



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

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CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 04

Date: 19 July 2017

Time: 14.00-17.00

Location: German Room, FAO

Revised Proposal

Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition (2018-2019)

Rationale

1. Governments and the international community have traditionally tended to focus on urban and rural development as separate 'sectors' and challenges, usually through the lenses of sectoral progress and to the detriment of the rural sector. CFS has helped to highlight the small scale food producers and family farmers who produce 70% of the world's food, and the urban food insecure.
2. In the last period the adoption of various CFS policy outcomes, as well as of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, have marked a significant and unprecedented shift towards de-constructing the rural-urban dichotomy, and reframing the policy environment around a more holistic approach to integrated policies:
 - CFS policy outcomes seek to provide guidance on key issues for FSN and provide a platform for participatory policy making and global consensus. The CFS processes have developed comprehensive and cross-cutting guidance addressing FSN issues across rural and urban areas, and address critical components that offer insights into strategies towards policy coherence and convergence across sectors. In particular this includes guidance on investment in smallholder agriculture, inclusive markets, tenure management, food loss and waste, protracted crises, climate change, water and social protection, among others.
 - SDG1 seeks to eradicate extreme poverty, SDG2 to eradicate hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition and increase smallholder farmer productivity and incomes, while SDG11 seeks to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", with Target 11.a aiming to "support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning". Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin,



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religion or economic or other status within a country. Goal 8 calls for promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

- The New Urban Agenda refers to the “urban-rural continuum of space”, and asks countries and international agencies, to commit to balanced territorial development approaches by promoting equitable growth across the rural and urban continuum of regions, and by leaving no one behind. The Agenda further asks for the promotion of coordinated policies for food security and nutrition across rural, urban and peri-urban areas, in order to facilitate production, storage, transportation processing and marketing of food;
- The Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2016, marks a 10-year window of high-level attention for nutrition and aims to intensify the development of policies, programming and actions for nutrition by all relevant actors. The Decade as such will contribute to the achievement of all other SDGs.

3. Together, these mechanisms provide a global enabling environment for addressing food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum. However, while the conceptual shift towards enhanced rural-urban connections is visible in the global policy environment, there is a need to translate these concepts into concrete models of inclusive, multi-sectoral and multi-level governance, where the development and support of rural areas, communities and smallholders is highlighted, and in some cases prioritized.

4. CFS can fill this gap and contribute to achieving its vision for a world free of hunger by strengthening countries’ capacity to formulate policies that address food security and nutrition in a context of changing rural urban dynamics. This effort will require not only an acknowledgement by CFS stakeholders of the challenge of bringing together under a single equation three complex and only partially understood variables such as (i) food systems, (ii) urbanization/rural transformation and (iii) food security and nutrition; but also an openness to go beyond the CFS traditional approach to policy convergence in a way that enables it to fit to the complexity of the equation and to the existing knowledge and information gaps.

Objectives and expected outcomes

5. The objective of this workstream in 2018 is to carry out further exploratory work in order to assess the feasibility of and, if feasible, work towards policy convergence to support governments and other stakeholders at the national and local level in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics.

Process

6. Taking into consideration the interest expressed by CFS stakeholders in continuing to explore both general and specific issues pertaining to the broad topic of urbanization and rural transformation in



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relation to food security and nutrition, it is proposed that in 2018 two intersessional events be held to integrate additional knowledge and new research findings.

7. The intersessional events will be organized with the support of the Technical Task Team (TTT) set up in 2016 and seeking input from the HLPE Steering Committee. They will be informed by the outcomes of the work carried out by CFS in 2016 through the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition, and the work of the OEWG in 2017 to compile experiences and effective policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics. The intersessional events should focus on issues where CFS has a particular value to add, recognizing there are many institutions working on the topic and new knowledge being generated.

8. The two proposed focus areas for the intersessional events are: 1) the food security and nutrition impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low income urban consumers) and how to address them and their root causes; and 2) Promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum, including linking producers to markets.

9. A Chair's summary will be prepared for each of the two events, followed by an overall Chair's summary which will be informally shared with CFS stakeholders before its submission to CFS 45 with the purpose of facilitating an informed discussion around the CFS added value and feasibility of a policy convergence exercise.