

In action

Joining forces to shape
a resilient, sustainable,
safe & healthy food
system !



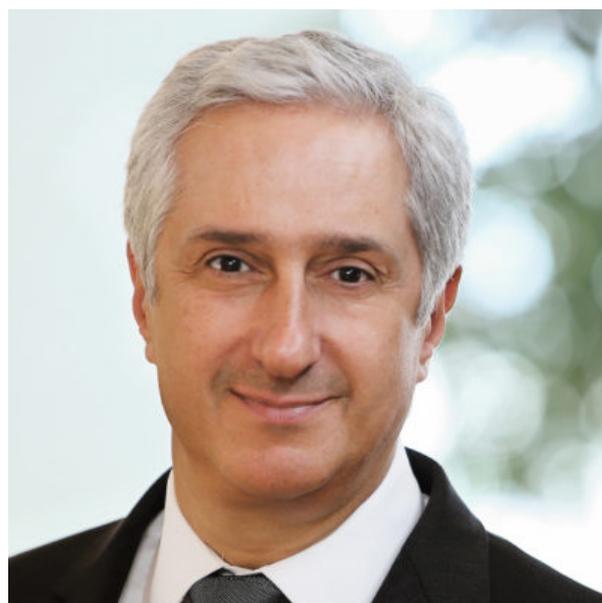
October 2021

In a foreword

Dear readers,

1 Preparations for the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) have dominated these past few eventful weeks. Members of the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) attended numerous important meetings that took place around the summit, including the African Green Revolution Forum and a policy talk with the EU Agriculture Commissioner. We are pleased to introduce in this October newsletter the important takeaways from the food summit as well as a look ahead at upcoming events and issues where WUWM will play a role.

Between October 19th and the 21st, the 7th Global Forum of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact will take place in Barcelona. This forum has been held annually in a different city for the past seven years. The Milan Pact has its origins in a 2015 protocol signed by over 100 cities worldwide to jointly address better food policies in urban areas. This includes the joint elaboration of all measures aimed at creating conditions that will enable cities to take effective actions, such as facilitating cooperation between city authorities and departments, strengthening the participation of urban stakeholders, revising city food policies and fostering sustainable and resilient food environments. Currently, 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas and by 2050 this will be almost 70%. Wholesale markets play a key role to ensure that urban settings have fresh food availability. We are pleased to participate in this forum and join forces with mayors around the world in developing innovative and sustainable urban food policies.



You will also find information concerning the launch of our 2021 "Love Your Local Market" campaign. The "Love Your Local Market" campaign promotes sustainable diets and a return to in-person shopping at thousands of fresh food markets, where citizens have easier access to diversified, fresh, healthier products. This year we also participated in the United Nations' International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (#IYFV). The campaign has been very successful this past year, now embraced by 24 countries worldwide and celebrated in more than 4,000 street markets!

I am pleased to announce our involvement in these major international projects. WUWM will continue to represent wholesale markets on these platforms, guided by our mission: help the world transition towards healthier, more resilient and sustainable food systems.
Your sincerely,

Stephane Layani,
WUWM Acting Chairman

In the loop

Love Your Local Market 2021 will take place this October and promote sustainable healthy diets at thousands of street fresh food markets!

We are very happy to announce that the Love Your Local Market campaign will take place in October!

This year the “Love your local market” campaign will join efforts with the United Nations and promote the “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables” (#IYFV). The UN’s IYFV is emphasizing the importance of healthy diets and the transformation of eating habits globally.

According to EAT-lancet institute, if current eating trends continue, by 2050 more than 4 billion people will be overweight (45%) and 1.5 billion facing obesity - while 500 million people continue to be underweight. Oils and fat in daily diets are still increasing rapidly while the intake of sugar is not showing any sign of decreasing.

Transitioning to healthier eating patterns and helping people improve their diets is vitally important and will be among the biggest challenges of the XXI century.

Our Wholesale markets are supporting this effort by delivering fresh, non-processed food on a daily basis to more than 3 billion people per day. Thus, wholesale markets are key actors in the creation of healthier food environments, allowing easier access to fresh food.

WUWM is fully engaged in promoting sustainable food environments worldwide. It is therefore important that street and wholesale markets join LYLM and promote our work to enhance healthier diets.

We invite all food markets to join the campaign and promote sustainable healthy diets with a return to in-person shopping at street markets, where citizens can choose among a larger variety of healthy, seasonal, fresh food!

“Love Your Local Market” participant markets will organize different activities during the month of October.

The Love Your Local Market campaign will take place in October!

A launching event will take place on the 22nd of October in the City of Barcelona, during the “Mercat de Mercats”, a gastronomic market fair celebrating fresh produce and gastronomy. The citizens of Barcelona will have the opportunity to enjoy talks, lectures, cu-



your local
market





In facts

- One third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tones — gets lost or wasted.
- Cities occupy just 3% of the world's land but account for 60 to 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and 75% of natural resources consumed
- 95% of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in developing countries
- Towards 2050, food demand in West and East Africa will increase approximately 2.5-fold. Food demand will rise two to four times faster in urban areas than in rural areas, depending on the region and the commodity.
- More investment, technology and policy support is directed to urban areas, while declining in rural areas and for provision of services for rural agricultural activities. However cities always have been reliant upon rural areas for provisioning urban areas.
- The key role of cities in creating more sustainable foodscapes is now recognised in international arenas such as the UN New Urban Agenda or the Sustainable Development Goals.

linary demonstrations and tastings by chefs and producers.

We are also very pleased to announce that this year, LYLM will be part of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) World Food Day. The FAO, a UN specialized agency, will add the LYLM launching event to the World Food Day (WFD) Calendar.

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WFD is one of FAO's major corporate campaigns and one of the most celebrated days on the UN's calendar. This calendar, which has been in existence since 1979, has over 450 events celebrated in 150 countries each year and a social media reach of over 1.5 billion followers.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

2021

CELEBRATING
#WorldFoodDay



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Cities occupy just 3% of the world's land but account for 60 to 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and 75% of natural resources consumed

Interview with FAO's Director-General QU Dongyu

On the main challenges facing agri-food systems and the role of wholesale markets engagement to foster resilient and sustainable food systems

4 WUWM was pleased to see QU Dongyu, FAO's Director-General, join our Global Conference in Florence, in order to provide insights on healthy diets and the challenges to ensuring sustainable agri-food systems worldwide. In the following interview, he speaks to us about the trends within this issue, more particularly concerning the current health crisis, FAO's ambitious contributions in making agri-food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient, and the role of wholesale markets.

What do you think are the main challenges facing our sector?

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a light on the weaknesses of our agri-food systems; the need for significant investments in upgrading essential infrastructures and all the challenges that the sector has to tackle in order to successfully achieve the transition towards sustainability and resilience.

For instance, the pandemic has exposed how fragile food security is and how hard it can be to ensure adequate nutrition is provided to citizens. It has also highlighted the long path that we still must venture on in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 relative to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. FAO estimates that world hunger increased in 2020 to 811 million people and food insecurity increased from 8.4% to around 9.9% in just one year.



The 2021 edition of The State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report shows that healthy diets are not affordable for about 3 billion people worldwide. This has certainly been exacerbated by the pandemic, due to the increase in price of some products, most notably highly nutritious foods like fruits and vegetables. Healthy diets are estimated to cost up to 5 times more than a calorie-sufficient diet and 60% more than a nutrition-sufficient diet. With the unpredictability of external shocks such as conflicts, climate-related hazards and pandemics, the agri-food sector has to find ways to prepare for external threats in order to ensure affordability, resilience and sustainability.

As for challenges for wholesale markets, we have identified three key challenges: business models, infrastructures and institutional issues. This affects produce and product quality, prices, profits and overall efficiency. There is a need for national and local governments to integrate these markets into agri-food system planning. There is also potential for wholesale markets to be more efficient and more inclusive to local small-scale farmers producing nutritious food.

What are in your opinion the solutions to meet the challenges identified?

Because agri-food systems are complex and interconnected, we are not able to address these challenges independently. Holistic design and collective actions, with no one left behind, are essential.

We have to find multi-dimensional win-win solutions for people and the planet. These solutions

need to address the three pillars of sustainability - economic, social and environmental. We have to identify key entry points, such as markets, at the sub-national level, especially due to their groundwork and capacity to adapt to local realities, but also the significant impacts they have in driving agri-food system transformation. In this sense, wholesale markets have a crucial role in accompanying this process and mapping local realities.

Moreover, since wholesale markets, particularly in low and middle-income countries, face bottlenecks regarding their infrastructure, sanitation and storage capacity, investments will be key in order to upgrade them. These investments would also allow them access to modernized digital software and services that would enable them to expand their base and increase the competitiveness of their operations and ability to respond to demand.

In addition, partnerships involving public and private sectors, civil society, UN Agencies, wholesale and retail markets are essential to achieve the SDGs. FAO has been committed to including the private sector and strengthening partnerships through a wide-array of initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and the new FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement.

Furthermore, combining vertical and horizontal cooperation, with the integration of local actors, will enable better coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of actions to transform agri-food systems.

To what extent do you think WUWM and its members can contribute to making the food industry more sustainable and resilient?

Wholesale markets are a key component of agri-food systems. We also acknowledge WUWM's great contribution in making their voices heard worldwide. We believe that wholesale markets can have a significant impact in ensuring access to safe food of good quality, as they have the capacity and the mandate to deliver nutritious and diversified foods to local populations, while ensuring better access to markets for smallholder farmers. With the COVID-19 pandemic, countries

with well-equipped wholesale markets experienced fewer disruptions, price volatility and food shortages.

With a common mission to ensure affordable, accessible and healthy food to all, FAO is pleased to have joined efforts with WUWM. We are also working together to address food health related issues in wholesale markets. Food safety remains a challenge for wholesale markets, in particular in areas where informal markets are predominant, with infrastructures that are not meeting safety standards.

“Healthy diets are estimated to cost up to 5 times more than a calorie-sufficient diet and 60% more than a nutrition-sufficient diet”

Therefore, we have identified issues and pathways, and FAO's Investment Centre is developing guidelines for the modernization of wholesale food markets with the support of WUWM. Such initiatives will contribute to upgrading infrastructure in low and middle-income countries, as well as enhancing the sustainability and resilience of the agri-food sector to deliver on the “Four Betters: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life”.

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In focus

Milano Urban Food Policy Pact and city food policies at a glance

Over one hundred cities from every continent signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) at EXPO 2015 in Milan, Italy. It is a non-binding agreement on urban food policies “designed by cities for cities”. During this event, themed “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, city mayors committed to developing sustainable and resilient food systems with nutritious and accessible food for all.

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They also pledged to protect biodiversity and fight against food waste. Focus on this initiative revealed an urgency to define models for an integrated approach to urban food systems.

The pact illustrates the role of cities in contributing towards sustainable food systems. A “Framework of Action” articulates 37 recommended actions organized within six categories:

1. governance
2. sustainable diets and nutrition
3. social and economic equity
4. food production (including urban-rural linkages)
5. food supply and distribution
6. food waste

MUFPP has been deeply committed to bringing food related issues to the forefront and integrating them into urban and local political agendas. Today, the pact represents a framework for collaboration to identify challenges, best practices and pathways for localising food systems in a resilient and sustainable manner.

With 68% of world population expected to live in urban areas by 2050, and 60% yet to be built, it is urgent to put cities first, in order to build resilient

and sustainable food systems coherently embedded within local, national, regional and global contexts. Cities provide rapid answers in case of external shock, as Covid-19 demonstrated, and they continue to provide residents with basic services such as food on a regular basis.

The next Global Forum will be held in Barcelona from the 19th to 21st October 2021, around the theme of “Growing resilience: sustainable food to tackle the climate emergency”. This topic is of primary importance, since cities play a vital role in combining energy transitions with actions relating to food issues. Even if cities only occupy 2% of the planet’s territories, 80% of the total global energy is absorbed by them and 70% of the world food supply is consumed in urban areas.

The pact illustrates the role of cities in contributing towards sustainable food systems

Therefore, cities are at the forefront of designing and implementing tomorrow’s urban areas so that they are liveable and sustainable and ensure healthy, nutritious and affordable diets to all.

While cities have become more involved and increasingly recognize their role in this process, full understanding of the complexity of food systems and the abc’s of how to ensure resilient and sustainable food environments are still lacking in a lot of countries around the world.





Involved

WUWM's participation in the Milano Urban Food Policy Pact 7th Forum in Barcelona !

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Sharing the common ambition of enhancing food systems transition towards resilience and sustainability worldwide, the World Union of Wholesale Markets is supporting actions undertaken by the Milano Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) and is delighted to inform that we have been invited (for the first time!) to organize a roundtable during the next MUFPP Forum that will take place in Barcelona.

