

FOOD SYSTEM HISTORY

Changing the footprint goes beyond individual actions and requires changes in structures, policies, economic practices, etc.

What events led to the development of the current food system?

The economic patterns of the current food system were established through colonialism beginning around the time of Columbus. Main traits include:

- 1) resources being extracted from the colonized country to the colonizers' countries
- 2) economic dependency on few commodities
- 3) unequal terms of trade
- 4) social hierarchies and inequality that were institutionalized through slavery.

All are still seen today in terms of wealth inequalities both between and within countries.

Examples of historical events that exhibit these traits are outlined on the “Significant Events in Food History” document. These events have contributed to global trade, population changes, and technological advances that shaped the food system today.