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 the detriment of the rural sector. The CFS has helped to highlight the importance of promoting FSN for those most affected by food and nutrition insecurity, including 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 adopted at Habitat III 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 insight 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 crisis, 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 11.1.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. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance;

- 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 framework 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 further elaborate these concepts and translate them into concrete models of inclusive public policies and multi-sectoral and multi-level governance, where the support of those groups most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition is prioritized, and particular attention is given to women and youth living in rural and urban areas.

CFS can fill this gap and contribute to achieving its vision for a world free of hunger and contributing to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food by strengthening countries’ capacities to formulate, implement, and monitor the policies that address food security and nutrition, by supporting balanced rural and urban development.

### Objectives and expected outcomes

The objective of this workstream is to agree on policy guidance that facilitates integrated approaches towards public policies and inclusive governance in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation. The outcome of this process will be policy recommendations to be adopted at CFS 45 in 2019.

### Process

This workstream will build on the outcomes of the relevant past work carried out by CFS. This included the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition held in 2016 and subsequent OEWG process to compile experiences and effective policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics based on thematic areas such as the following: 1) Governance, food systems and territorial planning; 2) Labour, flows of people, goods and services; 3) Sustainable food systems for healthy diets; and cross-cutting issues: 1) Health/Nutrition; 2) Environment/climate change; 3) Resilience to risks and crises; 4) Social and economic equity; 5) Capacity development, consumer awareness, education.

Building on the outcomes of the OEWG and Plenary discussions held in 2017, in 2018 the OEWG will focus on developing Terms of Reference providing guidance on the objectives, scope, expected outcomes, type of instrument and intended users of the policy guidance to be developed by CFS.

To prepare the discussion of the OEWG in determining the ToR of the policy convergence process, the Technical Task Team (TTT) will further synthesize the outcomes from the global policy instruments outlined in the rationale that have relevance to urbanization and rural transformation, including and especially CFS policy instruments. This process will be supported by the Technical Task Team (TTT) already set up in 2016 comprising FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNSCN, UN Habitat, the World Bank, the CFS Civil Society Mechanism, and the CFS Private Sector Mechanism.

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