Within this four-days international Forum, the WUWM will co-organise with the City of Barcelona - the 2021 world sustainable food capital, a panel session that will take place on Tuesday 19th October, under the title "The future of food in the post Covid-19 world: the role of wholesale markets to ensure healthy diets availability and food systems transition into resilience and sustainability".

During this session, high ranked experts from all over the world will exchange their experiences during the pandemic, debate on lessons learned and propose innovative solutions to address the sector's most pressing challenges.

They will be exchanging about main topics such as : what are the lessons learned from the current pandemic? What steps can we collectively take to restore and ensure resilience and sustainability of food systems? What innovations and solutions must be developed to achieve provi-

ding the world with healthy food in the coming decades? And who are the key players that can help shape this future?

We have collected exclusive interview with some important actors in this year's Global Forum. These are:

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan, Álvaro Porro, Commissioner for Social Economy, Local Development and Food Policy at the City of Barcelona and Jordi Valls, Barcelona's wholesale market Mercabarna's director.

WUWM will co-organise with the City of Barcelona - the 2021 world sustainable food capital - a panel session about the future of food in the post Covid world



Interview with Mr. Giuseppe Sala

Mayor of Milan and former
CEO of the 2015 Universal
Exposition of Milan

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Milan, as one of the world's leading cities in regard to transitioning to sustainable urban food systems and the founding city of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, what can you advise to other cities around the world?

Since its launch in 2015, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact has gathered more than 200 cities from around the world that are committed to the development of sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems. It represents the main framework for cities and international stakeholders active in the definition of innovative urban food policies for the management and governance of local food systems. The importance of cities to food systems lie in their shared experiences. Cities committed to healthy, sustainable

and inclusive food systems have a lot in common across the continents, from the challenges of social inclusion to the pressure on resources and opportunity for sustainable growth. Cities' experience can help greatly accelerate the innovative action led by national governments, international entities and all like-minded organisations.

The City of Milan, in particular, is implementing one of the most effective food policies at international level, tackling the issues of healthy and sustainable diets, food waste, and short supply chains. This is made possible thanks to the cooperation with many public and private stakeholders that manage key infrastructures of the Milan food system.

Why is this year's Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) meeting so important on a world stage?

The MUFPP Global Fora are international events, organized primarily by cities for cities, offering a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, build partnerships and celebrate their progress in the implementation of their food policies. Over the years, the Fora have become a regular occurrence for signatory cities and relevant actors in the global urban food agenda to discuss and advance on the most pressing issues.

The 7th MUFPP Global Forum will take place between two key events: the Pre-COP in Milan and the COP26 in Glasgow. That is why the main theme of this year's Forum is "Growing Resilience: Sustainable Food to Tackle the Climate Emergency". In this context, the Forum presents a strategic opportunity for cities to further en-

gage in action around the food-climate nexus and to collectively uplift our voice on the need for ambitious climate targets and urgent effective actions in this sector, and beyond. Since the agri-food system is responsible for 21-37% of the GHG global emissions, in order to tackle the climate emergency it is urgent to transform the way we eat, produce and dispose of food worldwide.

Cities can and must play a major role in addressing the food-climate nexus by moving their public drivers, such as school canteens, agricultural surfaces and wholesale markets towards more sustainable goals. After a tough year and a half, shaped by the global pandemic, the Forum will be an excellent opportunity to (re)connect and jointly work to advance healthy, just, sustainable and resilient urban food policies.

Why should wholesale markets and their role be included in discussions and decisions towards sustainable urban food systems?

Markets, and the wholesale markets in particular, play an important role in the urban food system as they manage, control and allow the food supply of our cities. By connecting local retailers with regional, national and international food flows, wholesale markets are the perfect «hinge points» of our food system: involving them in urban food policy processes means linking cities to the entire world.

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They are fundamental drivers to work with if your goal as mayor is achieving the sustainability of your food system under many aspects. On the social side for example, due to the huge quantity of fresh food managed daily, the wholesale

markets are key infrastructure to involve in food waste prevention by collecting the potential food losses for citizens in need.

