

Final report of the Meeting of the Advisory Panel, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 11-12 June 2018

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is organizing *The International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers: Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* from 21 to 23 November 2018 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. An FAO Task Force, composed of representatives from different units across FAO, serves as the executing body of the Symposium. An external Advisory Panel (AP) has been established to provide independent advice and guidance to the Task Force. The AP meeting took place in Rome on 11-12 June 2018, co-chaired by Viviana Palmieri (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Costa Rica) and Shadrack Moephuli (Agricultural Research Council, South Africa). The final meeting agenda is provided in Annex 1. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2.

Session I: Background and general overview of the Symposium

1. Welcome, opening remarks and nomination of meeting co-chairs

Hans Dreyer, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division in the FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, welcomed the Panel members to the meeting on behalf of Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources. He acknowledged the challenges of tackling food security, malnutrition and poverty in a context of ongoing population growth and unprecedented challenges, requiring a renewed and re-imagined focus on agricultural development. Given that family farming is the predominant form of agriculture and main food producer in developed and developing countries, he stressed that collective actions at all levels need to be taken to provide them with an enabling environment for innovation and adequate support to realize their productive potential, contributing to food security and sustainable development.

With the United Nations Decade of Family Farming fast approaching, FAO is, through the Symposium, providing a direct and firm response to member countries' enthusiastic support to play a strong catalytic and supporting role to empower family farming through innovation. As a dynamic multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary forum, the Symposium is aimed at understanding the socio-economic potential of innovation, its key drivers and processes, and impact pathways through exchange of knowledge, information and practices, review of enabling policies and platforms, and development of potential partnerships and action plans.

Hans concluded by expressing his desire to see the Symposium as a unique gathering of actors of the agriculture innovation nexus to not only celebrate innovation and exchange knowledge but to also initiate a greater movement that will focus on enabling and strengthening family farmers' innovation capacity. He thanked the participants for coming to Rome to brainstorm, exchange ideas and provide advice and guidance to FAO. He wished them well in their deliberations to turn the Symposium into a landmark event that will pave the way for more coordinated and targeted interventions to unlock the potential of agricultural innovation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Brief self-introduction by meeting participants¹

The participants briefly introduced themselves, as well as their expectations and thoughts about the Symposium. These included an appreciation that the definition of innovation used by FAO for the

¹ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP meeting participants had received in advance a document with the list of participants at the Advisory Panel meeting.

Symposium is sufficiently broad, going beyond technology and including use of social, organizational and institutional innovation, and that the Symposium should also encompass the value chain approach. Participants mentioned a number of specific topics that should be included in the event, such as resilience to climate change, knowledge management, value-addition activities, farmers' knowledge, skill sharing, youth participation, financial inclusion and market access. After this round of introductions, Shadrack Moephuli and Viviana Palmieri were nominated as meeting co-chairs and Viviana led the proceedings for the rest of the morning session.

3. Background and objectives of the Symposium

Samy Gaiji, Head of the FAO Research and Extension Unit and Chair of the FAO Task Force for the Symposium, noted that the Symposium was part of a continuum, going from the 2014 FAO State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) publication to the 2016 Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), which encouraged FAO to be more active regarding agricultural innovation. The importance of innovation had also emerged clearly in a series of global and regional meetings that FAO had organized recently on both agroecology and agricultural biotechnologies. The Symposium's focus on agricultural innovation for family farmers is especially relevant given the upcoming UN Decade on Family Farming (2019-2028).

From the Concept Note, he noted that the Objectives of the Symposium were to:

1. Serve as a global knowledge and partnership platform to better understand the potential of innovation in agriculture to address the SDGs, with a special focus on supporting smallholder and family farmers;
2. Increase understanding of the drivers of innovation and the main constraints;
3. Propose processes, pathways and interventions needed to unlock the potential of innovation in agriculture and scaling up inclusive innovations;
4. Celebrate inspiring success stories of innovation and innovators in sustainable agriculture;
5. Act as a catalyst for boosting partnerships as well as public and private investments to foster and scale up agricultural innovation.

And that its expected outputs were:

1. Support for a Call for Action to unlock the potential of agricultural innovation for family farmers to achieve the SDGs;
2. Identification of priority intervention areas where key stakeholders, including FAO, can support countries to unlock the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the SDGs
3. Identification of potential actions and strategies for scaling up successful innovations to meet the needs of millions of family farmers
4. Electronic proceedings of the Symposium with key recommendations for action.

3.1 The International Year of Family Farming (2014) and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)

Francesco Pierri, Head of the Advocacy Unit in the FAO Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, provided background on the 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). The IYFF had been extremely successful. It raised the profile of family farming and smallholder farming because of their significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. The goal of the IYFF was to reposition family farming at the center of agricultural, environmental and social policies of national agendas by identifying gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development. The legacy document of the IYFF documented the many substantial achievements made during the IYFF.

He noted that family farming is very diverse, varying between countries and regions. However, a definition of family farming for which there was consensus had been developed for the IYFF. The

definition stated that “*family farming (which includes all family-based agricultural activities) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labor, including both women’s and men’s. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions*”.

He said that the UN General Assembly had recently proclaimed 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming², recognizing the success of the IYFF. The resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly showed clearly the link of family farming to the SDGs and it specifically mentioned the important role of innovation. He concluded by saying FAO is now ready to fully support implementation of the Decade, an opportunity to advance public policies that allow the development of family farming and progress towards the SDGs, and that this Symposium was an ideal preparatory event for the Decade.

3.2 Innovation funding mechanisms

One of the five Objectives of the Symposium is to “act as a catalyst for boosting partnerships as well as public and private investments to foster and scale up agricultural innovation”. Two potential vehicles for such investments that might be launched at the Symposium were briefly presented to the participants.

