



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

## Forty-fourth Session

*"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"*

Rome, Italy, 9-13 October 2017

### LESSONS LEARNED IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In his report *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*<sup>1</sup>, released for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) global progress review, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres commends advances to combat hunger and malnutrition since 2000, but he also stresses the need to accelerate efforts. Faster progress is needed to deliver on the global commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition within the next 13 years.
2. Sustainable Development Goal 2 recognizes that ending hunger will go hand in hand with building more sustainable food production systems and resilient agriculture practices. This not only calls for governments and development actors of all backgrounds to consider the interlinkages between targets related to ending hunger and malnutrition on the one hand, and promoting sustainable agricultural methods on the other within SDG 2. It also calls for a comprehensive understanding of the role of other goals, on water management, education, decent employment, infrastructure, sustainable production and consumption, climate action, oceans, soil, land and forest conservation, to name a few, to promote sustainable food systems. Understanding and working through these interlinkages, some common to all contexts and some specific, is one of the challenges facing countries as they set out to achieve the SDGs by 2030.
3. The 2017 session of the HLPF, held between 11 and 19 July 2017 heard from 44 countries participating in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), double the number in the 2016 HLPF. The successful 2017 HLPF session was dedicated for the first time to the in-depth review of a number of goals, and among them SDG 2. It reinforced the role of global follow-up and review, which needs to be informed by meaningful, diverse and substantial processes initiated and led by countries, in conjunction with national stakeholders, and supported by regional and international agencies and organizations, platforms, thematic bodies and networks.
4. The CFS 44 session dedicated to sharing country experiences on their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda follows the CFS 43 Special Event “From Agreement to Action Towards Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Learning from the First Volunteer National Reviews”<sup>2</sup>, and aims to make full use of the substantive work and preparation processes undertaken by countries in the lead up to the HLPF, as they gradually foster actions and policies to progress in achieving national food security. Their findings and experiences are informative for countries and stakeholder organizations, as well as for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a whole, in its commitment to support country led implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and in its role to “promote accountability and share best practices at all levels.”<sup>3</sup>
5. Last year’s discussion at CFS 43, in which 8 country representatives (China, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Mexico, Norway, and Switzerland) and 4 multistakeholder constituencies presented their respective efforts, focused largely on the institutional changes called for by the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda. They identified a number of common lessons emerging: the crucial role of political leadership, communication and multistakeholder engagement; the importance of policy integration and human rights, tracking progress mechanisms and enhanced collaboration between local, regional and global levels.
6. This year’s contributions delve into the specifics of country strategies, and challenges encountered to progress towards the food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture related goals of the 2030 Agenda. Six countries from 4 regions who participated in VNRs at the 2017 HLPF provided tailored information for CFS (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy and Sweden).

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<sup>1</sup> E/2017/66 “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, Report of the Secretary-General”, submitted 10 May 2017 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/66&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/66&Lang=E)

<sup>2</sup> Outcomes available in original language: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-br852e.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> CFS Reform document (document CFS:2009/2 Rev.2), <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/018/k7197e.pdf>

The VNRs of all 44 countries are available at : <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

*The contributions shared in 2017 with CFS show many encouraging results.*

7. Poverty and undernourishment in Azerbaijan have significantly decreased in recent years, partly as a result of the increase in agricultural and food production since 2001, bolstered by a Presidential Decree, and strong state support to agricultural producers which has taken the form of various targeted subsidies (wheat and paddy sowing, mineral fertilizers, access to seeds and imported breeds), and investment in science and innovation. Increased attention has been paid towards reclaiming degraded lands and increasing the country's arable land area. This has resulted in an important increase of the agricultural sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

8. In Ethiopia as well, constant efforts to improve agricultural production and productivity as high priorities in the two Growth and Transformation Plans, have led to a significant reduction of the population with below-minimum dietary energy consumption from 74.8% in 1990 to 32% in 2015. 16% of the annual government budget is committed to agricultural development, resulting in one of the world's densest agricultural extension systems, important expansion of small-scale irrigation development, and a five-fold increase in forest coverage within two decades. Measures are taken to reverse resource degradation trends. This has resulted in a mean growth rate of more than 8% for agriculture in the last eight years, exceeding the target in Ethiopia's commitment as part of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Today, agriculture makes up 43% of Ethiopia's GDP and 90% of its exports.

