

## Outcomes of the 23 June OEWG meeting and 11 July informal consultation

### 1. Welcome by OEWG Chair and adoption of the agenda

The Chair opened the meeting by recalling the expected outcomes for the day: 1) agreement on the conclusions from this year's work (to be captured by the decision text for plenary); 2) agreement on how to capitalize from the work carried out so far (by CFS and others) to determine the future of the workstream.

The Chair also recalled the informal meeting held on Friday 16 June where preliminary feedback was shared by some delegations and suggestions were made to have a more structured and focused discussion through guiding questions which have been incorporated in the revised agenda.

Due to the importance of finalizing the draft MYPoW proposal in view of the upcoming OEWG MYPoW meeting on July 19, it was agreed to reverse the order of items 3 and 4.

### 2. "Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches"

In introducing this item the Chair provided a brief overview of the process leading up to the 23 June meeting:

- In February the OEWG expressed general agreement with the draft call and submission template "for experiences and effective policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics";
- The call was launched on the FSN Forum on 8 February and closed on 24 March
- Between the end of March and the beginning of May, the TTT and the Secretariat compiled the experiences and effective policy approaches into the document "Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches"

The CFS Secretariat and TTT members from FAO, IFAD and WFP presented the compilation document (power point available at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/ruraltransf/en/>) highlighting the methodology for the review, selection and analysis of the experiences received through the call, as well as complementary work carried out by the TTT in the identification of additional issues, key messages, knowledge gaps and policy implications for the consideration of CFS stakeholders. The presentation of the document was followed by an overview of the ongoing work within the Rome Based Agencies and linkages to the CFS workstream on urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition. Options for future work were also provided with a view to initiate OEWG discussions for the way forward.

General appreciation was expressed by members and participants for the quality and relevance of the document. Feedback provided on the areas requiring further attention included: i. the food security and nutrition impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on the most vulnerable and lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low income urban consumers) and how to address them and their root causes; ii. promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum including linking producers to markets; iii. the development of a vision for food systems; iv. local and regional governance of food security and nutrition and the role of small/intermediate cities.

3. Draft proposal for 2018-19 MYPoW

Agreement was reached on the attached draft (Annex I)

4. Draft decision text for endorsement at CFS 44

Agreement was reached on the attached draft (Annex II)

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

### Rationale

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.

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, 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;

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.

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

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

## ANNEX II – Draft decision text for CFS 44

# URBANIZATION, RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

## CFS 44 Draft Decision

### [MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee:
  - a) Expresses its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition, chaired by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands);
  - b) Recalling para 32 e) of the CFS 43 Final report, acknowledges the compilation of experiences and effective policy approaches contained in the document CFS 2017/44/6 *“Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches”* as an informative exercise to help develop a common understanding of issues among CFS stakeholder and lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence and coordination work;
  - c) Takes note of the thematic areas identified in the document as entry points to addressing food security and nutrition in the context of rural-urban linkages and of the key messages and policy implications emerging from the review of the experiences;
  - d) Takes note of the outcomes of the OEWG discussions, particularly of the areas identified by Members and Participants as requiring further attention: the food security and nutrition impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on the most vulnerable and lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low income urban consumers) and how to address them and their root causes; promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum including linking producers to markets; the development of a vision for food systems; local and regional governance of food security and nutrition and the role of small/intermediate cities;
  - e) Agrees CFS should continue its work in 2018 to carry out further exploratory work through two intersessional events 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 as elaborated in paras xyz of the 2018-2019 CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).]