

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 adopted at Habitat, 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. 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;

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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

In line with the global policy instruments outlined in the rationale, the objective of this workstream is to [facilitate a global consensus on guiding principles and/or toolbox and feasibility of policy recommendations providing guidance on integrated approaches and inclusive governance to promote inclusive social and economic development through enhanced rural-urban linkages. The exercise will 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, while at the same time acknowledging considerations made on the need to reflect on the outcomes of the evaluation of CFS towards a more streamlined agenda, it is proposed that in 2018 an Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group be established to integrate additional knowledge and research from multiple sources and diverse topics. The Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group would allow for the engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders, each contributing ideas and content towards the preparation of guiding principles and/or toolbox.](#)

[The Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group is expected to share knowledge, information and policy experience through two events of two days each.](#)

This [AHEG](#) will build on the outcomes of the work carried out by CFS in the 2016-2017 biennium. 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

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approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics based on the following thematic areas: 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 meeting, the ADHEG will consider a number of priority areas, including: employment particularly for women and youth, intermediate cities, implications of transformations on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable, regional and local governance, linking producers to markets, [.....]. The AHEG will also seek to explore synergies and find coherence with other CFS areas of work such as the ongoing process on CFS engagement on nutrition, and the upcoming HLPE report on *Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda*.

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The resulting Terms of Reference will be presented for approval at CFS 45 in 2018 and guide the work of the OEWG towards the preparation of policy guidance in 2019. -

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