

Governing food systems

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Did you order this?

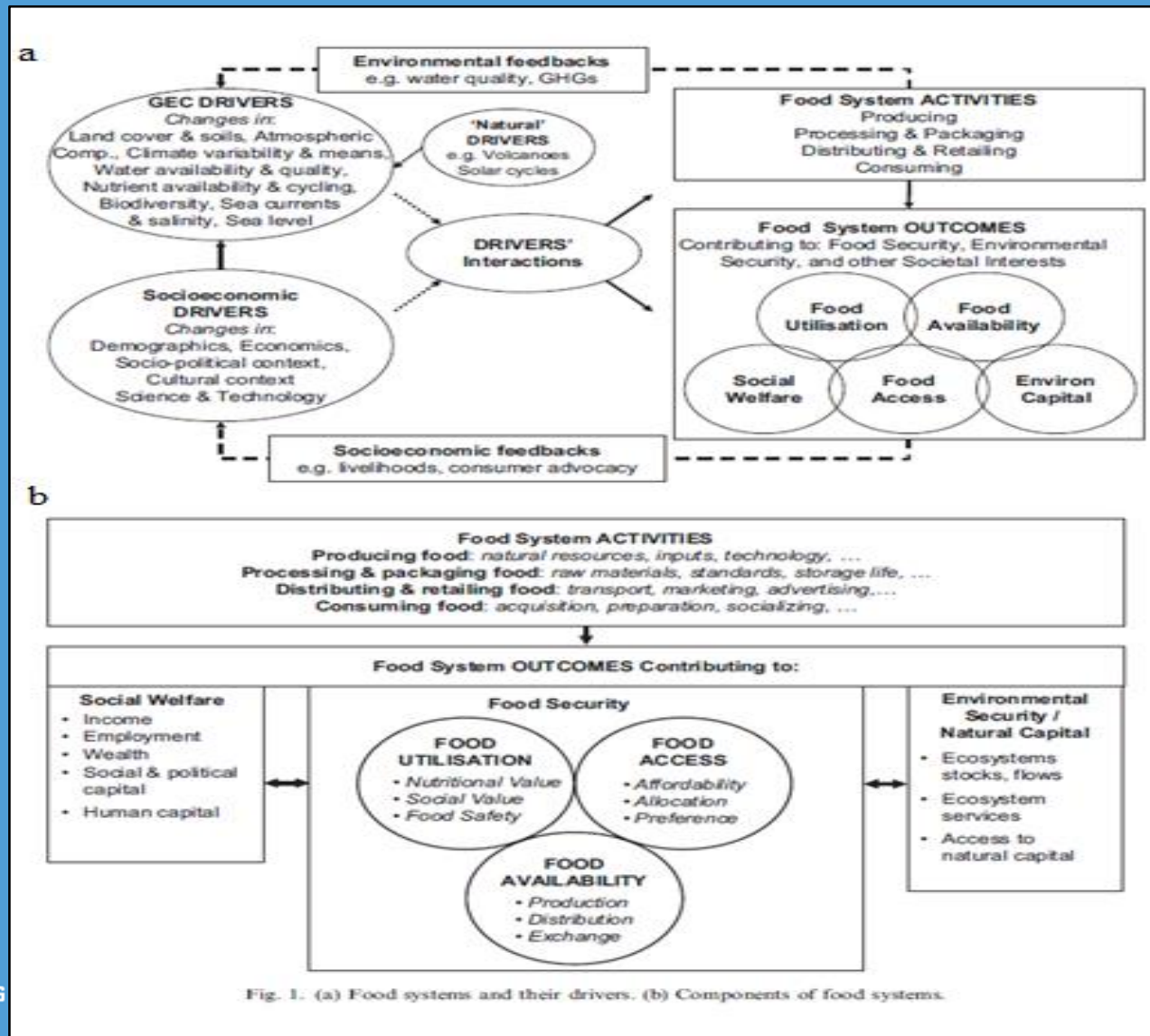


My question:

- If you want to change outcomes of food systems, what and how to govern?



Can Ericksen's conceptualization help?



Mwah... but she warns us to analyze food systems before changing them

Food systems are:

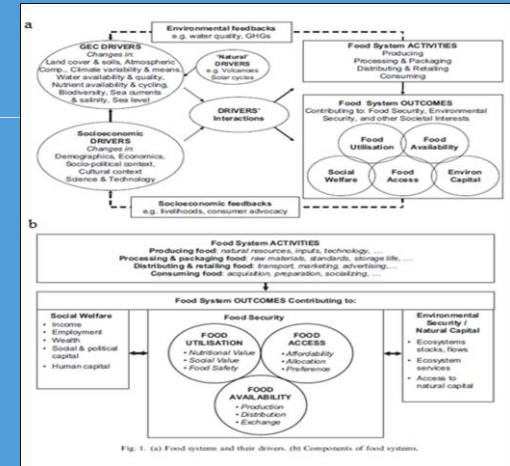
- Complex sets of interlinked activities and outcomes of the commodity chain of production through to consumption, driven by environmental change and socio-economic drivers
- Socio-ecological systems
- Telecoupled systems



Not really

Paying little attention to:

1. Actors and institutions
2. Politics in and over food systems
3. Conflicting values on food
4. Connecting or disconnecting food systems



1. Who govern food systems?

Municipalities

Small holders

Civil society
organisations

FAO

States

Informal leaders

Development
NGOs

Processing
industry

Landowners

Ministries of
Agriculture

Consumers

Ministries of
health

Private
companies

Water
agencies

Farmers'
organisations

WTO

UNFCCC

Ministries of
environment

Ministries of
trade

Terrorists

Retailers

Policymakers

Humanitarian aid
NGOs

Local
communities

Youth food
movement

Seed
companies

Environmental
NGOs

Scientists

World Bank

Politicians

Anti GMO
communities

Ministries of
infrastructure



Proposition for people with a change agenda

Food is a highly complex system that cannot be dealt with effectively by the current fragmented institutional architecture. Therefore, the governance system should be made more coherent and harmonized, better integrated and coordinated, and more inclusive.



