

Proposed Main Messages on Connecting Smallholders to Markets
18 October 2016

- CSM engaged strongly in these negotiations because of great importance of this issue to us.
 - This is demonstrated by detailed Analytical Guide that we have already prepared.
 - Thanks to IFAD and Government of France for their support.

- Strong points

Overall we are satisfied with results.

 - The recommendations recognize that the bulk of food is channeled through markets linked to local, national and regional food systems ('territorial markets').
 - These markets are also the most remunerative for smallholders (especially women and youth) and for rural economies – more so than formal agribusiness "value chains".
 - Not just places for economic transactions – also perform social and cultural functions.
 - So, they are the most important in terms of food security and nutrition, but have not been given enough attention in collection of information and public policies
 - The recommendations urge governments to support these territorial markets with appropriate public policies (e.g. through public procurement, appropriate food safety control systems, smallholder-targeted infrastructure and financial systems.....).
 - They call for coherence in government policies to support smallholders to meet global challenges ahead and satisfy growing urban food demand.

[Cite a concrete example that illustrates the reality of territorial markets and how public policy can support them].

- Weak points

However, a few points on which we were not satisfied:

 - Introduction of paragraph on international markets. As the recommendations suggest, we need to better assess impacts of international markets on smallholders and food security and nutrition.
 - Lack of attention to power imbalances in agricultural markets and the need to guard against corporate concentration.

- Follow-up and implementation
 - Essential that recommendations are applied and monitored by all CFS members and participants.
 - Not in an isolated way but making links with the policy recommendations already adopted on investing in smallholder agriculture and on land and water.
 - Support suggestion in decision box that the Monitoring OEWG organize a stock-taking event in a future CFS Plenary Session.

- Last words
 - Express appreciation to Chair of OEWG.
 - But lack of interpretation cannot be repeated.
 - Also, the experimental negotiation approach should not be adopted again without a careful assessment of its positive and negative aspects.