



## Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

### Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

Document No: CFS OEWG- MYPoW/2017/02/06/01

CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 01

Date: 6 February 2017

Time: 14.00 – 17.00

Location: German Room, FAO Headquarters

## Preparation of CFS MYPoW for the biennium 2018-2019

### INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to inform the OEWG discussion concerning the preparation of the next CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work. The different proposals on future CFS themes and activities are presented together with the results of the ranking exercise during which OEWG members expressed their preferences. It is important for the OEWG to have a substantive discussion on what really needs to be included in the programme of work, in consideration of existing resources and workload of the Committee.

Following the meeting on 6 February 2017, a Chair's proposal will be prepared by mid-March and discussed at the MYPoW OEWG meeting on 18 April, where consensus is expected to be reached on the CFS activities for the next programme of work. An additional meeting will take place on 1 June to provide last inputs on selected activities and technical matters to be addressed, before the presentation of the MYPoW for endorsement at CFS 44 in October 2017.

### PART 1 – PROPOSED THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the MYPoW meeting on 6 February 2017 is to have a strategic discussion on what deserves to be included in the next programme of work of the Committee. The results of the ranking exercise represent an indication of the initial preferences expressed by OEWG members who are now invited to go beyond the rankings and consider the substance of the proposed themes and activities (all the proposals are included in Annex I to this document).

#### a) [Guiding elements for the OEWG discussion](#)

The main objective of the MYPoW process is to identify important issues in the field of food security and nutrition that require a global response and select a set of themes and activities that stand out for their relevance to the international agenda, their alignment to the mandate of CFS, and their potential impact in the field, compatible with anticipated resources.

It is important that OEWG members focus their discussion on the content of the proposals, analyze the technical aspects behind them and identify the objectives and possible outcomes of future activities, clearly defining the importance of addressing a particular theme and the anticipated outcomes.

In this context, it is also important to make strategic use of the work of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and enhance its integration into the objectives of the CFS MYPoW. The CFS request to the HLPE should clearly indicate why CFS is requesting the analysis, and HLPE reports should be considered as integral CFS activities where enough time is devoted to the analysis of the outcomes of the HLPE work and the identification of those technical aspects that need to be further addressed in the course of the political process.

OEWG members are invited to consider the different options for sharing of lessons and exchange on good practices that were outlined in the document CFS 2016/43/6 "*CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*" (paragraphs 12-14). The proposal that was agreed at CFS 43 highlights that this function needs to be strengthened, subject to available resources, through the presentation of country experiences, the organization of stock-taking sessions on the use of CFS products, thematic sessions on good practices or productive collaboration on a particular issue and/or workshops for a group of countries around regional priorities. These types of activities are valid options that could be taken into account when defining how to implement future CFS activities. Furthermore, the MYPoW is expected to identify the specific aspects of the 2030 Agenda it aims to contribute to and articulate its contribution to the advancement of the Agenda.

#### b) Results of the MYPoW activity ranking exercise

In October 2016, OEWG members were requested to elaborate and submit proposals for possible CFS activities for the biennium 2018-2019. The full proposals are included in Annex 1 to this document.

All the proposals received were circulated on 11 November 2016 to OEWG members, who were asked to indicate their preferences by ranking in order of preference up to three preferred HLPE themes and up to three preferred other CFS activities. Note this does not imply how many activities might be undertaken, but is simply to help indicate where there may be broad interest in a topic. For HLPE themes and any other CFS activities, 1.5 points were assigned to each first ranked proposal, 1.0 to the second one and 0.5 to the third ranked proposal<sup>1</sup>.

33 OEWG members responded, namely: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Civil Society Mechanism, Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Private Sector Mechanism, the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the United Nations World Food Programme, and the United Nations World Health Organization.

As mentioned, the results of the ranking exercise are meant to provide an indication of the initial preferences expressed by the OEWG members<sup>2</sup> who are now invited to discuss the substance and

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<sup>1</sup> The total number of points assigned to HLPE reports and to other CFS activities do not coincide, as some delegations voted only for one of the two while in other cases less than three preferences were expressed.

<sup>2</sup> The top ranked proposals are marked in yellow to better highlight the different level of support received compared to the others.

expected outcomes of the different proposals. It was agreed that no Chair’s proposal will be prepared until after this discussion takes place at the MYPoW OEWG meeting on 6 February.

HLPE reports

TITLE	SUPPORTERS	POINTS
C - Agroecology for food security and nutrition security (or alternative title: Reducing ecological footprint of agriculture while increasing food security and nutrition)	BAN, BEL, BRA, COL, COS, CSM, ECU, EGY, FAO, FIN, FRA, GER, HUN, ITA, NET, SCN, SWI, WHO	19.5
A - Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition	ARG, BEL, BRA, CHI, COL, EU, FAO, FRA, GER, ITA, KEN, MAL, SWI, UK, WFP	17.5
D - Role of food safety in ensuring food security, access to adequate nutrition, and improved health outcomes	BAN, CAN, COS, EGY, EU, FIN, INDO, IRAN, KEN, PSM, UK, USA, WFP, WHO	14
B - Inequalities in agriculture-related assets as a key determinant of food insecurity	BAN, CHI, CSM, ECU, FAO, FRA, HUN, IFAD, IRE, NET, UK	11.5
F - The impact of trade agreements on food security and nutrition	ARG, EGY, FIN, HUN, ICE, IRAN, SCN, SWI, WHO	10,5
E - Innovation for sustainability and productivity	ARG, BEL, CAN, CHI, COS, INDO, MAL, PSM, USA	10
J - Resilient and sustainable agricultural practices to face climate change for food security and nutrition	CAN, IFAD, INDO, IRE, KEN, MAL, USA	5.5
I - Resilient agricultural practices in the context of disasters	GER, IRE, ITA, NET, PSM, WFP	4.5
H - Sustainable consumption	ECU, SCN	1.5
G - The increasing role of financial markets in food security and nutrition	CSM	0.5

Other CFS activities

TITLE	SUPPORTERS	POINTS
E - Engaging, recruiting and retaining youth in agriculture	BAN, BEL, BRA, CAN, COS, FAO, FRA, IFAD, IRE, KEN, NET, PSM, UK, USA	16
A - Multistakeholder dialogue on trade and food security and nutrition	ARG, BAN, BEL, CHI, EGY, FAO, INDO, IRAN, SCN, SWI, WFP	11.5
G - CFS Forum on financing investment in inclusive and sustainable food systems	ARG, CHI, HUN, IFAD, ITA, KEN, SCN, UK, WHO	9.5
J - Food systems in favour of nutrition	CSM, EGY, FIN, GER, INDO, IRAN, ITA, KEN, SWI, UK, WHO	9.5
I - Urbanization and rural transformation	GER, HUN, MAL, NET, SCN, SWI	8
B - The impact of market concentration on public policies for food security and nutrition	CSM, EGY, EU, FIN, HUN, ICE, IRAN, NET	7
F - Session on South-South and Triangular cooperation	ARG, BAN, BRA, CHI, COS, PSM, USA, WFP	7
D - Resilient agricultural practices in the context of disasters	BEL, CAN, FAO, FIN, GER, IRE, WHO	6.5
H - Nutrition workstream – Stunting	COS, EU, IRE, PSM, WFP	6
K - Monitoring event on CFS recommendations on food security and climate change	CAN, FRA, IFAD, INDO, MAL, USA	6
L - Food security and territorial approaches	FRA, ITA, MAL	2

C - Working conditions of plantation workers and the need for public policy ensuring their food security and nutrition	CSM	1.5
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## PART 2 – ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of the MYPoW for the next biennium needs to take into account existing resources and workload of the Committee. The decision on new activities should also consider the number of activities that will continue from the current biennium. In this regard, OEWG members will have to discuss and establish the scope of these activities and, in some cases, decide whether to change their nature, mandate and/or status.

The following activities are anticipated for the next biennium:

- a) [HLPE report on Multistakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda \(2018\)](#)

At CFS 43, it was decided to request the HLPE to present this report in 2018. The next MYPoW should address how to make the best use within the CFS context of the evidence presented and the challenges and opportunities identified in this report.

- b) [Nutrition follow-up \(2018-2019\)](#)

Following the indications that will be provided by the Nutrition OEWG and during the Nutrition events that will take place in the first half of 2017, MYPoW OEWG members will have a clearer idea of the objectives, the thematic aspects to be addressed and the process concerning this workstream. The events scheduled in CFS 44, such as the launch of the HLPE report, will also bring out key elements to help specify the scope of future policy work on nutrition.

- c) [MYPoW OEWG \(2018-2019\)](#)

The MYPoW OEWG is expected to continue its work in the next biennium with a view to preparing the future programme of work of the Committee together with the option of developing a longer term MYPoW (this matter will be discussed in agenda item 3 of the OEWG meeting on 6 February, see document CFS/OEWG/MYPoW/2017/02/06/02).

In addition, the following activities will need to be accounted for in the next MYPoW, depending on the developments of these workstreams:

- d) [SDGs – Contribution to the HLPF \(2018-2019\)](#)

The Committee decided in October 2016 to provide regular, timely and agreed inputs to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). A decision is expected to be taken on the process leading to the preparation of the CFS's contribution to the HLPF. Options could be that the existing OEWG on SDGs is maintained, the possibility for a different (existing or new) OEWG to take on this work as part of its tasks, or the creation of an informal Friends of the CFS Chair Group to prepare the contribution.

e) [Monitoring exercise](#)

Following the approval of the “*Terms of reference to share experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations*”, CFS 43 recommended that the OEWG on Monitoring continues its work in 2017 to agree on how to monitor the implementation of CFS products on regular basis, drawing lessons from the Global Thematic Event held last October. Monitoring activities after 2017 may or may not need a continued dedicated OEWG.

f) [Plan of action on the CFS Evaluation](#)

The Plenary in 2017 will be invited to endorse a plan of action concerning the follow-up to the CFS evaluation. Depending on the content of that plan, activities within existing OEWGs, or a possible new workstream dealing with its implementation might have to be considered for 2018.

g) [Rules of Procedure Working Group](#)

In light of the preliminary findings of the CFS evaluation that were presented in November 2016, it is possible that the Working Group on Rules of Procedure will be requested to undertake a number of tasks in the following biennium. Clearer indications will be provided after the plan of action has been prepared.

