Increased Importance of Aquatic Foods on the Johns Hopkins University Food Systems Dashboard

Introduction

- Monitoring food systems is essential for improving human and planetary health
- Globally, aquatic foods provide people with 20% of their intake of animal protein (FAO, 2012)
- 65.8% of fish stocks were within biologically sustainable levels in 2017, compared with 90% in 1990 (FAO, 2020). Almost 50% of aquatic food now comes from aquaculture (FAO, 2020)
- Aquatic food systems should be included in food system monitoring
- Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) created the Food Systems Dashboard (FSD), which launched in June 2020 (Fanzo et al. 2020)
- FSD combines data from a variety of sources to:
  - Visualize key concepts within food systems
  - Track the efficacy of food production policies

Findings

- FSD framework adapted from High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (FSD, 2021)
- Users can identify and prioritize ways to sustainably improve human diets and nutrition
- FSD contains >200 indicators that measure components, drivers, and outcomes of food systems at country levels
- WorldFish is collaborating with the JHU and GAIN team to add more aquatic food indicators to the FSD

Approach

- 14 new aquatic food indicators have been identified, covering products from capture fisheries and aquaculture origins
- These are grouped into five areas based on the FSD framework
  1. Food supply chains
  2. Food environments
  3. Consumer behavior
  4. Diets and nutrition
  5. Drivers

Conclusions

Aquatic foods are micronutrient-rich, relatively cheap and accessible

By 2030, 10% of the world’s population will be vulnerable to deficiencies of micronutrient and fatty acids

The Johns Hopkins University and GAIN Food Systems Dashboard helps to depict these data and trends, thereby informing policymakers and other stakeholders

References


www.ANHAcademy.org/ANH2021