

VULNERABILITIES AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD: INTEGRATED FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING AND RESILIENCE



Project Description

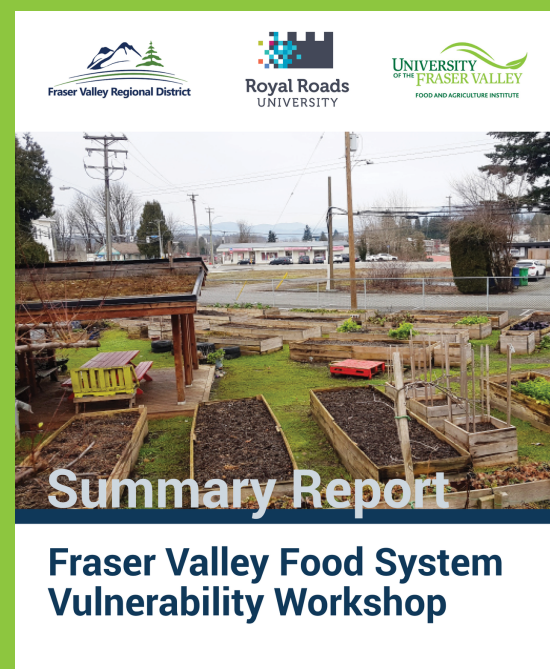
COVID-19 has revealed multiple vulnerabilities in food systems, including those related to supply chains, centralized food systems, labour needs, and just-in-time inventory management. This has resulted in food security impacts ranging from reduced access to affordable nutritious food, the collapse of small and medium food enterprises, loss of employment and stable income, poor mental health, and increased substance abuse. These vulnerabilities however are not limited to the pandemic, and the crisis has shown a broader need for resilience to a range of disturbances.

This research used a community-based participatory approach, engaging local and regional government, non-governmental organizations, and community members in the Fraser Valley to (1) reflect on the challenges and vulnerabilities that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed about local and regional food systems, and (2) explore ways of increasing resilience to future shocks.

Project Activities

The project consisted of series of workshops:

- **Workshop 1 (summer 2021)** explored local and regional food system vulnerabilities and impacts related to COVID.
- **Workshop 2 (fall 2021)** mapped and assessed food system vulnerabilities and potential impacts from multiple environmental, socioeconomic, and political hazards (e.g., flooding, wildfires, loss of wildlife habitat and ecosystems, rapid population growth, economic recession, etc.).
- **Workshop 3 (winter 2022)** explored approaches to prevent a worst-case scenario for future food systems by identifying and discussing ways of maintaining, enhancing and/or adding infrastructure, programs, and environmental features for strengthening food systems resilience.



For more information on this project, visit www.tinyurl.com/fvrd-food-systems

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