### [Budgetary implications](#)

The programme of work of the Committee needs to be based on realistic budgetary assumptions to ensure its full implementation throughout the biennium. The budget of CFS relies on a core contribution provided by the three Rome-based agencies of USD 4,050,000 per biennium and on voluntary extra-budgetary contributions. The budget provided by the RBAs, assuming it continues at the same level, is sufficient to cover 92% of the costs associated with the staff for the regular or ‘core’ workstreams, interpretation and production of documents for plenary sessions, travel for the Chair and support to communication.

All the other costs related to additional workstreams, work of the HLPE and support to CSM participation in CFS proceedings have to be covered through voluntary extra-budgetary contributions.

The following estimate has been prepared based on the following assumptions:

- The three RBAs continue providing the same level of contributions in the future;
- Voluntary extra-budgetary contributions are provided to cover the existing gap;
- Staff contributions from the three RBAs are full-time allocated to the work of the Secretariat.

	Year 1	Year 2	TOTAL
<b>STAFF</b>	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
This includes: a) CFS Secretary, FAO, IFAD and WFP in kind professional staff, two administrative staff, one professional staff and one communications officer; b) Implementation of 8 core workstreams <u>without</u> interpretation and translation services; c) Support to Bureau and Advisory Group and intersessional work; d) CFS workstreams communication activities;			
<b>PLENARY and CHAIR</b>	700,000	700,000	1,400,000
This includes: a) Interpretation of a 5-day plenary and one information session/briefing to delegates; b) Documents production based on average costs of past plenaries (avg 95,000 words/year); c) Travel of 10 panelists to Plenary and CFS Secretariat; d) CFS Chair related activities (assistant and avg 10 travels/year); e) Support CFS communication (coverage at plenary, website maintenance, publicity material, IISD coverage);			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>

In this context it is important to bear in mind that the cost of a workstream depends on the type of activities that are foreseen. The estimate above foresees the implementation of basic workstreams with meetings taking place in Rome, with no interpretation or translation services, where the main additional cost is staff time. For additional services the costs vary considerably. As a point of comparison, the updated budget for the 2016-17 MYPoW is almost \$5.9 million for CFS plenary and workstreams, plus \$2.3 million for the HLPE and \$1.6 million for CSM. The table below shows some basic inputs for workstream related costs.

Interpretation services	14,000 (six hours/six languages) – for a three-hour session the costs would not change
Translation services	4110 (1000 words/5 languages)
Travels of panelists	2,500 (on avg, including travel and accommodation costs)
Forum with 8 panelists, travel and accommodation costs covered, full-day interpretation, translation of background document (20,000 words), moderator, messengers, IT support – no staff time included	100,000
High-Level Panel of Experts - HLPE – (support to Steering Committee and Project Teams and preparation of reports in six languages, including translation, travels and staff)	2,300,000 (projected expenditures for 2016-2017 as per the document CFS/BurAG/2016/11/29/07b)
Development of a substantive set of policy guidance, including interpretation and translation services, regional consultations, dedicated staff, communication and outreach activities)	1,000,000 (estimate based on past experiences, such as VGGTs, RAI and FFA)

## ANNEX 1

### PROPOSED THEMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE CFS WORKSTREAMS

## HLPE REPORTS

### A. Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition [CHINA]

More than 50% of the world's population (about 3.9 billion people) live in cities and large towns, and is expected to increase to 66% by 2050. Developing countries in the world, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are experiencing rapid urbanization and rural transformation, bringing new opportunities and challenges to food security and nutrition, and need to strengthen research and common responses.

The CFS 43rd Plenary Session has included this theme in the CFS workstreams and activities, recognizing the importance of policy-making when facing these main trends and drivers of change in urban and rural areas, as well as their implications for global food security and nutrition. Some areas need to be paid more attention. However, there is still a lack of systematic framework such as how to take them into account and how to cope with the challenges during the urbanization and rural transformation.

[AS ANTICIPATED IN THE EMAIL SENT ON 3 NOVEMBER, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY AN OEWG MEMBER, THE CFS SECRETARIAT HAS DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS CONCERNING A POSSIBLE HLPE REPORT ON THIS MATTER]

#### Context and rationale

Interdependencies and mutual flows of goods – especially food – and services between rural and urban areas are expanding, supported by the growth of intermediate towns on the landscape, the latter being a key feature of urbanization processes in many developing countries. Food systems are also changing, not only as a result of demographic pressures and changes but also as a result of income growth and changing dietary patterns, the emergence of vibrant rural towns, the increasing importance of the agrifood sector, climate change and sustainability concerns. The interaction between small towns in rural areas and the agrifood system is assessed as the new dynamic that contributes to fast rural and agricultural transformation and urbanization.

When looking at the world's poor, approximately 78% of those living on less than US\$2 per day live in rural areas, and 63% of the poor are working in agriculture. At the same time, an increasing share of world poverty is located in urban centres, although it is not always fully accounted for as a result of current measurement systems. UN Habitat estimates that about 45% of the urban population in developing countries live in households lacking adequate space, solid construction, improved water, secure residential status, or improved sanitation. Some argue that food security is as much of an issue in urban areas as it is for rural, although in varying ways. Crucially, the slow pace of structural

transformation in many countries experiencing rapid urbanization is leading to a deficit of decent jobs in non-farm and urban sectors, thus undermining the sustainability of cities

There were 190 million international and 763 million internal (i.e. across regions within a country) migrants in 2005 and these numbers are increasing also as a result of crisis and conflicts. More dynamic flows of people across rural and urban areas creates a range of opportunities – for example related to employment, access to markets, training and information. These dynamics illustrate that achieving food security and nutrition will require policies targeting both rural and urban poor, but even more so building capacity to deal with the fluidity of growing and shifting populations.

Over the last forty years, there has been greater acknowledgement of the need for policies and research that addresses inter-sectoral linkages and to analyze interacting systems and the implications for rural and urban areas. There is substantial experience to support the adaptation of integrated approaches to address the current challenges and opportunities urbanization and rural transformation present. With the agreement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (particularly 1, 2, 11 and 17), and the 2030 Agenda, the Second International Conference on Nutrition, the adoption of the 10 Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production at Rio+20 the signing of the Milan Urban Food Pact the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture Communique at the 8th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit, the Habitat III outcome document, and the lessons emerging from the ongoing work related to urban-rural linkages, 'city-region food systems' and territorial approaches, there is even greater attention and evidence on the need for integrated policymaking which addresses the specific food security and nutrition challenges and opportunities arising from urbanization and rural transformation.

#### Relevance and impact

The emerging dynamics of continuing urbanization and rural-transformation present challenges and opportunities for everyone. Yet, little is known about the direct and indirect consequences the expected 3 billion rural and 6.5 billion urban dwellers in 2050 will have on food systems, on smallholders and the agricultural sector or what policies are needed to ensure food security and nutrition given these changing dynamics. Among many other issues, how urbanization affects producers, particularly the estimated 500 million family farmers who supply the majority of the food produced in many developing countries and regions, remains one of the least understood effects of urbanization.

In light of this, it is proposed that a 2019 HLPE report take stock of new evidence, new challenges and provide evidence-based advice that will strengthen countries' capacity to formulate policies that are aligned with the changing rural urban dynamics. Given its ability to bridge scientific and political multi-stakeholder discussions, CFS is uniquely positioned to tackle this issue. No other international forum is currently addressing or expected to address the challenge of integrating food security and nutrition objectives into territorial planning. An HLPE report would therefore fill a global gap and contribute to fulfilling the CFS vision for a world free of hunger.

#### Areas of focus requested

The report could look at some of the areas for policy attention identified through the literature review, the Technical Workshops and the online consultation carried out by CFS in 2016:

- a) Multi-level, multi-sectoral, and multistakeholder governance;

- b) Data that reflects changing dynamics on which to base policy decisions
- c) Understanding changing consumption patterns and the impacts on the achievement of healthy and sustainable diets;
- d) Analyzing measures needed to ensure new dynamics create opportunities for small-scale food producers, who are themselves disproportionately represented among the numbers of the hungry and malnourished;
- e) Identifying food safety and nutrition implications of the growth of informal markets and vendors;
- f) Identifying opportunities for integrated land use, natural resources, and circular economy planning across territories;
- g) Facilitating agricultural production and market synergies;
- h) Identifying income generating opportunities on and off-farm;
- i) Managing employment diversification and migration to reduce risks and enhance opportunities;
- j) Realizing the potential of agri-food systems and the value chains to support increases in agricultural production, productivity and employment creation;
- k) Improving social protection, services and infrastructure provision to respond to needs and gaps.

## B. Inequalities in agriculture-related assets as a key determinant of food insecurity [FAO]

Hunger has historically been associated with poverty. Poverty is still the main cause of hunger, but the causes of food insecurity are in fact complex and multifaceted, as pointed out in the HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues for FSN of 2014, as well as in several HLPE reports. Poverty is often the result of the superimposition of inequalities of various kinds.

Most attention is typically paid to income inequalities, but unequal distribution of physical and human assets tend to be key determinants of why some have much better income and employment opportunities than others. Profound inequalities in endowments of and access to agriculture-related assets, such as land, water, forests, and livestock, form constraints to improving agricultural productivity and limit income growth and hence access to food for many of the world's poor that directly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Such asset inequalities exist between countries, and inside countries, between households and individuals. The main compensation for a country whose natural resources do not allow it "naturally" to grow enough food, is to invest to increase, by various means, its intensity of production or to buy some food from abroad, both options being very difficult to realize if other economic activities do not generate enough income. Inequality in the distribution of agriculture-related assets itself will limit productivity growth, however. This applies, for instance, where limited access of smallholders to land means farm units are too small for efficient production or where intensification of production is constrained by inadequate access to water.

Securing land tenure and improving access to water and other resources, especially for smallholder and landless families can be key to improving sustainable income opportunities in rural areas. Population pressures and lack of access to land are leading to further fragmentation of landholdings,

especially in regions where food insecurity is highest. There are also amplifying effects of environmental degradation, including land erosion, and vulnerability to climate change, because of reduced resilience, and hence on the sustainability of agriculture.

Addressing inequalities in natural resource related assets could contribute to conflict prevention and peace building. Dispossession of or limited access to natural resource assets are cited among the key sources of conflict and civil strife, indirectly causing distress migration and displacements of people. Competition over land and water are likely to increase with climate change, as droughts and floods will affect their quality and availability, and further enhance the risk of conflict, especially where inequality is already high.

Insufficient attention has been paid to how these different dimensions of asset inequality in agriculture interact with each other to affect global and local food security in all its different dimensions (availability, access, utilization and stability). The links with peace and security and its implications for peacebuilding efforts and addressing migration and refugee problems equally tend to be overlooked in policy responses.

In light of this, it is proposed that a 2018 HLPE report takes stock of new evidence, new challenges, and provide policy-relevant, evidence-based advice around the following:

- a) To what extent are agriculture-related asset inequalities limiting agricultural productivity growth and putting global food security at risk? How much will reducing such inequalities contribute to food security in all of its four dimensions?
- b) To what extent are agriculture-related asset inequalities enhancing the risks of climate change impacts and limiting capacities to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and sustainable management of water?
- c) How would a less unequal distribution of agricultural asset inequalities contribute to conflict prevention and peace building?
- d) How can existing frameworks, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests and the CFS Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems, be leveraged to address inequalities in agriculture-related assets?
- e) What lessons can be drawn from the experience of countries in trying to substantially reduce such inequalities? What recommendations could be drawn from such experiences for the means of implementation to achieve the sustainable development goals?

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

CFS is uniquely positioned to address this issue, because of its mandate, its ability to bridge between a scientific discussion on the issue and a multi-stakeholder political and practice-informed discussion, and the fact that it already has a sound basis to build on in the form of the previous HLPE reports. It would be important for CFS to consider the challenge of reducing asset inequalities in agriculture to further operationalize the Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests and the CFS Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems, as well as for the Framework for Action for Food Security in Protracted Crises and CFS's work on integrating climate change into food security and nutrition strategies

#### Relevance and global impact

Pervasive asset inequalities may pose a threat to efforts to end hunger, achieve food security and making agriculture sustainable; hence to achieving SDG2. However, they may also act as impediments to several other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially goals 1 (end poverty), 5 (gender equality), 6 (sustainable water management), 8 (inclusive growth), 10 (reduce inequality), 13 (combat climate change), 15 (sustainable use of eco-systems), and 16 (promote peaceful societies). The world is witnessing the largest refugee flows since World War II and a fair number can be attributed directly or indirectly to conflicts triggered by discontent over dispossession of agricultural assets or lack of access to them. This workstream would contribute to identify integrated policy approaches given the interdependency of asset inequalities with so many of the dimensions of the international development agenda.

#### No duplication

The proposed approach provides a different perspective. It would contribute to bridge the gap between scientific assessments and the policy discourse. The report is not supposed to duplicate the relevant work done by other bodies and institutions given also the characteristics of this process, such as the inclusive and participatory research approach and the capacity of CFS to specify the areas it wishes to see addressed to maximise the relevance of the report for CFS work.

#### Knowledge and evidence

Issues of asset inequality in agriculture mostly are studied in isolation on specific dimensions (say, land or water resources). Insufficient attention has been paid to how those dimensions interact with each other and how they could affect global and local food security in all its different dimensions (availability, access, utilization and stability). Likewise, the links with peace and security and its implications for peacebuilding efforts and addressing migration and refugee problems equally tend to be overlooked in policy responses.

#### Rome-based agencies support

All the three RBAs are engaged on this theme which represents a priority area of focus with major impact on their work.

#### Available resources

Extra-budgetary funding would be required – the HLPE is 100% voluntarily funded, through a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, at an average cost of \$1.4 million per year.

### C. Agroecology for food and nutrition security [CSM]

[Alternative title suggested by Switzerland: Reducing ecological footprint of agriculture while increasing food security and nutrition]

#### Introduction

"The global food system is at a crossroads", that of "ending hunger and malnutrition in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable way". This statement is included in the regional

meeting information notes on agroecology, put forward for consideration at FAO regional conferences<sup>3</sup>.

As pointed out by José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, at the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition, held in Rome in September 2014, agroecology offers win-win solutions which raise productivity, improve the capacity to recover and which make a more efficient use of natural resources<sup>4</sup>.

Regional meetings on Agroecology were held in 2015 in Africa, Asia and Latin America<sup>5</sup>, jointly organized by FAO, governments, civil society organizations and academic institutions, as part of the process initiated by FAO with the September 2014 Symposium, brought together around 600 representatives from government institutions, UN agencies, regional multilateral institutions, civil society (including small-scale food producer organizations, INGOs and NGOs), research and innovation institutions, development institutes, universities and the private sector.

A clear message came out of these meetings: agroecological systems offer greater capacity for overcoming the challenges of the current crossroads that the global food system finds itself in, given that they provide solutions which are applied to each context with a capacity to combine knowledge, praxis and local innovation with scientific knowledge, while guaranteeing the sustainable use of natural resources.

Through agroecology, *“indigenous peoples, local communities and family farmers can overcome hunger and malnutrition while building resilience to adapt to climate change in a sustainable way through agro-ecological food systems supported by conducive policies, adequate legislation, investment, knowledge sharing, research and innovation.”*<sup>6</sup>

The information notes state that agroecology:

- a) Plays an essential role in ensuring food and nutrition security, guaranteeing the human right to adequate food, improving equality, eradicating poverty and diversifying diets, all in a way which is suited to each culture and which promotes local food customs and traditional knowledge.
- b) Recognises the central role of women in laying the right social foundations and fostering knowledge which allow for sustainable food systems to develop.
- c) Promotes practices that allow young people to constantly regenerate knowledge, values, vision and leadership, which is all fundamentally important in moving towards food systems which are more sustainable.
- d) Prevents environmental degradation and pollution, fostering greater resilience in food systems and thus making it easier to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

<sup>3</sup> LARC/16/INF/13; ARC/16/INF/20; APRC/16/INF/8 Rev.1

<sup>4</sup> The final report of the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a---i4327e.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> 3. For further information please see: <http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/287503/>  
<http://www.fao.org/africa/events/detail---events/en/c/330741/>  
<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/detail---events/en/c/1262/>

<sup>6</sup> LARC/16/INF/13

- e) Reduces food loss and food waste, promoting integrated agricultural systems and resource saving which also shortens the value chain by building strong links between small-scale food producers and consumers as well as between economies and local markets.

Agroecology also plays a key role in the protection and restoration of the biodiversity, implementing a different relationship between production and nature, as well as promoting people's rights to biodiversity as a cornerstone of sustainable food systems.

In 2016, the Thirty-fourth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean considered the Outcomes of the Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia) and recommended<sup>7</sup>:

- a) the implementation of a regional programmatic initiative on agroecology (paragraph 41);
- b) "to strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial agroecology approach, placing special emphasis on the interaction of policies for sustainable production and responsible consumption, disaster risk management, agricultural insurance, technical assistance, rural extension and communication, social protection, and farm employment" (paragraph 31); and
- c) urge FAO to continue working on agroecology (paragraph 37).

From 29-31 August 2016, an International Symposium on Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in China was held in Yunnan, China. The Symposium was jointly organized by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), FAO, and the People's

Government of China and aimed at encouraging dialogue around the scientific basis and the experiences of implementing Agroecology in Asia and China<sup>8</sup>.

In short, agroecology provides concrete solutions for governments in promoting a transition towards sustainable food systems. An enabling policy environment is therefore fundamental. All that is required is courage and political will to promote actions which are responsible towards future generations.

#### CFS added value and contributions to CFS objectives

The CFS, as the primary global space for promoting policy convergence on food security and nutrition, in honor of its founding principles and thanks to its capacity for building a synthesis between scientific discussions and multi-stakeholder political and practice-informed discussions, plays a fundamental role in promoting solutions for overcoming the crossroads that the global food system currently finds itself in.

As acknowledged by regional seminars and FAO regional conferences, agroecology is one of the best alternatives for achieving food and nutrition security. Furthermore, it is an area in which several different stakeholders (CSOs, academics, national food and agricultural agencies, policy-makers and different constituencies in some countries) have accumulated the necessary knowledge and

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<sup>7</sup> LARC/16/REP

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/agroecology-symposium-china/en/>

experience to contribute to a HLPE report and to discuss its outcomes with a view to reaching agreements on CFS actions and recommendations on food and nutrition security.

An important added value of the CFS would be that of contributing to an exhaustive and up-to-date analysis of research and evidence accumulated thus far in the field through a HLPE report and by subsequently carrying out political deliberations and agreeing on specific recommendations for relevant public policies.

