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FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

**A SCOPING REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE FRAMEWORKS IN
FOOD POLICY: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT**

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Public food procurement (PFP), including school meal programmes, is increasingly recognised as a powerful policy lever for improving food systems, yet implementation remains challenging due to complex governance structures and institutional constraints. Implementation Science (IS) aim to address the “know–do gap” by examining how policies are implemented in real-world settings, but its use in food policy remains limited, with most existing applications concentrated in school feeding programmes.

This scoping review maps how Implementation Science frameworks have been used in food policy implementation, with particular attention to institutional feeding programmes. Following PRISMA-ScR guidelines, the review systematically identifies and synthesises studies applying IS frameworks to food-

related policies, examining implementation determinants, institutional contexts, and reported outcomes.

The review aims to generate transferable lessons from existing food policy applications of IS to inform the design and delivery of wider public food procurement programmes. Its findings will provide policymakers and practitioners with practical insights into common implementation barriers, enabling conditions, and strategies for strengthening the effectiveness and sustainability of PFP interventions.

Palavras-chave: public food procurement; implementation science; policy implementation; food system; food policy.