ONE REGION FORWARD
Food Access and Justice Working Team
Meeting #3, June 10, 2013

LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

Erie and Niagara food system

A regional network of activities, stakeholders, resources, institutions, and policies that enable the production, processing, distribution, acquisition, and disposal of food.

Food Production

Food production includes the growing and harvesting of crops, raising of animals, foraging, and fishing for the purpose of human consumption.

Farmland Soil

*Prime farmland* has “the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.”

*Farmland of statewide importance* “includes land that is nearly prime farmland and that economically produces high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some land may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable. In some states, additional farmlands of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by state law.”

*Prime farmland if drained* includes soils “considered feasible for improvement by draining, by irrigating, by removing stones, by removing salts or exchangeable sodium, or by protecting from overflow are classified according to their continuing limitations in use, or the risks of soil damage, or both, after the improvements have been installed.”

Land that is considered not prime farmland is, for a combination of environmental and land use reasons, not suitable for farming. (USDA National Resources Conservation Service, 2012)

Sustainability:

Ensuring that the actions we undertake “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (Brundtland, 1987)

Regional Food Insecurity

Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate, affordable, culturally, and socially acceptable, and safe foods.

Hunger

“A potential consequence of food insecurity that, because of prolonged, involuntary lack of food, results in discomfort, illness, weakness, or pain that goes beyond the usual uneasy sensation.” (Food Insecurity and Hunger in the United States: An Assessment of the Measure, 2006)

Diet related disparities

Differences in dietary intake, dietary behaviors and dietary patterns in amongst different socioeconomic segments of the population, resulting poorer dietary quality and inferior health outcomes for certain groups and an unequal burden in terms of disease incidence, morbidity, mortality, survival and quality of life. (Satia, 2009)

Sustainable regional food system

Ensures that residents have access to healthful, affordable, and culturally acceptable foods; that farming and other regional food production activities remain an economically viable pursuit; and that negative impacts of the food system on natural resources are minimized. (Report)

Healthy food

“A healthy food is a plant or animal product that provides essential nutrients and energy to sustain growth, health and life while satiating hunger.

Healthy foods are usually fresh or minimally processed foods, naturally dense in nutrients, that when eaten in moderation and in combination with other foods, sustain growth, repair and maintain vital processes, promote longevity, reduce disease, and strengthen and maintain the body and its functions.

Healthy foods do not contain ingredients that contribute to disease or impede recovery when consumed at normal levels.”

(Partners in Action, 2013)

Regional self-reliance

Self-reliance is the proportion of food produced in the region to food consumed in the region.

Food Sovereignty

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who grow, raise, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems. Food sovereignty prioritizes local and national economies and markets and empowers small scale agriculture, artisanal - fishing, grazing, food production, distribution and
consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. (International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, 2007) Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just incomes to all peoples as well as the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social and economic classes and generations. (International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, 2007)

Food Justice

Food justice is a state where all stakeholders in a community’s food system are treated justly. A just food system is inclusive and community-led. Efforts aim to achieve food justice identify and act to remove the significant structural inequities that exist within the food system to ensure healthy, resilient communities with equitable access to nourishing and culturally appropriate food. A just food system does not exploit people, farmers, farmworkers, and the natural environment. (Modified from the Food Justice Work Group, 2012)