Furthermore, this proposal contributes to the CFS mandate of supporting national capacity to formulate policy for transitioning towards sustainable food systems, overcoming hunger and malnutrition and moving towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

#### Relevance and global impact

Agroecology is ever more present in intergovernmental body discussions and it is a topic which comes up repeatedly at the CFS as well, particularly given the great importance it holds for food and nutrition security. Agroecology has become a reference point which is increasingly present in proposals for alternatives to current unsustainable models for production, consumption and sales and it is an incredibly important perspective in seeking out new concepts and methods for tackling the effects of climate change and biodiversity degradation, and addressing how it exacerbates food insecurity and malnutrition.

Family farming and agroecology are intimately linked when it comes to achieving food and nutrition security which is sustainable on the ground. "Family farming, the practice which agroecology is based on, involves at least 500 million family farms worldwide."<sup>9</sup>

#### No Duplication

This proposal does not run the risk of doubling up on relevant work carried out by other bodies and institutions, but rather represents an innovative approach which, given the characteristics of the CFS, will allow for expertise to be fostered and agreements reached through scientific and political dialogue which is inclusive and participatory, thus building the capacity of national governments to develop and promote necessary public policy for a transition towards sustainable food systems which foster food and nutrition security.

#### Knowledge and evidence

As stated in information notes from regional meetings on agroecology, over the last decade there has been an exponential rise in research on agroecology and agroecological practices as well as a rise in research on how to implement policies which provide the necessary support.

It is therefore clear that there is a huge wealth of experience, expertise and knowledge accumulated by generations of small-scale food producers across the continents. There is also a wealth of analysis and programs from governmental and intergovernmental bodies on the topic and there are new studies coming from the world of academia and several contributions from other sectors in society and the economy.

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<sup>9</sup> LARC/16/INF/13

A HLPE report would offer an exhaustive and up-to-date analysis of existing evidence, thus building the basis for a political deliberation process within the CFS.

#### Support from Rome-based agencies

The Rome-based agencies are well placed to provide technical support to the topic. As referred above, FAO has played a leading role to broaden the knowledge on agroecology, in close cooperation with the other RBA, and to convene the expertise of government institutions, other UN agencies, civil society and small scale food producers' organizations, research and innovation institutions, universities and the private sector. Agroecology was also prominently discussed at the IFAD Farmers Forums in 2014 and 2016. The Forums appreciated the ongoing efforts of IFAD on this topic and requested IFAD to strengthen its support to agroecological training and communication initiatives undertaken by small-scale producers' organizations, and to strengthen coherence and synergies with other agencies, particularly FAO, and governments.

### D. Role of food safety in ensuring food security, access to adequate nutrition, and improved health outcomes [PSM, WFP]

The SDGs incorporate food safety into the targets of Agenda 2030 yet the role of food safety has received startlingly little attention in the debates on food security, nutrition and health outcomes. Food safety has a tremendous impact on all three. As the World Health Organisation says, "Food safety, nutrition and food security are inextricably linked.

Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, elderly and the sick. Foodborne diseases impede socioeconomic development by straining health care systems, and harming national economies, tourism and trade."

An HLPE report on this topic would provide a greater understanding of the key drivers and consequences of these changes, as well as pathways to address the potential challenges they might pose to food security and nutrition. A particular focus should be on capacity building for all actors in the agri-food chain, including farmers, processors, distributors, and retailers, to ensure that they have the resources and knowledge necessary to minimize consumer risks with regards to food safety. A distinct but related challenge will be to ensure food safety while guaranteeing that producers, including smallholders, have access to local and regional markets, and without negatively impacting traditional production and retailing systems, upon which many of the lowest-income consumers depend.

CFS has the capacity to lend expertise and coherence to help reduce the harmful human and economic impacts of unsafe food. Nutrition-specific interventions, policies and programs throughout food systems - from production to consumption - cannot be achieved if food safety is compromised. Equally, overall food production is not sufficient if the food is not safe to eat.

#### Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs:

This topic is in line with SDG target 2.1:

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

#### Relevance and global impact

An estimated 600 million – almost 1 in 10 people in the world – fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420 000 die every year, resulting in the loss of 33 million healthy life years (DALYs). Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food borne disease burden, with 125 000 deaths every year. (source: WHO and FAO) Farmers who have product rejected due to food safety issues face loss of income and unsafe food creates a waste stream with environmental consequences.

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

CFS has helped to advance the discussion of food systems, expanding the understanding that food production and nutrition are linked. Food safety is cited in the SDGs but has received relatively little attention compared to total caloric food security and to nutrition. Studies on the impact of food safety have been conducted, as well as standard setting, and measures to treat food borne diseases. CFS can assist by commissioning the HLPE to produce a report which will review interventions that can help to improve food safety with positive consequences for social, economic and environmental impacts. This will lead to a greater understanding of the role of food safety in food security and nutrition, and of the eventual challenges faced by stakeholders in promoting it.

#### No duplication

Addressing the nexus of food safety, nutrition and health has not been addressed. While food safety standards are discussed at a global level, a discussion of the ways to improve food safety through interventions in production, storage, handling and consumption are not as fully understood nor implementable by small holders.

#### Key Potential Outcomes

A CFS process and HLPE report could help to:

- a) Identify policy processes to improve co-ordination on food safety. Most work is currently focused on food safety standards which are essential and need to be supported by policies that enable improvements across the food value chain
- b) Food supply chains now cross multiple national borders. Good collaboration between governments, producers and consumers helps ensure food safety.
- c) Identify key infrastructure such as cold chains, storage technologies, better testing capacity, crop protection, and animal health to improve food safety
- d) Develop collaborative groups focused on food safety
- e) Articulate capacity building and training, with a focus on smallholders, to meet food safety standards
- f) Embed food safety in nutrition programmes globally, with a particular emphasis on addressing stunting (SDG target 2.2)
- g) Articulate specific subsets of food safety problems, including aflatoxins
- h) Foster education on food safety especially at the household and farm levels.

## E. Innovation for sustainability and productivity [PSM]

Innovation will be key to achieving the aims of the Agenda 2030. In the face of a rapidly growing global population and the increasingly severe consequences of climate change, new approaches, techniques, and technologies will need to be developed to successfully combat hunger and malnutrition.

Achieving a world free from hunger and delivering on the promise of the SDGs will depend on our capacity to mobilize the innovative potential of all development actors. It will require an “all hands on deck” approach from every player, from small and medium-sized enterprises to global corporations, including aid agencies, governments, civil society and other important stakeholders. All stakeholders, public, private, NGO, and researchers, have an essential role to play in generating the innovative solutions that will be necessary to overcome the ever-evolving food security challenges that the world faces, and to ensure that food production remains sufficient to feed a growing population in a sustainable manner.

An HLPE report on this topic will help to clarify the challenges and successful approaches related to fostering agricultural research and development, enabling successful provision of extension services, and arming food producers and processors with the knowledge and tools they need to transform the agricultural sector to meet the changing needs of the world’s hungry. This includes the important communities of women and youth.

The need for innovation also extends to the realm of multi-stakeholder cooperation. Governments, businesses, NGOs, and academia will need to develop novel forms of partnerships and mutual support in order to guarantee the achievement of the aims of the Agenda 2030.

### Contribution to the achievement of the SDGS

Innovation is important to achieve all the SDGs and is specifically called out in Goal 9 of the SDGs: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

Targets under Goal 9 include:

- a) Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- b) Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States 18
- c) Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Further, Target 2.3 cites the need to increase agricultural productivity.

### Relevance and global impact

If the world is to secure the increases in agricultural productivity required to produce enough food for the growing population, greater emphasis is needed on the role of agricultural research and the

development of appropriate and adapted technologies to farmers, integration with traditional knowledge, and capacity-building.

It also addresses the specific challenges listed on the UN SDG website (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>), including that: “Least developed countries have immense potential for industrialization in food and beverages (agro-industry), and textiles and garments, with good prospects for sustained employment generation and higher productivity”. As well as, “In developing countries, barely 30 per cent of agricultural production undergoes industrial processing. In high-income countries, 98 per cent is processed. This suggests that there are great opportunities for developing countries in agribusiness.”

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

As a unique multi-stakeholder platform, the CFS is well-placed to encourage actors with an extremely broad range of expertise and competencies to adopt practices that encourage innovation which contributes to agricultural development and food security, as well as to foster novel and cross-sectoral partnerships leading to innovative developmental outcomes. An HLPE report on the theme of innovation for productivity and sustainability will help lay a solid basis for the elaboration of policies and recommendations to facilitate these outcomes.

#### No duplication

The Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Financing for Development Identified the importance of innovation and science. It included calls for:

- a) Crafting policies that incentivize the creation of new technologies, that incentivize research and that support innovation in developing countries.
- b) Recognizing the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, including enabling regulatory and governance frameworks, in nurturing science, innovation, the dissemination of technologies, particularly to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- c) Fostering industrial diversification and value added to commodities.

CFS has the opportunity to foster achievement of SDG Goal 9 and 2 as well as contributing the broader goals and the means to achieve the SDGs as outlined in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. It would be undertaking items specifically called for in the global agenda by member states.

#### Key Potential Outcomes

A CFS process and HLPE report could help to:

- a) Articulate the vital role of innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and identify ways to foster innovation
- b) Identify means to increase research in agriculture, food, and nutrition and improve capacity to conduct research
- c) Policies and investments in rural advisory services and extension to increase uptake of technologies and their application in the field
- d) Promote innovation in all sectors of agriculture including cropping, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and horticulture
- e) Outline cross cutting role of innovation in sustainable agriculture to advance SDGs including those on climate change, water, biodiversity and energy

## F. The Impact of trade agreements on food security and nutrition [SWITZERLAND, SCN]

### Background, Relevance and Global Impact

International trade agreements have been acknowledged to have a significant and complex impact on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN). Those in favour of trade liberalisation have long argued that trade agreements in removing barriers to food trade increase food system efficiency and encourage greater productivity and use of resources, and allow food to flow where it is most in demand.

