

## The Food Systems in the Era of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic and its mitigation responses have resulted in unprecedented changes to global food systems. As much as one third of the world's population have been in lockdown simultaneously. This has posed significant challenges to food systems, which could potentially result in worldwide food shortages. This article explores food systems in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting food insecurity issues, the possibility of COVID-19 transmission through the food chain, and investigates how our food systems should be altered to reduce the chance of food crises in the future.

The article investigates the role of bioactive ingredients in supporting the human immune system and the idea that the consumption of foods rich in vitamins can boost the immune system to help fight off viruses. Bioactive ingredients could potentially be harnessed in efforts to increase the human immune response to the COVID-19 virus.

Food safety has also been an issue within the pandemic, with uncertainty surrounding the possibility of COVID-19 transmission through food and eating. Previous outbreaks of related coronaviruses have not been transmitted in this manner, however precautions are discussed.

Global food insecurity is also considered. Global lockdown measures implemented to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in increased concerns surrounding global food insecurity. Almost every stage in food systems from farm to fork have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigation responses include emergency food assistance programmes.

Finally, the paper investigates sustainability of food systems in the new era of pandemic crises. Discussion includes redesigning of food systems to become more sustainable, including less dependency on animal-based proteins.

Galanakis, Charis M. "The Food Systems in the Era of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Crisis." *Foods*, vol. 9, no. 4, 22 Apr. 2020, p. 523, 10.3390/foods9040523.