

A2.5 Policy goal: Equitable outcomes and conditions

Equity is an intrinsic element of food security as a basic human right, which, besides being a global challenge, has EU-specific features.

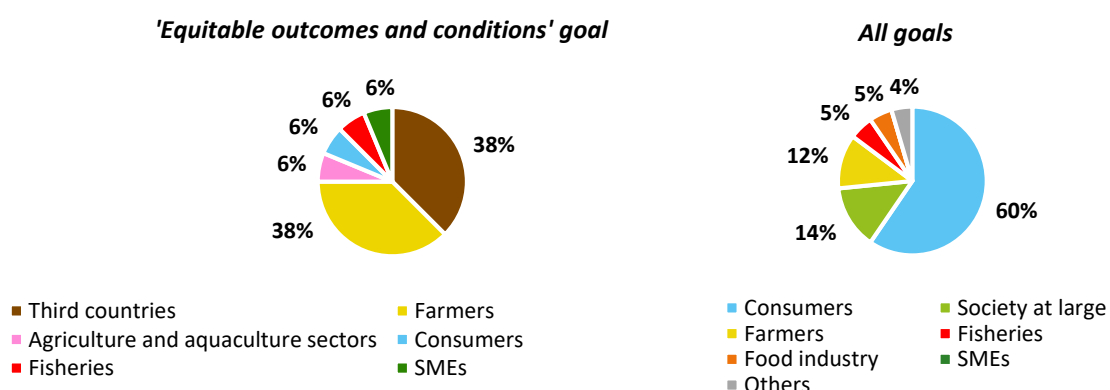
The mapped policies addressing this goal are relatively few compared to the general picture.

Given the emphasis on equity at European and global levels, is it reflected enough in terms of policies?

Subgoals

- ❖ **Aid and cooperation** – The EU provides substantial funding in support of both the improvement of food and nutrition security and the sustainable development of third countries' agriculture and rural areas.
- ❖ **Social cohesion in the EU** – Within the EU food system low-wage jobs, poor working conditions and the lack of opportunities to climb up the career ladder are still recurrent issues. An equitable food system would provide decent jobs to vulnerable societal groups and underinvested neighborhoods, boost incomes, attract additional businesses and contribute to economic and social cohesion within the Union.
- ❖ **Global food and nutrition security** – Quantitatively and qualitatively poor diets are always more responsible for the disease burden of the most vulnerable segments of the EU society. Indeed, in 2016 about 9% of the EU population was unable to afford a meal every second day (Eurostat, 2017) and poor food environments have been rapidly spreading, exacerbating diet-related health inequities.

Proportion of mapped equity policies by ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY



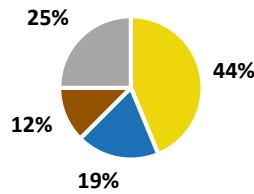
The majority of the mapped equity-related food policies benefits **third countries** (38%) and the **EU primary sector** (50% overall). Besides the improvement of farmers' and fishermen's **working conditions**, equity in the food system also regards the possibility for all citizens to have **access to healthy unprocessed food** at a decent price via expanded retail options.

*Should equity-related food policies address **consumers** and **society at large** to a greater extent?*

*Should they benefit individuals and social groups from the **urban environment** as well?*

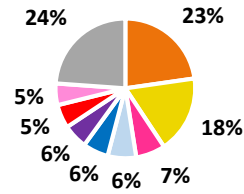
Proportion of mapped equity policies by PRIMARY TARGET

'Equitable outcomes and conditions' goal



- Farmers
- Research sector
- Third countries
- Others

All goals



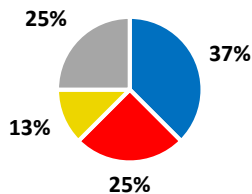
- Food industry
- Farmers
- School food services
- Public authorities
- Research sector
- Import/export companies

From our mapping, **farmers** represent those food system actors through which policy makers implement the greatest share of equity-related policies (44%). The mapped policies enforced through the **research sector** (19%) are formulated by the food and agriculture and the international development departments of Northern European countries' governments.

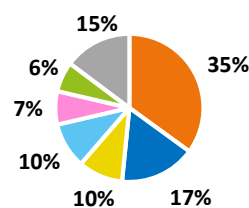
*Should more **bottom-up research activities and entities** be considered valuable means to reach this goal by policy formulators?*

Proportion of mapped equity policies by INSTRUMENT

'Equitable outcomes and conditions' goal



All goals



- Regulation
- R&I
- Information measure
- Food and agricultural standards
- Labelling measure
- Border measure
- Income support
- Others

From the share of mapped policies carried out using **R&I instruments** (37%) – which are all of an economic nature –, the great majority are designed by governmental bodies to meet the '**Global food and nutrition security**' subgoal, thus mainly benefitting third countries.

*Can R&I be effective in enhancing equity within **European Member States** as well?*

*None of the mapped equity policies implies **border measures**. To what extent are they relevant cohesion between Member States?*

Farmers' income is vital for ensuring adequate supply of raw materials to the food industry and, ultimately, for enhancing food security. According to the Commission, about 27% of it is dependent on **public support**; likewise, our mapping points out that about a quarter of the mapped equity policies implies income support.

Are European food policies being effective in making farmers' profitability less dependent on public support?