



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) Urbanization, rural transformation

Date: 3 February 2017

Time: 9:30 -12:30

Location: Iraq Room, FAO (Building B, 2nd Floor)

Draft Agenda

- 1- Welcome by OEWG Chair
- 2- Adoption of the agenda
- 3- Call for submissions and submission template (*for decision*)
- 4- Next steps (*for discussion*)
- 5- AOB

Outcomes

1. Welcome by OEWG Chair

In welcoming participants the Chair highlighted the importance for this OEWG to reach a strong and meaningful outcome and noted the need for the OEWG to continue elaborating on the expected result for 2017.

2. Adoption of the agenda

No changes to the agenda or additional items were proposed.

3. Call for submissions and submission template

The Secretariat briefly summarized the overall approach agreed within the Technical Task Team which, combined with the feedback exchanged by the OEWG members in the December meeting, provided the rationale for the draft call and submission template. Key points included:

- The need to keep rural-urban linkages as the primary focus for the experiences and policy approaches, with four additional thematic areas acting as additional filters
- The importance of including social and economic equity issues (in addition to governance, sustainability and food systems) as a means to capture the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups dimension
- The need to have criteria that would both stay on topic (focus on rural-urban linkages, impact/relevance to food security and nutrition) and capture elements related to process, change and innovation in policy making, equity and coherence with human rights frameworks
- The need to keep the submission template simple and relatively “open” so as to encourage a large number of submissions from a wide variety of stakeholders

OEWG members expressed general agreement with the draft call and submission template.

Suggested additions to the thematic areas included reference to: sustainability of agriculture, social inclusion, youth employment, health, multi-level livelihood systems, education, social participation, poverty reduction, development of rural economy, resilience.

Suggested additions to the selection criteria included reference to: poverty reduction, gaps and obstacles, the role of family farmers.

Suggested changes to the template for submissions included: the need to take a flexible approach in the length of the submissions, the need to add clear reference to sustainable agriculture and food systems, the need to learn from those experiences that did not necessarily overcome the challenges faced.

The OEWG Chair noted that all contributions will be reflected in a revised version of the call to go out on 7 February.

Several requests were made for an extension of the deadline of the call beyond 15 March. The OEWG Chair and Secretariat highlighted the importance of keeping to the agreed workplan to allow sufficient time for the translation and circulation of the final draft by 1 June. It was agreed that the existing deadline would be retained, but with some flexibility. No submission will be accepted after 1 April 2017.

4. Next steps

OEWG members agreed on the importance of ensuring wide dissemination of the call including via the official channels such as the Members’ gateway, as well as social media. The need for each OEWG member to raise awareness and reach out within their respective networks was also reinforced by the OEWG Chair.

The possibility for all CFS stakeholder groups to participate in the call was also clarified, as well as the possibility for one entity to make multiple submissions (one per experience).

The OEWG Chair opened the floor for comments on the expected output to be produced by the OEWG by 23 June.

Several OEWG participants noted the existing complementarities between this discussion and the ongoing MYPoW proceedings which will eventually determine: i) whether there will be an HLPE report on Urbanization and Rural Transformation and; ii) whether this workstream will carry forward to the 2018-2019 biennium.

Questions were made to the representative from the Rome Based Agencies' (RBAs) regarding their ongoing work within the topic of urbanization and rural transformation. IFAD made reference to its flagship publication - Rural Development Report - whose main focus in 2016 was on inclusive rural transformation. FAO mentioned a call for papers, followed by a technical workshop held in September 2016 whose main outcomes are feeding into the preparation of the next State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) in 2017 which will be focusing on opportunities and challenges related to rural transformation. WFP mentioned a new stream of work focusing on the interplay between emergencies, food systems and the urban context with a view to derive policy messages. Linkages with the New Urban Agenda process were also mentioned by the 3 RBAs. Following this update, several OEWG participants noted the wealth of existing material and ongoing activities from which CFS could potentially already draw upon.

Several OEWG participants also noted the need for CFS to be ambitious in setting out its goal on this important topic and expressed an interest in focusing on a policy convergence result.

The OEWG Chair thanked all participants for their inputs and noted the possibility to convene an informal session, if needed, to continue discussing the next steps for this workstream once the direction of the next MYPoW is clearer.