9. In Indonesia, rice production has increased enough to meet domestic demand for rice as staple food, and diversification of food production (beef, eggs, chicken) is supporting improved nutrition. Under-five wasting is down to 9.8% in 2016, from 13.6% in 2007 (although progress is much slower for under-five stunting, affecting 33.6% of children in 2016 against 36.8% in 2007). Exclusive breastfeeding coverage for infants aged 6 months has doubled from 15.3% to 30.2% in just 3 years. As one of the first members of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, Indonesia directed its early efforts to several fronts: integrated policy frameworks (i.e. 1000 days, the right to exclusive breastfeeding, nutrition sensitive sectoral policies such as poverty alleviation or sanitation) but also advocacy to high-level leaders, and multistakeholder participation in policy-making. This, together with collaboration with provincial and district authorities through local interventions and empowerment of rural communities, is proving a key success factor in Indonesia's efforts to tackle malnutrition.

10. Belgium, Italy and Sweden's attention is shifting more and more to addressing the adverse environmental impacts of farming methods on land, soil, water and climate. The Milan Charter features agriculture as a center-piece not only for food production, but also for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and the preservation of cultures and landscapes. Several biodiversity-friendly measures on agricultural land are in place in Belgium and Sweden, such as enlarging the percentage of land used for organic farming, decrease of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of produced output, or decreased use of animal antibiotics in animal production. Sweden lays strong emphasis on the preservation of seeds and genetic resources, collected or reintroduced in the market through the Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants and preserved in the Nordic Gene Bank. The country supports the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in developing countries. Domestic land tenure issues are addressed in Italy and Belgium by applying the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) endorsed by CFS in 2012.

11. In Belgium, and Sweden, the prevalence of overweight and obesity (13.7% of the Belgian population) is rising, and is often showing correlations with income and education levels. Belgium's three regions, Brussels-Capital, Wallonia and Flanders, are successfully following up on the country's international pledge to sustainable development through diverse local measures aimed at reshaping the food systems "from farm to fork" and restoring the link between producer and consumer. Various

initiatives are led with the participation of a wide range of actors. The private sector taking the lead in Flanders through the set-up of “Action labs” to spur the agri-food industry’s innovation potential towards greater sustainability of the food chain. Guaranteeing prosperity for all by upholding the sustainability of agriculture, silviculture, aquafarming and fishing along the entire food chain, is also the vision driving Italy’s efforts over the next years, at home and abroad. This vision was informed by CFS policy guidelines such as the VGGT, or Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (RAI Principles), and relies on effective partnerships to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives and local district models. The “dairy hub” supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency demonstrates the benefits of partnerships. These modern milk sectors, set up with the support of Tetra Laval, enable small dairy farmers in Bangladesh to participate in retail markets by improving storage, enabling quality control of household production, and offering tailored technical training. It has led to an increase of the monthly average income among participating farmers in Bangladesh of USD 100 to USD 244 in 60 months.

*Challenges, however remain.*

12. There are common challenges among the countries. This includes tackling increases in overweight and obesity, especially in children under-five, sometimes alongside significant rates of stunting. Improving populations’ nutrition through support to local food systems and improved standards of living (in particular health and income), is perceived by all as one of the highest priorities, by working on changing diets through improving the nutrition quality of products and consumer/maternal education. In all 6 countries, scarcity of natural resources (land, depleted soils, water), further threatened by the effects of climate change, is of major concern. Finding or resuming a path of stable growth which is sustainable from the economic, social and environmental perspectives and guarantees sustainability across entire food chains is an important challenge. Increasing awareness among citizens through stronger public information campaigns; mobilizing relevant stakeholders, particularly youth; and harmoniously involving various levels of governance within countries and aligning international commitments with local authority initiatives, are further issues identified in many different experiences.