Critics of trade agreements point to the fact that while trade agreements have helped the spread of particularly high-yield refined carbohydrates that have increased food security, the spread and reliance on such food crops as wheat and sugar has simplified diets and undermined nutrition. Crucially, trade agreements in the main do not cover or consider the impact on small-scale food producers, including pastoralists, fishersfolk and family farms, yet they are argued to be often the most adversely impacted by such agreements, while providing more than 70% of global food supply and thus being critical to food security and nutrition.

A recent trend in trade negotiations has been the Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) including 'mega' RTAs such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement & TTIP currently under negotiation, as well as bilateral trade agreements. Unlike previous trade agreements that largely focus on removing tariff barriers, RTAs instead focus on creating agreed single standards overriding internal state policy and legal frameworks for issues including safety and health standards, rules for foreign investment and intellectual property, essential services such as telecommunications, and labour and environmental protections. RTAs also then contain clauses that allow state laws and regulation that impede foreign investment, access to market and profit-making to be challenged and fines or compensation enforced. These include public good laws and have direct implications for FSN. For example states have been ordered to pay compensation and desist from legal measures that protect water catchments from mining; or cease local procurement as a means of stimulating resilient and robust internal economies.

Therefore there are longstanding issues regarding traditional bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and multi-lateral negotiations through the WTO with regard to the impact on FSN; and potential new impacts from RTAs which are increasingly used since the collapse of global trade negotiations. In both instances these impacts will be global given the comprehensiveness of these trade agreements.

The reliance on international trade as a means for countries with limited or no domestic food security was also shown to be problematic during the global food crisis of 2008-09. Some major food exporters simply stopped and social unrest and disruption due to high food prices and scarcity was widespread in more than 40 countries. It is clear that many countries are now acting to effectively bypass trade as the sole means of ensuring their own food security. These measures include the creation of public stock-holdings for food security, operational at the national level and proposed in the regional level, in line with the recommendations of successive UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food.

It is therefore timely and critical to consider the impact of traditional trade agreements on FSN; and to consider likely impacts from RTAs, in order to provide advice to governments and other actors regarding appropriate mechanisms and pitfalls in both styles multi-lateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements that may be having an adverse impact on the desired goals of achieving global food security and adequate nutrition. It is particularly timely given that the role of small-scale food producers is increasingly recognised as the key to global FSN, focusing on building resilience and adaptability in world confronted with the challenge of climate change. The potential imposed and extended rigidity of trade agreements on local responses by state actors to FSN is a timely topic.

#### CFS Added Value

The CFS is uniquely placed to consider the impact of trade agreements on FSN. No other body in the international system is charged with undertaking the required complex synthesis of information and evidence to assess the impact of major global trends and policies on food security and nutrition, and discuss more specifically the impact of trade agreements on the attainment of food security and nutrition and the ways to promote coherence with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

The High-Level Panel of experts of the CFS is best placed and equipped to provide a sound analytic basis for an in-depth discussion among all relevant actors working on food security, present in the CFS. In such context, the CFS can play its role to promote policy convergence on an issue that is sensitive and contentious, but certainly highly relevant to food security and nutrition on the national, regional and global level.

Further, the work of the CFS demonstrably touches on the role of trade and the needs of state actors to respond to achieving aspects of FSN, which in turn are influenced by trade agreements. In this sense, this proposal is strongly linked to, and following-up on past and ongoing CFS workstreams, such as on responsible governance of tenure rights, investment in smallholder agriculture, responsible agricultural investment or connecting smallholders to markets.

#### Duplication

Currently, there is no equivalent analysis undertaken within international trade legal frameworks. By focusing the assessment on food security and nutrition as the core mandate of the CFS, there will be no duplication with the processes and negotiations conducted under the auspices of multilateral or regional trade institutions. The analysis would be entirely complementary to the discussions being currently held in trade bodies and inform the negotiations better, especially with regard to the impact of FSN. The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration of the Tenth WTO ministerial with regard to the future of the Doha Development Round (DDR), has opened up the space for this discussion in other forums including the CFS.

#### Knowledge and evidence

There is a considerable body of knowledge to draw upon regarding the implications of trade agreements for global and regional food security and nutrition, both in terms of documenting positive and negative outcomes for FSN. In addition to the data and information collected by the international institutions including the Rome-Based Agencies, there is a considerable amount of literature and analysis of existing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and their impact on food security and nutrition by academic, civil society and state actors.

### Rome-Based Agencies Support

The Rome-based agencies are well placed to provide technical support. The FAO's work in collecting trade data, the work of the WFP on issues such as trade for aid, and IFAD's work on rural development and resilience mean they are well-placed to inform this proposed report of the HLPE and the subsequent assessment process within the CFS.

## G. The increasing role of financial markets in food security and nutrition [SWITZERLAND]

(as per HLPE note of 6/8/2014).

Whatever themes will be selected by the OEWG for future HLPE reports, we expect that a certain flexibility can be maintained until the next session of CFS (October 2016) in order to take into account the best way to contribute to the review process on SDGs implementation under the HLPF. An evidence-based input from the CFS to the follow-up and review process of the Agenda 2030 is a unique opportunity to make the voice of this Committee heard among the whole UN-family. It is thus a contribution not only to the cause of food security, but also to system-wide coherence.

## H. Sustainable consumption [SCN]

Sustainable consumption and the possibilities to discuss on food trade policies and value chains for food security and nutrition, but it is also important to re-address the issue of food losses and waste, considering that no additional documents/activities have been produced since 2014's Report. In this regard, it will be fine if the OEWG decides either to consider the request on FLW as a part of the proposition made on sustainable consumption, or instead as a separate petition that will also lead us to a separate follow-up product.

## I. Resilient agricultural practices in the context of disasters [WFP, GERMANY]

The SDGs speak specifically to the challenges of climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. CFS prepared the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. Yet, there has been little effort to co-ordinate focus on resilient agricultural practices to address agricultural needs in the wake of immediate crises such as droughts and floods. Food aid systems are vital at such times, however methods to resume farming, sustain livelihoods of smallholders, and reinvigorate food production systems are under explored.

This is based on SDG target:

*2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*

CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

The UN system has a capable, robust system to respond to humanitarian food crises. The World Food Program and the rest of the UN system are continuously resourcing, improving and refining the response on an ongoing basis. Even in the face of growing demand and strains on resources. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises provides global guidance to respond to long term disruptions. It framed some of the most important measures to address the resilience and livelihoods of farmers and food systems in this context. In between these two contexts lies the response to building resilient agricultural systems in the face of disasters. The immediate needs of farmers, foresters, and fishers to replant, repopulate, and rebuild is acknowledged but is under-addressed in UN fora. The SDGs as the overarching framework, specifically call out the need to address adaptation in the face of disasters and would be a meaningful contribution towards the SDGs.

Relevance and global impact

The El Nino effect has been yet another stark reminder of the impacts of extreme weather, drought, flooding and the long term implications of climate change on farming.

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/411003/>

A broad array of countries have been affected this year, with a huge impact on livelihoods, food security, and the need for humanitarian assistance. These recent impacts bely a longer term trend toward more extreme weather and the need for more attention, coherence and analysis on these issues.

No duplication

While disaster response has received important and vital attention in UN fora such as Sendai, there has been very little focus specifically on the goals of including practices that increase capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. This would be a unique place where CFS could add value, drawing attention to the long term importance of resilience.

## J. Resilient and sustainable agricultural practices to face climate change for food security and nutrition [FRANCE]

Intérêt du sujet : Ce sujet permet d'aborder la question de l'adaptation de l'agriculture aux dérèglements climatiques, des pratiques agro-écologiques, notamment de la réhabilitation des sols, et de « remettre à jour » le rapport de 2012 en prenant en compte les évolutions récentes (accord de Paris...).

## OTHER CFS ACTIVITIES

### A. Multistakeholder dialogue on trade and food security and nutrition [FAO]

#### Rationale for the dialogue

The relationship between trade and food security is attracting increased attention on both the trade and the development agendas. The eradication of global hunger by 2030 is a key goal in the new post-2015 sustainable development agenda – and trade is one of the means for achieving this goal. Global trade in agricultural products is expected to continue to increase over the coming decades, influenced by evolutions in patterns of consumption and production. Trade will increasingly influence the extent and nature of food security and nutrition across all regions of the globe. The challenge, therefore, is how to ensure that the expansion of agricultural trade works for, and not against, the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

FAO's recently published State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) addresses the linkages between trade and food security and the implications of measures intended to address national food security concerns on the one hand, and their effects on the food security of trading partners on the other. While there is growing recognition that trade in food and agricultural products will play an increasingly important role in most countries' food security and nutrition strategies, evidence on the impacts of trade on food security and nutrition, and on the appropriateness of different trade policies in pursuit of these national objectives is mixed. Noting the context specificity of these impacts on each of the four dimensions of food security, SOCO highlights the importance of shifting policy debates away from the pros and cons of specific trade and related policies, the objectives of which address different dimensions of food security, differ across countries and will change over time, towards addressing weaknesses in the governance processes through which agricultural and trade policies are designed and implemented. Strengthening these processes requires building synergies to increase policy coherence for food security, to enable governments to balance national priorities in the design of trade policy and to improve their coherence with regional and global trade frameworks.

The findings of SOCO resonate with discussions at a recent meeting of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, which explored the role that agricultural trade plays in the transformation of rural areas and how priorities of the agriculture and development communities can be better realized through trade, stressing the growing recognition of the need for greater coherence between the trade and agriculture development policy processes. The HLPE report on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition also outlines the challenges and opportunities surrounding trade and food security and nutrition under several key issues (#1, 2, 4).

