

Reporting Exercise for the period January – December 2020

As per the agreed annual reporting exercise, members and ad-hoc Participants of the CFS Advisory Group were requested to answer the following questions concerning the activities undertaken by them over the period January-December 2020:

I. CONTRIBUTION TO CFS ACTIVITIES

Describe the work your organization or constituency has carried out in support of various CFS intersessional and plenary activities (meetings, Technical Task Teams, Open-Ended Working Groups, Bureau/Advisory Group meetings, etc), including coordination activities and the exchange of information and consolidation of inputs between your constituency and CFS;

II. USE, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CFS OUTCOMES

Provide examples of the use and application of CFS products (guidelines, recommendations, etc.) in your work programmes and describe the main elements of your outreach activities undertaken to disseminate CFS products;

III. STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY GROUP CONSTITUENCIES

What suggestions do you have to enhance the interaction between the Committee and different relevant actors on the ground to increase knowledge about CFS work at country level?

IV. SUCCESS STORIES (optional)

Describe how your organization or constituency has used a CFS product or products to improve the food security and nutrition situation of individuals, communities, etc. in furtherance of accomplishing SDG 2.

Reports were submitted by the following Advisory Group members:

- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- ✓ United Nations World Food Programme (WFP);
- ✓ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- ✓ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)/UN Nutrition;
- ✓ UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;
- ✓ The World Bank
- ✓ Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);
- ✓ Civil Society Mechanism (CSM);
- ✓ Private Sector Mechanism (PSM);

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Question 1

As a member of the joint CFS Secretariat, FAO continues to provide:

- services to the joint CFS Secretariat, contributing at least 1/3 the costs for human and financial resources, as well as physically hosting the Secretariat;
- most of the meeting venues (mostly virtual in 2020), including for inter-sessional activities/events and CFS Plenary and associated side and other events;
- translation, interpretation, and conference services (messengers, security, IT support, etc.);
- assistance for managing financial contributions and trust fund support for CFS activities;
- FAO LEG provides legal advice to Plenary and Bureau and Advisory Group, as necessary.

FAO actively participated in the joint Bureau and Advisory group meetings, open-ended working groups (OEWG) and other inter-sessional activities and provided substantial inputs to technical task teams (TTT) and to the High Level Special Event in October 2020, including:

- **Lead the preparation of the annual *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report (SOFI) report to provide a situation report and help identifying important FSN issues for consideration by CFS.*** The 2020 edition of the report was officially launched on 13 July 2020, as part of the UNSG ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in New York. The report provided projections for food security and nutrition estimates up to 2030, estimates of the likely impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition, puts a spotlight on diet quality as a critical link between food security and nutrition, and provided an in-depth discussion of the policies and strategies to transform food systems to ensure affordable healthy diets. The SOFI 2020 report cites the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” and states that *“guidance provided by these Guidelines, once fully negotiated, and endorsed, will be of great interest to governments and development partners on the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive set of policies towards the transformation of food systems”*.
- **The Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum team has contributed to several CFS and HLPE activities, including:** managed the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) open consultation space (<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/>); set up dedicated consultation pages in English, French and Spanish for the HLPE; advertised these consultations on the homepage of the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition; promoted participation of its network by disseminating information to its global network (11 000+ subscribers); monitored and compiled the contributions received. In 2020, the following consultations took place:
 - Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems – e - consultation on the Report’s scope, proposed by the HLPE Steering Committee (06.12.2019 – 26.01.2020) http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/youth_engagement_employment
 - Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030 - HLPE consultation on the V0 draft of the Report (27.01.2020 – 26.02.2020) http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/global_FSN_narrative-v0

- Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems - HLPE consultation on the V0 draft of the report (01.12.2020 – 24.01.2021)
http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/youth_engagement_employment-v0

The Forum’s team also supported the HLPE by disseminating the “Call for Experts for the HLPE Project Team” for the report “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”, and supported the CFS by managing the survey pages of the “Call for Inputs on the use and application of the CFS- Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)”.

- **Nutrition and Food Systems** – provided substantial inputs, led by Food and Nutrition division (ESN), through TTT and OEWG, including working with UN Nutrition during the negotiation processes for the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- **Agro-ecology and Other Innovations**, including substantial inputs through TTT and OEWG, led by the Agroecology Unit in FAO (NSPED) to provide consolidated technical contributions and discuss outstanding issues related to the policy convergence process and promote advocacy and awareness raising activities in connection to this process, among UN agencies, partner governments, donors and private foundations.
- Co-hosted numerous side events during High Level Special Event in October 2020;
- Worked closely with FAO management regarding World Food Day and CFS events;
- Provided inputs for preparations of the Global Thematic Event on the use and application of the Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

Question 2

Regular consultation with relevant FAO staff before and after Bureau and Advisory Group meetings to gather inputs and disseminate outputs. FAO continues to support the application of CFS results through several outputs within the Strategic Framework.

Concerning CFS RAI application, FAO accomplishments at global, regional and national levels in 2020 include:

- 25 countries have applied FAO’s capacity development planning tools to enhance responsible investment, in particular for the enabling environment and youth, but also on gender.
- 6 countries are engaged in a programme to bring together the CFS RAI and other global instruments (RtF, SSF, VGGT) to achieve the SDGs and enhance food security and nutrition.
- FAO is supporting the roll out of ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, developed with FAO’s technical advice, adopted by AMAF in October 2018 and launched by FAO, IISD and Grow Asia in June 2019.
- Institutional multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on RAI and youth was enhanced in two countries (Senegal and Tunisia), including the validation of a national road map and set-up of a multi-stakeholder think tank in Tunisia and creation of work streams in Senegal.
- Capacities of youth organizations to engage in policy dialogue on RAI was strengthened in Senegal through the delivery of a series of capacity development workshops.

- Blended learning programmes on the enabling environment for CFS RAI delivered for more than 60 policy makers from six countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone). Each country developed specific action plans for the application of CFS RAI.
- 13 universities from 6 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Spain embedded the CFS RAI in the curricula, with 5 additional universities who have agreed to do so in 2021.
- 16 private companies from LAC agreed to work with the universities to align with the CFS RAI.
- At global level, FAO has developed a series of tools, instruments and learning programmes on the CFS RAI available through the Organization's RAI website.

Guidance, tools and methodologies

- More than 20 new publications on RAI were launched in 2020, including the report "Empowering young agri-entrepreneurs to invest in agriculture and food systems. Policy recommendations based on lessons learned from 11 African countries", a policy brief on RAI and COVID-19, several publications on the RAI and youth work in Tunisia, and baseline studies on RAI in four African countries.
- Besides the existing tool "Empowering youth to engage in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems: Rapid capacity assessment tool", FAO and the Bern University of Applied Sciences developed the strategic planning tool "Catalysing young agri-entrepreneurs' investments and ensuring their sustainability" (in FR and EN and applied in Tunisia).
- Support to enhanced policy frameworks for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems and specifically under capacity development support for policy makers.
- FAO also revised its generic RAI Capacity Assessment Tool to strengthen the gender and social inclusion perspective, and developed the RAI and Gender Capacity Assessment Tool with a new virtual methodology (due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Learning programmes

- A consortium of universities in Africa, ITOCA and FAO have adapted the content and process of the policy makers learning programme to a curriculum on creating an enabling environment for RAI by and for youth. This blended learning programme was piloted with universities from four African countries (Liberia, Namibia, South Africa, Tunisia).

E-learning courses

- Besides the existing two e-learning courses on RAI ("The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems" and the course for policy-makers "Creating an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – Fundamentals"), two additional e-learning courses were launched in 2020: "Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems - targeted to the private sector" and a second course for policy-makers "Creating an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – Analysis". The third course of policy makers "Creating an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – Reform"

will be launched in 2021, and new add-on modules on youth and gender will be developed and integrated into the existing courses for policy makers.

Concerning CFS VGGT application, FAO accomplishments at global, regional and national levels in 2020 include:

- Incorporation of VGGT in National and Regional Work Programmes
- efforts were focused on awareness raising about VGGT and its implementation through regional and sub-regional awareness raising workshops
- support to introduction of land consolidation instruments and building up of national land consolidation programmes, such as a [Legal Guide on Land Consolidation](#)
- addressing land abandonment and introduction of land banking instruments,
- support to improved agricultural land markets and enhanced management of state land state land management,
- ensure inclusion of Land tenure / VGGT components in GEF and GCF projects
- integration of VGGT principles in the context of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and COP-14 decisions to produce a technical guide in integrating the VGGT into land degradation neutrality of which one of the principles is related to good governance
- advancing the concept of VGGT to water tenure to support developing national water governance and tenure assessment methodologies.
- assessment of National legal frameworks to evaluate the mainstreaming of the VGGT principles in the laws, regulations and policies;
- capacity development on the understanding and mainstreaming of the VGGT in the review, formulation and implementation of the various policy, legal and institutional frameworks at national and county levels;
- supported land related conflict resolution in collaboration with local authorities and support to put in place national technical committee that will support technically the establishment of land commissions;

UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF)

- Supported the development of National Action Plans in 47 countries to promote use, application, and dissemination of CFS products (VGGT, CFS-FFA, CFS RAI, CFS-GSF etc) at regional and national level. The UNDF regional and national action plans contextualize the CFS products according the regional and national priorities, providing an opportunity to have coherent and coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels, with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, that can support countries and family farmers in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. Moreover, the UNDF national platforms will inform the discussion of the UN FSS national dialogues, contributing to the five Action Tracks of the UN Food System Summit 2021.