Under the environmental point of view, wholesale markets can provide adequate spaces for local farmers' products, thus spurring short supply chains, and strengthening rural-urban linkages. The Milan wholesale market Foody-SogeMi is a strong ally of the Milan Food Policy: we are developing together innovative practices on circular economy, healthy diets, food safety, last mile logistics and food waste treatment. It is a perfect place to innovate our food system.

“Cities committed to healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems have a lot in common across the continents, from the challenges of social inclusion to the pressure on resources and opportunity for sustainable growth”





Interview with Álvaro Porro

Commissioner for Social Economy, Local Development and Food Policy at the City of Barcelona about Milano Pact Forum and Barcelona's work as 2021 World Sustainable Food Capital

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Could you explain the Milan Pact in short and the importance it has for future sustainable urban food systems?

The MUFPP is a voluntary agreement among mayors who are committed to making urban food systems more sustainable, resilient, inclusive, safe and diversified. The announcement of the initiative was made in 2014 at the C40 Summit in Johannesburg, when the Mayor of Milan launched the proposal for signing the pact at the Universal Expo 2015. An initial group of 46 cities took on the preliminary content-drafting activities, guided by a scientific advisory group of organizations committed to the sustainability of the food system. Now, the MUFPP comprises more than 200 cities around the world that consider food to be an entry point into the sustainable development of growing cities.

What is the role that cities can play to ensure better food environments?

The time is now. 2021 is a critical year for cli-

mate change. Countries are lagging behind their schedule for cutting carbon emissions in the run-up to November's climate summit in Glasgow (COP26). We certainly cannot address the climate emergency without moving away from fossil fuels. Yet, equally, we cannot reach our climate targets without tackling global food production. Urban environments account for more than half of the planet's population. As so, they are the major consumers of a food system that causes 21-37% of global emissions. This impact requires firm commitment from cities, which have the capacity to change diets privileging less and better consumption of meat and seasonal, local, and organic products, not to mention reducing food waste.

Overall, these actions could cut urban food emissions by up to 65%. Thus, the role of cities is crucial in dealing with the climate emergency as they can leverage their institutional power to drive innovation in food systems thanks to their direct competences with municipal bodies and urban actors being involved in all stages of the food system (production, transformation, logistics, distributions, consumption, and waste).

If we want to tackle the climate emergency, we will have to change global food systems. This is the reason why Barcelona wants to send this message to the world and tell the States meeting at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow on November that cities are part of the solution.

Why is it important to include the role of wholesale markets in the transition of urban food systems?

The transformation of food systems through

responsible consumption and production is at the core of objective 12 within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

“We want to be on the frontline of world cities that are working for sustainable food and encouraging citizens to be part of this change”

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Wholesale food markets are a critical partner in global efforts to transform agri-food systems and fight food insecurity. In Barcelona, Mercabarna has the first wholesale organic food market in Spain and the largest in Europe in terms of the number of fruit and vegetable companies. In addition, the city has opened a new Biomarket, which is a great step forward in selling bio food, facilitating its distribution, and satisfying the growing demand for organic produce. Forty companies specializing in the sale and distribution of organic produce were already operating at Mercabarna, ten of which will now be present at the new market.

The Biomarket is housed in an energy-efficient sustainable building of nearly 9,000 square meters, given over exclusively to bio produce. The sales area (2,500 square meters) features sixteen stalls operated by wholesale compa-

nies, two for agri-cooperatives, three for multi-product businesses and various rotational spaces for new local producers to sell directly. The goal is to offer new business opportunities for local farmers.



With this innovative initiative, which responds to one of the challenges as the World Sustainable Food Capital 2021, Barcelona contributes with the wholesale sector and local producers to back and increase the visibility of this kind of food, not to mention protect small and medium sized local producers and facilitate the sale of their produce as well as hygiene control, certification, and product traceability. In a nutshell, in the current climate emergency scenario, cities with suitable socio-economic and agroclimatic conditions should adopt policies and programs to enable local producers to grow high-ecological-standard food and promote short food chains to support citizens to access food products. Barcelona does so.

Why is Barcelona selected as this year's World Sustainable Food Capital?

Barcelona is known internationally for being the creator of its own food discourse and a city of





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constant gastronomic innovation and change, with an iconic network of 42 municipal markets, and a fabric of committed agroecological producers. These elements make it one of the main European centres of food consumption and distribution and an urban metropolis that constantly reflects on the fundamental role of food in today's society and its repercussions on both health and the environment.