13. There are also context specific challenges of note. Azerbaijan refers to the need to strengthen its efforts to speed up development of the non-oil sector and diversify its economy, as agricultural productivity increases are still largely dependent on subsidies for fuel and motor oils. In Indonesia, rural and agricultural infrastructure is still largely insufficient for that required to improve the nutrition of its entire population and to address the disparities between regions. In Ethiopia and Indonesia poverty still impedes the adoption by farmers of agricultural technology and innovation on a larger scale. Improving agricultural productivity while strengthening environmental protection and social equity in a context of slow economic growth is a challenge in Italy.

14. All these challenges, common and country-specific, require comprehensive policies and increased agricultural investment to shift towards more sustainable and healthy food systems. Inclusive guidance developed by CFS can support countries to tackle challenges related to food security and nutrition such as land allocation for sustainable agriculture, private investments that allow smallholders to increase their productivity and link them to markets, management of water supply, more sustainable agricultural production, reduction of food loss and/or waste, addressing food price volatility and climate change.

15. While priorities and challenges may differ, there are common lessons among the six countries that are also consistent with those emerging from the experiences shared at CFS 43. These are:

- the centrality of policy integration
- the importance of multistakeholder processes and partnerships for impact (among ministries, local authorities, multilateral organisations, and multistakeholders)
- high-level political leadership
- the importance of disaggregated data and early monitoring

- the need for capacity development and education

*Disclaimer: The following is an informal unedited compilation of submissions by 6 countries among those that participated in the 2017 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) from 17 July to 19 July 2017.*

## II. AZERBAIJAN

### 1. Key element(s) (strategies, policies, programmes) characterizing national efforts to progress on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture-related goals and first results

16. The purposeful policy implemented in Azerbaijan to ensure reliable social protection and food security of the population has prevented extreme poverty and hunger in the country. These issues are no longer relevant for Azerbaijan. Thus, since 2007, the extreme poverty rate (<0.1%) in the country have dropped to a negligible level. Therefore, the policy is aimed at reducing the level of absolute poverty and improving the quality of nutrition in the country, and at present reliable food security of the population is one of the main directions of the state's social and economic policy.

17. As a result of the work carried out within the framework of the "Program for food security of the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by a Presidential Decree in 2001, agricultural and food production has significantly increased. However, it has been impossible to satisfy domestic demand for basic food products through domestic production. The instability observed in the world food markets also affects food prices in Azerbaijan. The "State Program on reliable food supply of population in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008-2015" was approved by the Decree of August 25, 2008 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to achieve this goal. Besides, strengthening the institutional capacity to ensure sustainable food security is one of the strategic goals set forth in the "Strategic Roadmap for the production and processing of agricultural products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by the Decree of December 6, 2016, of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

18. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the methodological support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has established a Farm Data Monitoring System (FDMS) to regularly assess the results of agrarian policy and the performance of entrepreneurs engaged in agricultural production. The application of this system, created on the basis of the experience of EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), began in 2015.

19. Efficient use of land plays an important role in providing the population with food. In this connection, protection of lands, reclamation of degraded lands and their efficient use are in the focus of attention of the Azerbaijani government. The total land area of Azerbaijan is 8641.5 thousand hectares, of which 55.2% are arable lands. In 2016, the arable land area of the country increased by 0.3% compared to 2010.

20. Studies have shown that land degradation happens mainly due to poor land management. It is necessary to take into account the decline in productivity in crop and livestock sectors due to climatic factors such as high temperatures, fluctuations in the nature of precipitation and extreme weather conditions (drought, etc.), expand the use of plant varieties and animal breeds adapted to these changes, and encourage the development of "climate-smart agriculture". To efficiently use lands, it is necessary to properly regulate the supply of water, nutrients, air and heat regimes to the soil, and to take into account the phenological and biological properties of agricultural crops.