CFS' main products were reflected in several FAO technical committees discussion papers and related recommendations, such as the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 27) held from 28 September to 2 October 2020, including:

- the importance of sustainable food systems in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the importance of CFS products to feed into the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit discussions and follow-up; the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security and nutrition and food systems; the proposed Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC) and the role it can play in contributing to FLW reduction globally and to sustainable food systems; the importance of the livestock sector and its role in achieving SDGs, including consideration of the relevant policy recommendations adopted by CFS 43.

CFS' main products were also reflected in several activities in FAO Regional and Liaison Offices, including:

- CFS Policy Dialogue Event on Innovation, Water, and Food Security in the MENA World Food Security Forum under the Global Forum for Innovation in Agriculture hosted by UAE on Nov. 13, 2020;
- the VGFSN was an important talking point at regional and national meetings and will be highlighted through the food systems dialogues organized in the first semester of 2021 as part of the process leading to the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and planned joint Asia Pacific Regional Food Systems dialogue in the first half of 2021;
- promoting outcomes with relevant stakeholders working in the domain of the food system transformation (i.e. European Economic and Social Committee, Members of the EU Parliament, civil society, academia);
- support the preparation of the participation of delegates of the Economic and Social Committee to the CFS Special High Level EVENT;
- The 31st session of FAO Regional Conference for Africa (**31ARC**) hosted a Ministerial Session titled *"The Role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Food Systems and Nutrition: How Can We Promote Cross-Sector Policy Convergence?"*
- With the reference to the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines), in consultation with the FAO VGGT team for a number of activities that took place in Africa in 2020, including:
 - The project 'Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems',
 - The project 'Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries'
 - The project 'A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Growth'
 - Under FAO's Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) the sub-program 'Leveraging global instruments and knowledge products' aims to assist six countries (to adapt the Right to Food Guidelines, the VGGT, the CFS-RAI and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to the national and local context and ensure that ongoing policy and legislative processes take these up.

Question 3

- Bilateral meetings could be organized in FAO regional and liaison offices to raise awareness on CFS and HLPE, including launch/dissemination of HLPE/CFS reports;
- Have more countries become members of CFS. In that regard, FAO assisted the CFS Secretariat with efforts to increase their membership, for example, support to the Government of Timor Leste and Maldives to become new members of the CFS.
- The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) which will be celebrated in 2022 provides an important opportunity to better anchor CFS instruments in the fisheries domain. The launch of IYAFA is tentatively scheduled for World Fisheries Day (November 21st, 2021) and the Year could be used as an ideal opportunity to further implement the SSF Guidelines and the relevant CFS instruments.

Question 4

After the inclusion of the CFS RAI in the joint programme of work of FAO and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), a joint declaration urging governments and parliaments in the region to apply the CFS RAI "*as part of their overall efforts to rebuild more sustainable, healthy, inclusive, resilient and transformative food systems in the context of the crisis caused by COVID-19, thus ensuring greater food security and better nutrition and the effective enjoyment of the right to adequate food for all people in their territories*" was adopted in August 2020.

The Practical Handbook on Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Advisors (developed in collaboration with IISD, members of the parliament and parliamentary advisors) was launched during two very successful high-level events in December 2020: the first event was targeting the European Union, including Members of the European Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition, European Commission representatives, the German Council presidency and more than 100 participants to discuss the linkages between the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI) and the European Green Deal and its key initiatives.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

Question 1

Joint support to the CFS is a priority for the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD and WFP – and exemplifies successful RBA collaboration. Since 2019, the three RBAs are *ex-officio* and *extra-quota* members (i.e. permanent members) of the CFS Advisory Group. In 2020, WFP actively engaged in the implementation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2020-2023, and continued to provide financial, technical and staffing support to the CFS. This included the secondment of a senior staff member to the CFS Secretariat. A staff member, based in WFP Headquarters, works full-time on all CFS-related matters as WFP-CFS liaison. At WFP, the RBA collaboration and CFS agenda are brought together under the “RBA & CFS” Division. WFP’s dedicated capacity to CFS ensures a systematic coordination mechanism and two-way communication between WFP and the CFS Secretariat. It also ensures, on the one hand, timely dissemination of information and requests related to CFS within WFP while, on the other hand, consolidation of WFP’s technical inputs and their submission to the CFS. Throughout 2020, the engagement and strategic participation of WFP senior and technical staff

in CFS was encouraged and attained, particularly, in the workstreams on COVID-19, Food Systems and Nutrition, Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

In the course of 2020, WFP:

- Contributed to the work of the CFS through active participation as a Member of the Advisory Group, Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs), Technical Task Teams (TTTs) and related intersessional activities.
- Engaged in the virtual CFS High-Level Special Event (HLSE) on Global Governance of Food Security and Nutrition in October 2020, and its preparatory process, at all levels by:
 - ✓ Ensuring the Executive Director's live participation in the opening session on 13 October ([speech](#)).
 - ✓ Providing strategic inputs, technical advice and support to develop background documents.
 - ✓ Co-organizing, with a wide range of partners, two side events on: (i) "Google Maps for Food Systems: A New Dashboard and Set of Actions to Inform Better Food and Nutrition Policy" ([summary](#)); and (ii) Transformative Approaches to Advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture ([summary](#)).
 - ✓ Providing inputs and technical support to the following inter-sessional workstreams and related activities leading up to the CFS HLSE: (i) CFS and COVID-19; (ii) food systems and nutrition; (iii) agroecological and other innovative approaches.
 - ✓ Co-leading the preparation of the SOFI 2020 report "Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets" which guided the discussion at the HLSE's inaugural day.
 - ✓ Providing [inputs](#) to the VO draft of the HLPE Report "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030", whose final version was also featured in the HLSE's inaugural day.
 - ✓ Providing inputs to the draft HLPE Issue Paper on the impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition, whose updated version was discussed in the HLSE's second day.
- Prepared detailed daily highlights from all HLSE sessions and side events co-hosted by WFP, and widely shared them with staff at Headquarters, Regional Bureaus and Country Offices. These highlights were also posted by the CFS Secretariat on the HLSE webpage ([day 1](#); [day 2](#); [day 3](#)).
- Contributed to the preparatory process of the virtual CFS 47th Plenary Session (CFS 47), taking place in February 2021 (rescheduled from October 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- Supported the CFS Secretariat and the Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches in developing 'Draft Zero' and 'Draft One' of the CFS Policy Recommendations on the topic, which will be up for negotiation during the first half of 2021.
 - ✓ Technical inputs from several relevant divisions and units were gathered and consolidated to feed into 'Draft Zero' ([link](#)) and 'Draft One' ([link](#)) of the Policy Recommendations.

- Contributed to the development and finalization of ‘Draft One’ and ‘Draft for Negotiations’ of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, as well as actively engaged in the first two round of formal negotiations.
 - ✓ Technical inputs from several relevant divisions and units were gathered and consolidated to feed into ‘Draft One’ ([link](#)) and ‘Draft for Negotiations’ ([link](#)) of the Guidelines.
- Engaged, at senior level, in the following two CFS virtual events on COVID-19: (i) “Responses by CFS Advisory Group Members to Avert a Global Food Crisis”; and (ii) “Resilient Food Supply Chains and Workers’ Health During COVID-19”.
- Engaged, at technical and senior level, in the TTT and OEWG meetings of the CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, which led to the finalization of the Terms of Reference for the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the topic.
- Facilitated the translation service for the above-mentioned Draft Terms of Reference.
- Engaged in strategic discussions with the CFS Secretariat and the other RBAs on: more effective engagement of CFS with the RBAs and strengthening CFS-RBA collaboration; and mainstreaming CFS policy products and recommendations in RBAs’ work.
- Actively participated in a webinar, jointly organized by the CFS and the Global Food Security Cluster, entitled “Making Food Systems Work for Healthy Diets”.
- Provided [inputs](#) to the e-consultation on the scope and building blocks of the HLPE Report “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”.
- Timely channeled the second tranche of EU’s funds to the CFS Secretariat, HLPE and CSM in the context of the four-year project “Strengthening governance of food security and nutrition through the CFS” (2019-2022). During this time frame, WFP will be acting as “indirect manager”/Administrative Agent - while FAO as “co-delegatee” - of the EU’s financial contribution to the CFS.

Question 2

Dissemination and awareness raising

- In 2020, WFP continued to regularly and timely channel all communications/correspondence from the CFS and HLPE Secretariats to relevant HQ divisions and field offices on a case-by-case basis, particularly regarding requests for inputs to CFS workstreams and HLPE e-consultations.
- Reports and highlights from CFS meetings were prepared and shared with WFP Senior Management, Directors, as well as relevant divisions/decentralized offices, to keep them abreast of the CFS work.
- The outcomes of CFS work were cited, where appropriate, in relevant WFP meetings and briefing notes.
- Webcast of CFS meetings and events, including the CFS HLSE, as well as information about CFS workstreams and policy products, were made available on WFP intranet.
- Ahead of the CFS HLSE, a webpage containing all relevant information, background documents and registration details was created on WFP intranet.
- A webpage dedicated to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) was created on WFP intranet. It contains all relevant and up-to-date information on the VGFSyN, WFP’s engagement in the policy convergence process as well as useful links.

- WFP continued to raise awareness of and disseminate relevant CFS policy instruments/outcomes and related information within the Organization at all levels.
- In line with the reference made to CFS and its policy instruments in WFP Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and the joint RBA collaboration paper (2016), RBA collaboration on CFS was reported on in the [2020 “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies”](#) (pages 8, 25).
- During WFP Executive Board’s Induction Sessions in January and October 2020, WFP provided new Executive Board members with an overview of CFS and WFP’s engagement therein.
- In May 2020, WFP, together with the CFS Secretariat, organized a one-hour virtual event entitled “Making Food Systems Work for Healthy Diets: Unpacking the Draft CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” ([recording](#)). The event aimed at discussing and raising awareness amongst WFP staff of the VGFSyN policy convergence process, progress, and relevance to WFP’s work. Throughout the event, the attendance fluctuated with a total of 1,057 WFP staff members logging on at different times.