Extending the dialogue on these issues within the CFS multi-stakeholder setting would assist in bringing the wider food security and nutrition community towards a common understanding on the key debated issues with a view to strengthening coordination across a wider number of relevant policy process and in doing so, improving the coherence of advice provided to member countries. The dialogue would thereby create greater awareness of the implications that trade can have on food security and nutrition and provide guidance on how to ensure that trade works for and not against food security and improved nutrition.

### Structure of the dialogue

- Keynote speaker to draw out the main findings from SOCO, highlighting the need for an improved understanding of the relationship between trade and food security and nutrition as prerequisite for closing the gap in policy debates, and in strengthening synergies between the policy process that condition the implications of trade.
- Panel discussion involving representatives of (i) trade community (e.g. Trade Minister); (ii) agriculture development community (e.g. CAADP focal point); (iii) donor community (one from FSN oriented donor; one from trade-oriented donor); (iv) civil society; while maintaining geographical and gender representation.

Questions to panelists would draw out views on: how growth in agricultural trade has affected the four dimensions of food security through its effect on domestic market development and on different types of producer; the pros and cons of alternative trade strategies from an FSN perspective; and concrete actions that needed to ensure that trade strategies and related policies work for and not against FSN.

The event would be an opportunity to share views and eventually provide a technical basis to inform future discussions on the impacts of agricultural trade on food security and nutrition and ways to ensure that its expansion and related policies create the necessary conditions to improve food security and nutrition at country level. They would not lead to the adoption of any recommendation nor decision by the Committee.

## **B. The impact of market concentration on public policies for food security and nutrition [CSM]**

### Background information regarding the proposed topic and justification of food security and nutrition policy aspects

Market and corporate concentration is a long-standing characteristic of the agricultural sector, but has reached an apex in the past two years as five ‘mega-mergers’ in the agri-input sectors have attracted international attention<sup>10</sup>. In the coming years, concentration along the agri-food chain, from inputs to traders to retailers, will become an increasingly relevant issue for food security and nutrition, and particular for public policies on the national level aiming at the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Some figures related to the status of concentration:

- a) Seeds and agrochemicals: six companies (who, if mergers are approved, will become three companies) would control 60% of global seed sales and 71% of pesticides sales.
- b) Livestock genetics: two companies control approximately 90% of laying chicken genetics globally and three leading pig breeders dominate global markets<sup>11</sup>.
- c) Fertilisers: the fertiliser industry has long operated in government-sanctioned export cartels organized by fertiliser type. For example, only three companies (PotashCorp, Mosaic and Agrium) control all potash sales in North America through a marketing venture known as

<sup>10</sup> These five international mergers are: ChemChina’s acquisition of Syngenta; Dow’s merger with DuPont;

<sup>11</sup> ETC Group, “Putting the Cartel Before the Horse... and Farm, Seeds, Peasants, etc.” ETC Communique, no. 111, September 2013. <http://www.etcgroup.org/putting-the-cartel-before-the-horse-2013>

- Canpotex (Canadian Potash Exporters); PotashCorp and Agrium recently announced their merger, which would create an entity that controls 90% of the global market<sup>12</sup>.
- d) Farm machinery: the three biggest farm machinery companies accounted for almost half of global farm machinery sales in 2014. Deere, the largest farm machinery company, recently agreed to acquire Monsanto's Precision Planting LLC but is wrapped up in a US anti-trust lawsuit because the merged company would control 86% of the precision planting market<sup>13</sup>.
- e) Food traders: commodity firms are increasingly dominated by multinational input companies or large processors and retailers. Because of high levels of concentration across activities and sectors, commodity traders are increasingly operating as "cross-sectoral value chain managers [with] enormous power to shape key aspects of the global food landscape"<sup>14</sup>.

The rationale for concentration is that mergers allow companies to consolidate R&D efforts and maximize innovation, and to integrate supply chains and deploy new technologies more quickly on a larger, more global scale. These rationales are contested by experts in food security and nutrition.

These experts cite concerns that the new round of mergers will reshape the food system with implications for input costs, public subsidies, consumer prices and innovation, potentially leading to reduced agricultural research and development (R&D), reduced diversity and choice for farmers and consumers, and a decline in policy participation for farmers and smaller agricultural companies.

This kind of market concentration fundamentally enters in conflict with those public policies for food security and nutrition which have been developed in many countries in a participatory and inclusive way by strengthening smallholders' access to local, national and regional markets, and designing national programs in support of small-scale food producers as the most important contributors to food security and nutrition. It is likely that the mergers under review will not only increase global market share of the companies involved, dwarfing regional and local competitors, but will also increase their regional geographic spread and policy influence at global, regional and national levels. Industry concentration will increase the bargaining power of large agribusiness firms. The merged international entities will be influential on more continents and in more countries, with a greater capacity to influence governments on the nature of international foreign aid, agricultural development and multi-lateral trade agendas—their capacity already greatly exceeds that of agricultural producers and consumers.

Increased market concentration and increased influence of large-scale agribusiness in shaping public policies has led in many countries to the phenomenon of "shrinking space" for civil society

<sup>12</sup> IPES-Food: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems. Thematic Report 03, "Too Big to Feed: Concentration in the agri-food industry" (Working title), 2016. In publication.

<sup>13</sup> United States Department of Justice, "Justice Department Sues to Block Deere's Acquisition of Precision Planting." Press Release. August 31, 2016. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-08-31/deere-deal-for-monsanto-s-precision-planting-opposed-by-u-s-isj365rw>

<sup>14</sup> IPES-Food: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems. Thematic Report 03, "Too Big to Feed: Concentration in the agri-food industry" (Working title), 2016. In publication.

Clapp, Jennifer. "ABCD and Beyond: From grain merchants to agricultural value chain managers," Canadian Food Studies, Vol. 2, No. 2, September 2015, p. 126.

Murphy, S., Burch, D., Clapp, J., 2012. Trade Secrets: The world's largest grain traders and global agriculture. Oxfam Research Reports. URL <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/rr-cereal-secrets-grain-traders-agriculture-30082012-en.pdf>

regarding their participation political deliberation processes on food security and nutrition policies. Moreover, many of the documented cases of repression and criminalization against small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, agricultural and food workers, fisherfolks, landless, pastoralists and human rights defenders are intimately linked to increased corporate influence in public policies.

Description of how the topic contributes to CFS objectives and mandate as well as explanation of the value add/rationale for the Committee addressing this matter

CFS MANDATE and VALUE ADDED:

The CFS offers an inclusive policy forum that allows CFS members from all continents, Rome--- based agencies, other UN-bodies, small-scale food producer and other civil society organizations, private sector and research institutions to conduct a broad and in---depth political assessment about whether market concentration affects food insecurity and nutrition. The impact of the agribusiness mergers on developing countries – and smallholder producers – are not likely to be considered in either the home countries or major markets of the enterprises involved.

An HLPE report would offer a thorough and up-to-date analysis of the research and evidence on the impacts of market concentration on public policies for food security and nutrition would help national governments and regional institutions understand impact of market concentration on food security and nutrition security and enable them to address these impacts. It would also help UN Rome---based agencies and other UN and global institutions better understand the changing landscape of corporate structures that influence food policies.

Contribution to CFS OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

Thorough and up---to---date information on the impact of market concentration on policies for food security and nutrition, from the UN--- and national---level policy to civil society and academia, will enable decision---makers to make far---ranging deliberations and informed decisions about future mergers; will allow global policymakers to address the potential impacts of concentration across sectors; and, through the inclusive multi---stakeholder process, will give due consideration to the perspectives of potentially---impacted groups. These elements will be key for the policy convergence function and process within the CFS market concentration and food security and nutrition

RELEVANCE and GLOBAL IMPACT:

Current merger activity across the food chain foreshadows a sea---change in the agrifood industry that will impact producers, distributors, consumers and all other actors. For example, experts predict that this initial round of mega---mergers will trigger a second round of mergers in which farm machinery companies will acquire other input sectors, and an even smaller number of companies will control the entire chain of inputs.

This quote from the upcoming International Panel of Experts in Sustainable Food Systems (IPES---Food) expands on the impact of market concentration on smallholder producers<sup>15</sup>:

Regardless of whether smallholder producers participate as consumers of industrial agricultural products, they are not immune to the larger social and economic impacts of corporate consolidation.

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<sup>15</sup> IPES---Food: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems. Thematic Report 03, “Too Big to Feed: Concentration in the agri-food industry” (Working title), 2016. P. 40. In publication.

As ever---larger firms penetrate new markets, they seek the most favorable enabling environment in which to conduct business. Industrial firms actively shape trade and aid agreements and rural development policies to their advantage. They typically press for policies and programs to facilitate the introduction of new technologies and market---based activities. [...] The enabling environment may include, for example, harmonized seed laws, upgraded infrastructure, eased tax burden and regulations that are deemed industry-friendly.

A full program of work on concentration in the CFS will provide member---states, institutions and civil society an inclusive forum that provides horizon---scanning and early---warning capacities on these critical developments and trends that have far---ranging impacts on global food security and nutrition.

#### NO DUPLICATION:

There is currently no other international body directly addressing how agri-food mergers may impact food security and nutrition. The UN lost its ability to monitor and address market and corporate concentration when the UN Centre for Transnational Corporations was closed in 1993. Many mergers in the agri-food sector are cross---boundary, and are therefore difficult to assess or address in an inclusive, comprehensive way at the national level. The mandate, and multilateral and multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS offers a logical space for this critical issue to be addressed at the UN.

#### KNOWLEDGE and EVIDENCE:

The implications for food security of mergers along the food chain are explored in an upcoming report from the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems<sup>16</sup>.

IPES---Food: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems. Thematic Report 03, “Too Big to Feed: Concentration in the agri-food industry” (Working title), 2016. In publication.

