Exploring the foodscapes framework: Conceptualising social well-being & agency in place

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Background
The relationship that people have with food are multiple and diverse globally
An inclusive framework is needed to understand that importance of food, food places, and foodways beyond its nutritional value.
We synthesise existing literature across multiple disciplines. We introduce an integrative framework capturing the plurality of values

Contributions
3 significant contributions of the foodscapes concept
1. Greater focus on the social and cultural dimensions of food, as well as the actors and processes in these diverse contexts
2. Conceptualises how individual and social agency manifests in relation to well-being
3. Socio-cultural and psychological dimensions are constituents of well-being, alongside food security and health

Recommendations
1. Tailor research and policies that are place based and integrative of diverse values. This ensures greater legitimacy that doesn’t undermine the well-being of communities.
2. Research opportunities: Explore the interplay between foodscapes & well-being outcomes with economic & ecological dimensions of food systems.

What is a foodscape?
A socioecological system where food is acquired and consumed, and foodways and food activities occur

Connecting foodscapes to social well-being & agency
Where basic needs are met, one can act meaningfully to pursue one’s values, goals, and aspirations, and one enjoys a satisfactory quality of life.

Well-being

Personal agency
The capacity of individuals to act independently and to make free choices according to values

Social agency
the ability to collectively act and make wider systemic change

Subjective
Mental health
Perceived quality of life

Agency & social well-being

Material
Basic needs
Physical health

Relational
Relations between people, place, and food

Life and body satisfaction related to foodscapes
Photo by Marlon del Aguil Guerrero/CIFOR

Practical, scientific, and local knowledge of foodscapes
Photo by Lukas Pawera

Food security and nutritious diets for physical health
Photo by Lukas Pawera

Food markets and eating places for social cohesion and shared experience
Photo by Icaro Cooke Vieira/CIFOR

Spirituality and religious beliefs attached to food and food rituals
Photo by Lukas Pawera

Group identity and sense of belongingness attached to traditional foods
Photo by Lukas Pawera