

Ideas for CFS Intersessional Events on Nutrition

The OEWG might want to consider the possibility to hold intersessional events on nutrition which would be intended to inform the ongoing CFS policy convergence process. These events would take place only if specific additional resources are made available.

The initial ideas which are presented below concerning the focus of these events have been suggested by the members of the Technical Task Team.

1. Nutrition sensitive agriculture (linking nutrition with agriculture). There is quite some emerging evidence about how and what agriculture means for nutrition and it would be interesting to start sharing this in the context of the CFS.
2. Nutrition and soils. Healthy soils are an important element of healthy food production. Soil degradation leads to the loss of soil micro- and macro-nutrients that are indispensable for the production of nutritious food.
3. Food transformation. Food Transformation represents an opportunity to enhance healthier food choices along the food value chain, including product reformulation, as an approach to improving the quality of processed/transformed food for healthier options.
4. Nutrient Profiling. Nutrient profiling strategies developed at country/regional level aim to improve diets in the interest of public health. The event intends to review tangible evidence on impact of policies, looking both at examples of innovative work in this field and reviewing lesson learnt.
5. HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems. HLPE could be invited to present selected segments of the report and this would be followed by questions and discussion. This would allow the report to be better socialized within CFS constituencies, while at the same time allowing proper opportunities for different analysis and perspectives to emerge.
6. Adolescent Girls and Nutrition: Adolescent girls are virtually invisible in many areas of the world. Their needs are often neglected and their nutritional status has not been well studied. Yet optimal nutrition during adolescence is crucial. This event would give attention to a topic that requires urgent action.
7. School Feeding and Nutrition: School feeding programs are a powerful intervention that can contribute to alleviate chronic hunger but also improve nutrition and cognition of children. School feeding can also make a significant contribution to gender equity in education while tackling social vulnerability of girls. This event would highlight the multiple benefits of school feeding and their extraordinary return on investments.

8. Nutrition and NCDs: NCDs are the leading global cause of mortality, and are responsible for 70% of deaths worldwide – equivalent to 40 million people. Poor dietary quality and insufficient physical activity are key risk factors for NCD development and mortality worldwide. This event would emphasize successes and lessons learned in view of progress in national policy development and implementation.