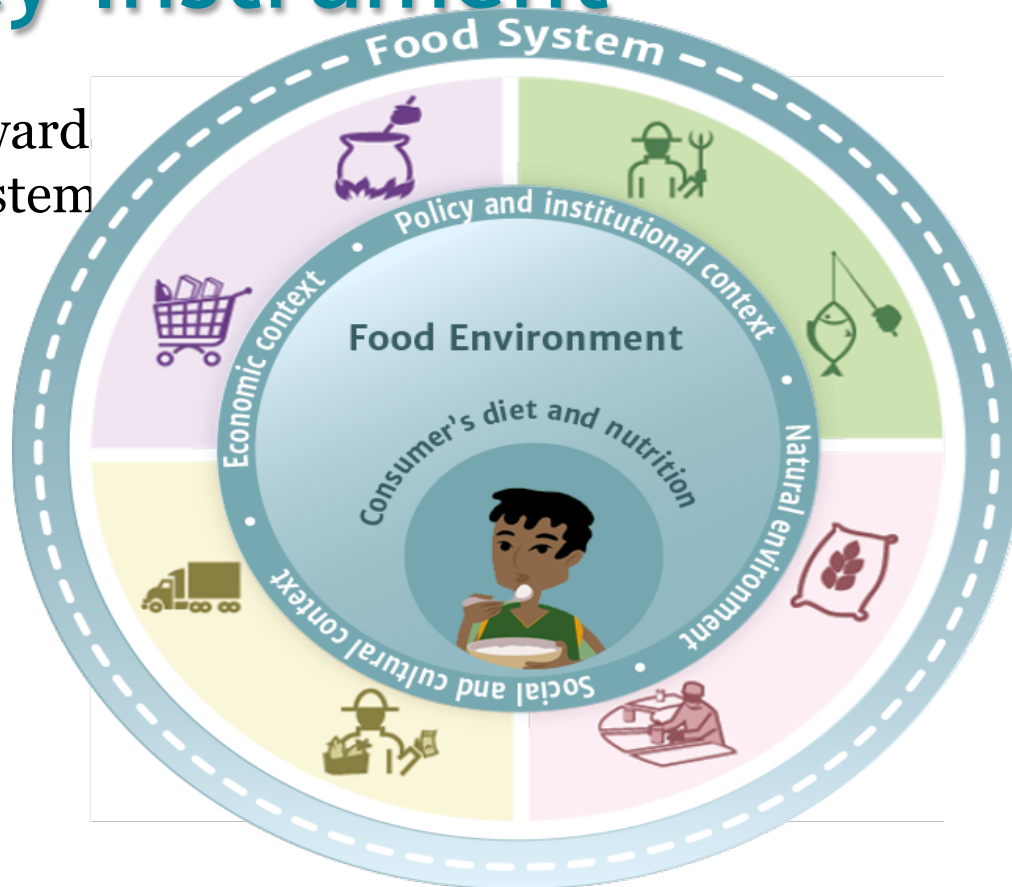






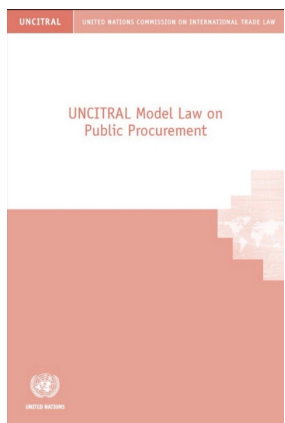
Powerful Policy Instrument

- Entry point for action toward more sustainable food system and diets





Aligned with the understanding that public procurement can and should be used as an instrument to achieve broader development goals (in the form of social, economic and environmental outcomes)



Recognizes the implementation of “environmental, social, economic and other policies” through public procurement and provide instruments

Recognizes the use of public procurement “in support of common societal goals” (including social and environmental considerations)



EU Directives on Public Procurement
2014/24/EU
2014/25/EU

Target 12.7 “promote public procurement practices that are sustainable [i.e. which include environmental, economic and social aspects], in accordance with national policies and priorities”





Despite the potential...

- Despite its **great potential**, building the linkage between school feeding programmes and local and smallholder agricultural production is **not a simple process**.
- The **decision** on what type of food to be procured, from who, and from what type of production – on which development objective to focus: depend on the **policy maker choices** according to:
 - government priorities
 - programme design
- However: it will be dependent also on a **series of conditions**.



Supply side

Demand Side

Enabling Policy,
Institutional and **Legal**
Frameworks



Legal framework

- One key characteristics of any public food procurement initiative, including school feeding ones, is that they are **operationalized and regulated** by specific and detailed rules (**public procurement regulatory framework**)
- Govern the entire procurement process, **shaping and limiting the choices** available to governments (what, how and from whom to purchase)
- Objectives and implementation will be **intrinsically linked** to the **existing public procurement regulatory framework, its alignment with the policy objectives** and the possibility of amending it.



- **Lack of alignment** between SFN policy and Public Procurement rules and practices: one of the key bottlenecks for implementation
- Nevertheless **Often disregarded** by policy makers, rural development debate and literature.



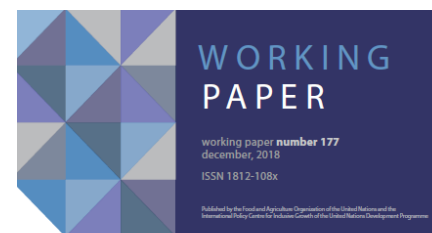
Main obstacles:

- Competition challenges and awarding criteria (i.e. lowest price)
- Overly complex and burdensome tender procedures
- Disproportionate and onerous participation requirements
- Contract size incompatible with small-scale supply capacity
- Lack of access to information (on tender opportunities and contract award notices)
- Long payment-time lags and non smallholder-friendly payment conditions



Good practices at global level

- Recognizing;
 - (i) the multiple benefits that SFNP have the potential to achieve
 - (ii) the barriers that standard public procurement procedures can impose to its implementation,
- Various countries have developed **different mechanisms to align public procurement rules and practices** and address smallholder barriers to entry according to their country context and programme objectives



Aligning policy and legal frameworks for supporting smallholder farming through public food procurement: the case of home-grown school feeding programmes

Luana F. J. Swenson,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)





Instruments tailored to school food procurement

- Brazilian Reservation strategy: Law n^o 11.947/2009 (National School Feeding Programme - PNAE)
- At least 30% of food for school meals must be purchased directly from **family farmers and family rural entrepreneurs**
- **Objective** to support “family farming” production through school feeding (+ preference to local, vulnerable producers; producer groups; agroecological and organic production, etc.)
- Tailormade procurement methods; participation requirements; contract size; advertisement of procurement opportunities; payment conditions



THE ENCOUNTER OF
FAMILY FARMING WITH
SCHOOL FEEDING

Updated Edition



USA Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

- Legislation allows an optional **geographic preference** for CNP when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised **agriculture products**
- Objective of supporting **local agriculture productions** through school feeding programmes



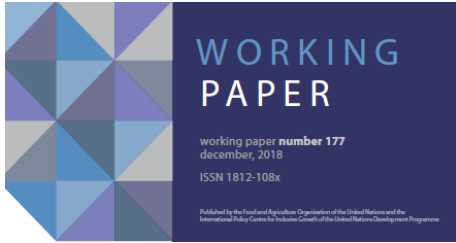
Broader instrument (France)

- Broader regulatory instruments that **can be used** for the specific case of sustainable public **food** procurement
- Alternative **procurement methods** linked to lower thresholds; **contract lotting** (size/type of products); inclusion of social, environmental and quality **criteria**; use of available **reservation** (social enterprises) and **preferencing schemes** (producer groups); alternative/tailored advertisement methods;
- Key role of guidelines and awareness raising/capacity building of implementers





- Although the law does not play a significant role in **decisions** to use public (food) procurement for development policy purposes ... it plays a significant role in the way these policies are **implemented**, i.e. in designing the mechanisms necessary to implement those policies.

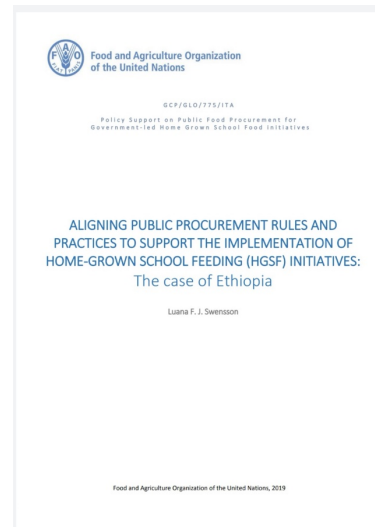


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Thank you

Luana.Swensson@fao.org

Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN)
Market Linkages and Value Chains Group

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