

Supplementary Materials

In order to identify relevant publications that document when, where, and how urban–rural food systems were resilient to the COVID-19 pandemic or not, a semi-structured literature search was carried out to identify the most relevant publication. Both scientific databases as well as grey literature from major development organisations were searched.

Scientific literature search

Key words/search strings

- COVID-19 + (impact OR effect) + food (system OR security) + rural–urban (linkage OR relation) + (migra*) + resilience
- COVID-19 + (impact OR effect) + food (system OR security) + (labour OR job OR work* OR income) + (informal sector OR informal economy) + supply side + (urban* + rural) (migra*) + resilience
- COVID-19 + (impact OR effect) + food (system OR security) + rural–urban (linkage OR relation) + second-tier city + hidden middle
- COVID-19 + (impact OR effect) + food (system OR security) + rural–urban (linkage OR relation) + (digitalis* OR e-commerce) + infrastructure + hidden middle
- COVID-19 + (impact OR effect) + food (system OR security) + rural–urban (linkage OR relation) + (informal economy OR informal sector) + (street vendor OR street food outlet)

Search criteria

- Published in 2020 and 2021
- Peer-reviewed articles

Representativeness

- Scope of the study (global, regional, national, local)
- Type of data
 - Secondary data
 - Primary data
 - Sampling protocol

Reliability

- Method applied for data analysis
 - Either quantitative or qualitative

	Low	Moderate	High
Representativeness	Global, general insights, based on secondary data (or only on expert knowledge)	Secondary data or primary data. But very small sample or small geographical scope	Regional, national based on primary data, including a sampling protocol
Reliability	No methods or theoretical framework applied	Simple methods and/or theoretical framework	Clear, solid methodological approach and theoretical framework present

Grey literature search

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a great need for answers to many questions, leading to an overwhelming amount of information that was published based on the predictions and interpretations of experts. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic only started to have a global impact on the life of people from early 2020 onwards, the availability of scientifically reviewed articles was and still is low. The information published in blogs and discussion papers often lacked scientific proof, and hence, the high quality of the articles cannot be guaranteed (Bene et al., 2021).

Due to the lack of scientifically reviewed articles, and the extensive availability of grey literature, we included grey literature in our study. To ensure the high quality of this paper, we applied a couple of quality criteria for the grey literature search.

- Who published the article/blog/discussion paper/working paper;

- What type of data are used;
- Secondary data;
- Data before the COVID-19 crisis (e.g., predictions).
- Data for 2020–2021
 - Expert knowledge
 - Primary data
 - Qualitative data
 - Quantitative data

List of (respected) institutions/organisations included in the grey literature search:

- IFPRI/CGIAR;
- FAO;
- IFAD;
- ILRI;
- WHO;
- World Bank;
- GAIN;
- Foresight4food;
- WUR;
- Oxfam Novib;
- RUAF global partnership on sustainable urban agriculture and food systems.

Decision tree