Use and application of CFS policy products

CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

- In January 2020, the two calls for inputs, launched by the CFS, on the use and application of the CFS-FFA were shared widely in WFP, both with relevant Headquarters divisions, as well as Regional Bureaus and Country Offices.
- From January-April 2020, eleven WFP Country Offices (Bangladesh, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Chad, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Somalia, DRC, Niger, and Nigeria) were engaged and provided with support and guidance in view of their potential contributions to these calls and/or discussion of the CFS-FFA with partners at country level. This endeavour also helped further raising awareness of the CFS-FFA amongst WFP staff in the Country Offices.
- In this context, a mapping exercise of WFP Country Offices’ work relevant and linked to the CFS-FFA was undertaken: a simple yet focused questionnaire was developed and shared with Country Offices to guide this exercise and shape the narrative.
- A [paper on WFP’s use and application of the CFS-FFA](#) was finalized and submitted to the CFS Secretariat in April 2020.
 - ✓ Overall, contributions received from Country Offices clearly underlined that all the eleven principles of the CFS-FFA are highly relevant to WFP’s work in the field.
 - ✓ WFP’s Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) focus on interrelated and interconnected Strategic Outcomes (SOs) that contribute towards supporting governments in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 17 targets.
 - ✓ Country Offices highlighted that the CSPs’ SOs, and related activities, are closely linked to and aligned with different principles of the CFS-FFA.
 - ✓ Country Offices also emphasized that the CFS-FFA can prove to be a useful guidance tool in the implementation of the various activities pursued in the context of WFP Country Strategic Plans.

- ✓ The respondent Country Offices, however, informed that they were not aware of events organized at country level to discuss specifically the CFS-FFA nor they were involved in convenings where the CFS-FFA was mentioned.
 - ✓ Furthermore, contributions showed that - while many of the CFS-FFA principles are *de facto* being applied across WFP's policies, strategies and operations - there is a need for greater sensitization, practical guidance and tools to maximize WFP's potential use and application of the Framework in a deliberate, coherent and systemized manner.
 - ✓ Both WFP field staff and partners (including line Ministries) would require more training and awareness raising.
 - ✓ Country Offices are closely engaged with host governments in a number of technical and policy dialogues related to food security and nutrition, nonetheless, because of lack of awareness and training, the CFS-FFA does not appear to be a well-known policy guidance tool at country level and is not necessarily referred to during these discussions.
- The Global Thematic Event on the CFS-FFA, taking place at CFS 47, will be informed by the CFS Secretariat's [analysis](#) of documented experiences and good practices in using and applying the CFS-FFA.
 - This document (paragraph 38) features, among other experiences, how the CFS-FFA Principles were used in the design, formulation and implementation of the ongoing 5-years [joint RBA initiative](#) (2017-2022), funded by Canada, to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods in Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Somalia.

Question 3

General remarks and suggestions

- The political and strategic leadership role of the CFS Chair - along with his/her outreach efforts - is key to raise the CFS' profile at all levels, strengthen the interaction with relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge about CFS work in different fora at global, regional and country levels.
- Side events organized by the CFS Secretariat during the HLPF sessions in New York, FAO Regional Conferences, and Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin are a major opportunity to showcase the relevance of CFS work and its policy products to a global multi-stakeholder audience.
- In 2021, the CFS should explore ways to strategically engage in G20-, Food Systems Summit-, UN Biodiversity Conference-, COP 26- and Nutrition For Growth (N4G) Summit-related processes. These key global fora provide CFS with a strategic opportunity to further raise its profile and the importance of its work.
- It is crucial that the CFS ensures a solid and systematic connection to country level, namely relevant Ministries (e.g. Food and Agriculture, Health, etc.) through its Member Countries, as well as regional and country networks through its Advisory Group Members.
- Outreach events - such as those organized by the CFS Secretariat in Abidjan and Addis Ababa in 2017 on enhancing smallholders' access to markets; and the CFS policy dialogue on innovation, water and global food security at the 2020 World Food Security Forum (MENA edition) - can enhance the interaction between the CFS and the different relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge of CFS and its policy products at country and regional levels.

- Should such events be repeated in the future, the RBAs and other CFS stakeholders present in the selected countries might assist the CFS Secretariat with logistical support and by identifying relevant participants, including government counterparts.
- The six multi-stakeholder consultations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition held in 2019 were key to ensure adequate alignment between the Guidelines and regional/national priorities and needs, as well as the ownership and success of the policy convergence process from the outset.
- Likewise, the multi-stakeholder regional consultations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, planned for 2021, will be crucial to ensure alignment between the Guidelines and regional and national priorities.
- The CFS Secretariat is well positioned to develop information briefs on CFS, its work and functions, to support and facilitate CFS stakeholders' interaction with their constituencies and relevant actors on the ground.
 - ✓ In this regard, a major milestone is the newly revamped and updated CFS website, which now includes the Committee's corporate profile and video, as well as the link to the database of CFS policy products, recently developed by IFAD.
- The HLPE should continue to accompany the launch of its reports with short documents containing the reports' main findings and recommendations with a set of key messages which can be disseminated to a wide and non-technical audience on the ground.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members

- CFS Members, with the support of all CFS stakeholders, have the necessary convening power to take up a leading role in outreach activities (e.g. workshops, webinars, seminars, etc.) at country and regional level.
- The linkage and coordination between the Permanent Representations in Rome and capitals should be strengthened so as to ensure that relevant Ministries are aware of the CFS work and policy products, especially when interacting with partners at country level.
- Advisory Group members should:
 - ✓ Ensure timely correspondence, including through periodic updates, on all CFS-related matters.
 - ✓ Further actively engage in the Advisory Group, OEWGs and TTTs, as appropriate.
 - ✓ Strengthen internal communications and preparation to CFS processes/activities.
 - ✓ Enhance advocacy efforts and disseminate the results of the CFS work through various channels (e.g. publications, meetings, seminars, etc.).

WFP

- As far as WFP is concerned, once in-person participation will be possible - more CFS meetings could be organized at WFP HQ, which would be live webcast both in Rome and in the field. This would in turn help raising the profile of CFS and its work within WFP.
- The launch of the HLPE reports may also take place at WFP HQ and be live webcast in Rome and in the field.
- WFP could contribute to the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings by updating/briefing Members on its work for improved food security and nutrition at country level.

- In doing so, WFP's analytical and monitoring tools and products (i.e. Hunger Map, Global Report on Food Crises, Cost of Hunger/Cost of Diet/Fill the Nutrient Gap reports, etc.) could be used as reference.
- WFP, FAO and the EU could provide a joint briefing on the Global Network Against Food Crises during one of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.

Question 4

WFP's experiences in the use and application of the CFS-FFA:

Three-Pronged Approach (3PA)

The Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) is an innovative programming approach developed and used by WFP with governments and partners to understand the different contexts found within a country to enable the tailoring of programme response from national down to household and individual level.

An understanding of where food security and nutrition recur, together with the shock and hazard landscape to shocks, informs where long- and short-term resilience and risk-reduction investments are required, and where protective humanitarian actions should be integrated to safeguard development gains, informing the type and duration of financing that would be required. This echoes Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 of the CFS-FFA.

The participatory and consultative nature of the 3PA brings together national and local government, UN, NGO, civil society, and most importantly community leaders, women's groups, and the most marginalized voices to achieve a shared understanding of context, jointly identify and agree on priorities, solutions, as well as the integrated programming actions required to achieve them, under the coordination of national and local government. This reflects Principles 5, 7, 9 and 11 of the CFS-FFA.

Field experiences

In Rwanda, on nutrition, WFP has incorporated Principle 2 of the CFS-FFA by focusing on the nutritional needs during the first 1,000 days of life through the stunting prevention programme and managing moderate acute malnutrition.

On livelihoods and building resilience (Principles 1, 7 and 10), saving groups have been established amongst refugee groups and cash transfers are provided.

On evidence-based analysis (Principle 6), WFP employs post distribution monitoring twice a year, standardized expanded nutrition survey on a yearly basis, and a joint assessment mission every two years, in addition to regular monitoring.

Gender and protection (Principles 3, 4, 5) are mainstreamed through a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism in place for refugees, and the provision of gender training for refugees and partners.

In Iraq, Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 focuses on providing immediate support to people affected by crises. This is linked to the CFS-FFA's Principles 3 and 4.

Strategic Outcome 2 focuses on resilience building and is in line with Principles 1 and 2. SO2 activities support livelihoods and resilient food systems to improve agricultural development.

In the areas of return, the Country Office will work on expanding resilience activities in communities where mediation processes facilitate the return of IDPs. This aligns to Principle 9.

WFP in Iraq ensures the equitable engagement of women and men of different ages, including young people, in order to foster inclusive and participatory programming that meets their needs and contributes to the elimination of discriminatory gender and age norms. This is a cross-cutting area and aligns with Principle 5.

Finally, under Strategic Outcome 3, WFP is making strategic investments in government capacity strengthening, enhancing capacities in national and subnational institutions involved in social protection, emergency preparedness and early warning systems, food security and nutrition, gender equality and value chain development, and promoting triangular cooperation. This part of SO3 aligns with Principles 6, 7, 8 and 10 of the CFS-FFA.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Question 1

IFAD attaches high importance to its engagement in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and in 2020, continued its strong support.

