

CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS on STRENGTHENING FSN DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS TOOLS for FOOD SECURITY and NUTRITION

DRAFT OUTLINE (31 January 2023)

CSIPM comments (14 February 2023)

1. Definition, Rationale and Scope

This section will give a definition of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) data – at a minimum, what is meant by FSN data in the context of this document. The definition will recognize that not only relevant for FSN is data providing information on the dimensions of food security and nutrition (availability, access, utilization, stability, agency and sustainability), but also, for example, data on the determinants or drivers of FSN, or data on the dimensions of sustainability of food systems. The definition will equally integrate different kinds of data, well beyond the strictly statistical data.

In this section the fundamental role of family farmers and other smallholders in the data production and collection processes will be acknowledged, in coherence with agency as a dimension of FSN. It will make clear the Human-Rights framework of FSN data (Right to Food and Nutrition) where FSN data should benefit above all to smallholders and rural workers, their livelihoods and work conditions.

This section will underscore the scope for the document, which, in line with the approved CFS MYPoW, is to provide specific and actionable voluntary policy recommendations for strengthening the capacities of actors involved in the collection, analysis, dissemination and the use of FSN data.

This section will also provide a rationale for this document, including an overview of the status of the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data. The overview of the status will highlight the following aspects:

1. Establishing or strengthening FSN data governance is recognized as essential to base the other following aspects. It will promote a good use of data for improving food security and nutrition while preventing market concentration, increase of inequities, and conflicts of interests; guaranteeing precaution and regulating data ownership; in general words mitigating the risks associated with the lack of a formal data governance framework on FSN data. **This was the last point**

2. Extensive FSN data already exists – at least to measure some dimensions of food (in)security – although they exhibit varying degrees of quality and granularity, and they are either inaccessible or not properly utilized for decision-making on FSN.
3. At the same time, there are critical gaps on FSN data (e.g. geographical/thematic/sectorial). These need to be addressed, in the framework of a strict data governance system, by increasing and sustaining investments while re-purposing current data-related investments in a more strategic manner.
4. There is an urgent need to better coordinate among FSN data producers and users, in order to harmonize, standardize and improve the quality of FSN data and statistics, while creating synergy and avoiding duplication of efforts.
5. Particularly resource poor countries need financial and technical support, and capacity development, to improve their capacities in generation of quality data, analysis and use for decision-making.

Establish or Strengthen FSN data governance at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national level) – This was chapter 6

This section will provide specific recommendations on how Governments, in their role of primary responsibility, in collaboration with all actors involved, shall establish, or strengthen, participatory and inclusive governance systems for FSN data, at all levels, anchored in human rights, as well as CARE and FAIR principles, that would-will enhance inclusivity, openness and transparency of data, while preventing market concentration generated from business of FSN data as well as potential conflicts of interests of data actors combining data services and profit, increased by the power inequalities of actors and the increasing use of data and addressing the risks associated with loss of data privacy and confidentiality, ~~and potential conflicts of interests brought by the increasing use of data~~. Such FSN data governance systems -through the establishment of legal tools and regulations can ensure that collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data is strictly oriented to addressing food insecurity prioritizing the common good over private benefits. The problematic ownership
~~Establishing or strengthening FSN data governance would promote better use of data for improving food security and nutrition while mitigating the risks associated with the lack of a formal data governance framework on FSN data. of data related tools and infrastructure by tech and agribusiness companies leading to power imbalances, inequities, and biases must also be addressed in this section.~~

Create greater awareness and greater demand and define limits for better use of FSN data in decision- making

This section will provide recommendations on how to promote decision-making for FSN, ~~which is better informed~~out of a better use of existing ~~by~~ FSN data and evidence. Specifically, this section will give guidance on how to create greater awareness, data literacy and skills to use existing data and increased demand of FSN data, ~~—minding ethical and environmental impacts of the processes and tools for data recollection~~ for the use of FSN data in decision-making, among governments, policy-makers, ~~—and donors~~ and rural communities. Data literacy would develop stakeholders' understandings of data's uncertainties, biases, and limitations, alongside its potentials and uses and will enable communities' participation in defining data gaps, data collection and analysis; it will enable communities to provide their consent on data extraction and use, in alignment with FPIC principles, and validate data for designing supportive public policies. Human-Rights implementation closely depends on data participatory processes. It will also promote a broader -data and information analytic culture among decision-makers at all levels based on the analysis of the structural conditions that would enhance FSN. Lastly, this section will encourage dialogue between data producers and data users, acknowledging the deep differences in capacities and infrastructures between actors, in order to produce a collective prioritization on FSN data needs, including identification of gaps on FSN data as with the right-holders, family farmers and other food producing actors and solutions to address the most urgent data gaps and needs. This section will also provide recommendations on the necessary regulation, limits and assessments to frame FSN data collection, generation, analysis and use to ensure a Right-based framework, and a limitation of the use to FSN objectives only.

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Increase and sustain investments in the collection of essential data for FSN, while optimizing and, if needed, repurposing current data-related investments prioritizing public benefit.

This section will provide specific recommendations on the need for all actors to invest more, better and sustainably in FSN data, acknowledging that private and public actors have diverse investment capacities and that such differences should not translate on the monopolization of data recollection and data for FSN in the hands of powerful investors and technological entities. It will call for the strategic repurposing of current funding and leveraging of existing financing mechanisms towards an enhanced and Right-based framework for data collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data

that will contribute toward effective FSN decision-making and policies. Finally, it will advocate for a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach, [including social sciences](#), in filling FSN data gaps, recognizing that data is increasingly being produced by different stakeholders, at different levels. At the same time, different methods and types of data are being used on a variety of aspects of data collection, analysis and dissemination all of which are relevant to improving FSN data for effective decision-making.

Increasing collaboration between all parties to harmonize, improve quality and maximize the sharing of FSN data

This section will provide recommendations for all parties (referring to governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector) on how to promote effective and inclusive coordination and collaboration to enhance the quality and quantity of FSN data that is available, [following what is established in the Governance Systems anchored in human rights. Specially important is the role of family farming and agroecology movements for guiding the optimization and sharing of FSN data](#). Specifically, this section will provide guidance on how to improve standardization, coherence, interoperability and harmonization of FSN data; [establishing guardrails to the control of data by the few actors that have the possibility of developing tools, setting infrastructures and hold most of the analytical capacity](#). Also, provide guidance on how to increase integration and use of FSN data from multiple sectors and sources through multi-sectoral information systems; and how to [ensure right-holders' access to maximize the quantity of FSN data that is available through data sharing, taking into account data sovereignty, privacy, and collective decisions of communities](#) while highlighting existing initiatives underway, [in coherence with the CARE and FAIR Principles](#).

Invest in human capital and in the needed infrastructures and technologies to ensure the sustainability of data production cycle and analytic capacity, by assessing the processes involved in data recollection

This section will provide specific recommendations on the need for all actors to invest more, better and sustainably in all phases of the data production cycle (production, storage and processing) and in strengthening the analytical [and assessment](#) capacities of data producers and users. First, it will give guidance on how to strengthen both hard and soft digital infrastructures for data collection, storage, processing and analysis, in a way that [guarantee the respect of Human Rights and their use for the public good / FSN objectives and](#) improves the quality and timeliness of the data produced. [This section](#)

will highlight the important power imbalances existing in data related infrastructures and technologies and the risks related to this situation in terms of data inequalities. Capacity building oriented to the evaluation of the impacts of digitalization all along the food systems is essential, including the social and environmental impacts of digitalization processes (deployment of infrastructures and manufacturing of tools).Second, it will provide specific recommendations on how to improve FSN data literacy and education on FSN data to enhance capabilities of information users and the assessment of data appropriateness from all actors, and especially rights-holders, at all levels across generations and how to strengthen the capacities of national institutions. Moreover, how to reinforce the analytical capacities of data producers and data users. Third, it will call for promoting the use of resource-saving data collection technologies and approaches - in the respect of Human Rights- for filling data gaps, but also for reducing the cost and environmental impacts of producing existing data. This section will also emphasize the need of public investments in participatory processes -where local communities are main agent- to collectively collect, analyze and use data for territorial benefit.

Promotion, Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Evaluation

In accordance with the voluntary nature of these policy recommendations, all FSN stakeholders - and primarily governments - are asked to take the responsibility for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This section will recommend ways of supporting the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these policy recommendations. In addition, ways of promoting accountability of each actor to all relevant stakeholders will be recommended.