

a) Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition (2018-2019)

Rationale

Governments and the international community have traditionally tended to focus on urban and rural development as separate 'sectors' and challenges, and usually through the lenses of sectoral progress.

In the last two years the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition adopted at Habitat III and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, have marked a significant and unprecedented shift towards de-constructing the rural-urban dichotomy, and reframing the policy environment around a more holistic approach to integrated policies:

- SDG1 seeks to eradicate extreme poverty, SDG2 to eradicate hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition and increase smallholder farmer productivity and incomes, while SDG11 seeks to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, with Target 11.a aiming to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”. Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance;
- The New Urban Agenda refers to the “urban-rural continuum of space”, and asks countries and international agencies, to commit to balanced territorial development approaches by promoting equitable growth across the rural and urban continuum of regions, and by leaving no one behind. The Agenda further asks for the promotion of coordinated policies for food security and nutrition across rural, urban and peri-urban areas, in order to facilitate production, storage, transportation processing and marketing of food;
- The Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2016, marks a 10-year window of high-level attention for nutrition and aims to intensify the development of policies, programming and actions for nutrition by all relevant actors. The Decade as such will contribute to the achievement of all other SDGs;
- The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact provides a municipal entry point for coherent territorial food policies through its focus on sustainable food systems, integrating governance, sustainable diets and nutrition, social and economic equity, food production, food supply and distribution, and food waste¹.

Together, these mechanisms provide a global enabling environment for addressing food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum. However, while the conceptual shift towards enhanced rural-

¹ <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Milan-Urban-Food-Policy-Pact-EN.pdf>

urban connections is visible in the global policy environment, there is a need to translate these concepts into concrete models of inclusive, multi-sectoral and multi-level governance, where the development and support of rural areas, communities and smallholders is highlighted, and in some cases prioritized.

CFS can fill this gap and contribute to achieving its vision for a world free of hunger by strengthening countries' capacity to formulate policies that address food security and nutrition in a context of changing rural urban dynamics. This effort will require not only an acknowledgement by CFS stakeholders of the challenge of bringing together under a single equation three complex and only partially understood variables such as (i) food systems, (ii) urbanization/rural transformation and (iii) food security and nutrition; but also an openness to go beyond the CFS traditional approach to policy convergence in a way that enables it to fit to the complexity of the equation and to the existing knowledge and information gaps.

Objectives and expected outcomes

In line with the global policy instruments outlined in the rationale, the objective of this workstream is to agree on the enabling conditions that facilitate integrated approaches and inclusive governance which will support governments and other stakeholders in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics. These would be documented in a policy guidance product and reflect a global consensus.

Process

This workstream will build on the outcomes of the work carried out by CFS in the 2016-2017 biennium. This included the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition held in 2016 and subsequent OEWG process to compile experiences and effective policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics based on the following thematic areas: 1) Governance, food systems and territorial planning; 2) Labour, flows of people, goods and services; 3) Sustainable food systems for healthy diets; and cross-cutting issues: 1) Health/Nutrition; 2) Environment/climate change; 3) Resilience to risks and crises; 4) Social and economic equity; 5) Capacity development, consumer awareness, education.

A strong theme emerging from the review of the experiences collected by CFS in 2017 relates to the role of multilevel institutional arrangements and integrated local planning in ensuring synergies and balance between rural and urban areas by supporting the development of stronger local or territorial food systems, facilitating consumer access to local foods for sustainable diets and supporting small-scale food producers and distributors in accessing markets, with particular attention to marginalized and/or food insecure households.

Building on the outcomes of the OEWG and Plenary discussions held in 2017, in 2018 the OEWG will focus on developing Terms of Reference providing guidance on the objectives, scope, expected outcomes, type of instrument and intended users of the policy guidance to be developed by CFS.

In parallel, the OEWG will consolidate evidence from ongoing projects and programmes within the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), as well as contributions and experiences shared by CFS stakeholders through the OEWG process in order to incorporate the lessons learned from the application of integrated approaches into the development of policy guidance. This process will be supported by the Technical Task Team (TTT) already set up in 2016 comprising FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNSCN, UN Habitat, the World Bank, the CFS Civil Society Mechanism and the CFS Private Sector Mechanism.

In addition to the information originating from programmes and projects shared through the TTT, the OEWG will draw on the evidence available in the IFAD 2016 Rural Development Report focusing on inclusive rural transformation, the FAO 2017 State of Food and Agriculture on strengthening rural-urban links in transforming food systems, as well as other relevant publications.

The OEWG will also seek to explore synergies and find coherence with other CFS areas of work such as the ongoing process on CFS engagement on nutrition, and the upcoming HLPE report on *Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda*.

The resulting Terms of Reference will be presented for approval at CFS 45 in 2018 and guide the work of the OEWG towards the preparation of policy guidance in 2019.