3.2.1 Diagnostic Trust Fund

Samy Gaiji presented the envisioned Diagnostic Trust Fund. He first gave some context on how agricultural innovation strategies must consider the current complex policy and institutional environment for agriculture, the greater pluralism of actors engaged in decision-making and the need to facilitate and coordinate the activities of all stakeholders involved. Following the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), FAO’s four main areas of work for strengthening agricultural innovation systems are: promoting an enabling environment for agricultural innovation (e.g. policy, coordination, knowledge sharing); strengthening capacity to innovate at country level; promoting public-private partnership; and advocating and monitoring improved investments and returns from agricultural innovation systems. With this context in mind, FAO is conceptualizing a Diagnostic Trust Fund, which will provide funding for countries to undertake in-depth assessment of their agriculture innovation systems, its key actors and inter-dependencies (preferably by priority value chains).

The target for the Trust Fund’s total budget is \$13-15 million and it will focus on 30-40 countries, mainly least developed countries, with an estimated cost of \$300-400K and 1.5 year duration per country. It is expected that the Diagnostic Trust Fund will be launched at the Symposium, providing the foundation for a comprehensive action plan (e.g. policy-makers, investors, researchers, private sector, extension services, family farmer organizations etc.) and a basis for monitoring over time, taking into account the desired future of the rural communities themselves and shaping the innovations that they seek and are prepared to use.

3.2.2 Innovation Transfer Trust Fund

Roberto Ridolfi, Special Adviser to the FAO Deputy Director-General for Programmes, presented the Innovation Transfer Trust Fund (ITTF). He explained that there have been extensive investments in research but there now needs to be a shift from research to making successful innovations more accessible to smallholders, which is what the ITTF will aim to do. In his experience, investments in research often showed little impact although it is crucial that these investments benefit smallholders directly. Scaling up is central. If a successful innovation is taken up by 100 farmers, this is good; if taken up by 10 million farmers, this is obviously much better. The innovation per se might not be new, but it is new for the farmers who are using it for the first time. The ITTF is being developed by FAO in close collaboration

² Resolution 72/239 adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 72nd Session on 20 December 2017
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/239

with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and it is hoped to also involve the third Rome-based UN agency, the World Food Programme. Malu Ndavi, Lead Technical Specialist in the Programme Management Department at IFAD, added to Roberto's comments, agreeing that how to achieve impacts is key, concurring that the ITTF is not about research but about the transfer of innovation to smallholder farmers. He concluded that there will be a follow-up discussion with FAO on these matters. Roberto explained that the FAO Deputy-Director General, Ms. Semedo, will present the ITTF to several member country representatives at FAO Headquarters in June to gauge country interest.

The floor was then opened for discussion. The AP agreed that achieving impacts of innovation is essential. Points made by the AP members were that the success of the ITTF should not only be reflected in the numbers of smallholders involved but also in the quality of these impacts and how well-defined and sustainable the impacts are; that when talking about innovation transfer, social innovation should also be included; and that the term 'innovation transfer' could be problematic as it suggests a linear, top-down flow to the family farmers. The need to involve other stakeholders, in addition to governments, was also expressed. It was suggested to have the fund co-owned/co-managed by the private sector and that farmer organizations should also be involved in the decision-making. Irrespective of the funding, market access and the right partners are key to having impact on the ground. Roberto thanked the AP for all the inputs, confirming that the ITTF is a work in progress and agreed that rather than 'transfer' its focus could be described as impact and extension.

3.3 The State of Food and Agriculture 2014: Innovation in Family Farming

Jakob Skoet, Economist in the FAO Economic and Social Development Department, presented the key results of FAO's State of Food and Agriculture 2014 publication³ which was released during the IYFF and focused on innovation in family farming. Beginning with its overarching message, he highlighted that innovation in family farming is key to achieving food security, reducing poverty and managing resources sustainably. The report contains two key messages: firstly, that family farming is the predominant form of farming in the world and secondly, that innovation is key for family farmers to meet their challenges. He explained that the elements of an agricultural innovation system that supports smaller family farms contain three major components:

- An enabling environment. Access to markets can provide a strong incentive to innovate.
- Inclusive agricultural research and advisory services that address the needs of family farms. Countries need to invest more in agricultural research and in rural advisory services.
- An innovation system must build on networks and linkages between the various actors in the innovation system: Agricultural producers' organizations and other community-based organizations can help link farmers to markets, to researchers and rural advisory services and ensure farmers an often much-needed voice in policy-making.

3.4 Considerations on agricultural innovation at the 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 2016

Robert Guei, Secretary of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in the FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, began by explaining that COAG is one of FAO's Governing Bodies which generally meets every two years, providing overall policy, regulatory and programmatic guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management. It is a technical committee whose membership consists of 128 FAO member countries and one member organization (the European Union).

The legitimacy for FAO to hold the Symposium derives from COAG. At its 25th Session, COAG reviewed several key topics, including 'Achieving sustainable rural development through agricultural

³ The State of Food and Agriculture 2014: Innovation in family farming <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2014/en/>

innovation⁴. The document that was considered by COAG identified a number of main agricultural innovation systems (AIS) issues as current drivers for change, including agroecological innovations, agricultural biotechnologies, green job creation, climate-smart agriculture, gender considerations, technology dissemination and capacity development, and resourcing challenges. The document also outlined key areas of intervention that are identified as the core of FAO's strategy on strengthening agricultural innovation systems, including:

- i. Promoting an enabling environment for agricultural innovation (e.g. policy, coordination, knowledge sharing).
- ii. Strengthening capacity to innovate at country level.
- iii. Promoting public-private partnership.
- iv. Advocating and monitoring improved investments and returns from AIS.

After considering and discussing this document, COAG⁵:

- i. Recognized the importance of agricultural innovation in achieving sustainable rural development, particularly for addressing the challenges of employment for youth and rural women to alleviate rural poverty. COAG recognized the need for an enabling environment at country level for success.
- ii. Encouraged FAO to continue its work on AIS in accordance with the key areas identified in the document and to further integrate it into its Strategic Framework.
- iii. Recommended that FAO play a greater role in assisting countries and local communities in the development of their AIS strategies through comprehensive diagnosis and needs assessments in partnership with farmers, academia, private sector, research, extension institutions.

3.5 Symposium concept note and funding⁶

Samy Gaiji noted that most of the key aspects of the Symposium's concept note had already been covered in the morning discussions and so he proceeded to give an overview of the funding situation for the Symposium. He informed the AP that funding for the Symposium came from FAO, the Canadian Government, European Commission (through the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project), the French Government, IFAD and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Negotiations regarding funding were still ongoing with The Netherlands Government and USDA. About half of the funding will be allocated for the travel of participants to the Symposium. He concluded that the Symposium has sufficient funding and that this is a positive signal to the Panel to shape the Symposium without being concerned about funding constraints. The AP welcomed all funding and noted that donors should not impose their views regarding the direction and content of the Symposium.

3.6 Working definition of agricultural innovation⁷

John Ruane, Senior Consultant in the FAO Research and Extension Unit, provided an overview of the working definition of agricultural innovation which will be used by FAO for the Symposium. He noted that many definitions exist, so it was essential for the sake of clarity for FAO to provide a working definition for the Symposium. Building on its work with SOFA and other initiatives, the working definition of agricultural innovation which FAO will use is: *"Agricultural innovation is the process whereby individuals or organizations bring new or existing products, processes or ways of organization into use for the first time in a specific context in order to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, resilience to shocks or environmental sustainability and thereby contribute to food security and nutrition, economic development or sustainable natural resource management."*

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr236e.pdf>

⁵ Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 26-30 September 2016) <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr949e.pdf>

⁶ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members had received in advance the 4-page concept note for the Symposium <http://www.fao.org/3/BU658en/bu658en.pdf>

⁷ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members had received in advance a two-page note on the working definition of agricultural innovation used by FAO for the Symposium.

He noted that novelty is a key aspect of the definition. Products, processes or ways of organization are considered innovations when they are brought into use by individuals or organizations for the first time. The products, processes or ways of organization may already exist elsewhere but the key issue is that they are being used by these individuals or organizations for the first time. He also noted that innovation is not restricted to the use of technologies but also includes social, organizational, institutional or marketing processes or arrangements. It also encompasses innovation in the different production systems and value chains of the crop, livestock, forestry, fishery and agro-industry sectors.

He further noted that another key characteristic of the definition is that the products, processes or ways of organization only become innovations when they are actually used. Also, the knowledge involved in innovation may come from one or a combination of different sources - from farmers and other individuals; formal scientific research institutions or other kinds of public or private organizations, including civil society organizations. Furthermore, while innovations are expected to be beneficial, this may not be the case for some or all the individuals or organizations who use them, so there is therefore an element of risk involved in innovation which needs to be considered.

The floor was then opened for comments. The Panel appreciated the definition, acknowledging that it takes into consideration the distinct aspects of agricultural innovation, along the entire value chain, including social innovation. One AP member underlined the role of innovation for development and informed the Panel about the recently-endorsed Whistler Principles to Accelerate Innovation for Development Impact⁸, suggesting they be circulated to the Panel. It was also observed that the term ‘agricultural innovation system’ was not mentioned in an explicit way in the definition. John clarified that the term was embedded throughout the text in the 2-page note and that experience in FAO had shown that for communication purposes the term “agricultural innovation” was often preferred over “agricultural innovation system”, as the latter concept was not always fully understood even if it was referenced in various FAO publications such as SOFA 2014. The AP acknowledged that their subsequent discussions on the content and structure of the Symposium would be built taking the working definition into account.

4. Governance of the Symposium: The roles of the FAO Task Force and the (non-FAO) Advisory Panel⁹

John Ruane explained that an FAO Task Force had been established for the Symposium, composed of 19 people nominated by different FAO units. It is chaired by Samy Gaiji, working under the overall guidance and coordination of one of the three FAO Deputy Director-Generals, i.e. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources. The Task Force is responsible for the development and delivery of the Symposium.

The role of the (non-FAO) Advisory Panel is to provide strategic advice and guidance to the FAO Task Force about the Symposium. Specifically, this will include providing advice and guidance on:

- The structure of the Symposium (e.g. tentative agenda and main messages).
- The list of topics to be discussed at the Symposium (e.g. distribution of plenary and parallel sessions, identification of key topics, expectations from each session etc.).
- Names of potential keynote speakers, presenters, panelists and chairs for the different sessions.
- Organization of the high-level segment and the Innovation Fair

Members sit on the Advisory Panel in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their respective governments or organizations. John informed the group that all the people (22) that were invited in May to be on the Advisory Panel had accepted the invitation. Of the 22 members, 14 were able

⁸ The Whistler Principles to Accelerate Innovation for Development Impact were endorsed by the G7 ministers responsible for development cooperation who met in Whistler, Canada from 31 May to 2 June 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/investing-growth-works-everyone/g7-ministerial-meeting/g7-development-ministers-meeting-chairs-summary/whistler-principles-accelerate-innovation-development-impact/>

⁹ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members had received in advance the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Panel.

to travel to Rome for the AP meeting and eight were not. The FAO Task Force had discussed this eventuality and agreed that, if unable to attend the meeting, an AP member could nominate someone to represent them. After the AP meeting, the main contact for FAO would again be the AP members rather than their representatives. Four of the eight AP members who could not attend nominated someone to represent them. In total, 18 participants (14 AP members and four representatives) attended the meeting.

