

Concept note

Workshop

Terms of reference for consultation process to develop principles for responsible agricultural investments which enhance food security and nutrition.

Rome, 2 July 2012

Background

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) by the Special Session of CFS on 11 May 2012, the way is now clear to consider an inclusive consultation process within CFS for the development and broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investments which enhance food security and nutrition.

CFS 37 acknowledged that the first step of such a consultation process will be to develop its terms of reference (ToR) that include the scope, purpose, intended recipients and structure of these principles as well as the format of the consultation process, taking into account existing frameworks such as the RAI principles developed by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and the World Bank. It was agreed that the consultation process would start promptly after the endorsement of the VGGT, and that it will ensure consistency and complementarity with the VGGT, particularly with regard to investment in land, fisheries and forests.

After considering comments made by its Advisory Group, the CFS Bureau recently approved a broad process to prepare ToR for a consultation process, starting with a one day workshop of the OEWG on responsible agricultural investment at FAO on 2 July 2012. Such ToR outlining an inclusive consultation process within CFS for the development and the broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhance food security and nutrition (step 2) will be submitted to CFS 39 in October 2012. The implementation of this inclusive consultation process will start after CFS 39.

Purpose and expected outcomes

The purpose of this workshop is to share information and raise awareness about other ongoing initiatives relative to responsible agricultural investment, and to seek suggestions and opinions from CFS stakeholders on the preparation of ToR for the consultation process.

Expected outcomes are that participants will be informed of work done to date on the subject, and that suggestions and informed opinions regarding the ToR for the consultation process will be collected. The workshop will also advise members on future OEWG meetings.

This concept note serves to inform participants about the workshop and to help them prepare for it.

Participants

As the first meeting of this OEWG, the workshop is open to all CFS Members and Participants concerned with the topic.

Structure and method

The workshop will consist of two, three-hour sessions to be conducted in English.

During the morning session, initiatives related to responsible agricultural investment will be presented followed by open discussion. These initiatives are likely to include:

- “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources”(PRAI) together with associated pilot testing (International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Bank, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization),
- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) (FAO)
- CSOs
- Private sector
- Human Rights approaches (Special Rapporteur on Right to Food)
- Research organizations

Representatives will briefly describe their respective initiatives focusing on its purpose, thematic scope, guiding principles, target users, process, and key lessons for the rai. A summary of these and other initiatives will be provided in a background document provided to participants beforehand to serve as input for workshop deliberations. It is anticipated that such information, followed by open discussion, will provide participants with an update of the status of current work to be taken into account when planning ToR for the consultation process.

The afternoon session will be devoted to collecting suggestions and opinions on the consultation process particularly regarding it's:

- Scope
- Purpose
- Intended recipients
- Structure
- Format of consultation process

Information and opinions gathered during the workshop will be synthesised by the Secretariat to serve as a basis for a follow up meeting.

Next steps

A letter of invitation including background documentation and guiding questions to prepare the workshop will be sent to the Bureau and Advisory Group members in early June 2012.

It is anticipated that the outcome of the workshop will serve to advance preparation of the ToR to be addressed in two subsequent meetings as follows:

- One day **OEWG meeting on 25 July 2012** to discuss the synthesis of the work shop outcome, and to help prepare a first draft of proposed ToR for the consultation process. Expected results of this meeting will be broad consensus on the elements of such ToR.

- A half day **OEWG meeting on the morning of 6 September 2012** (to be confirmed) to finalise the proposed ToR for the consultation process to be submitted to the CFS Bureau ahead of them being presented to CFS 39 in October 2012.