

Youth engagement in FSN-related policy-making

a) Insert the title of the proposed thematic workstream

Youth engagement in FSN-related policy-making

- b) Indicate whether it is a joint proposal (prepared by several CFS members and participants); or whether the proposal is supported by at least 2 Member States from 2 Regions and other CFS participants (include names and contacts of joint proponents or supporters)**

List of CFS Members and Participants supporting this proposal:

- c) Specify if the proposed thematic workstream is to be associated with output 1.1 (inclusive discussions), output 2.1 (global policy guidance), or a combination of both**

The workstream is intended to contribute to output 1.1 (inclusive discussions).

- d) Describe the 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**

Engaging youth in the FSN-related policy-making process is key to ensure that appropriate policies aiming at youth capacity development, education, employment and inclusion are designed, and that they are effective.

The FAO Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers has meaningfully recognized the unique role and potential of youth in agricultural innovation declaring Youth as custodians of the UN Decade of Family Farming. Inclusiveness has been recognized as a key element for effective innovation, particularly through appropriate policies that must ensure no one is left behind and increased recognition of the needs of youth (and women) and their greater involvement in the innovation processes has been recommended.

But the needs of youth can be multiple and diverse depending on the interested category (young farmers, young entrepreneurs in FSN, young researchers, etc).

CFS is in the position to give a multifaceted contribution in understanding and framing possible options for youth in designing FSN environments. The first step to make CFS able to give a significant contribution in this endeavor should be to collect the different voices of youth. From this basis, as a second step, different and operational actions could be recommended.

Thanks to its multistakeholder nature, CFS can indeed offer a unique space for collecting the different voices of youth.

The proposal is to have a substantive and inclusive discussion in a Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting format on how to engage youth in FSN-related policy-making; the members of the Advisory Group would be called to invite the representatives of youth/youth constituency of their respective category, to share their perspectives on the topic, or will be called to share their experiences (e.g. financial institutions could share experiences on specific financial tools/facilities and investments for youth).

This would represent an ideal continuation of the CFS42 special event Special Event “Developing the knowledge, skills, and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition” which the objective was to raise awareness of the challenges and lessons learned in building the capacity of youth in agriculture and food systems. The outcome of this event was the creation of a list of contacts to be possibly used to build networks of organizations addressing youth capacity development issues. It would important to learn about the follow up.

This would also represent a concrete follow up of the evaluation decision that “The Bureau will encourage AG members to strengthen their coordination roles, according to CFS Rules of Procedure”, and that, as far as the interaction with the AG is concerned, the Bureau could consider (among other elements) “developing clear requests to the AG, as needed, to provide more substantive input” and “developing more strategic agendas of meetings”.

e) Define the expected results and describe how they will contribute to the achievements of the Strategic Objectives and FSN-relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda

Youth is a cross-cutting theme among SDGs, and the primarily focus on SDG2 that characterizes CFS’ activity will contribute to significantly address the topic through the perspective of FSN challenges, but with its interconnections with other SDGs and targets.

The discussion of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and concrete proposals that would be shared should be summarized in a Chair summary, for possible follow up.

f) Indicate potential activities that could be considered after the adoption of the CFS policy product to promote its use and application

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g) Insert budget estimate, human resources and timeline

Timeline: a) one Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in 2020.

h) Specify whether the preparation of a HLPE report is foreseen and its potential contribution to the proposed CFS thematic workstream

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