5. Participation in the Symposium

John Ruane introduced this item. He said that participants at the Symposium would come from four main categories:

- Representatives of all FAO Members, i.e. 194 member countries, one member organization and two associate members, would be invited
- Representatives of relevant invited inter-governmental organizations (UN and non-UN)
- Invited speakers, chairs or panellists
- Representatives of non-state actors (NSAs), classified in four groups, i.e. representatives of private sector entities (including philanthropic foundations); civil society organizations (CSOs); research/academic institutions; producer organizations, including family farmer organizations, and cooperatives.

He then handed over to Francesco Pierri to talk about the NSAs. Francesco confirmed that FAO would soon open a Call on the FAO website for representatives of NSAs to ‘express an interest’ in participating in the Symposium and that a total of 50 places each will be allocated to the four groups of NSAs. He said they expected there would be large demand and that criteria for selection of the NSAs to participate will be prepared for each of the four groups, including the relevance of their work to the Symposium, regional and gender balance.

With 200 places allocated to representatives of NSAs, added to estimates of 50 speakers/chairs, 20 representatives of inter-governmental organizations and 230 representatives from governments, the total number of estimated participants expected at the Symposium might be 500 people. John noted there had been good success with securing funding and that about half of the funding would be used for participation, covering the travel and expenses of about 100 participants.

The floor was opened for comments and the Panel expressed some concerns regarding the timing as there were just over five months remaining until the Symposium. Francesco confirmed that the Call for the representatives of NSAs to express an interest in participating would be opened soon.

6. Overall structure of the Symposium¹⁰

Samy Gaiji, presented this item, noting that the Symposium will be held over two and a half days at FAO Headquarters in Rome, beginning on the morning of Wednesday 21 November and finishing at lunchtime on Friday 23 November 2018. He explained that the accompanying two-page note with a draft structure of nine plenary and six parallel sessions was indicative and that it could be used as the basis for discussion. He noted that the concept note for the Symposium indicated that it is expected that the programme will comprise:

- A high-level segment
- A series of technical sessions on strategic themes
- An Innovation Fair focusing on examples of successful innovations that are used by family farmers
- A special session dedicated to young innovators

¹⁰ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members had received in advance a two-page note on overall structure of the Symposium

Referring to the Symposium's draft structure, Samy said the Panel would be expected to provide guidance on issues such as whether to have the high-level segment at the beginning or end of the Symposium; whether the number of plenary or parallel sessions should be increased or decreased; and the main topics and the profiles of potential speakers for different sessions. He emphasized that as much time as possible needs to be given for participants to interact with one another.

The floor was then opened for discussion. Panel members asked for clarification on organization of the Innovation Fair and some initial suggestions were made to reduce the number of plenary sessions and to consider having the high-level segment at the beginning of the Symposium. The Advisory Panel meeting co-chairs closed the morning session, noting that further detailed discussions on all such items would take place in subsequent sessions.

Session II: Main topics for the Symposium

7. Identification of the main topics for the Symposium

Whereas in the morning session the FAO Secretariat provided participants with an overview of all relevant background information about the Symposium, the afternoon session of 11 June involved the Advisory Panel participating in a very active and open brainstorming session chaired by Shadrack Moephuli. During the session, the FAO Secretariat assisted the AP by aiming to capture the many suggestions coming from the AP members, typing and revising text on a computer connected to screens which were visible to the participants for further comments.

Results from the AP's three-hour brainstorming session, were that:

a) The expected outcomes from the Symposium would be:

1. Increased understanding of the potential of innovation for SDGs
2. Increased understanding of the needs of family farmers
3. Exchange of knowledge / between actors
4. Agreeing on the concept of empowerment to innovate
5. Priority actions/strategies/interventions identified (for all stakeholders)
6. Strengthen existing platforms/initiatives and build/facilitate networks of partnerships
7. Priority investments identified
8. Elevating the game/Raising expectations

b) Thirteen main topics for the Symposium would be:

1. Understanding innovation(s)/Models of innovation/Examples of successes
 - Understanding the definition of innovation; range of innovations available to family farmers and reasons for failures of innovation
 - Total factor productivity, value chains, postharvest and processing technologies, loss reduction, storage and transport technologies, access to markets, future in innovation, social value of innovation and its contribution to improving the quality of life of family farmers
2. Raising awareness about agricultural innovation/Knowledge and learning from experiences
3. Policy environment/Governance of agricultural innovation systems – focusing on family farmers
4. Emerging technologies (e.g. ICTs) (e.g. weather information, surveillance [e.g. Fall Armyworm], linkage to markets, etc.)
5. Diagnostic of the national agricultural innovation systems – leading to strategies
6. Promoting access to innovation/Reduce risks
7. Capacity development/Capacity to innovate (e.g. training)
8. Registration/Local/Traditional knowledge, How to protect/promote (e.g. open source)
9. Empowering family farmers to gain autonomy

10. Brokering, including extension
11. Demand-driven research/Technology and transfer/Governance of the research agenda including intellectual property rights etc.
12. Enabling environment/Infrastructure/Commercialization/Link to markets/Sustainability; Insurance.
13. Investments/Finance to develop capacities/Innovative instruments/Start-up

The first four of the 13 topics were about ‘setting the scene’ and the other nine were about the future and the interventions needed to bring innovation into use for family farmers.

c) The main topics could be grouped into the following four main categories for the Symposium:

1. Setting the scene
 - Expand the thinking and embrace the ranges of innovations, successes/failures, barriers, lessons learnt, impacts.
 - Case studies... Which behaviours must be changed?
2. Empowerment for innovation
 - Assessing agricultural innovation systems / Develop innovation strategies
 - Capacity development (including training)
 - Access to and use of knowledge (including intellectual property rights, open source)
 - Scaling up and replication of successes
3. Strategic partnerships to unlock potential of innovation
 - Policy, governance, investments, access to markets, access/affordability
 - Diamond and/or knowledge triangle
4. Moving forward

The Co-chairs concluded this session by indicating that the AP had achieved a lot and the members should now reflect on these topics, which would be discussed again in Session IV of Day 2.

Session III: Other innovation-related events proposed to take place at FAO HQ the same week as the Symposium¹¹

Shadrack opened the second day of the meeting by introducing an agenda item on two separate innovation-related events that might take place at FAO Headquarters on the afternoon of Friday 23 November, after the Symposium has finished. This agenda item was originally planned for the end of the meeting, after the AP members had finished providing their advice and guidance to FAO about the Symposium, but was moved up to accommodate a request from an involved AP member who had to leave early.

8.1 A proposed event organized by the CGIAR

Marco Ferroni, Chair of the CGIAR System Management Board, presented the proposal for the CGIAR event, with the provisional title “Pathways for scaling up innovations and achieving the SDGs: how can CGIAR support countries?”. Marco first gave a brief background on the CGIAR, explaining that it is the world’s largest agricultural research network and has partnered with key actors of national agricultural innovation systems in over 75 countries to advance agri-food science and innovation and scaling up innovations to reach billions of farmers worldwide. At the same time he also acknowledged that global challenges facing agri-food systems require new partnership business models and approaches to agricultural research for development to meet the needs and demands of countries.

He proposed that the CGIAR organize the event to discuss pathways for scaling up agricultural innovations through research and development interventions and investments that address national and

¹¹ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members were sent proposals for both events

global priorities. He said it would build on the agenda discussed during the Symposium through the following focus areas:

- Policy and government cooperation
- High-impact research, partnerships and business models
- Financing innovations

The expected outcomes would be to provide participants with an opportunity to:

1. Influence and frame CGIAR's engagement and in-country interventions in support of national innovation systems
2. Learn best practices from case studies that leverage CGIAR research to advance and scale up innovations in partnership with national governments, NARS, the private sector and development partners, with support from bilateral and multilateral cooperation
3. Better understand how innovation processes, country strategies and national policies can support scaling up of innovations to reach millions of farmers - examples from developing countries.

Samy thanked Marco and clarified that this potential event would not be an official part of the Symposium. Since the CGIAR and the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) are important partners in agricultural innovation, FAO had engaged with them and indicated that a room could be made available for them to organize an event in the afternoon of the third day, after the Symposium had finished.

The AP commented that extension was not evident in the CGIAR proposal and that linking extension with research is important for scaling up. Business models and demand-driven research also need to be factored into this event as well as looking at the failure and shortcomings of some initiatives, to acknowledge the lessons learned. Going beyond production and including other parts of the value chain was also underlined. Reaching for high quality, sustainable impacts at the local level was recommended, beyond academic research to be published in the scientific literature. The Panel also suggested that the event should not be a repetition on what will have been covered in the Symposium.

8.2 A proposed event organized by the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project

Karin Nichterlein, Agriculture Research Officer in the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) Secretariat of the FAO Research and Extension Unit, presented the proposal for the "CDAIS marketplace event", on behalf of TAP and CDAIS partners. She first introduced the TAP, highlighting how TAP partners have recognized that innovation is key to guaranteeing food security, environmental conservation and addressing other key challenges to agriculture. However capacities for innovation are weak in the tropics where most developing countries are located. To address this capacity gap, TAP partners have adopted a new approach for capacity development, taking an agricultural innovation systems (AIS) perspective. Karin explained that TAP partners have therefore developed a Common Framework on capacity development for AIS.

Since 2015 the implementation of the TAP Action Plan is supported by the EU-funded CDAIS project, run by FAO and Agrinatura (a consortium of 31 European universities and research institutes) which validates the concepts and methodologies of the TAP Common Framework. CDAIS operates in eight countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos and Rwanda) through innovation partnerships and providing national platforms to support capacities to innovate through workshops, policy dialogue etc. FAO is now trying to expand the first phase of the CDAIS project in the eight countries and is seeking additional donor funding to implement similar capacity development initiatives in support of sustainable rural development in additional countries.

Participants at the proposed CDAIS marketplace event would be from those who had attended the Symposium plus CDAIS national team representatives. The event would use a combination of poster presentations, roundtable and world café to facilitate interaction. Having this event would mobilize

support on capacity development, create opportunities for countries who have identified their demands to share their needs, learn from existing initiatives of other organizations and facilitate new partnerships and support.

The floor was then opened for discussion. Panel members agreed that the CDAIS project is important and this event, focusing on capacity development, is relevant to the Symposium. Having this event would allow for a continuation of the Symposium's dialogue and strengthen TAP's partners and resources.

Concerns were raised that having these two potential events at the end of the Symposium might result in poor attendances because people might not be interested in attending an additional meeting after the 2.5-day Symposium and because both were scheduled to take place at the same time. Shadrack concluded the item by suggesting the FAO Secretariat should discuss with the organizers of the two events to ensure the potential events would add value, and have no negative impacts on, the Symposium.