21. Protection, increasing and efficient use of genetic resources are also an important factor in reliable food security of the population. Taking into account the importance of the issue, the scientific research institutes included in the system of the Agrarian Scientific and Information Advisory Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Azerbaijan State Agrarian University conduct scientific

researches and experiments in the direction of creating new plant varieties and animal breeds or improving existing varieties and breeds.

22. The state supports provision of seeds of productive crop varieties and purebred animals to producers to ensure that existing genetic resources are distributed fairly and equally and that producer's benefit from them. To carry out selection and breeding on a scientific basis and improve the breed composition in livestock farms, high-yielding stud breeds are imported from foreign countries at the expense of funds allocated from the state budget and sold to producers through lease for 3 years, by applying a 50-percent concession to their cost.

23. State support in the country covers the following areas:

- Subsidy for wheat and paddy sowing - Under Decision No.32, dated February 15, 2007 of the Cabinet of Ministers, agricultural producers are given a 40-AZN subsidy per hectare of wheat and paddy grown. Under the same Decision, agricultural producers are given a subsidy in the amount of 50 AZN (in 2011-2014, 40 AZN) for fuel and motor oils used for every hectare.
- Subsidy for concessionary sale of mineral fertilizers - In accordance with the above-mentioned Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, a 70% concession (in 2011-2014, 50%) is applied to the price of mineral fertilizer used per hectare, at the expense of state budget funds.
- Under Decision No.103, dated June 25, 2001 of the Cabinet of Ministers, a subsidy is granted for concessionary sale of seeds and seedlings of 1st and 2nd replication in the approved amount.
- Besides, costs of production of standard, pre-basic and basic seeds are paid at the expense of state budget funds based on the quota determined by the Cabinet of Ministers Under Decision No.273, dated August 13, 2014 of the Cabinet of Ministers, when 20% of the original price of agricultural machinery leased by the Agroleasing OJSC is paid, a concession equal to 40% of the original price is applied at the expense of state budget funds.
- In accordance with Decision No.226, dated September 22, 2008 of the Cabinet of Ministers, breeding animals imported at the expense of state budget funds are sold to agricultural producers through lease with a 50% concession.

24. The costs associated with agriculture increased by 13% in 2015 compared to 2011. In addition, the amount of added value created in agriculture increased from 2643.5 million AZN in 2011 and reached 3359.3 million AZN in 2015. The increase in value added created in agriculture has also increased the share of this sector in GDP.

## **2. Main challenges encountered in implementing these (particularly, bottlenecks and remaining policy gaps) and lessons learned by the country on SDG implementation**

25. The challenges faced during the review preparation process were mainly due to unavailability of the information on a number of indicators, or a relevant methodology. In some cases, available information was not disaggregated by gender, age groups, residency (urban/rural), or administrative/regional zones. This has resulted in the limitations in the scope and the depth of analysis, assessment, and conclusions.

26. The following challenges emerged during implementation process:

- the process of alignment of state programs and strategies with global goals, targets and indicators requires a lot of time and additional financial resources;
- It is necessary to strengthen detailed data production and analysis capacity on statistics, particularly based on gender, age groups, residence (city/village), sectors and regions/administrative districts;

- Failure to collect data on some indicators or lack of relevant methodologies;
- It is necessary to strengthen efforts to speed up development of non-oil sector and diversification of national economy, enhance export capacity and expand export, increase the effectiveness of healthcare and social services and strengthen environmental security.

### III. BELGIUM

27. Belgium focuses on integrated solutions, innovative value chains and systemic innovations in the food system. At stake here is the relationship between diet, health and ecosystem sustainability. The aim is to arrive at a smaller footprint in food production, a reduced dependence of raw materials, the use and intake of alternative forms of proteins (algae, plants, insects), higher efficiency throughout the various links of the food supply chain, correct prices and safe and decent working conditions for the actors in the food chain – both domestically and in the world.

28. Like in many other countries in the European region, prevalence of overweight and obesity is an issue of concern in Belgium. About 13.7% of the adult population is overweight or obese, largely due to unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. People with low income and/or education levels tend to be more obese. At the same time, the number of people in Belgium unable to afford a quality meal per day is increasing, with over 140,000 persons – over 1% of the population – assisted through food banks in 2016.