Barcelona's year as the World Sustainable Food Capital involves more than ninety sustainable food projects and policies and a schedule that will stretch till late December. The year will culminate with the presentation of the Food Strategy 2030, which will act as a roadmap for urban food policies in the coming years.

Barcelona wants to make the most of this opportunity to greatly improve its citizens' everyday lives in terms of sustainable food and to make significant progress towards four main goals: Promote healthier and more sustainable diets, generate more economic opportunities for local sectors, tackle the climate emergency and generate resilience against global risks and social inequalities.

We want to be on the frontline of world cities that are working for sustainable food and encouraging citizens to be part of this change. Therefore, we are working to sensitize people and facilitate the change of those who are keen on doing it.

What are some of the major impacts the Milan Pact and its Global Forum has?

The Milan Pact Global Forum is an opportunity to meet, exchange knowledge and practices, participate in technical workshops, share progress, and build partnerships. Mayors meet each other and get inspired by innovative solutions implemented in other cities.

Moreover, the MUFPP works in synergy with several international areas of debate, such as the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Declaration on Climate Change, and the World Urban Forum. Also with existing urban networks, such as C40, Eurocities and WHO Healthy Cities, and with UN bodies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN-Habitat and SDSN Youth, to connect with the global agenda for sustainable development. This year, the Forum will take place a few days before the UN climate change summit in Glasgow (COP26) where it's crucial that the voice of cities concerning the shift of food systems is heard. In this sense, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum (MUFPP) constitutes a unique opportunity to bring together cities belonging to different contexts, from North to global South to build the roadmap to Glasgow.

What are great ways to follow the Milan Pact Global Forum in Barcelona and its follow-up?

The Forum will be live-streamed from the event's website and commented through social networks. Moreover, a report with an overview of the sessions and main conclusions drawn from the event will be published.

**Ajuntament de
Barcelona**



Interview with Jordi Valls

Director of Mercabarna, Barcelona's wholesale market about the Milano Pact and Mercabarna commitment to foster sustainability



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The MUFPP is a voluntary agreement among How is Mercabarna committed to the Milano Pact?

The fundamental principles of the Pact of Milan are reflected in Mercabarna's mission, which is to guarantee the supply of healthy food to the population, in a sustainable way, with the minimum possible impact on the natural environment and with the maximum food utilization. And all this by promoting the resilience of the economic agents involved in the process. To this end, in the face of the challenges of the present and the future, we are taking advantage of technological advances and innovations in the food and distribution sectors in order to continue to fulfil this mission.

By promoting collaboration with the agents with whom we interact, we have already implemented more sustainable marketing systems



and we are further promoting proximity agriculture in the Markets. We are also developing our Circular Bioeconomy system to minimize food waste and increase waste recycling. At the same time, we are working on the implementation of more sustainable energy and transportation systems; and we are carrying out programs to contribute to the education of schoolchildren in our environment.

The fact that Barcelona is the World Capital of Sustainable Food, how can this event help to promote Mercabarna or wholesale markets in general?

This fact is highlighting the important role of Mercabarna and wholesale markets, in general, to collaborate in the transformation of food systems in cities. Wholesale markets enjoy a privileged position in the food chain, since they bring together fresh foods, essential in the food supply, and all the agents involved in food production and distribution. This position allows them to observe and study the behaviour and evolution of these actors and how they interact with each other to meet the current needs of citizens and our planet.

What does it mean for wholesale markets to have a session dedicated to their role in the transition to sustainable food systems at the 7th Global Forum of the Milan Pact?

From this position, and with the collaboration of political and economic actors, wholesale markets can contribute their experience and knowledge, as well as make proposals and carry out projects to help current food systems evolve with the aim of eradicating hunger, achieving a fairer, healthier and more inclusive food chain, reducing food-related diseases and protecting the health of our planet.



mercabarna

In Events

Find the major outcomes from the UNFSS !

On September 23rd, the first ever UN Food Systems Summit convened world leaders in New York to create action plans for sustainable food systems aimed at reaching the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our food systems have been deemed crucial for a successful transition towards sustainability and human rights for all. Emerging intact from the covid-19 crisis is heavily dependent on these goals. More than 90 heads of state have made commitments to accelerate food system transitions worldwide.