Session IV: Content of the different plenary and parallel sessions (preceded by a review of Day 1)

9. Content of the different sessions

To get everyone on the same page, Shadrack gave a quick review of the brainstorming session in the previous day in Session II, presenting the main topics that had been identified by the AP as well as the four categories or Segments, in chronological order, of the Symposium programme into which the topics could be organized, i.e.

1. Setting the scene
2. Empowerment for innovation
3. Strategic partnerships to unlock potential of innovation
4. Moving forward

Shadrack then handed over to Viviana who asked the AP to consider how they might organize the Symposium programme using these four Segments and build on the results of the previous day's brainstorming by translating them into proposed plenary and parallel sessions.

In discussing the format of specific parallel or plenary sessions, the FAO Secretariat clarified that, apart from particular sessions such as the high-level segment or the opening or closing sessions, at least one half of the available time of each session should be dedicated to discussion from the floor. During this time, the Chair will open the floor in turn to representatives of governments and of the different stakeholder groups of non-state actors (i.e. civil society organizations; private sector entities; academia and research institutions; and farmer/producer organizations and cooperatives), ensuring thereby that all relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge, and participate in the discussion. The importance of allowing substantial amounts of time for interactions between participants was also highlighted by the AP who, for this reason, favoured replacing plenary with parallel sessions as this would encourage increased interactions throughout the Symposium.

With a relatively large group of AP participants (18), very active discussions and a busy meeting agenda, there was not enough time to reach consensus and refine the main topics and content of all the sessions. The AP recognized that they had provided as much advice and guidance as possible in the allotted time and framework of the agenda and that the FAO Secretariat would thereafter need to finalize and fine-tune the structure.

Going individually from Segment 1 to Segment 3, Viviana opened the floor for inputs from the AP and an active discussion with specific inputs followed for each Segment. As was done for Session II, the FAO Secretariat wrote the inputs on a computer connected to screens, so the AP members could easily follow and comment on the suggestions and propose revisions of the text.

Results of the AP guidance for the different Segments were as follows:

Segment 1. Setting the scene

Some general thoughts expressed about this Segment were that it should expand the thinking and embrace the wide ranges of innovations and that it should consider the successes/failures, barriers, lessons learned and impacts of innovation. There should be effective use made of case studies

The AP proposed that there should be one plenary and four parallel sessions for this Segment.

The theme of the plenary session should be the potential of innovation. The session would look at issues like the different types of innovation, agriculture in the 21st century, the role of innovation in meeting the SDGs, the socio-economic benefits. Rather than presenters giving speeches, it was proposed that there be a multi-stakeholder panel with about four invitees with different profiles (such as a representative of a government and three representatives from the four non-state actor groups, i.e. farmer organizations, research/academia, private sector, civil society) who would be asked 4-5 challenging questions, such as:

- What are family farmers' priorities? Aspirations?
- What is the evidence of impacts of innovation?
- How can innovations help achieving the SDGs?
- How can we accelerate the innovation processes?
- Which behaviours do we need to change?

The AP proposed that the four parallel sessions for 'setting the scene' be dedicated to:

- Research and education
- Bridging institutions (rural advisory services, extension services etc.)
- Family farmers, farmer organizations etc.
- Enabling environment

As for the plenary session, there seemed to be support from the AP for a multi-stakeholder panel in each parallel session, where the small panel (about four invitees) would aim to answer a small number of key questions, such as:

- What are good cases of innovations
- How is farmers' knowledge a key driver to innovation?
- What are the major barriers? How can we overcome these barriers?
- What are the expected behavioural changes?

Segment 2. Empowerment for innovation

In this Segment, the general aim is to look at empowering for innovation. Viviana clarified that, even though the Symposium was about agricultural innovation for family farmers, the Segment on empowerment for innovation referred to empowerment of all the stakeholders in the whole agricultural innovation system to innovate and not just empowerment of family farmers to innovate.

Unlike the first Segment, there was no clear guidance from the AP regarding the number of plenary and parallel sessions in this Segment. There was no agreement whether there should be a plenary session but, if held, it was suggested that there should be no more than one. Regarding the parallel sessions, there was consensus that one each should be dedicated to

- Capacity development (including training, capacity development framework etc.)
- Access to and use of knowledge (including intellectual property rights, open source, financing)

There was a proposal, supported by many AP members, to have a parallel session on:

- Assessing AIS (needs, effectiveness etc.) / Enabling environment / to develop innovation strategies for agricultural transformation

There was also a proposal, little discussed, to have a parallel session on:

- Scaling up and replication of successes

If there was to be a plenary session, the AP said its theme should be on the agricultural innovation system and it should cover more or less the two topics proposed for the parallel sessions above:

- Assessing AIS (needs, effectiveness etc.) / Enabling environment / to Develop innovation strategies for agricultural transformation
- Who has to be empowered, How to reach and engage millions of family farmers and develop/encourage/nurture capacity for continuous learning

Segment 3. Strategic partnerships to unlock the potential of innovation

After setting the scene (Segment 1), looking at key issues which empower stakeholders in the AIS to innovate (Segment 2), the next Segment (no. 3) focuses on strategic partnerships to unlock the potential of innovation. This should allow sharing and learning about examples of innovative partnerships. Areas to be covered in this Segment include, but are not limited to, policy, governance, investments, access to markets, access and affordability and ways to access knowledge (diamond, co-creation of knowledge and/or knowledge triangle).

Guidance from the AP was to have no plenary session and to have four parallel sessions, each one dedicated to the following themes:

- Policy, governance and regulatory systems
- Access to markets, public and private investments
- Partnership platforms (including as a community of practice for knowledge sharing)
- Role of the private sector as one of the drivers of innovation

Segment 4. Moving forward

This was not specifically discussed by the AP but would be the last half-day of the meeting when the outputs of the different sessions will be presented and discussed in a plenary session, followed by the high-level segment.