29. High population density as well as the governments' spatial planning policies have resulted in a strong competition for open space. The evolution of farming types has been influenced by the relative scarcity of land and some farming methods have had adverse environmental impacts on soil (degradation), water quality (depletion of nitrate and phosphorus) and climate (release of greenhouse gases). On the other hand, Belgium has put in place several biodiversity-friendly measures on agricultural lands and has in recent years enlarged its percentage of agricultural land used for organic farming to just over 5% - which is slightly below the EU average of 6.4% (indicator 4 in annex of the full report).

30. The current Federal Action Plan on Nutrition and Health runs until 2020 and aims to positively influence the dietary habits of the population, in order to reduce preventable diseases, such as cardiovascular ones, as well as their risk factors. In consultation with the food operators (food industry, retailers, caterers and restaurants), the improvement of products' nutritional quality receives special attention. Actions will focus inter alia on more comprehensive food labelling and stricter regulations when it comes to marketing towards children. Ongoing consultations with sector organizations aim at reducing the amount of salt, added sugars, saturated fat and portion sizes.

31. Given the number of people in Belgium unable to afford a quality meal per day, Wallonia embedded a series of food related measures (social groceries, distribution of unsold food) in its earlier mentioned poverty eradication plan, and made it permanent through legislative action taken by the regional parliament on food aid to people in precarious situations. Belgian food banks<sup>4</sup> provide food assistance to people in need, paying particular attention to the nutritional quality of the products distributed, as well as to their suitability for consumption (2.1).

32. The Brussels-Capital Region agreed in 2015 on a series of “from farm to fork” measures<sup>5</sup> for the next five years, including targets for the development of new urban farming projects with an objective of producing 30% of fruit and vegetables locally by 2035 and bringing about a 30% reduction in food waste by 2020 (2.1).

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<sup>4</sup> Supported through the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

<sup>5</sup> Good Food Strategy towards a Sustainable Food System.

33. By 2019 Wallonia aims to make consumption and production more sustainable across food supply chains, including by shortening the latter<sup>6</sup>. The region has put in place in 2014 an online platform to facilitate the purchase in short circuit of local and seasonal products at the community level<sup>7</sup>. It proposes a public procurement interface, linking suppliers of products of agricultural origin to canteens, restaurants and other regional and local public administrations and institutions wishing to acquire food products and ornamental horticulture in short circuit<sup>8</sup>. A first strategic plan for the development, processing and consumption of biological agriculture produce runs until 2020<sup>9</sup>; it aims at doubling the usable acreage by 14% (using a 2012 baseline) and involving almost 1700 officially certified biological exploitations (2.3, 2.4, 6.3).

34. 'Action labs' are set up by the private sector in the region of Flanders in order to spur the innovation potential of the agro-food industry in making the food chain more sustainable. Examples include local soy culture, involving catering services, the use of biological bread-making cereals and added value poultry, systematic and safe transfers of fresh and processed food waste, processing by-catch in fisheries, and producing antibiotics-free pork. Food chain-wide consultations are taking place among the various chain links on a voluntary basis, striving for better collaboration, information sharing, good partnership relations and up-scaled joint solutions, while preserving contractual freedom. Consultations are taking place inter alia about adopting and complying with sustainability criteria in the food industry and distribution's order books. Flemish strategies on local food aim at restoring the link between consumers and producers, and cities with the countryside, following growing consumer demand to trace back their food. Various initiatives on farm products and urban gardening allotments thus receive support. Rural development planning in the same region<sup>10</sup> focuses on young farmers, innovation and education, increasing resilience as well as economic and ecological sustainability, and strengthening the countryside's vitality by firmly embedding a swiftly evolving agricultural sector. Cross-cutting goals are innovation, environment and climate adaptation and mitigation, and demonstration projects for the benefit of farmers and horticulturists receive regional funding (2.4).

