

## Info Note on CFS Evaluation

### Background Information

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) commissioned an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the CFS reforms that were initiated in 2009.

In October 2013 at its Fortieth Session, the Committee endorsed the recommendation to conduct periodic assessments of CFS effectiveness in improving policy frameworks, especially at country level, and in promoting participation of and coherence among *stakeholders* on food security and nutrition. At the same session, the Committee decided that an evaluation of the progress of the reforms should be conducted including progress made towards the overall objective of the CFS and its three outcomes.

The CSM has been engaged since the beginning with the process by actively contributing to the improvement of the scope, objective and methodology of the Evaluation process described in the [Inception Report](#) released in August 2016.

#### Timeline of CSM engagement:

- *26 May 2016:* Meeting of the CFS Evaluation Team with the CSM Secretariat and available CSM Rome based persons to get information about the CSM and how it works
- *July 2016:* [CSM contributions](#) to the first draft of the Evaluation Inception Report
- *August 2016:* Final version of the CFS Evaluation Inception Report
- **13-14 October 2016:** Focus Group Discussion of the CSM Coordination Committee with the CFS Evaluation Team.
- **October/November 2016:** Country visits will take place during the months of October and November. The country visits to the USA and Uganda have already been conducted. The upcoming visits will be in:
  - Philippines: 7-11 November 2016
  - Brussels: November 2016 (date tbc)
  - Senegal: 14-16 November 2016
  - Panama: 16-18 November 2016
  - France: 23-25 November 2016
  - Jordan: December 2016 (date to be confirmed)

**Please find below other information taken from the Inception Report of the CFS Evaluation.**

### Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation as set out in the Concept Note endorsed by the Bureau of the CFS is to:

- a) Produce evidence regarding whether CFS, as a multi stakeholder forum, is achieving the vision outlined in the Reform Documents and its expected outcomes;
- b) Assess the extent to which CFS is performing its roles outlined in the Reform Document, efficiently and effectively, and if so, with what impact;

- c) Review the working arrangements, including the multi-year programme of work of CFS in order to assess how the decision-making processes and planning may be impacting effectiveness;
- d) Propose forward-looking recommendations to enable CFS to respond effectively to the emerging food security and nutrition challenges, to further strengthen its comparative advantages and to enhance its leadership role in improving global food security and nutrition; and
- e) Generate learning regarding multi-stakeholder collaboration, to which the CFS represents a possible model to be replicated.

### **Scope of the Evaluation**

The evaluation covers the period 2009 to 2015, and the expectation is that it should be a comprehensive evaluation. All CFS bodies including: the CFS Plenary, the Bureau, the Advisory Group, the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and the HLPE Secretariat, and the Joint CFS Secretariat, will contribute with their key views and evidence to the evaluation. Other ad hoc bodies, for example, the Open Ended Working Groups of the CFS will also contribute to the evaluation process. Looking beyond the CFS, the evaluation will solicit the views of stakeholders at country, regional and global levels.

While the evaluation reflects on past performance, examining CFS's strengths and weaknesses and its comparative advantages, it is also required to be forward-looking. The evaluation is expected to emphasize recommendations that will assist CFS in better responding to future challenges in the global environment, including new and emerging FSN issues and needs, positioning CFS to build on its strengths and comparative advantages.

### **Methodology of the Evaluation**

The evaluation will adopt a mixed methods approach and follows a series of pre-determined steps to collect qualitative and quantitative data including: a) A scoping mission to the CFS Headquarters in Rome; b) Desk review of relevant CFS documents; c) Interviews of key informants and focus group sessions; d) use of survey data; and e) fieldwork including selective country visits. The analysis of the data and information collected will be reflected in the report of the evaluation.

#### ***Concerning the Scoping Mission:***

The Evaluation Manager conducted a scoping mission to the Headquarters of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) from 26 May to 3 June 2016. The specific objective of the mission was to meet the CFS Bureau Members, the structures of the CFS, and the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) to obtain information on the following:

- (i) Their role and functions in the CFS;
- (ii) Their views on specific issues they wanted the evaluation to focus on;
- (iii) Any information (documents, reports, etc.) that they thought might be of value to the evaluation team; and
- (iv) Suggestions for key informants for the evaluation

## Country Visits

5 missions, visiting at least one CFS Member Country per selected region and to give priority to countries where regional or sub-regional institutions/entities addressing food security and nutrition are based.

The Countries were identified according to the following criteria:

- (i) Presence of one or more RBAs
- (ii) FSN Status of the country
- (iii) Use/application of CFS products
- (iv) Total value of RBA portfolio in country
- (v) Estimated cost of the mission

### ***Sample of countries for visits***

All efforts would be made to include stakeholders who have been directly involved in the policy process in any given country. Where appropriate, group discussions will be conducted. In order to keep within the available budget, all interviews and group discussions will be held in the capitals of the selected countries.

### **Potential interviewees at country level**

- Government  
Office of Prime Minister/President, Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Foreign Affairs, Health, Trade & Industry, Commerce, Women's Ministry or Office
- United Nations  
Resident Coordinator, Country offices of FAO, WFP, IFAD, WHO, other UN agencies resident in country
- Civil society  
Civil society organizations involved in Food Security & Nutrition, including the constituencies of the CSM
- Academia and Research Centres  
Universities, National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARS), CGIAR
- Private Sector  
Business enterprises, Industry and other private-public partnerships (PPP), cooperatives, farmer/producer organisations.