

**Area of Focus of the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems**  
**Proposal prepared by the CFS Secretariat with inputs from the Technical Task Team on Nutrition**

The CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2016-17, which was endorsed at CFS 42 in October 2015, includes the preparation of the HLPE Report on nutrition and food systems “to foster a solid technical background in support of the CFS workstream on nutrition”. The report is expected to be launched at CFS 44 in October 2017. The proposal on the area of focus of this HLPE report was prepared for discussion by the Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition on 14 January 2016.

Proposed area of focus

The HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems will lay the foundation for CFS work on nutrition and food systems in the coming years, in the context of the progressive realization of the “right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger” (ICN2, Rome Declaration on Nutrition). This work will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), in particular the recommended actions for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, addressing malnutrition in all its forms as a global concern.

The report will synthesize current independent evidence-based knowledge on the relation between nutrition and food systems, highlight knowledge gaps, and identify policy implications to guide the changes needed for reshaping food systems to improve nutrition. Policy implications will be mainly drawn out for national governments “that have primary responsibility for taking action at country level, in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including affected communities” (ICN2, Framework for Action).

The report will provide an overview of the different elements of food systems that influence food consumption and nutrition from both the supply and demand sides, recognizing the decisive role of women in the nutrition and health of their family. It will review trends and environmental, socio-economic and cultural drivers of food consumption changes, including factors related to climate change and natural resources management. The diversity and complexity of co-existing (and sometime competing) food systems in countries will be recognized, as well as their diverse impact on nutrition. Vulnerability profiles will be defined for different food systems for all forms of malnutrition, according to socio-economic determinants and across the life-cycle (including children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, overweight and obese adults).

The report will identify the main knowledge gaps in the causal relation between nutrition and food systems and in the effectiveness of different interventions in making food systems nutrition-sensitive. This will assist in defining future research priorities.

The report will identify key potential entry points to leverage different types of food systems for nutrition along different food chains, drawing out context- and gender-specific public policy implications to create and enhance sustainable food systems that promote nutrition and diversified, balanced and healthy diets for all at all stages of life. The report will provide available evidence from multidimensional analysis (including cost-benefit analysis) on effective food system interventions to support and help prioritize investments for sustainable and healthy food systems, taking into account the fact that profitability is a fundamental driver of food systems, underlying the most efficient institutional delivery mechanisms. Where possible, the report will include country case studies to illustrate experiences and approaches in successful public policies, their cross-sectoral nature and their institutional operationalization, and make the link between evidence and policy implications most persuasively.