Session V: Inputs regarding particular parts of the Symposium programme

10. High-level segment

Samy Gaiji informed the AP that a high-level segment is being proposed for the Symposium. The aim is to invite up to five ministers and other eminent people for a 2 hours plenary session. Guidance on this as well as the timing (after the Opening session on Day 1 or before the Closing session on Day 3) was sought.

The AP supported the idea of having 4-5 ministers, accompanied by 1-2 high-level thinkers (not from governments), engaging in an interesting and interactive roundtable discussion. The approach used for the African Union-European Union meeting¹² which took place at FAO HQ in 2017 was proposed as a good model for such interactive high-level discussions. The AP also proposed it be held just before the Closing session on Day 3.

11. Young innovators session¹³

John Ruane introduced the item, noting that according to the Symposium concept note, it is expected that the programme will contain a special session dedicated to young innovators. A proposal had been put

¹² Making Sustainable Agriculture a Future for Youth in Africa. The African Union - European Union Agriculture Ministers Conference. 2 July 2017, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/902345/icode/>

¹³ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members were sent the proposal for the session

together by FAO and YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development), an international multi-stakeholder network targeting and managed by young professionals to support agricultural development. The proposal was for a two-hour plenary session that will focus on the role that agricultural innovation can play in making family farming more attractive for young people and in creating rural employment, thereby giving young people an economically viable option to allow them to stay in the rural community. There would be four young panellists (under 35 years) who would provide inspiring examples where they have implemented agricultural innovation to create employment for themselves and others in their rural areas and to provide an alternative to urban migration.

The floor was opened for comments. There was consensus about the need for the Symposium to put a focus on youth. However, rather than dedicating a specific session to the topic, the AP suggested that young people and topic of youth should be integrated throughout the whole Symposium (e.g. in selection of speakers for the different sessions).

12. Innovation Fair (and related videos) and a consideration of possible side events¹⁴

John Ruane informed the AP that one of the objectives of the Symposium is to celebrate inspiring success stories of innovation and innovators and that one of the ways in which this will be done is through an Innovation Fair, which will showcase success stories of agricultural innovation for family farmers and/or by family farmers. The Fair will aim to encompass and capture the broad range of agricultural innovations included in the working definition of innovation that FAO is using for the Symposium. It will take place in the FAO Atrium and be launched at lunchtime on the first day of the Symposium, ideally by the FAO Director-General. Presenters will be available in the Atrium to discuss their innovations with Symposium participants at lunchtime on the first and second day.

The success stories may involve examples where agricultural innovations were applied directly by family farmers themselves (e.g. they began using a new technology on their farms or a new way of adding value and marketing their produce) or where they were the indirect beneficiaries of a successful innovation (e.g. where new approaches were applied to research systems or extension services to make them more responsive to the needs of family farmers). It is expected that about half of the presenters will be family farmers (or representatives of family farmers through their producer organizations) and the other half will be from other stakeholder groups in the agricultural innovation system.

There are places for up to 20 presenters in the Atrium. Criteria that will be used in choosing the success stories will include the sector (fisheries/aquaculture, livestock, crop and forestry – plus cross-sectoral), world region, type and purpose of innovation as well as age and gender of the presenter. Among those success stories, it is planned that a small number of very inspiring success stories will be selected and FAO will commission a video to be prepared for each one, which will be presented at the Symposium.

He informed the group that an internal FAO call for success stories of agricultural innovation had been launched on the FAO Intranet on 4 June with a deadline of 15 June, and that the response had been very good so far, involving proposals from many colleagues in different units at FAO Headquarters and in the FAO regional and national offices.

The floor was then opened for comments. The AP advised that the success stories should include all sectors and regions, as well as youth and the private sector. Some concern was expressed regarding time and FAO was encouraged to choose the success stories soon. To a question of the role of the AP in proposing success stories, it was noted that the internal FAO process was well advanced and that a lot of work had been done already. It was agreed that the FAO Secretariat would contact the AP if the screening of proposed success stories from the internal FAO call revealed any specific gaps in the proposals received.

¹⁴ As background documentation to this agenda item, the AP members were sent a one-page concept note for the Innovation Fair

The Innovation Fair will take place in the FAO Atrium and the presenters will be available in the Atrium to share their experiences and knowledge about the success stories with the Symposium participants at lunchtime of Days 1 and 2. Samy raised the issue of whether side events should take place at the same time on these two days. Specifically, given the concerns that the AP had raised in Session III about the risk of poor attendance at the 2 potential CGIAR and CDAIS project events after the Symposium, he requested guidance from the AP about the possibility of including them as side events at lunchtime of Day 1 and/or Day 2.

The AP discussed the issue and advised that no side events (whether organized by the CGIAR, CDAIS project or anyone else) should be held during the Symposium. Firstly, because many different institutions and organizations would be very interested in hosting side events during the Symposium and to restrict it to CGIAR and CDAIS project would not be appropriate. Secondly, because eventual side events would compete with and distract from the Innovation Fair, which would be an important part of the Symposium.

Shadrack concluded the item by suggesting the FAO Secretariat talks with the organizers of the two potential events and see whether the themes of the events can be incorporated into the programme.