35. Between 2013 and 2015, Belgium dedicated almost 15 percent of its ODA (around 220 to 240 million EUR annually) to actions aimed at ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture abroad. In a deliberate effort to better structure its actions conceptually and to adapt them to the new international agenda, the Belgian development cooperation in May 2017 launched a new strategy on agriculture and food security. This strategy revolves around two axes (inclusive economic growth and a rights based approach) and three overarching priorities (nutrition, gender equality and sustainability), puts the farmer center stage as a social entrepreneur and strives to enhance agricultural productivity within stable and efficient food systems on the one hand and to ban hunger and malnutrition on the other. Beyond goal 2, mainly SDGs 1, 3, 5, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are referenced in the strategy.

36. Our main multilateral partners in this field are the CGIAR System Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP). One third of the FAO's un-earmarked voluntary contributions originate in Belgium, which has contributed in no small way to the elaboration of the Committee on World Food Security's voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT). Together with Italy, Belgium is the only developed country in the world which also applies these guidelines at home to address domestic issues of land tenure. Belgium actively supports the mandate and work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food<sup>11</sup>, reflecting our rights-based approach to

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<sup>6</sup> Deuxième stratégie wallonne de Développement Durable, Plan d'Actions à l'Horizon 2019.

<sup>7</sup> [www.cliclocal.be](http://www.cliclocal.be)

<sup>8</sup> Similar efforts are undertaken by civil society actor networks such as RAWAD and RABAD.

<sup>9</sup> Premier Plan Stratégique pour le Développement de l'Agriculture Biologique en Wallonie (2013-2020).

<sup>10</sup> Derde Vlaamse Plattelandsontwikkelingsplan.

<sup>11</sup> During the 2008-2014 period, in the immediate run-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, this position was held by a renowned Belgian academic, professor Olivier De Schutter.

food security. Many of the Belgian development actors have been focusing on increasing smallholders' agricultural productivity and income (2.3) as well as on investing in rural infrastructure, research and technology (2.a). The Government of Flanders has dedicated its entire country strategy paper for Malawi to food security and agriculture, committed an annual investment of 5 million EUR in this regard and is working with the WFP and the Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE) on the "Strengthening Farmer Organizations and Rural Structured Trade Mechanisms in Malawi" project, aiming to strengthen the economic situation of some 50,000 smallholder farmers (among whom 40% are women) by improving their access to agricultural markets. The Belgian development agency has set up Farmer Field Schools for smallholders in Rwanda (50% or more productivity increases for 73% of the involved farmers), supporting the establishment of homegrown and up-scaled solutions for extension services to increase farm yields and foster solidarity; provides institutional and operational support to that end in Burundi; and focuses its efforts in Benin also on the promotion of environmentally sustainable practices in production. The Belgian Royal Museum for Central Africa contributes with various partners in combating damage to harvests caused by the African fruit fly in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Kenya (2.3).

37. Indirect cooperation, implemented through Belgian civil society organizations, supports livelihoods development by smallholder farmers and attaches particular interest to the development of value chains. Concrete examples include the roll out in Senegal of a business skills and entrepreneurial development program for local farmers. In terms of product quality, production and marketing. This unique partnership, involving also one of the biggest Belgian retail groups<sup>12</sup> aims to reach more than 100,000 rice, sesame and organic banana producers (including a sizeable proportion of women and youngsters). Other examples are the AgriCongo Alliance whereby 17 Belgian NGOs collaborate in strengthening the capacity of farmer organizations in the DRC in terms of land rights, rural infrastructure and rural financing; and the Farmers Fighting Poverty program with the Tanzania Horticultural Association whereby negotiated market linkages enabled an estimated 8000 farmers in Zanzibar to increase the price they received by 10 percent and paved the way for adopting more sustainable energy solutions in the fruit and vegetable value chain. The Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) has developed a large portfolio in terms of rural investment (2.a), through its Agricultural and Rural Impulse Fund (7,5 million USD equity investment in 2015) and through freshly provided loans to local banks and farming businesses in Paraguay, Mongolia and Senegal.

