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Ruokaoikeudenmukaisuus ja ympäristökysymys

Abstract

Food justice denotes both a social movement and an academic discourse of theorizing what constitutes a fair food system where the benefits and harms of food production and consumption are distributed equally and where every human being has a right to food. In the general discourse of food justice, a just food system is also assumed to promote the sustainability of food systems. In this article, I reveal the problem of this assumption and examine the tensions between social food justice and ecological sustainability in food systems. Tensions relate, for example, to the fact that local food is not synonymous for ecologically sustainable and low-carbon food, yet food justice discourse has argued that re-localization of food systems fosters its environmental soundness. Another, related challenge concerns the democratization of the food system that may not yield desired outcomes due to the tensions between different food system objectives. I illustrate how the conflicts between various claims for justice and sustainability emerge, how they could be addressed, and I also discuss how the society could foster the emergence of food citizenship that would promote both justice and sustainability in food systems.

Keywords: food justice, ecological sustainability, local food, food democracy

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