

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

PROPOSAL K

Data Collection and Analysis Tools

a) Proponents

United States of America

b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream

The CFS work stream is intended to both contribute to output 1.1 (inclusive discussions) and output 2.1 (global policy guidance).

c) Rationale for including the proposed thematic workstream, based on the prioritization criteria and building on CFS main comparative advantages, as described in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report

There is no efficient path to achieving SDG2 – ending hunger, achieving food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture –without evidence-based decisions informed by accurate agricultural, food security, and nutrition data. More effective targeting of interventions, improved national policies, effective business decisions, and increased resources for the agricultural sector all hinge on having and using improved data to inform policy and investment decisions and measure progress towards shared goals.

The need for data and the value of its use is a relevant issue for policy-makers, businesses, development partners, and civil society. Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant ministries especially need accurate and timely data to make sound program and policy choices. The private sector must use data to inform investment strategies and mitigate risks. Development partners must have and apply sound data to optimize their investments and understand the impacts of their interventions.

In recent years, several efforts have begun to fill the data gaps for agriculture and food security. The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics at FAO, the World Bank's Living Standard Measurement Study's Integrated Surveys on Agriculture, FAO's AGRISurvey programme, and the new 50x2030 Initiative to Close Agricultural Data Gaps are four such programs that are dramatically reducing the agricultural and food security data gaps. Those efforts are providing countries with the tools they need to measure national agricultural production, productivity, sustainability, as well as food security and nutrition outcomes. At the same time, they are enabling the development community to track progress on key food security and agricultural objectives under international and regional initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme.

Producing accurate and timely data to fill the data gaps is the first step toward the evidence-based decision-making needed for SDG2. Yet, beyond that first step, we must take a few more steps along the data value chain to arrive at its ultimate link – data use for sound decisions.

After data are produced, they must be made available to a variety of users, they must be analyzed to create information or evidence, and that information and evidence must be used to make decisions that will yield maximum impact. While several studies have examined the problem of how to promote the use of data for evidence-based decision-making, the food security and agricultural sector have not conducted a thorough analysis of the status, constraints, and potentially untapped benefits of data use for food insecurity and agriculture problems.

d) Expected results and how they will contribute to the achievements of the CFS MYPoW Strategic Objectives and FSN-relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda

The expected results of the proposed work are:

- 1) identification of the greatest barriers impeding data use for decision-making related to agriculture and food security across the public, private, civil society, and academic sectors;
- 2) a better understanding of how to promote evidence-based decisions in agriculture and food security across the public, private, and academic sectors;
- 3) a greater and more precise understanding of the benefits of using data and the opportunity costs of not using data for decisions; and
- 4) greater awareness of the value of investing in data production and use.

The work under this CFS work stream would answer questions on the constraints to data use, actionable pathways to increase data use, the value of using data, and increased awareness of that value across the food security and agricultural sector.

As stated in above, good data inform decisions that will increase the efficacy of food security interventions and spur the sustainable agricultural growth needed to achieve SDG2. Country governments will have better, more strategic policies and programs that target populations with the highest need, bolster sustainable agricultural growth, and attract investment from the private sector. At the same time, having and using more timely and better data will improve private sector organizations and businesses – including local, national, and multi-national – business and investment decisions, potentially improving agricultural growth, sustainability, creating job opportunities, and making food more widely available and affordable. Multilateral and bilateral development organizations will optimize their interventions with better targeting of populations in greatest need and with the greatest potential for program uptake and an increased understanding of the intervention impacts.

e) Potential activities that could be considered after the adoption of the CFS policy product to promote its use and application

An assessment conducted by the High-level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to examine:

- 1) the greatest barriers impeding data use for decision-making related to agriculture and food

security across the public, private, civil society, and academic sectors;

- 2) existing successful practices to promote evidence-based decisions in agriculture and food security across the public, private, and academic sectors; and
- 3) an analysis of the benefits of using data and the opportunity costs of not using data for decisions.

The findings from this analysis can be presented in a HLPE report. The report should articulate actionable recommendations to increase evidence-based decision-making that will contribute to the achievement of SDG2.

This HLPE report is intended to provide a fundamental understanding of the barriers, successful practices, and value of using data for evidence-based decision-making for food security and agriculture. CFS stakeholders will use this analysis as a basis for future discussions. Evidence-based decision-making is a common need across all food security and nutrition topics, and CFS stakeholders believe this information will help stakeholders better design future programs.

CFS will discuss this report at the a CFS Plenary session. Based on the content from the report, CFS stakeholders will also seek to increase the understanding of data needs in food security and agriculture how the use of those data can better contribute to increased levels of food security.

f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline

Timeline: a) HLPE report; b) HLPE report conclusions to be discussed at CFS plenary.

Costs: a) HLPE report; b) translation.

g) Indications on whether the preparation of a HLPE report is foreseen and its potential contribution to the proposed CFS thematic workstream

Yes, an HLPE report is foreseen. Please see above.