IFAD considers the CFS as the foremost multistakeholder forum furthering the development of inclusive policy guidance - developing and promoting an enabling global and national policy environment for financing smallholder agriculture and inclusive rural transformation, empowering smallholder farmers and poor rural people, and thus assisting countries in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In line with IFAD's Grant Policy, Grant Financing procedures and Strategic Guidance Note for IFAD Grants 2019-2021, IFAD's Management has endorsed that the CFS remain a strategic partner for IFAD. Furthermore, the CFS is a priority in IFAD's corporate global engagement and IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025.

IFAD has been actively engaging in Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and contributing to the strategic direction of the CFS. IFAD has also routinely contributed its staff expertise through CFS Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs), Technical Task Teams (TTTs), the CFS Secretariat, informal consultations, and joint events on themes of strategic importance for achieving the food security and nutrition goals of the 2030 Agenda.

In particular, IFAD provided technical expertise for a number of CFS workstreams, including development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyn); Monitoring the use and application of CFS policy recommendations; and Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. More recently, IFAD also actively participated in regional consultations of the VGFSyN and has provided cross-divisional feedback on the latest version of the document, taking into consideration its broad and multi-disciplinary

nature. IFAD has highlighted the importance of these VGs as an important input into the technical preparatory process in the lead up to the Food System Summit later in September 2021 as well as in the follow-up process. IFAD recognizes the VGFSyN as a huge step forward in bringing both the food security and nutrition agendas together. IFAD looks forward to promoting the guidelines in collaboration with other agencies and to using the guidelines in IFAD's programme of work.

There was an extensive and active participation by IFAD staff from different divisions in the special virtual session in October 2020, where a keynote address was also delivered by the IFAD President.

IFAD's Internal Office of Evaluation has in principle, agreed to participate in the planned 2021 evaluation exercise of the CFS and its processes and products (along with the other RBAs).

Question 2

IFAD has emphasised the importance of the use and application of CFS products in IFAD's policy dialogue with its borrowing-country governments (to trigger policy reform) and provide an enabling policy and institutional environment to its lending programme in those countries.

In October 2020, at the CFS Special Virtual Session, IFAD launched an online database where all CFS recommendations can now be readily accessible on an easy-to-use platform as a global public good. All new CFS policy products e.g. VGFSyN, will be duly included in the system.

In 2021, IFAD divisions will be given a demonstration on how best to use this tool to monitor and review relevant loan and grant proposals/ submissions against CFS policy recommendations, voluntary guidelines and principles. Given the ease of use of the database, it will introduce automaticity in the inclusion of CFS products in the formulation of their proposals/documents/ strategies.

Depending on the country context and IFAD priorities, relevant CFS policy recommendations can then be duly considered in forthcoming COSOPs, Country Strategy Notes, and IFAD policy dialogue efforts – with a sharper focus on outcomes of relevance to poor smallholder communities/family farmers.

CFS products on themes of direct relevance to IFAD and its stakeholders have continued to be used in various ways as a basis for developing and adopting related policy recommendations. As reported on earlier occasions, the VGGT has been used as a basis for providing voluntary guiding principles to underpin access and ownership of land and water (including forests and fisheries) in the design of several loan projects in developing regions.

IFAD continues to proactively bring key considerations for responsible investment, as defined by the CFS-RAI Principles, to provide the underpinning to help deliver on internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards and commitments in its operations.

IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate assessment procedures – the SECAP protocols - were rigorously applied to IFAD's entire programme pipeline in 2019. As the SECAP protocol is in full alignment with the CFS-RAI principles, IFAD is de facto furthering their deployment in countries where it works.

In an effort to increase the visibility of the CFS within IFAD, a sharper focus was made in 2020 on internal dissemination to highlight CFS activities and products, e.g. HLPE report. Staff were regularly informed of CFS meetings/their outcomes, through the intranet logon messages as well as blog posts.

Question 3

IFAD recognizes the CFS as a catalytic platform with a broad range of constituencies, all of which are integral to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how the CFS can work as a vibrant and inter-disciplinary mechanism for sharing knowledge on critical responses to food security issues by its diverse stakeholders.

Going forward – IFAD will work closely with the Secretariat to increase opportunities for CFS management to address IFAD development practitioners (e.g., through platforms such as IFAD Interact). We will also build on that platform to further reach out to our Country Offices and regional hubs to enhance knowledge sharing of CFS and its policy products. Finally, we could also explore field missions (when this becomes possible) to IFAD-financed loan project sites for a more direct interaction with country- and local- staff, government, and NGOs, civil society actors and farmers groups. This would facilitate direct interactions on the ground and representatives of these constituencies can both appreciate the value of CFS and the application of its policy products, while at the same time CFS stakeholders can see, first hand, CFS recommendations being rolled out or their uptake by local stakeholders – whether it is in the context of improved land-tenurial arrangements or better nutritional outcomes from better-functioning food systems.

Question 4

With the advent of the on-line database IFAD views the platform as a product in its own right – which is meant to move the CFS policy products and recommendations off the shelf and into utilization. The Fund is now trying to identify a more systematic and structured engagement by IFAD project staff in applying CFS policy advice starting with the embedding of CFS recommendations in the Country Strategy and options Papers (COSOP) which feed into the design of our country programmes and create the enabling policy and institutional environment for the food systems to improve food production, processing and marketing - and with greater impact prospects on IFAD's target communities.

The database is offered as an open-access global public good with the aim of benefiting, not only the work of IFAD staff, but all development practitioners, civil society, IFIs, UN entities, academia and the private sector. IFAD intends to promote CFS policy recommendations as instruments for integrated implementation of the SDGs. IFAD will also explore opportunities to leverage other organizations to disseminate CFS guidance more effectively at the country level.

Within IFAD, staff are going to be informed of the nascent database and will be sensitised and “trained” on how it can be used efficiently to inform our lending programme in 90 low and lower middle income countries that borrow from IFAD. It will take roughly a year as new loan projects are rolled out with CFS products and recommendations explicit in the design components. IFAD will also look to hold informative sessions with other UN agencies on how to promote uptake of the database.

Based on the above, IFAD will populate this section with concrete successful examples of CFS products utilisation in 2021/22 – with clear impact on household food security and nutrition status of rural communities, where this can be measured and assessed.

United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) / UN Nutrition

In 2020 UNSCN merged with the UN Network for SUN to become [UN Nutrition](#), a UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at the global and country levels. The UN Nutrition Secretariat, hosted by FAO HQ in Rome, is operational from 1 January 2021 and supersedes the UNSCN and the UN Network for SUN Secretariats. In this document we will use UNSCN/UN Nutrition as we are referring to 2020 activities, but from January 2021 we are only using UN Nutrition.

Question 1

UNSCN/UN Nutrition has been actively engaging with the CFS throughout the entire year 2020. The Secretariat participated in and supported all the various CFS intersessional activities.

- The UNSCN/UN Nutrition Coordinator took part in all Advisory group meetings in 2020, providing inputs when relevant to make sure nutrition is mainstreamed in CFS work. UNSCN/UN Nutrition constantly tried to highlight and strengthen possible linkages between CFS work and other UN System processes in the area of nutrition.
- Throughout 2020, UNSCN/UN Nutrition has actively engaged in CFS major policy processes particularly in the negotiations of *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition*, but also in the development of *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches* and in the preparation of *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*.
- Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition: The UNSCN/UN Nutrition Secretariat worked to collect and consolidate Members' comments to contribute to the several virtual meetings of the OEWG organized in the first semester of 2020. In preparation to the first week of negotiations held in September 2020, UNSCN/UN Nutrition coordinated inputs from several UN agencies (FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, UNEP, UNOCHA, IFAD, IAEA, UNHCR) and the Alliance Bioversity-CIAT) who decided to speak with ONE UN voice for nutrition. The group identified in the draft for negotiation few critical issues about which UN Nutrition has strong technical and scientific evidence, available through the various agencies and according to their specific mandates. Based on these technical inputs and scientific evidence, UNSCN/UN Nutrition developed several proposals for the discussions in the OEWG. UN Agencies continued to work under the umbrella of UNSCN/UN Nutrition also for the meetings of the Friends of the Chair and the following round of negotiations (December 2020). UNSCN/UN Nutrition actively supported the CFS Secretariat and the Chair of the OEWG in preparing compromise proposals to be presented to CFS stakeholders.

- Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches: UNSCN/UN Nutrition participated to all informal virtual meetings of the OEWG, collecting and consolidating inputs from its member agencies, when relevant. In particular, UNSCN/UN Nutrition stressed the importance of developing a comprehensive set of criteria and effective indications, and not a list of disconnected recommendations, to provide concrete indications on how agroecological and other innovative approaches can promote biodiversity and sustainable food systems. A stronger focus on the quality and diversity of production and products was also suggested. Furthermore, these policy recommendations should not be considered as a standalone product but they should be strictly linked with other CFS documents (such as the VGFSyN) as a way to provide governments and other relevant stakeholder with a comprehensive vision and strategy to transform food systems to improve human and planetary health.
- Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition: UNSCN/UN Nutrition is part of the Technical Task Team created to support the OEWG of the Gender workstream. UNSCN/UN Nutrition contributed to the development of the Terms of reference for these VGs providing inputs to the document in order to make sure the linkages between gender inequalities inside and outside the household and levels of malnutrition are well recognized.
- Throughout the year, UNSCN/UN Nutrition facilitated outreach in several international meetings, contributing to the knowledge about CFS beyond Rome. The UNSCN/UN Nutrition Coordinator referred to the work of the CFS, and in particular to the process of developing the VGFSyN, in several UN fora, such as WUF, ECOSOC, and WHA and, in a presentation to the Food Security Cluster, she explained how UN Nutrition will contribute to the implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines. On 1 July 2020, UNSCN, FAO & GNR organized a [satellite launch event of the Global Nutrition Report 2020](#) for RbAs actors and the CFS Chair participated in the panel, providing insights from the work of CFS specifically in relation to nutrition and inequalities.

Question 2

UNSCN/UN Nutrition keeps its members and broader audience constantly updated on the work of the CFS, by regularly sharing information about CFS products and activities and calling for feedback and inputs. UNSCN/UN Nutrition makes sure to distribute CFS outcomes and reports to relevant members beyond the RBAs (and WHO), who are already part of the AG.

All CFS products are included in the UNSCN website and shared through all relevant communication channels (newsletters and e-alerts are read by nearly 5,000 users from all over the world and our social media accounts reach around 9,000 followers on Twitter and 3,000 on Facebook).

Question 3

Governments have the primary responsibility in strengthening the linkages between CFS and actors on the ground as well as ensure CFS products are well received and used at country level. UNSCN/UN Nutrition congratulates CFS for strengthening its communication and outreach activities, also considering the unique circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. UNSCN/UN Nutrition appreciates the CFS policy database created by IFAD as an additional tool that will support dissemination of CFS policy products and we suggest to further disseminate this tool and invite other

institutions (including at regional and national levels) to create similar repositories in order to make sure CFS products are well known and use by a broad range of actors at all levels.

In case of nutrition, UNSCN/UN Nutrition is willing to support CFS stakeholders by, for example, organizing thematic meetings/seminars specifically about nutrition related topics in CFS to enhance interaction with relevant actors and increase knowledge of the work done in Rome.

Moreover, as of 2021, UN Nutrition has also a mandate to work at country level in collaboration with Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country teams (UNCTs) and this will provide much more opportunities to disseminate and increase awareness of CFS policy products on the ground, making sure relevant global guidance developed in Rome will reach governments and actors working in countries.

Specifically in relation to the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, UN Nutrition and its member agencies are ready to coordinate efforts at country level to leverage and support the uptake of the VGFSyN as indicated in chapter 4 of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Question 4

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UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Question 1

I try to attend as many Bureau/Advisory Group meeting as possible. I have weighed in on certain OWEG from time to time. I also speak at Special Events and Plenary Events when asked.

Question 2

In my regular conversations with Food Systems Summit organizers, International diplomats, advocacy groups, official reports, and public events, I regularly reference CFS products. The ones I regularly reference are:

- Right to Food Guidelines
- VGGT
- CFS-FFA
- CSM Report "Connecting Smallholders to Markets"
- HLPE Reports
- HLPE Covid-19 Issue Paper

Question 3

I think buy-in from the CSM is the key to domestic implementation of CFS products. This is because the CSM represents voices from the ground up.

The other key players are the domestic players that actually implement policies. Parliamentarians would be very important. But I think the most dynamic and useful focus would be on city/local governments. The CFS should consider reaching out to [United Cities and Local Government](#) - they would be the key partner to bringing CFS products to city/local governments all over the world.

Question 4

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The World Bank

Question 1

The World Bank's double mandate, to end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity, includes a strong focus on agriculture and food to help raise incomes and improve food security and the World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice is the natural partner of the CFS.

Martien van Nieuwkoop, Global Director of the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, participated in the 1st Day of the Ministerial Roundtable of the High-Level Special Event on October 13, 2020 giving a snapshot of the food security situation in the world.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated food systems vulnerabilities, reminding us that the most effective response to rising food insecurity is to address its underlying causes. Doing so will sow the seeds for food systems that support healthy people, a healthy planet, and healthy economies." Martien van Nieuwkoop, Global Director, World Bank

Together with the Just Rural Transition and World Farmers Organization the Agriculture and Food Global Practice organized a partner event on October 15, 2020 on "The Potential, Practice, and Politics of Repurposing Public Agriculture Support for Healthy People, Planet and Economy".

"When it comes to agricultural policy, farmers don't just want to be invited to the dinner table. They want to help prepare the meal." Theo De Jager, President, World Farmers Organization

The Agriculture and Food Global Practice participates in Bureau and Advisory Group meetings whenever possible.

Furthermore, the World Bank supported various workstreams such as the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition, the policy convergence process on Agroecology and Other Innovative Approaches, and OEWG on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program \(GAFSP\)](#) is also strongly engaged with CFS and its stakeholders. GAFSP is a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for which the World Bank serves as host and Trustee. GAFSP was launched by the G20 in response to the 2007-08 food price crisis and its mandate mirrors the CFS vision of bringing together partners through its multi-stakeholder structure to support country-led processes towards fighting hunger and improving food security. GAFSP's Steering Committee consists of donors, governments, civil society, and major development partners, including the Rome-based agencies. GAFSP funds projects in support of public and private sector

investments to fight hunger, malnutrition, and poverty in over 45 low-income countries, by investing in resilient and sustainable agriculture that benefits and empowers smallholder farmers.

Following the CFS 46, GAFSP began an ad-hoc membership role on the CFS Advisory Group to share experiences gained through periodic Calls for Proposals, aligning with and operationalizing CFS's policies and frameworks. This engagement was welcomed by the CFS Chair, Thanawat Tiensin, and GAFSP has been invited to participate in several sessions on the open-ended working groups on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition and the negotiation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

In October 2020, GAFSP Program Head Natasha Hayward delivered a statement at the CFS High-Level Special Event on Global Governance of Food Security and Nutrition, reflecting on the impacts of COVID-19 on global food security and nutrition. Dr. Hayward shared that, to support timely responses to these impacts, GAFSP has allocated nearly \$60 million in additional grant funding to 16 ongoing public sector and producer organization-led projects in low-income and fragile countries.

GAFSP launched a 'Special' Call for Proposals in 2019 that targeted FCV countries based on new evidence regarding the underfunding of agriculture in these countries and the links to fragility and conflict. The Call ultimately allocated \$127.5 million in grants to 9 projects in 12 fragile countries. GAFSP used the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) throughout the Special Call.

The CFS-FFA was used as a reference to formulate the country guidelines that defined how GAFSP would allocate funding. In addition, applicant countries were encouraged to use the CFS-FFA while designing their application in consultation with partners like the multilateral development banks, Rome-based agencies, local civil society, and international civil society organizations. Following the grant allocations, GAFSP shared the guidance notes developed under FAO's Strategic Programme 5 – meant to guide the operationalization of the CFS-FFA— with successful recipient countries and their selected development partners to further promote the use of the CFS-FFA during the project design phase. During the second quarter of 2021, the GAFSP Coordination Unit will undertake a retrospective review of its portfolio and report any information around the application of the CFS-FFA to the CFS Secretariat.

GAFSP's experience applying the CFS-FFA was shared at the CFS 47 plenary in February 2021, at the "Global Thematic Event: CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises", which took stock of the use and application of the CFS-FFA, adopted by CFS in 2015.

In Spring 2021, GAFSP will launch a new Call for Proposals, operationalizing GAFSP's revised operational model –GAFSP 2.0– and is committed to promoting the CFS policy products through this next Call for Proposals.

Question 2

The World Bank's double mandate, to end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity, includes a strong focus on agriculture and food to help raise incomes and improve food security.

Since the beginning of COVID-19 the World Bank Group has been taking broad, fast action to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response, increase disease surveillance, improve public health interventions, and help the private sector continue to operate and sustain jobs. Throughout the pandemic, the World Bank Group is making available up to \$160 billion in financing tailored to the health, economic and social shocks countries are facing, including \$50 billion of IDA resources on grant and highly concessional terms. On April 2, 2020 the first group of projects using the dedicated COVID-19 Fast-Track Facility, amounting to \$1.9 billion and assisting 25 countries, was rolled out. In addition, the World Bank is working worldwide to redeploy resources in existing World Bank financed projects, including through restructuring and use of projects' emergency components as well as contingent financing instruments designed for catastrophes, including pandemics. On May 19, 2020 the Bank Group announced its emergency operations to fight COVID-19 have reached 100 developing countries – home to 70% of the world's population.

As a leading financier of agriculture and food, in 2020, the World Bank facilitated US\$5.8 billion in new IBRD/IDA commitments to agriculture and related sectors providing 7.2 million farmers with agricultural assets and services and supporting 3 million farmers to adopt improved agricultural technology.

The World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice as well as other global practices are engaged as part of their core business in many of the issues addressed by the CFS, including nutrition and food systems; climate change; gender; employment, smallholder farmers and food systems. CFS products and the results of the CFS work undertaken by the Agriculture and Food Global Practice are disseminated internally to colleagues and are included in internal results monitoring. This includes the information on CFS and its activities in the Global Practice's newsletter.

Through its Advisory Services and Analysis, lending, partnership, and SDG-related work, the World Bank has been implementing major CFS activities.

For example, regarding the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT), the World Bank systematically advises the use of VGGT in country-based operations as well as in policy dialogues with countries related to land tenure. As a member of the VGGT Steering Committee, the World Bank participates in FAO-organized meetings in Rome to assess and evaluate the use of the VGGT in CFS member-states. A WB land specialist also joined Just Rural Transition Working Group on Land Tenure to support their work on land.

To achieve key development goals including ending poverty and hunger, boosting shared prosperity through more and better jobs, and better stewarding the world's natural resources, the World Bank Group has been implementing the [Maximizing Finance for Development \(MFD\)](#) approach to crowd-in private investments and optimize the use of scarce public resources. To operationalize the MFD approach in the agriculture and food sector, the World Bank Group promotes principles and guidelines on Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI) including CFS-RAI as key guiding principles.

Question 3

The Agriculture and Food Global Practice remains committed to engage with CFS on substance and dissemination. Our ability to participate in CFS meetings is limited and partially depends on the possibility to remotely connect at reasonable times of the day.

Question 4

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Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Question 1

CGIAR is a member of the CFS Advisory Group, and is represented by the System Organization of the CGIAR (Dr. RD Cooke and Mr A Zandstra), and by Dr James Garrett of the Alliance of CIAT and Bioversity, who represents CGIAR principally on the FSyN work stream. CGIAR comprises 15 international research centres working in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

CGIAR is undergoing an institutional reform to become 'One CGIAR' with a newly integrated leadership and Board in place to support the level of collaboration required for more coherent global and country responses. One CGIAR is the integration of CGIAR's capabilities, knowledge, assets, people, and global presence for a new era of interconnected and partnership-driven research towards achieving the SDGs. Through integrated systems research, One CGIAR and country partners are striving for impact to create sustainable and resilient food, land, and water systems, and meet SDG targets. One CGIAR provides an opportunity for a fresh strategy to shape a stronger, more relevant science agenda for today's dynamic world. The 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy situates CGIAR in the evolving global context, which demands a systems transformation approach for food, land, and water systems. That demand for transformation is evidenced in our HLPE reports on "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030" and "Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition". That priority is an element in our two ongoing policy convergence processes on VG FSyN and Agroecological approaches and other innovations.

The Mission of this CGIAR research strategy is to deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. This strategy outlines five areas of impact, which cover nutrition, poverty, inclusivity, climate adaptation and mitigation, and environmental health, that would benefit from greater research into three key areas. These include the transformation of entire, connected food systems, the development of greater resilience, and the potential of genetic innovation.

Participation in the Bureau/Advisory Group meetings involved regular focus on: 1. the CFS COVID meetings 2. the CFS High-Level Special Event on Food Security and Nutrition, 13-15 October. 3 preparations for CFS 47, and the UN Food Systems Summit. 4 Support to our two on-going policy convergence processes on VG FSyN and Agroecological approaches and other innovations. 5. The

advent of the CFS Gender workstream. These major themes accompanied the regular agendas of the Bureau/Advisory Group meetings. Principal support actions are summarised below.

1. CFS COVID meetings

1.1 CGIAR contributions to the March 2020 meeting referred to IFPRI work in progress on analyses, including modelling of macro- and meso-effects. And noted that although we need to confront the crisis of today, the situation behoves us to take a clear look at the issue of zoonotic diseases – diseases transmitted between animals and people – and how to define and develop safeguards against them. HIV, Ebola, MERS, SARS, and probably COVID-19, all originated in wildlife and jumped to humans. A new zoonotic disease emerges on average every four months. The CGIAR Centre, ILRI, is working on this ‘One health issue’ to join human, animal, and environmental health sciences.

1.2 CFS COVID meeting on 13 May, David Laborde of IFPRI was one of the panel speakers.

1.3 CGIAR Contribution to the ‘options paper’ for the informal WG meeting in June noted that a key guidance document for the CFS is the UN SG’s policy brief ‘the impact of COVID19 on FSN (June 2020). This noted in the executive summary : Investments in COVID-19 response and recovery need to be leveraged by: Transforming Food Systems; Laying the Foundations for a more Inclusive, Green, and Resilient Recovery; and Using the opportunity of the UNFSS for inclusive dialogues and mobilizing multi-stakeholder action.

That CGIAR paper included a summary of ‘Responding to COVID-19: CGIAR’s contribution to global response, recovery and resilience, which covered 3 elements: 1 The role of innovation and research: Food Systems under threat. 2 Stepping up CGIAR’s global contribution. 3 “CGIAR COVID-19 Hub”: A Mechanism for coordinating CGIAR’s research response to COVID-19.

For the July event on ‘Resilient Food Supply Chains and Worker Health During COVID-19’, Jimmy Smith, DG of ILRI was a panel speaker, That followed exchanges with IFPRI, ILRI, the Alliance of CIAT and Bioversity, and the CGIAR programme Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

2. The CFS High-Level Special Event on Food Security and Nutrition, 13-15 October.

Various written and verbal CGIAR statements were associated with the preparation of this event. CGIAR actions during the event:

Day 1: Overview of Global FSN plenary Part 2: Setting the Scene: Evidence and Science, Kundhavi Kadiresan, Managing Director, Global Engagement and Innovation, CGIAR spoke about Research at the heart of transformation.

Day 2: COVID-19 and its impacts on Global FSN plenary Part 3: Panel Discussion: Coping strategies, lessons learned and building resilience to prevent future pandemics , CGIAR panelist was Jimmy Smith, Director-General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The CGIAR AG member intervened in the plenary Q&As, and in several of the side events. CGIAR organised partner event 2: Building Forward Better with Aquatic Foods. The panel moderator was the ex –Chair of the World Fish Board, Dr. Yvonne Pinto and included as a panelist, Dr. Shakuntala

Thilsted Research Program Leader, Value Chains and Nutrition, WorldFish; Member of the Steering Committee (StC) of the HLPE.

Partner event 9: Transformative Approaches to Advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment included as a panellist Dr Steve Cole of CGIAR, IITA, who is also a member of the technical task team (TTT)/OEWG of the CFS Gender workstream.

3 Preparations for CFS 47 and the UN Food Systems Summit.

Various written and verbal CGIAR statements were presented at B/AG meetings for the preparation of these events. These meetings also involved the launch on 25 June 2020 of HLPE Report No.15: "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030". This report, requested by the CFS Plenary in October 2018, will feed into policy debates in CFS 47. Q&A interventions from CGIAR on this useful paper echoed the coherence with CGIAR mission and objectives.

A CFS 47 Side event proposed by the UK and involving the CGIAR has been accepted. This is titled 'Transforming Agricultural Innovation for People, Nature and Climate – evidence insights for COP26 and the UN Food Systems Summit', and involves speakers and panellists from Thailand, FAO, IFAD, WWF, CGIAR and the UK. This side event is relevant to the HLPE reports on 'Food Security and Climate Change', "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030", and to the two on-going CFS policy convergence processes (4.1 and 4.2, below).

The objectives of this event are to 1. Demonstrate how the SDGs cannot be achieved without a transformation in the way we foster and accelerate innovation across food systems. ; 2. Share stories about the different ways to instigate change; 3. Mobilise more ambitious commitments from global leaders to deliver on this vision, aligned to COP26 and the UN Food Systems Summit.

4 Support to our two on going policy convergence processes on VG FSyN and Agroecological approaches and other innovations.

4.1 Policy Convergence Process on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches; CGIAR interventions during seven Zoom calls on: 14 April, 7,14,22, 27 May, 16 June, and 23 July. These calls were followed by written summaries of the CGIAR interventions. Topics covered included: assessment frameworks to be scientifically rigorous and evidence-based; composition of the the Technical Task Team/ Technical Focal Points which included the CGIAR's Alliance of CIAT and Bioversity; categories of innovative approaches; the importance of digital technologies to contribute to transformative approaches for farmers (this referred also to the CFS hosted seminar in February on 'bridging the data divide': Reaching Zero Hunger Requires Better Agricultural Statistics, which also indicated some of the potential of digital technologies but noted that a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguards are needed); role of markets; market failure, incentives; agrochemicals; and the impact of COVID-19; and CGIAR inputs into DRAFT ONE - CFS policy recommendations on Agroecological approaches and other innovations..

4.2 Policy Convergence Process on VG FSyN; Early drafts of the VG were shared with the A4NH centers and partners and other CGIAR centres with a special interest in food systems (e.g., WorldFish, IWMI) for feedback. CGIAR worked with the group of UN agencies organized by UNSCN to develop positions on the text. This included issues such as biofortification and fortification and definitions of

“sustainable healthy diets” and “nutritious foods.” The Chair of the OEWG established a “Friends of the Chair” group, which met for nine half-day sessions in October, November, and December. A second round of negotiations was held December, but there was still no agreed-upon document, so negotiations continue in January 2021. James Garrett and Lynn Brown (HarvestPlus, a programme of A4NH) participated in negotiations on behalf of the CGIAR.

5. The advent of the CFS Gender equality and women’s empowerment workstream.

The CFS AG was informed of CGIAR’s Gender Platform (Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results): CGIAR’s new platform is designed to put gender equality at the forefront of global agricultural research for development. The Platform will transform the way gender research is done, both within and beyond CGIAR, to kick-start a process of genuine change toward greater gender equality and better lives for smallholder farmers everywhere. Launched in January 2020, GENDER builds on a wealth of research and learning generated by the previous CGIAR Gender Network and the Collaborative Platform for Gender Research (2011–2019). Two members of CGIAR were selected by the CFS Co-Chairs to join the OEWG/TTT : the Director of the CGIAR GENDER platform, Nicoline de Haan, and Steven Cole, a Senior Scientist (Gender Specialist) for IITA, based in the Eastern Africa Hub in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Question 2

The use and dissemination of CFS policy products is a mechanism for the implementation of SDGs. SDGs and FSN provide the overall strategic direction, research priorities and results framework for the CGIAR Portfolio. The uptake and impact of CGIAR programmes in the policy sector is the link to CFS outcomes, and the way of promoting appropriate CFS products.

A major channel of CGIAR impact derives from the contribution of its research results and outcomes to policies and investments at national and international levels. The CGIAR Performance Report 2019 (published late 2020) noted that in 2019, the number of policies, legal instruments or investments that had been influenced by CGIAR research increased by 44% compared to the previous year. From a total of 164 policies, 60% (99) showed evidence of research findings being taken up by next users and 36% (59) involved a policy being passed or a law enacted.

Policies in 2019 were linked to five key SDGs: SDG1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG13 (climate action) and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals). In 2019, 74% (122) of achievements under this indicator were policies and strategies, 13% (21) were budgets and investments, 9% (15) were legal instruments, and 4% (six) were curricula influenced by CGIAR work. This involved 283 partnerships, 36% of which were related to research, 22% on delivery, 13% on policy, and 26% on capacity development. And 796,273 people were trained by CGIAR, with 29221 in long-term courses (25% women); and 767,052 (47% women) in short-term courses.

CGIAR contributions to international and national policies, legislation and significant investments were spread over global, regional, multi-country, national and sub-national contributions. The majority were contributions at the national level, which accounted for 69% of contributions. For example, the Action Plan for Implementing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction in Agriculture Sector

under Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) of Vietnam (CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security: CCAFS CRP); Adoption of woreda participatory land use planning in pastoral areas by the Government of Ethiopia (Livestock CRP).

Further examples are indicated in the following ‘success stories.’ A complete list of these outcomes and policy products is given in this CGIAR Performance Report (available on cgiar.org).

Question 3

The CGIAR has increased its representation in Rome through the establishment of a “hub” for the CGIAR System Organization. This enhanced CGIAR System presence in Rome, would operate both as a resource and active contributor to CFS meetings, dialogues and related events. The reform to become ‘One CGIAR’ with an integrated leadership to support more coherent global and country responses (referred to above) will enhance the effectiveness of CGIAR’s interaction with the CFS.

Question 4

Indicative examples related to FSN follow - many more, and in greater depth, are described in the CGIAR Performance Report

1. Climate-Smart Villages in Southeast Asia The Climate-Smart Village (CSV) approach developed by the CGIAR Program CCAFS is now being mainstreamed in national programs and international organization and donor projects throughout Southeast Asia. From an original six, there are now 33 CSVs in the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. CSVs are empowering local communities and helping smallholder farmers become more productive and resilient to climate change. In 2019, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Climate Resilience Network also became engaged in scaling CSVs in Southeast Asia.

2. Climate-resilient, pest- and disease-resistant wheat The CGIAR Research Program on Wheat’s synthetic wheat breeding strategy, which successfully transfers valuable diversity from wild goat grass to modern wheat, is providing farmers with climate-resilient, pest- and disease-resistant wheat. Because CIMMYT contributions are present in nearly half of the wheat sown worldwide, many of the more than 2.5 billion people in 89 countries who consume wheat – including more than 1.2 billion who live on less than USD 2 a day and depend on wheat as their primary staple food – are benefiting from the diversity and resilience derived from ancient wheat relatives, thanks to the synthetic wheat breeding approach.

3. A new gender policy on agriculture in Nigeria In 2019, the Government of Nigeria launched the National Gender Policy in Agriculture, informed by research by the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM). The ultimate goals of this policy are the enhancement of food security and the acceleration of development in Nigeria.

4. Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) was initiated with the aim to double rice production over the period 2008 to 2018. CARD was led by Japan with the support of many institutions including the CGIAR Centre AfricaRice. CARD has contributed to increase production by 103% in 23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

5. Mobile phones combat disease in East Africa. Since 2017, researchers from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) working through the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) have partnered with iCow – a mobile phone agricultural platform – to connect farmers with information on 15 key zoonoses. As of November 2019, approximately 178,000 SMS messages on zoonotic diseases had been sent to 12,643 farmers in East Africa. Strengthening and integrating zoonotic disease surveillance systems is one of the main areas of A4NH’s work on improving human health.

6. MasAgro project in Mexico: 500,000 farmers improve yields, incomes and food security by growing improved maize varieties and practising conservation agriculture on 1.3 million hectares (CGIAR Research Programme on Maize).

7. Biofortified sweetpotato fights poverty and malnutrition for millions In sub-Saharan Africa, around 48% of children under five suffer from vitamin A deficiency, which can lead to weakened immune systems, increased risk of blindness, diarrhoea, and other health problems. While all types of sweet potato are good sources of minerals and vitamins, only orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) has large amounts of the antioxidant beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Between 2010 and 2019, over 29 million individuals (more than 6.2 million households) have been reached directly or indirectly with improved varieties of sweet potato (CGIAR Research Programme on Roots, Tubers and Bananas).

8. Enhancing water policies in Laos. Research and capacity-building efforts by the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) have supported sustainable groundwater development and management in Laos, influencing national policies and implementation programs. As Laos looks to build its irrigation capacity and cope with climate change impacts, a new National Groundwater Action Plan is guiding the country toward sustainable groundwater access.

Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

Question 1

COVID-19 has pushed millions of people into hunger and malnutrition in 2020, and its unprecedented implications will further aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition in 2021. The most affected are the poorest, the most vulnerable, everywhere.

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism stands in solidarity with all those whose lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The heavy toll on human life continues to be profoundly shocking. Several months after the start of the pandemic, it has become evident that the emergence, spread and devastating impacts of the pandemic exacerbate existing and avertable systemic injustices and inequalities, within and between countries. In March 2020, the CSM Coordination Committee adopted the response to the pandemic as its new priority for the Mechanism, given its unprecedented consequences for the rights to health and to adequate food of people and communities from all constituencies and regions, particularly women.

CSM welcomed and supported the CFS Chair's immediate and continued efforts to ensure that the CFS performs its function as a central forum for assessing the impact of the pandemic on food security and nutrition and for discussing effective policy responses to avert the new food crisis. Responding to the call to collect experiences issued by the first HLPE Issues paper on the impact of Covid-19, the CSM engaged in a comprehensive process of gathering experiences, analyses and proposals from the ground. CSM contributed to the CFS activities on Covid-19 in March, April, May and July, with statements, webinars and contributions to the related CFS events and discussion, see <http://www.csm4cfs.org/need-policy-response-covid-19/>

All CSM Coordination Committee members were asked to reach out to the constituencies and regions they facilitate, responding to three questions: 1) What impacts is COVID-19 having on food systems, food security and the right to food? 2) How are communities, solidarity movements, constituencies reacting to these impacts? 3) What proposals are emerging for public policies building more equitable and resilient food systems? The Women's and Youth Working Groups of the CSM made dedicated contributions from the viewpoints of their constituencies.

Hundreds of inputs were gathered from communities and organizations of women, youth, agricultural and food workers, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples, peasants and small-scale family farmers, urban food insecure, consumers, landless, pastoralists, from Africa, Asia, Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America, and processed in three major reports: the [Youth Declaration](#), the [Women's report](#), and the [Global Synthesis Report](#).

These three reports share a joint message which was brought to the CFS Special Event in October 2020. The Covid-19 crisis is a wake-up call for a comprehensive and radical transformation of food systems. The Covid-19-induced food crisis requires a global and coordinated policy response. The UN Committee on World Food Security should play a leading role in developing this response, building on the unparalleled diversified wealth of experiences, perspectives and contributions of its members and participants; the significant analyses of the HLPE; and the numerous pertinent existing CFS policy outcomes.

Question 2

CSM contributed as usual to all CFS workstreams and activities as well as the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group:

- **Workstream on Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition:** The CSM Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition (226 members) participated in and contributed to CFS OEWG Meetings in January, April and May, Formal Negotiations in September and December and informal Friends of the Chair meetings in October and November, and including through many written contributions throughout the year, as documented in detail here: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/working-groups/nutrition/>
- **Workstream on agroecological and other innovative approaches:** The CSM Working Group on Agroecology (143 members) participated in and contributed to all CFS OEWG Meetings, informal consultations and through written contributions to the CFS process, as documented in detail here: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/working-groups/agroecology/>

- **Gender equality and women’s empowerment:** The CSM Women’s Working Group (146 members) participated in and contributed to the development of the workplan and Terms of Reference of the CFS Gender Equality and women’s empowerment process through engagement with the Bureau and Advisory Group and the OEWG Meetings in fall 2020. In addition, the Working Group produced the [Women’s Report on Covid-19](#) which was presented to the CFS Special Event in October. More detailed information can be found here: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/working-groups/women/>
- **Contributions to Youth Workstream:** In 2020, the CSM Youth Working group developed their [comment on the HLPE Youth Report Scope e-consultation](#) and produced the [Youth Declaration on Covid-19](#) which they presented to the CFS Special Event in October. More details can be found here: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/working-groups/youth/>
- **Contributions to HLPE Global Narrative Report:** The CSM WG on Global Food Governance was responsible for developing the [CSM Written contributions to the zero draft consultation](#) on the HLPE Global Narrative Report and coordinated the CSM [Global Synthesis Report](#) on Covid-19 which was presented to the CFS Special Event in October.
- **Contributions to CFS Bureau and Advisory Group Meetings:** the CSM Advisory Group participated in and contributed to all CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings in 2020, see for the detailed contributions the dedicated page: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-contributions-to-the-cfs-agbureau-meeting/>

Question 3

In preparation for the CFS 47 Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action in Protracted Crises, the CSM Working Group on Monitoring and Protracted Crises produced the CSM Report on [Monitoring the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action](#) for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises which was then presented to CFS 47 in February 2021.

This report aims to complement the CFS-led assessment of the implementation of the FFA by providing reflections from civil society organisations on: a) the implementation of and alignment with the FFA (or lack thereof) in policy decisions and actions taken in their home countries experiencing protracted crises; b) key barriers and challenges to use and implementation of the FFA; c) CSO experiences in advocating for the implementation of the FFA; d) coherence between the FFA and pre-existing (binding and non-binding) obligations and commitments of states, to help guide advocacy for the FFA and monitor its implementation; e) recommendations for the creation of a monitoring tool for the FFA; f) recommendations to CFS and its members and participants, along with other actors, in advancing the use of the FFA; g) resources that may help advance the implementation of the FFA.

Question 4

As the CFS Chair recalled during the recent Plenary, the beauty of CFS is rooted in its inclusiveness. Particularly of the most vulnerable, who are also those who feed the world. He also noted that the real work on CFS policy outcomes starts once they are adopted. The use, application, and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes is absolutely critical to the legitimacy of the CFS. This is especially true for our 11 constituencies and communities in all regions, for whom global forums are not a natural habitat.

There would be no motivation for peasants, fisherfolk, agricultural workers, pastoralists, urban food insecure, consumers, Indigenous Peoples, landless, women and youth to take the time necessary and to overcome the many barriers of language, time zone and format to engage in the CFS negotiations if they don't produce global norms that help them to defend their rights, their livelihoods, their territories, on the ground.

This is exactly why they participated so strongly in the reform of the CFS, following 2007-2008 food crisis, and helped to give it the inclusive, human rights-based form that distinguishes it among global fora, recognizing the autonomy and right to self-organization of civil society. The external CFS evaluation 2017 noted that CSM constituencies are in the front line of use and application of CFS outcomes in the field—those outcomes that they judge to be useful. This finding has been corroborated by the experience of the Tenure Guidelines (VGGT) –which has been blessed by a legitimate process leading to quality content that supports communities' defense of their territories, excellent support by the RBAs, adequate funding, and the efforts made by CSM movements to transform the dry UN language into tools that people can use to support themselves in their struggles on the grassroots level. The external evaluation finding has further been confirmed by all of the global monitoring exercises the CFS has held: on the Tenure Guidelines, the Right to Food Guidelines or the CFS recommendations supporting smallholder producers.

However, the gap between the close of a negotiation with positive policy outcomes and the use and uptake at national and regional levels remains significant. In addition, the normative guidance provided by the CFS -in general -contrasts with what is existing on the ground today. The dominant paradigm and powerful economic interests promote industrial modes of food production and agribusiness led value chains which are detrimental to smallholders'livelihoods and their rights.

Throughout the last year, the CFS Special event in October 2020 and now in the CFS 47 Plenary, delegation after delegation spoke to the extreme urgency of responding to the devastating impacts of Covid19 on food security and nutrition and of turning this challenge into an opportunity to correct the deficiencies of food systems that are exacerbating inequalities within and among countries. Covid 19 has highlighted the extreme relevance of many CFS policy outputs to addressing both the immediate impacts of the pandemic and contributing to necessary radical transformation of our food systems.

If the CFS truly wishes to advance the use and application of its policy outcomes, it is necessary to strengthen the linkages to pressing realities in affected constituencies and territories. Some actors in the CFS have closed their eyes and ears to the voices from the ground. The most recent and problematic case has been the experience of the last months of negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

If the CFS, as a collective of members and participants, does not pay special attention to the voices who represent the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, and who are at the same time the most important food producers and providers to humanity, it will not only lose its beauty, it will fail its mission, including the effective use and application of its outcomes. Such a CFS risks losing its relevance, its unique legitimacy, its beating heart, its appeal for constituencies that have faced and fought structural discrimination for generations. A CFS that ignores the people runs the risk of being ignored by the people.

There is an alternative, but only if there is a change in attitude towards the urgent realities of millions who face hunger and malnutrition, death and extreme poverty now; the multiple and growing crises that require bold steps of transformation; and the consciousness that „*all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*“, upholding human rights as the basis of the UN, including the CFS.

Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)

Question 1

CFS High Level Special Event:

- A 73-person delegation of business leaders from over 22 countries joined virtually for the CFS High Level Special Event in October 2020;
- 1 partner event at the CFS High Level Special Event organized by PSM member GAFTA at the CFS High Level Special Event (presentation available [here](#)): The important Role of Trade in Promoting Resilience in our Global Food Systems
 - PSM contributors during the 3-day event:
 - Yunike Phiri Nhari, CEO Zambia Young Emerging Farmers Association (ZAYEFA)
 - Diane Holdorf, Managing Director, Food and Nature, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD),
 - Robert Saik, CEO AGvisorPRO, Canada
 - Further were delivered by PSM members in plenary from panels and further interventions, statements, and reference in Zoom Q&A sessions and through ‘chat’ functions, on a broad selection of topics under the CFS agenda;
 - In lieu of the annual High-Level Dinner the PSM hosted a High-Level Food Systems Dialogue. Over 200 participants attended the High-Level Dialogue, the theme of which was “Food Systems Summit 2021 Action Tracks” on October 13th (report available [here](#))

CFS Workstreams (details below):

- Support to PSM Speakers in other fora including:
 - 6 Regional Consultations (Africa, Asia, Europe, Near East, Latin America, and North America);
 - The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (pre-negotiations, negotiations, and Friends of Chair sessions);
 - The five Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches informal dialogues; and,
 - Gender OEWG and TTT.
- 3 PSM Macro committees supported this workstream engagement:
 - Nutrition/Data
 - SDGs/Agroecological & Other Innovative Approaches/Monitoring
 - Gender/Youth

Bureau and Advisory Group Meetings:

- Bimonthly (6) Advisory Group meetings to advise and guide CFS operational planning for CFS events and workstreams;

PSM Communications with Members and Member States:

- 4 PSM Quarterly Meetings including the AGM;
- 12 newsletters distributed for members throughout the year; and
- 2 newsletters distributed to Member States throughout the year, including a special video message newsletter.

PSM Annual General Meeting (AGM), June 17, 2020

The PSM AGM brought together 68 business leaders from throughout the agri-food value chain and across the globe. The AGM took place through an online Zoom conference call.

Key outcomes included:

- The PSM delegation met with CFS Secretary Mr. Chris Hegadorn and the Chair of CFS, Mr. Thanawat Tiensin;
- The PSM delegation met with Deputy to the Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit Dr. Martin Frick.

PSM's CFS Workstream Engagement

(i) Nutrition

- PSM attended 3 in-person and virtual Open-Ended Working Group Meetings in preparation for the finalisation of the text prior to the publication of the Negotiation draft;
- PSM members attended all the virtual negotiations sessions in 2020 and the virtual Friends of the Chair sessions, providing full input and suggestions for improvements to the negotiated text, and;
- Following the meeting between the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and PSM, a consultation with the joint FAO/WHO secretariat was held with PSM on 27 May to discuss the Midterm Review of the UN Decade on Nutrition, including private sector achievements.

(ii) Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

- PSM attended the CFS open meetings on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches that took place to set the stage for the preparation of the Zero Draft CFS *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative approaches*. The PSM presented its positions based on the agreed comments of the PSM 2nd macro-committee;
- PSM took part in the five informal group discussions held to review the various, differing positions on the draft for negotiations with PSM members making specific interventions during the discussions. PSM also approved a Perspectives paper on the topic, developed by members, and provided this to the CFS Secretariat;
- PSM members continued review of the draft text for negotiations in preparation for negotiations commencing in March 2021.

(iii) HLPE

The PSM were present and commented on High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) at the launch of the report: “Building a global narrative towards 2030”, June 17th and submitted to the prior drafts.

(iv) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

The PSM Gender position paper was updated in preparation for this workstream, the ToR of the workstream were discussed and agreed by PSM members.

(v) Monitoring the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

Throughout 2020 PSM continued its participation in the Technical Task Team (TTT) to finalize the Report for CFS 47 (February 2021) to report on progress and utilization of the CFS Framework, bringing forward PSM experiences where appropriate.

(vi) CFS COVID-19 Special Event

The PSM participated in the CFS open event on the Resilient Food Supply Chain and Workers’ Health during COVID-19, the first event of a series of CFS events on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition. The PSM provided ground-level context on strengthening food safety and resilient supply chains while protecting workers’ rights and health. The PSM developed and

approved a [Position Paper](#). On behalf of the PSM, Mr A.G. Kawamura contributed to the CFS event on COVID-19 “Building resilient food systems”.

Question 2

PSM refers to and calls for the use of CFS products in PSM speeches and presentations, this has particularly been the case in the preparatory work for the Food Systems Summit where we have highlighted the role of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) and PSM membership in the negotiations for that CFS product illustrates the interest of members in that work.

PSM also advocated for the inclusion of the CFS Chair as either a FSS Champion and Advisory Group Member.

The PSM has recently developed a PSM position paper for the Food Systems Summit which promotes CFS major products including the VGGT, RAI, and FFA. This advocacy for CFS will continue as PSM is engaged with each of the Action Tracks. In the game-changer surveys, uptake of the major products of CFS was submitted to the action tracks.

In 2020 the PSM developed a series of three High Level Dialogues to support the FSS preparatory work with a focus on the themes of Finance, Innovation, and Gender to be held in the first months of 2021 which will provide further opportunity for dissemination of CFS products.

PSM involvement in the [OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains](#) work programme in 2020 has also allowed the discussion and use of the CFS RAI guidelines.

Question 3

PSM suggestions to enhance interaction and increase knowledge of CFS work at country level include:

- The FSS Dialogues provide an opportunity to focus both on multistakeholder engagement and also for the dissemination of CFS products. This requires that CFS members post and exchange TIMELY information of such events and a dedicated link on the CFS website for FSS Dialogue details;
- Side Events are widely acknowledged as good examples of CFS membership interaction. As collective Zoom proficiency increases there is scope to develop further types of side event activities. These could be, with CFS member leadership, at regional/sub-regional level and encourage panellists and topics that reflect context specific issues. This would both allow all CFS members, mechanisms and participants to share local knowledge, ideas and the opportunities for CFS product application, as well as discuss the constraints;
- PSM has noted the opportunities both for constituency engagement and CFS events through the biannual FAO Regional Conferences. It would be useful for the CFS Secretariat to review with RBAs the opportunities at any relevant regional events for similar engagement both allowing for the Mechanisms to encourage participation but also for Members outside the specific region on the basis of South-South dialogue. This could be both thematic events and during country strategic planning consultations.

Question 4

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