

## Food Security & Food Access Key Terms

**Food System:** The food system is a complex web of activities involving food production, processing, transportation, distribution, access, consumption and waste management. Issues concerning the food system include the governance and economics of food production, impacts on the natural environment, including climate change, and relationship to individual and population health and wellbeing.

**Food Security:** The state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

**Community Food Security:** Hamm and Bellows (2003) define community food security as, “a situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice”. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1499-4046\(06\)60325-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1499-4046(06)60325-4)

**Federal Food Assistance Programs:** Federal food assistance programs in the United States include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps); the National School Lunch/Breakfast/After-school Snack, Summer Feeding Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (often called WIC), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and others.

**Food Sovereignty:** The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

**Food Desert:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a food desert as a low-income area with little or no access to a supermarket, large grocery store or healthy food.

Food System Components, Processes, and Activities



Source: <https://climatechangeofsystems.merid.org/food-systems/>