#### ROME---BASED AGENCIES SUPPORT:

Market concentration could have effects on public policies related to food security and nutrition (and on food security and nutrition more broadly) that impact the work of the other Rome---based Agencies. Reliable and current information on those impacts would therefore aid those agencies in more effective provision of support and advise to member---states and institutions in line with their respective mandates. For example, it would help inform the WFP as they distribute food aid, helping them understand who the commodity traders are, any competition they are facing in food prices, and give warning about possible food price crises. A program of work on concentration would inform IFAD of the causes of challenges facing small---scale producers in the changing landscape of corporate structures.

## C. Working conditions of plantation workers and the need for public policy ensuring their food security and nutrition [CSM]

### Background information

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<sup>16</sup> A pre-press draft of this report is available upon request.

There is both great irony and great sadness in the fact that those who feed the world – small farmers and agricultural workers – have the least resources to feed themselves and their families and are amongst the population groups most affected by food insecurity and poor nutrition. Many of the food products we take for granted are grown on plantations yet the workers who grow them often cannot afford to eat them.

There are clear indications that barriers (legal, physical and psychological) to the self- organization of plantation workers and small farmers into organizations that can collectively defend their interest hamper the ability of both groups to achieve their rights to food security and nutrition. Whilst there has been considerable focus on the position of small, family farmers (e.g. the FAO's Year on Family Farming 2015) there has been no systematic analysis of the underlying causes of the position of agricultural workers nor on the public policy measures required to improve their food security and nutrition.

The global agricultural workforce is estimated to be between 1 billion to 1.3 billion people of which 30 -40% (i.e.300 -400 million) are 'waged' workers. Many of them work on plantations, producing short--rotation crops, vegetables, pineapples, and cut flower, cotton, and sugar cane, and tree crops such as bananas, coffee, nuts, rubber, tea, and oil palm. Plantation worker's jobs and terms and conditions of employment vary tremendously, creating diverse and sometimes overlapping categories: permanent (full-time), temporary / casual or seasonal workers.

Lack of accurate data, especially as national employment registration schemes for waged agricultural workers are weak or absent, hinders efforts to raise the economic and social conditions of these workers.

The situations of workers on plantations depend on many factors, such as the terms of employment and contracting, the crop characteristics and farming practices, the legal and policy institutions, the local context or the role of migrant employment.

They work long hours in challenging climatic conditions, often with little access to safety and health protection, sometimes even without potable water. Their salaries are low, often below poverty levels, their geographical isolation can mean they are dependent on the employers for not just their jobs but their home, schools their children attend, medical facilities or transport.

Food rations (e.g. rice, sugar, salt) are sometimes provided by employers as part of benefits but their quality is usually very low.

ILO statistics indicate that women are making up an increasingly large part of the plantation workforce – especially in cut flowers and vegetable production, new crops not traditionally seen as plantation crops but increasingly grown on large scale holding employing thousands of workers. Sexual harassment is widespread. Lower wages and lack of maternity protection are routine for many women plantation workers – both impacting directly on their food and nutrition security.

Plantation workers do not have access to potable drinking water both in terms of quality and quantity and access to sanitation. Research conducted by the IUF found that on most of the plantations visited, workers got less than 1 liter of water to drink during 9 hours of work. The available water was unsafe for human consumption, for example it was stored in rusted uncovered tanks or pesticide containers.

Finally, increasing use of precarious work and outsourcing contribute to financial instability of plantation workers and their families thus further undermining their food security.

The ILO has adopted a package of Conventions, recommendation and other instruments to address the situation of plantation workers, specifically Convention 110 that could give guidance to the CFS and policy makers on all levels.

Case reports on working conditions in the plantation sector focusing on different crop---systems and different regions have repeatedly documented the violations of workers' rights (according to the key ILO Conventions) and human rights, in particular the right to adequate food: Wages are mostly paid according to harvest volumes on a precarious basis, often far below a living and sometimes even the legal minimum wages. Working conditions are unsafe, healthcare is inappropriate. Access to clean water is not ensured. Housing conditions are not appropriate. Collective organizing and bargaining by workers is undermined. Sexual harassment of female workers is a widely cited problem<sup>17</sup>.

How the topic contributes to the CFS objectives and mandate and the value add/rationale for the Committee addressing this matter

CFS Mandate and value added

The CFS, as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform aiming at reducing hunger and malnutrition and enhancing food security for all human beings, needs to pay particular attention to those social groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition.

The plantation workers are without any doubt one of these large social groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition. There is an evident and urgent need for public policies for ensuring their food security and nutrition.

The added value of the CFS here is to give guidance for policies to improve food security and nutrition of plantation workers. Based on a comprehensive approach and a clear understanding of the causes of the current situation, the CFS should come up with policy recommendations to support public policies to enable plantation workers in advancing the progressive realization of their right to adequate food.

Contribution to the CFS's overall objective

The proposed theme would contribute to the achievement of CFS overall objective to strive for a world without hunger and contribute to the progressive realization of the rights to adequate food, by focusing on of the most affected groups and public policies to ensure their food security and nutrition.

In addition, the following criteria for the CFS MYPoW would be fully met:

Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues

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<sup>17</sup> IUF et al. 2014, Harvesting Hunger. Plantation Workers and Their Right to Food, <http://www.iuf.org/w/sites/default/files/2014%20Harvesting%20Hunger.pdf>; IUF 2015: If water is life.why do agricultural workers die every year from lack of access to potable water? <http://www.iuf.org/w/sites/default/files/If%20water%20is%20life.pdf>

There is a clear need for policy convergence on food security and nutrition of plantation workers. While their extraordinary contribution to food security and nutrition on the global level is acknowledged, there is a fragmentation of policy approaches and institutions on the national and global level in dealing with the problems related with food insecurity and malnutrition of plantation workers.

Plantation workers realize access to food predominantly through wages, but sometimes wages are not adequately paid, or minimum wages are not sufficient for an adequate standard of living. Many plantation workers are not covered by social security schemes. Rights of workers, particularly women, including their right to form an association, are often neglected, with a negative impact on food security and nutrition of them and their families. In addition, their health situation needs to be addressed.

Fragmented policy approaches are not appropriate to address the complexity of these food security and nutrition problems of plantation workers. The need for improved policy convergence, coordination and coherence is evident and key to overcome the unacceptable situation faced by many millions of plantation workers and their families today.

#### Relevance and global impact

Globally it can be estimated that roughly 300 – 400 million people work as hired workers in agriculture of which a significant part work on plantations. Studies by several actors have shown that malnutrition is widespread along the agricultural supply chain. The relevance and global impact of CFS policy guidance for food security and nutrition of this large social group would be huge.

#### No-Duplication

This proposal does not run the risk of duplication of relevant work carried out by other bodies and institution, but rather represents an innovative approach which, given the characteristic of the CFS, would allow for expertise to be fostered and agreements reached through scientific and political dialogue and knowledge-sharing in an inclusive and participatory way. This would help building the capacity of national governments to develop and promote necessary public policy for a transition towards sustainable food systems which particularly foster food security and nutrition of plantation workers.

#### Knowledge and evidence

Many actors, including FAO, ILO and IUF have engaged in analyses on the role of agricultural and food workers for sustainable agriculture, rural development and food security and nutrition. See for example the following publications:

- a) FAO, ILO and IUF Agricultural Workers and their contribution to sustainable agriculture and rural development
- b) IUF report on report on Water and Food security (2015)
- c) Harvesting Hunger Plantation Workers and the Right to Food (IUF, FIAN and Misereor (2014)
- d) A life without dignity – the price of your cup of tea (2016)

In 2015, the IUF and FIAN as part of the Global Network on the right to food and nutrition prepared a systematic analysis of how the working conditions of tea plantation workers in India undermine

their right to food and nutrition. As the workforce is mainly women, it examines in detail the gender-related aspects of food security and women workers.

#### Rome-based agencies support

The Rome-based agencies are well placed to provide technical support to the topic. Moreover, the proposed theme here provides an important opportunity for enhanced inter-agency cooperation of RBA with ILO and other UN bodies, taking into account the different specific expertise each of the institutions have on certain aspects of the theme. Such strengthening of collaboration of RBA with ILO and other UN bodies would foster policy coherence across the UN system around this issue and encourage national ministries of agriculture, labor, health, etc., to advance inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation to effectively implement solutions.

### D. Resilient agricultural practices in the context of disasters [PSM]

The SDGs speak specifically to the challenges of climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. CFS prepared the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. Yet, there has been little effort to co-ordinate focus on resilient agricultural practices to address agricultural needs in the wake of immediate crises such as droughts and floods. Food aid systems are vital at such times, however methods to resume farming, sustain livelihoods of smallholders, and reinvigorate food production systems are under explored.

#### Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs:

This is based on SDG target 2.4:

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

#### Relevance and global impact

The El Nino effect has been yet another stark reminder of the impacts of extreme weather, drought, flooding and the long term implications of climate change on farming.

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/411003/>

A broad array of countries have been affected this year, with a huge impact on livelihoods, food security, and the need for humanitarian assistance. These recent impacts bely a longer term trend toward more extreme weather and the need for more attention, coherence and analysis on these issues.

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

The UN system has a capable, robust system to respond to humanitarian food crises. The World Food Program and the rest of the UN system are continuously resourcing, improving and refining the response on an ongoing basis. Even in the face of growing demand and strains on resources. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises provides global guidance to respond to long term disruptions. It framed some of the most important measures to address the

resilience and livelihoods of farmers and food systems in this context. In between these two contexts lies the necessity of building resilient agricultural systems in the face of disasters. The immediate needs of farmers, foresters, and fishers to replant, repopulate, and rebuild is acknowledged but is under-addressed in UN fora. The SDGs as the overarching framework, specifically call out the need to address adaptation in the face of disasters and would be a meaningful contribution towards the SDGs.

