



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

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CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 2

Date: 2 May 2017

Time: 14.00 – 17.00

Location: Italian Conference Room, IFAD

Outcomes

Second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

Agenda

- 1. HLPE 2019 topic**
- 2. Rationale, objectives, expected outcomes and process of proposed CFS workstreams**
- 3. Longer-term MYPoW**
- 4. Conclusions and next steps**

Outcomes

The meeting was opened by the MYPoW OEWG Chair, Dr Md Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), who outlined the agenda and asked for its adoption. Before adopting the agenda some participants asked for the topic on engaging, recruiting and retaining youth in agriculture to be brought back into discussion. Others commented on the challenges in progressing the MYPoW in a business-as-usual way when the recommendations of the independent evaluation of CFS identified the MYPoW process and structure as needing revision. It was generally agreed the MYPoW discussion would need to be revisited after the evaluation had been discussed, in a separate CFS process.

1. HLPE 2019 topic

No consensus was reached on the scope and theme of the report to be produced by the HLPE in 2019. There was majority support towards the theme on agroecology for food security and nutrition, though some felt it was too narrow and had been extensively covered already by FAO. Serious concerns expressed by some members on an HLPE report on a one technology solution meant no consensus could be reached on the topic. Others supported the compromise proposal on innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture though some suggested it was too broad and unfocussed. Some suggested the topic of urbanization and rural transformation may warrant discussion on an HLPE report.

The Chair proposed to convene an informal Friends of the Chair group which will work on the scope, objectives and expected outcomes of the 2019 report. The group will use as a departure point the formulation suggested during the OEWG meeting on the synergy between agroecology and innovation and their impact on sustainable agriculture and food systems; and the elements and guiding questions concerning the role of agroecology for food security and nutrition that are included in the recently published HLPE note on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition. The discussion and inputs provided in the MYPoW meeting would also be considered. These were:

- Many requested that agroecology be at the centre of the proposal in line with the results of the ranking exercise;
- It should be recognized that agroecology is not the only approach contributing to more sustainable food systems;
- Other elements, such as biotechnology and innovative approaches should be addressed, without presenting them as in opposition;
- The CFS added value on addressing the topic should be clarified, in recognition of the volume of work already undertaken on the issue;
- There should be clear indications on the expected results/follow up by CFS.

The group's proposal will be circulated for written comment before the MYPoW 19 June meeting.

2. Rationale, objectives, expected outcomes and process of proposed CFS workstreams

OEWG members were reminded once again on the need to be clear on what it is expected from each workstream. This is a precondition for the selection of future activities, whose format should follow the functions foreseen in the MYPoW.

There was some discussion on the volume of work proposed and the need for time to address issues arising in the CFS evaluation. Some suggested there should be a decision point for determining the CFS outcome (eg whether there should or shouldn't be policy guidance resulting from workstreams that were underway). Many said there were too many activities proposed. It was also suggested there should be a multi-year outlook on CFS work that included a process on follow up and getting global attention on the issues.

It was agreed to request the OEWGs on Monitoring, Nutrition, SDGs and Urbanization to dedicate a space in the agenda of their next meetings to discuss the scope, objectives, expected outcomes and process of activities associated with these workstreams over the next biennium. The outcomes of their discussions, with the exception of the Urbanization OEWG meeting taking place on 23 June, will inform the preparation of the next Chair's Proposal for discussion on 19 June.

During the meeting the following inputs were provided concerning the different workstreams:

a) CFS engagement in advancing nutrition

It was requested to indicate the date of the conclusion of this workstream, to be clearer on what would be done, and to leave open the possibility to do something different than policy guidance. It

was also noted that the expected contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition could be further articulated.

b) Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition

In view of the need to indicate when this workstream will conclude its work, diverging views were expressed whether it should be 2018 or 2019. It was noted that, if it continued, this work should continue through follow-up to the current workstream. The suggestion of an HLPE report in 2019 was no longer in discussion, except possibly in the event consensus is not reached on the proposal currently discussed (see agenda item 1).

c) Multistakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda

Most of the views were in favour of organizing a different follow-up process which does not necessarily lead to the adoption of policy recommendations. However, no indications were provided on what that might be. Preferences were expressed to conclude this process in 2018.

d) CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A request was made to be more specific on the work that should be done in the next biennium. It was also mentioned that it might be useful to know how CFS contributions to HLPF are used in New York and hear from the Rome-based Agencies on the nature of their contributions, in order to inform the preparation of future CFS contributions. While some thought an OEWG was not necessary, and the HLPF contribution could be prepared in a different process, others remarked that based on experience to date, there would be expectations of wide member and participant involvement, that might make it difficult not to use an OEWG style format.

e) CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

It was mentioned that any decision on whether the guidance note for preparation of the MYPoW needs to be revised depends on the plan of action on the CFS Evaluation.

f) Sharing experiences and good practices on the use and application of CFS recommendations

Diverging views were presented on whether the OEWG should continue its work, retain the name of the past OEWG on monitoring, or if this can be handled differently. Some felt an OEWG was not required while others felt strongly the current OEWG should continue. It was suggested that the functions should be clearly continued, but there could be openness to merging how/where they take place. In this regard, it was noted that it is premature to take any decision until the core functions of this workstream are defined.

g) Implementation of the plan of action on the CFS Evaluation

It was noted that the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation will have an impact on the development of the MYPoW 2018-2019 through the creation of new tasks and changes in mandates and activities of some workstreams, including the MYPoW process itself. Some members requested to develop a flexible MYPoW that gives the possibility to reflect on the evaluation and how to address its recommendations. The option of considering 2018 as a transitional year was also put on the table.

It was agreed that the proposal on engaging youth in agriculture should be retained, in view of the support received in the ranking exercise and successive discussions.

It was suggested to integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in the different proposals included in the MYPoW.

Clear signals were provided on the need to prioritize by reducing the number of workstreams and adapting the MYPoW around available resources. However, there was limited discussion and no consensus on what activities could be dropped or paused, on the contrary new additional workstreams were suggested.

3. Longer-term MYPoW

It was agreed that this discussion should take place in the context of the preparation of the plan of action on the CFS Evaluation. It was also noted that this should be linked to the discussions on the strategic framework given the need to root the CFS programme of work on a longer-term vision, independently from the duration of the MYPoW.

4. Conclusions and next steps

HLPE 2019 topic

- An informal Friends of the Chair group will be established to work to reach a compromise proposal for the HLPE 2019 report, using as the departure point the outcomes of MYPoW OEWG meeting, the formulation suggested by Afghanistan on the synergies between agroecology and innovation and their impact on sustainable agriculture and food systems, and the section on agroecology included in the recently published HLPE note on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition.
- The proposal prepared by the informal group will be circulated for written inputs prior to being discussed at the next MYPoW OEWG meeting on 19 June.

Objectives, outcomes and process of CFS workstreams

- The MYPoW needs to be clear on the objectives, expected outcomes and process of each workstream.
- The upcoming meetings of the OEWGs on Monitoring (18 May), Nutrition (1 June), SDGs (2 June) and Urbanization (23 June) are expected to discuss the scope, objectives, expected outcomes and process of these workstreams over the next biennium in order to inform the preparation of the MYPoW.
- The form of the work should follow the functions established for each workstream.
- The proposal on engaging youth in agriculture will be considered again as a possible workstream.
- Signals were given on the need to prioritize and develop a feasible MYPoW, in line with existing resources, but no clear indications emerged on what to drop or pause.

Longer-term MYPoW

- This discussion has been postponed until the matter is addressed in the context of the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation.