

**CSM points on CFS Evaluation Meeting 23 Nov 2017  
Recommendation 7,11,12**

***Recommendation 7: What are the most effective actions that can be taken by CFS Members to ensure that CFS delivers on its mandate, in particular to ensure the use and application of CFS products and recommendations in countries?***

CSM welcomes this important recommendation as it points to three key challenges: How to strengthen the link between Permanent Representations in Rome with their capitals? How can members promote the use and application of CFS? And how can members contribute to the CFS Budget?

The actions of governments are at the center of these recommendations, but the action taken should also take into account the cooperation with other actors.

According to our experience, specific suggestions to members aimed at strengthening the link between Rome and home could be:

- 1) Defining a CFS Focal Point in each capital, placed in one of the Ministries, as the contact point as well for information on the CFS and its outcomes, which could help to inform other governmental entities and other actors on CFS.
- 2) If there is an existing platform or national mechanism of governments with other actors from civil society, research institutions, UN bodies and private sector, like a national food security and nutrition council or platform, it is important that members strengthen the link with these mechanisms. Such national spaces should always give a priority to those most affected by food insecurity.
- 3) A specific activity each CFS member could do to foster the information on the CFS at the country level, could be an open information meeting in the country after each annual CFS Plenary, to inform about the outcomes of the plenary and to jointly discuss their possible use and application in the country.
- 4) The experience of the use and application of the VGGT that was documented in the CFS monitoring exercise on the VGGT in 2016, shows that governments should seek the cooperation with small-scale food producers and other constituencies whose living conditions should be improved by using CFS outcomes. In the case of the VGGT, several governments have engaged with organizations of smallholder and family farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and fisherfolks, and have also supported their own efforts on capacity building and use of the CFS policy outcomes.
- 5) In this context, members should also consider requesting the support from the Rome-based Agencies for an improved use, application and monitoring of the CFS policy outcomes. The VGGT case shows that the support from FAO has been important in several countries to promote the knowledge on a CFS policy outcomes, and to support their use and application.
- 6) In any case, we know from our own experience that the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes needs always to be linked with ongoing policy discussions and process on the national and regional level. They are and will be of interest in so far as they are relevant to these ongoing processes. In that sense, a good methodology to promote the use and application of CFS policy outcomes will start with the needs and political realities in the country. Our work with the CFS Policy recommendations on smallholders to markets show that their uptake works because they speak to key debates of interest for smallholders, governments and also Rome-based Agencies.

- 7) The regional level is important also as Members can link the CFS policy outcomes to ongoing initiatives and agendas of regional intergovernmental mechanisms like the African Union, Mercosur and others. Also regional FAO conferences are fundamental. Members could advocate a CFS segment in conferences of these regional bodies and also the FAO conferences, to foster the knowledge about the CFS and the link between its policy outcomes and the relevant policy processes at the regional level.

**Recommendation 11: *What are the distinct roles of CFS members, Advisory Group, RBAs and Secretariat in communication and outreach at country, regional and global levels towards CFS delivering on its mandate?***

- We fully agree with the principle that communication about the CFS is responsibility of all members and participants, as the evaluation suggests.
- CSM has done quite some work on communication, translation, outreach, dissemination, capacity-building, advocacy for a better use, application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes. This area is now one of the three priorities for the CSM Workplan 2018, the CSM Coordination Committee just approved a Communication Strategy of the CSM, which pays special attention to an enhanced use of the achievements in Rome for the struggles at home.
- Communication is fundamental, and we understand that the specific recommendations on this topic need to be seen and operationalized together with the issues related to the use, application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes.
- In this regard, we suggest that the CFS response to the evaluation contains the task for the CFS and its members and participants, to elaborate and approve a strategy on the better dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes, with clear roles and responsibilities and a timeline for its implementation.

**Recommendation 12: *HLPE reports and CFS-endorsed policy recommendations are freely available on CFS website in all languages. What are the constraints for disseminating them? How could independent HLPE reports contribute to RBAs' programme of work, as distinct from the CFS-endorsed policy recommendations?***

- We understand that actually civil society, social movements and other international, regional and national institutions, as reported as well in the CFS Evaluation, have successfully used the HLPE Reports. Nevertheless further efforts could be made by CFS members and participants to disseminate such Reports.
- In the last years, the CSM has increasingly disseminated the use and application of CFS Policy Outcomes and HLPE Reports, through hundreds of events and processes worldwide, and at local, national and regional level. In addition we have also produced the popular manual on VGGTs, the Analytical Guide on Connecting Smallholders to Markets, etc. CSM participating organizations are expecting governments to do the same.
- The CFS should ensure that its policy outcomes and recommendations actually build on each other and progressively construct a cohesive framework for food security. Therefore, we suggest that the Global Strategic Framework to be used by all CFS members and participants to promote, use and disseminate these policy outcomes and recommendations.
- We appreciate that HLPE Reports have been translated so far into the 6 UN languages. We also believe that Members, with the support of RBAs national and regional offices, should make more efforts in translating HLPE Reports as CFS Policy Outcomes into national languages.