Session VI: Summary of the meeting

13. Main recommendations from the Advisory Panel to the FAO Task Force

Some members of the FAO Task Force joined the meeting for this short session to hear at first hand the outputs of the AP's deliberations. Shadrack presented the main conclusions regarding the main topics and contents of the different sessions. He gave the floor to the AP in case they had any additional comments, and they provided comments which led to very minor editing of the proposed structure (removing a previously proposed plenary session after lunch on Day 2), as below:

Day 1: Segment 1

- Opening session (welcome; broad look at innovation including from outside the agricultural sector)
- Plenary
- *Lunch*
- Parallel sessions 1 & 2
- Parallel sessions 3 & 4

Day 2: Segments 2 & 3

- Short reporting from session 1 and introduction to Segments 2 and 3
- Parallel sessions 5 & 6
- *Lunch*
- Parallel sessions 7 & 8
- Parallel sessions 9 & 10

Day 3: Segment 4

- Report back and way ahead - Plenary
- High-level segment
- Closing session

Shadrack then invited the members of the FAO Task Force who were present to comment. They congratulated the AP for the work they had done and acknowledged that they would need additional time to fully consider all the information received. Shadrack concluded by conveying a key message from the AP: that the Symposium should not be another academic exercise but it should lead to real changes downstream.

14. Closing of the meeting

A group picture was taken. On behalf of FAO, Samy Gaiji thanked the AP members warmly for all their hard work and dedication. He gave a special thanks to the Co-chairs, Viviana Palmieri and Shadrack Moephuli, inviting everyone to give them a big round of applause, and then closed the meeting.

**Annex 1. Final Agenda of the Advisory Panel meeting, 11-12 June 2018, Malaysia Room (B227),
FAO Headquarters, Rome**

11 JUNE

09.30-13.30	<p><i>Session I: Background and general overview of the Symposium</i></p> <p>1. Welcome, opening remarks and nomination of meeting co-chairs - <i>Hans Dreyer, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department</i></p> <p>2. Brief self-introduction by meeting participants</p> <p>3. Background and objectives of the Symposium - <i>Samy Gaiji, Head, FAO Research and Extension Unit</i></p> <p>3.1 The International Year of Family Farming (2014) and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) - <i>Francesco Pierri, Head, Advocacy Unit, FAO Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division</i></p> <p>3.2 Innovation funding mechanisms</p> <p>3.2.1 Diagnostic Trust Fund - <i>Samy Gaiji</i></p> <p>3.2.2 Innovation Transfer Trust Fund - <i>Roberto Ridolfi, Special Adviser to the FAO Deputy Director-General, Programmes</i></p>
	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
	<p>3.3 The State of Food and Agriculture 2014: Innovation in Family Farming - <i>Jakob Skoet, Economist, FAO Economic and Social Development Department</i></p> <p>3.4 Considerations on agricultural innovation at the 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 2016 - <i>Robert Guei, Secretary of COAG, FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department</i></p> <p>3.5 Symposium concept note and funding - <i>Samy Gaiji</i></p> <p>3.6 Working definition of agricultural innovation - <i>John Ruane, Senior Consultant, Agricultural Innovation, FAO Research and Extension Unit</i></p> <p>4. Governance of the Symposium: The roles of the FAO Task Force and the (non-FAO) Advisory Panel - <i>John Ruane</i></p> <p>5. Participation in the Symposium - <i>John Ruane & Francesco Pierri</i></p> <p>6. Overall structure of the Symposium - <i>Samy Gaiji</i></p>
13.30-14.30	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14.30-17.30	<p><i>Session II: Main topics for the Symposium</i></p> <p>7. Identification of the main topics for the Symposium (to be covered in dedicated plenary and parallel sessions) and description of expectations from each session</p>
	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
	<p>7. (continued)</p>
19.30	<p><i>Informal dinner at a restaurant near FAO Headquarters</i></p>

12 JUNE

8.45-9.45	<p>Session III: Other innovation-related events proposed to take place at FAO HQ the same week as the Symposium</p> <p>8.1 A proposed event organized by the CGIAR - <i>Marco Ferroni, Chair, CGIAR System Management Board</i></p> <p>8.2 A proposed event organized by the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project - <i>Karin Nichterlein, Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) Secretariat, FAO Research and Extension Unit</i></p>
9.45-13.00	<p>Session IV: Content of the different plenary and parallel sessions (preceded by a review of Day 1)</p> <p>9. Content of the different sessions (including the format as well as names of potential keynote speakers, presenters, panelists and chairs for the different sessions)</p>
	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
	<p>9. (continued)</p>
13.00-14.00	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14.00-14.50	<p>9. (continued)</p>
14.50-16.00	<p>Session V: Inputs regarding particular parts of the Symposium programme</p> <p>10. High-level segment - <i>Samy Gaiji</i></p> <p>11. Young innovators session - <i>John Ruane</i></p> <p>12. Innovation Fair (and related videos) and a consideration of possible side events – <i>John Ruane and Samy Gaiji</i></p>
	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
16.15-17.00	<p>Session VI: Summary of the meeting</p> <p>13. Main recommendations from the Advisory Panel to the FAO Task Force</p> <p>14. Closing of the meeting - <i>Samy Gaiji</i></p>

Annex 2. The Advisory Panel Meeting Participants

A. The Advisory Panel

Anne Mares¹⁵

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Hans Hoogveen

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO
Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the UN Organisations for Food and Agriculture
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Jennifer Fellows¹⁶

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Judith Francis

Chair, Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) Steering Committee
Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)
Wageningen
The Netherlands

Julien Reynier¹⁷

Cofounder, shareholder, member

¹⁵ Alternate for the participant **Shahin Ghorashizadeh** during the meeting

¹⁶ Representing the following Advisory Panel member at the meeting:

Paul Mayers: Vice-President, Science Branch in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

¹⁷ Representing the following Advisory Panel member at the meeting:

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¹⁸ Representing the following Advisory Panel member at the meeting:

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Shahin Ghorashizadeh¹⁹

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²⁰ Alternate for the Advisory Panel member **Malu Ndavi** during the meeting

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