Voices from all over the world have been heard since UN Secretary General António Guterres announced the Summit in 2019. Over 100,000 people have participated in these discussions, leading to a three-day pre-summit from July 26th to 28th. U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed described the summit at a UN press conference: "In terms of inclusiveness, I don't know of a more inclusive process."

Important priorities for wholesale markets were established, including:

- Actions toward Nutrition and Zero Hunger.
- Agroecology, Sustainable Livestock and Agriculture Systems.
- Living wages and decent Work.
- Healthy diets from Sustainable Food Systems.
- Finance for Food Systems, including the True Value of Food.
- Soil Health.

WUWM has been actively engaged in the following UNFSS Action Tracks.

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all.

Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

WUWM is also participating in the Private Sector Group which launched the Business Declaration for Food Systems Transformation at the Pre-Summit.



Commitments that the private sector and WUWM have agreed upon:

- Scale science-based solutions
- Provide research and innovation investments
- Contribute to improved livelihoods and well-being
- Incentivize consumers as agents of change
- Create transparency
- Ensure an equitable transition

Chairman Stéphane Layani, highlighted WUWM's concrete commitment to the goals and action plans developed by the coalitions and its involvement in the action tracks that WUWM helped create during this summit. Fresh food systems with the goal of zero hunger by 2030, food safety protocols, decreased food loss and waste, and spreading best practices among wholesale markets will be the focus of our work.

WUWM's wholesale markets are committed to sourcing at least one third of the fresh food supply from local producers whenever possible, and to reinforce the reliability of localized/short supply chains.

Useful links:

[Press Releases | United Nations](#)
[UN Food Systems Summit - YouTube](#)
[Statements | United Nations](#)



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021

In WUWM's World

September 1: WUWM's Chairman Stéphane Layani participated in the United Nations Food Systems Summit 5th CEO Consultation to discuss the next steps on the UNFSS Business Declaration and coalitions

September 6: WUWM's African Chair Ms. Eva Marone spoke at the Agribusiness Deal Room organized by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

September 6: WUWM's Chairman Mr. Layani, European Chair Mr Pallottini and Former Chairman Mr. Ma spoke at the Sustainable Development Conference of International Agricultural Markets organized by WUWM Chinese members collective the Chinese Agricultural Wholesale Markets Association (CAWA)

September 7: - WUWM participated at the Virtual launch event of the Global Action on Green Development of Special Agro-Products (SAPs): "One Country One Priority Product" (OCOP)

September 7 to 10: WUWM attended AGRA's 2021 Summit

September 8: WUWM participated during the FAO-INRAE Workshop during the Organic World Congress (OWC)

September 9: WUWM met with Dr. Lujain Alqodmani and Ian Shepherd from the EAT Forum to examine synergies in a transition to sustainable food systems

September 10: WUWM's Secretary-General participated in the European Commission Meeting on the Market Observatory for Fruit and Vegetables – Pip Fruit Subgroup

September 13: WUWM met with UNECE to examine pilot project on the blockchain project UN Feed Up

September 13: WUWM attended the FoodSHIFT Webinar

September 15: WUWM met with Wasteless to examine synergies to reduce food waste and loss in wholesale markets

September 21: WUWM met with Campagna Amica and discussed the importance of the highest levels of connection between farmers and fresh food markets

September 21: WUWM met with the MIT Scale Network and the FAO Investment Centre to discuss research areas and results in fresh food markets

September 22: WUWM attended EuroCommerce's Policy Talks with European Commissioner Janusz Wojchciechowski

September 23: WUWM met with the Global Alliance on Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to discuss how wholesale market's expertise can support market development in Africa

September 23: WUWM participated on the United Nations Food Systems Summit. WUWM Chairman Stéphane Layani expressed WUWM's registered commitment to the UNFSS through a video

September 29: WUWM promoted and participated in the FAO's International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. Together to a world with zero waste!

WUWM participated on the United Nations Food Systems Summit. WUWM Chairman Stéphane Layani expressed WUWM's registered commitment to the UNFSS through a [video](#)

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About WUWM:

We aim to facilitate access to healthy diets for everyone in the world by delivering more sustainable, inclusive, and high-quality fresh food supply systems. We exchange ideas, share best practices and cooperate with our partners in international organizations, governments, businesses, and the public.