Risks of top-down food policies

- Narrowly linked to a specific department and jurisdiction
- Unproductive patterns in silo-ed administrative systems
- Lack of transparent checks and balances
- Elite capture
- Lack of revitalising power



Alternative?

Smart food systems governance?

Dealing with fragmented systems

Search for synergies, collaboration, smart governance arrangements

Strengthening governance capabilities

5Rs: Reflexivity, Resilience, Responsiveness, Revitalization, Rescaling

Success

Small wins in the context of transformative pathways



2. Changing politics over and in food systems

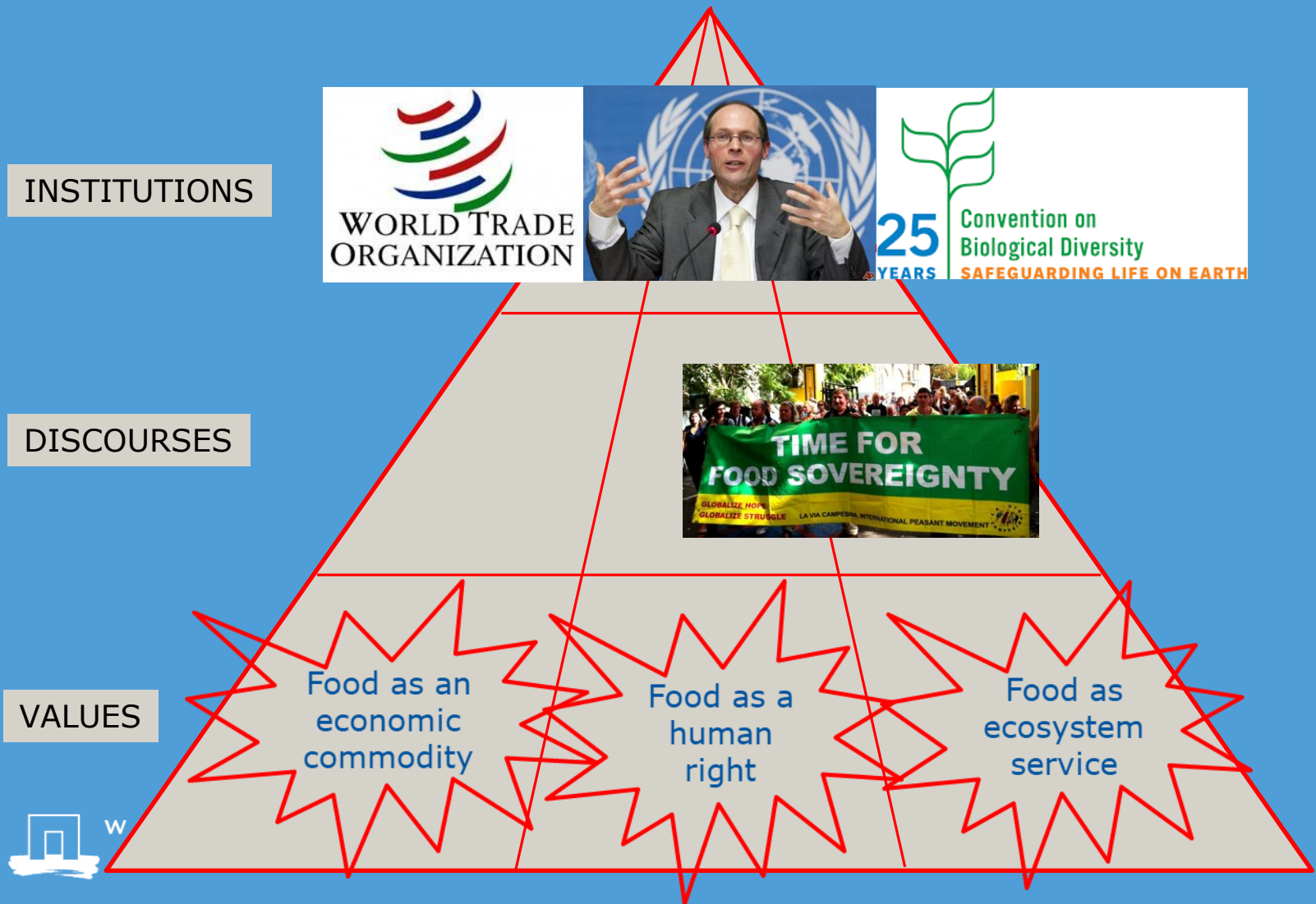
- Smart governance is not enough
- Changing food systems may require changing agenda-setting, decision-making, representation, accountability

New questions:

- *How to transform politics over and in food systems if consisting of producers, processors, traders, retailers and consumers at different and distant places?*
- *What values should prevail?*



3. Conflicting values on food



Ways to address conflicting values on food

1. Establishing alternative systems of governance that try to reconcile conflicting values

- World Food Committee of FAO
- Global multi-stakeholder governance (Roundtables)
- World Fair Trade Organisation
- ESCR-network as advocate in WTO negotiations

2. Making business actors of global value chains agree on new rules of the game:

- FPIC
- adopting due diligence acts



4. To connect or not to connect?

- Organizing food sovereignty at community level
- Strengthening informal food markets
- Developing ICT technologies for climate smart agriculture of smallholders
- Establishing local producer-consumer food networks
- Developing circular economies based on regenerative agriculture: a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems



Why and how do you want to change governance of food systems?

- I am curious (to know whether it works!)

