


WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
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# The Amazon food systems:
## Futures exploration workshop

### Context and background

The Amazon Food Systems Futures Exploration Workshop, held in Belém on September 30, 2024, was developed by the World Food Program (WFP) and Food Systems Foresight. This event brought together food systems leaders to examine possible future scenarios in the Amazon, a key ecosystem for the planet that covers 6.7 million km², is home to 10% of the world's biodiversity and retains around 200 gigatons of carbon.

The Amazon region is vital not only for Indigenous populations and global markets, but also for the health of the planet, playing a crucial role in climate regulation and biodiversity. However, it faces significant threats, such as deforestation, agricultural expansion, climate change and conflicts over indigenous land rights, which threaten both its ecosystem and traditional ways of life.

### Participants

The workshop was attended by representatives from eight amazonian countries, including representatives from the private sector, government and organizations, as well as representatives from WFP offices in the region

**March 2025**

## Futures exploration workshop

### Workshop methodology

The first day of the workshop began with a visit to the Ver-o-Peso market, which served as an opportunity to explore the social and economic dynamics that sustain amazonian food systems. During the tour, the diversity of native products, such as exotic fruits, medicinal herbs and fish, was highlighted, illustrating the abundance of the amazonian ecosystem and its relevance to both the local economy and food security.

In the following activities, the Exploratory Scenario Planning (XSP) methodology was used to analyze trends and uncertainties, allowing participants to develop a shared vision of amazonian food systems. Unavoidable and uncertain factors were classified as "Critical Certainties" and "Critical Uncertainties" and used to formulate **four future scenarios as main outcomes.**

## FUTURE SCENARIOS

1. **Full good living:** Balance between political stability and environmental health.
2. **Conflict and fragility:** Environmental improvement with political instability.
3. **Irreversible situation:** Political and environmental deterioration.
4. **Scenario with little resilience:** Social instability with fragile access to resources.

Four potential scenarios for the future of amazonian food systems were identified, based on the interaction of two critical uncertainties: environmental health and political stability. These scenarios illustrate possible development paths, from climate resilience with participatory governance to situations of environmental and political collapse.

Based on the common elements in the different scenarios proposed, the following shared and strategic areas of action for a sustainable future were identified.

### Priorities for the future

Participants highlighted the need to:

- Strengthen Indigenous knowledge systems and livelihoods.
- Protect land rights and access to natural resources.
- Encourage regenerative technologies that promote sustainable practices.
- Ensure the participation of amazonian communities in decision making.

### Main findings

This workshop is part of a larger Food Systems Foresight study that highlights two key findings in addition to the results:

- The complexity and diversity of Amazonian food systems, shaped by diverse actors with often conflicting interests.
- The prevailing dynamics, such as urbanization, global markets and climate change, which are transforming the region with both positive and negative effects on food production and distribution.

The full report "The future of food systems in the Amazon" is available here.