#### No duplication

While disaster response has received important and vital attention in UN fora such as Sendai, there has been very little focus specifically on the goals of including practices that increase capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. This would be a unique place where CFS could add value, drawing attention to the long term importance of resilience.

### E. Engaging, recruiting and retaining youth in agriculture [PSM]

Human capital and talent are critical drivers of growth, sustainability and security across the entire food chain. There is a need to recruit new talent, particularly youth, to agriculture. In the US alone, 60,000 skilled jobs in agriculture are needed each year, but currently universities are only graduating 61% of the numbers needed to fill those jobs.

Despite the recent modest renewal in public sector investments in agriculture, there have been disinvestments in extension programmes and agriculture education – at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels - at the same time universities have disinvested in agriculture colleges. In many developing countries, especially in Africa, the higher agricultural education system is experiencing serious problems of low quality, irrelevancy, lack of funding, poor infrastructure, low faculty morale, and high graduate unemployment.

Furthermore, there is a lack of appropriately-trained and work-ready people in the agriculture sector, a factor contributing to food and nutrition insecurity. Some of the primary skills lacking are numeracy, agronomics, communications, business management (specific to the food and agriculture sector), marketing, finance, logistics, food processing, and broad, yet critical, teamwork and management skills.

#### Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs:

This topic is related to SDG target 2.1:

by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

As well as SDG target 4.7:

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-

violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

#### Relevance and global impact

With close to 40 % of the global workforce, agriculture is the world's largest provider of jobs, employing over 1.3 billion people throughout the world<sup>1</sup>. Nevertheless during the 20th century, the quantity of farmers has declined in every part of the world<sup>18</sup> - from 35 to only 4.2 percent in developed nations between 1950 and 2010, and from 81 to 48.22 percent in developing countries<sup>19</sup>.

UN statistics cite: "Global unemployment increased from 170 million in 2007 to nearly 202 million in 2012, of which about 75 million are young women and men."

Considering that the world will need to feed nine billion people by 2050<sup>20</sup>, a 70% increase in global agricultural production is crucial. This scenery demands greater labour force, people with adequate education and training who will be able to transform agriculture into a more productive, sustainable, competitive and efficient sector. Long term sustainability in agriculture requires a locality-specific knowledge base and technical competence including the up-skilling of the current workforce with diverse and more complete training programs.

Add to the challenges of hunger and food insecurity, a latent ageing of the farm workforce is an emerging issue – the average age of farmers is now in the range of late-50s to early 60s in parts of Africa, the United States, Europe and Australia.

In many developing countries, especially in Africa, the higher agricultural education system is experiencing serious problems in many fields like funding and infrastructure. Furthermore there is a big disconnect between agriculture education and the marketplace which ultimately leads to high graduate unemployment.

Incentives and campaigns that encourage young people to see agriculture as real possibilities for their career are needed.

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

CFS is ideally placed to highlight constraints, opportunities, and recommendations which include:

- a) Improving the mechanisms for sharing knowledge, adaptive strategies, and more sustainable techniques is the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (and beyond), food security and nutrition, and improved livelihoods.
- b) High degree of knowledge needed in farming to manage multiple variables.
- c) Improving impact on sustainable development of all forms of agriculture.
- d) The centrality of education and skills to sustain food production in the face of the vagaries of weather, climate change, political instability, market volatility, and increasing pest pressures.

#### Knowledge and evidence:

<sup>18</sup> FAOStat in 2011, based on a global workforce of 3.3 billion people.

<sup>19</sup> IFAD and International Labor Organization (ILO) through [http://www.momagri.org/UK/agriculture-s-key-figures/With-closeto-40-%25-of-the-global-workforce-agriculture-is-the-world-s-largest-provider-of-jobs-\\_1066.html](http://www.momagri.org/UK/agriculture-s-key-figures/With-closeto-40-%25-of-the-global-workforce-agriculture-is-the-world-s-largest-provider-of-jobs-_1066.html)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2014/12.htm#sthash.i6RmZX7U.dpuf>

It is proposed that CFS takes stock of evidence, including challenges, opportunities, and existing partnerships and programmes that can provide policy-relevant, evidence-based advice around the following:

- a) Examples of talent development in agriculture
- b) Concrete investments in education, know-how and manpower of youth in agriculture
- c) Opportunities and challenges to empower young rural talents
- d) Incentives and campaigns that encourage young people to see agriculture as real possibilities for their career.
- e) What actions are being done to promote demand-driven and innovative agriculture education, training, and skills development programmes in agriculture?
- f) How can we recruit and retain youth and women in agriculture through incentives and the promotion of conducive environments for equitable access to secure land tenure, inputs, financial services, knowledge, and markets?
- g) What examples can be found of national agricultural plans and resource mobilisation strategies to enhance talent development in agriculture?

#### No duplication

In October 2013 the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held a Round Table entitled “A Plan of Action to Build Knowledge, Skills, and Talent Development to Further Food and Nutrition Security”. The endorsement by the CFS of this topic signaled talent development in agriculture would take increased precedence in the United Nations food security agenda.

However after 2014, the CFS has not followed up on this topic. This workstream would contribute to identify the areas where actions are needed at local, regional and international level, through multisectorial policy approaches and inclusive mechanisms that engage civil society, private sector, universities and research institutions.

This workstream could foster convergence by creating policy recommendations to encourage the engagement of youth in agriculture. The CFS also could hold a special panel to look at programmes at the national and regional level to promote youth in agriculture and foster greater cooperation among actors working on youth programming.

## F. Session on South-South and Triangular Cooperation [WFP, CHINA]

The CFS, building on its inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, can enhance its role as a forum to build a strong alliance among governments and UN agencies to address the challenges and opportunities arising from SDG 2 through support to South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Committee can and is able to play an important role in strengthening global governance of food security issues and ensuring national food security and nutrition, which require extensive cooperation in capacity building and experience sharing of all stakeholders, through provision foreseen resources and technologies to developing countries especially the least developed countries.

## G. CFS Forum on financing investment in inclusive and sustainable food systems [CHINA]

There is an urgent need to strengthen public and private sectors partnerships and increase investment to promote agricultural development and increase agricultural productivity in developing countries especially the least developed countries.

Conducting this work will contribute to the global application and promotion of CFS products such as Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI), Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security - (VGGT)

## H. Nutrition workstream – Stunting [PSM]

Stunting continues to be one of the most pernicious and widespread forms of malnutrition, having a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable populations compared with other types of malnourishment. It has significant consequences for both human health outcomes, and social and economic outcomes. The effects of stunting last a lifetime: impaired brain development, lower IQ, weakened immune systems, and greater risk of serious diseases like diabetes and cancer later in life. Beyond the individual impacts of this problem, stunting is an enormous drain on economic productivity and growth. Economists estimate that stunting can reduce a country's GDP by as much as 12%.

While the effects of stunting last a lifetime, they can also be passed on from one generation to another. Girls who are born malnourished and become stunted as children often grow up to become malnourished mothers who in turn give birth to malnourished babies and the cycle repeats itself. An estimated 20% of stunting begins in the womb—with a mother who herself is malnourished and is not getting enough of the nutrition she needs to support her baby's growth and development during pregnancy.

Although stunting is almost always irreversible, it can be prevented by improving nutrition for women and children in the first 1,000 days. The CFS should therefore focus its efforts in the scope of the workstream on nutrition on addressing this issue. This could be done through the organization of a special event during the 2016-17 intersessional period, or by the initiation of a policy convergence process to produce a set of recommendations. Both approaches would be in line with 2016-17 Workplan of the OEWG on nutrition, as well as the decision box endorsed at CFS43.

### Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs

This topic is directly related to SDG target 2.2:

By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

### Relevance and global impact

Stunting, as a key limiting factor in growth and human development, should be considered a top priority for global initiatives aimed at decreasing the prevalence of malnutrition.

According to the WHO: “About 165 million children globally are stunted, according to 2011 figures, resulting from not enough food, a vitamin- and mineral-poor diet, inadequate child care and disease. As growth slows down, brain development lags and stunted children learn poorly. Stunting rates among children are highest in Africa and Asia. In Eastern Africa 42% were affected as of 2011.”

#### CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

There can be no higher goal than to focus on the first 1000 days of life and ensure children are off to a healthy start. CFS must prove its relevance by looking at policies to further the fight against stunting including:

- a) Methods to end stunting and wasting
- b) Programs to tackle stunting and wasting at a national and regional level
- c) Greater co-ordination of activities to address stunting

ICN2 cited stunting as an important challenge and should be the first specific nutrition work stream of CFS.

### I. Urbanization and rural transformation [SWITZERLAND]

According to the decision taken during CFS43, the workstream on urbanization and rural transformation will likely run into 2018/2019, beginning in 2017 through an OEWG to compile experiences and effective policy approaches.

### J. Food systems in favor of nutrition [FRANCE]

Engager, après la publication du rapport HLPE 2017 sur la nutrition, un travail de type « lignes directrices » sur ce sujet, pour des systèmes alimentaires favorables à la nutrition.

### K. Monitoring event on CFS recommendations on food security and climate change [FRANCE]

Organiser, en 2018, un événement de suivi des produits du CSA sur les recommandations politiques sur la sécurité alimentaire et le changement climatique (CSA 39, 2012). A deux ans du rendez-vous de 2020 pour revoir les contributions nationales à l'accord de Paris, susciter une discussion en plénière sur ce thème sera particulièrement pertinent.

### L. Food security and territorial approaches [FRANCE]

Intérêt du sujet: travailler sur les systèmes alimentaires territorialisés permet de préciser le lien rural/urbain dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement et de promouvoir l'approche territoriale. Cette

proposition répond à une demande de la plénière de travailler sur l'urbanisation suite au forum du CSA 43.