



CFS PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (CFS-RAI)

Regional consultations (Africa, Europe, Asia and Pacific, North America, Latin America and Caribbean and Near East) on the Zero Draft of the CFS-RAI Principles

Background and rationale

Investing responsibly in agriculture, and particularly in smallholder agriculture, is essential for reducing poverty, creating decent employment opportunities, promoting food security and environmental sustainability.

Agricultural investments can generate a wide range of developmental benefits. In order to do so, however, they need to be responsible and specifically directed towards the achievement of such benefits, while aiming at avoiding potential negative consequences.

To address these needs, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has launched a consultative process to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment. The principles are expected to promote investments in agriculture that contribute to food security and nutrition, and that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The principles are intended to provide practical guidance to governments, private and public investors, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations, research organizations and universities, donors and foundations. They will be voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied in line with existing obligations under national and international law.

Consultations will be held at the regional and global levels. All consultation outcomes will contribute to the preparation of the First Draft which will subsequently be negotiated by the OEWG. The resulting principles will then be presented to the 41st session of CFS in 2014 for endorsement by the Plenary.

Objective and outcome of the regional consultations

The objective of the regional consultations is to receive feedback and input on the zero draft of the principles for responsible agricultural investment for food security and nutrition from a broad range of stakeholders in order to improve the existing draft and foster ownership of the principles on a global level.

The expected outcome of the meeting is a Chair's summary of the feedback and input received which will contribute to the preparation of the first draft of the principles.

Participants

Based on the CFS multi-stakeholder model the event will gather participants from governments, civil society (through the CFS civil society mechanism), private sector (through CFS private sector mechanism), agricultural research organisations, UN system institutions including financial institutions, and private philanthropic foundations, to ensure the multi-stakeholder nature of the discussion and its outcomes.

Partners

The regional consultations will be organized by the CFS Secretariat in collaboration with the decentralized offices of FAO, IFAD, WFP and other local partners.

Working arrangements

The meeting will include plenary sessions as well as discussions in break-out groups. Interpretation in all UN official languages that are relevant for the region will be provided for the plenary sessions.

Plenary session

The discussion in plenary should focus on the CFS-RAI Principles zero draft as a whole in order to provide input and answers to the following questions:

- 1) The principles are intended to provide practical guidance by stakeholders; therefore:**
 - a) Are the current structure and language used clear and accessible for all relevant stakeholders to apply?**
 - b) How can the rai principles be used and implemented by different stakeholders after endorsement by the CFS?**
- 2) Are all relevant areas related to fostering responsible agricultural investments adequately addressed in the zero draft?**
- 3) Are the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders clearly defined in order to facilitate implementation of the principles?**
- 4) Does the zero draft achieve the desired outcome to promote investment in agriculture that contributes to food security and supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security? If not, what should be changed?**

Break-out groups

Participants will be asked to form break-out groups in order to ensure maximum interaction among stakeholders. Each break-out group will nominate a break-out group Chair and a Rapporteur who will present the summary of the group discussion in the Plenary. The break-out groups will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat and a Power Point template for the summary will be provided. The outcomes of the break-out groups will be included in the Chair's summary.

The discussions in the break-out group sessions should focus on the identification of specific gaps, redundancies and suggestions for improvement in each section of the document, taking into account the ToR.



Tentative Agenda

Day 1

8.00 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 10.00	Welcoming remarks and Introduction to CFS-RAI process
10.00 – 11.00	Presentation of the CFS-RAI zero draft
11.00 – 12.30	Plenary discussion (guiding question 1)
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.30	Plenary discussion (guiding questions 2, 3 and 4)
17.30 – 18.00	Working arrangements for break-out groups

Day 2

9.00 – 12.30	Break-out group session
12.30 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.30	Plenary: Report of break-out groups
16.30 – 17.15	Plenary: Presentation and discussion of Chair's Summary
17.15 – 17.30	Plenary: Wrap up and closing remarks