38. Belgium houses the Bioversity International Musa Germplasm Transit Centre, which is considered the world's largest banana gene bank. It helps securing biodiversity while promoting better nutrition through food rich in key micronutrients (2.5), including by introducing and testing banana varieties from Asia and the Pacific in East Africa. The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office participated in LEAP-Agri, the long-term EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (2.4, 2.a), which has just rolled out a new five-year program with a joint call on research, mobility and capacity building activities.

## IV. ETHIOPIA

### 1. Introduction

39. Ethiopia is an origin of mankind. It is also an origin of different plant species like coffee Arabica. It is also a country from where Blue Nile begins its route. It is a country of diversity where different nations, nationalities and people live together harmoniously. Ethiopia has a land area of 1.1 million km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 92.3 million according the projection of Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia.

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<sup>12</sup> Which happens to be also one of the SDG Voices, selected for SDG advocacy purposes in Belgium.

40. Integrating with its national development frameworks, Ethiopia has implemented the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which spanned the period of 2000 to 2015 and registered remarkable achievements. Accepting different conventions at different times and after the evaluation of the former achievements the country has fully agreed to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with national commitments and ownership. Just like Ethiopia did in the course of implementing the MDGs it had integrated the SDGs in its Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) which is from a period of 2015/16-2019/20 with full sense of national ownership. Thus, in the context of Ethiopia, implementing the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII) means implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

41. The national reviews have been conducted and the findings and factors contributing to the achievements are presented as follows.

## **2. Achievements from SDG prespective**

### *2.1 Eradication of poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG1)*

42. The core development objective of the Ethiopian Government is poverty eradication. Seventy five percent of the annual regular national budget has been allocated to poverty oriented sectors such as agriculture, education, health, water & sanitation and rural roads. Ethiopian Economy has registered an average annual growth rate of 10.1 percent for the past 13 years. Even when Ethiopia was hit hard by drought during 2015/2016 its economy had grown by 8 percent. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line declined from 29.6 % in 2010-2011 to 23.4 % in 2014-2015 and at the end of the GTP II period (2019-2020), poverty level is projected to decline to 16.7 %. The GDP per capita also significantly increased from 373 USD in 2009-2010 to 794 USD by 2015-2016.

43. With effective implementation of GTP II, and its next generations of five year development plans to be implemented in the coming decade through integrated and coordinated manner, it is possible to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030. Ethiopia has also a vision to join the Lower Middle Income Status by the year 2025.

44. The main Policy documents formulated to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity in the country are the Rural and Agricultural Development Policy and Strategy, the Education and Capacity Building Policy, the Health Policy, the Industry Development Policy and the Democratization and Good Governance Policy.

### *2.2 End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG2)*

#### *2.2.1 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition*

45. Ethiopia has made significant progress in reducing hunger, with a 39.24% reduction in the Global Hunger Index from 1990 to 2013. The percentage of the population below a minimum level of dietary energy consumption dropped dramatically from 74.8% in 1990 to 32% in 2015. Over the same period, Ethiopia saw promising improvements in children's nutrition, with rates of under nutrition among children under 5 decreasing by approximately 26%. Life expectancy increased from 52 years in 2000 to 64 years in 2013. Ethiopia has made significant progress in improving health, Nutrition, Education and other human development indicators.

46. In the Food Security Policy, the Productive Safety Net Program provides cash and/or food transfers to chronically food insecure households in rural Ethiopia. The program is currently implemented in different regions of Ethiopia.

47. Major policies formulated to eradicate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition are the National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, the National Nutrition Strategy, the Food

Security Programs, the Resettlement Program, the Productive Safety Net Programs, the Household asset Building Program and Complementary Community Investment.

### *2.2.2 Sustainable Agriculture*

48. Agriculture is the main stay of Ethiopian Economy and 83 percent of its population and livelihood depend on Agriculture. About 12 million smallholder farming households account for an estimated 95 percent of agricultural production. Agriculture also contributes 43 percent of GDP and 90 percent of Exports. The agriculture sector has been the priority of Ethiopia since 1991 when the Agriculture Development Lead Industrialization Strategy and related policy framework were adopted.

49. Recognizing the vital importance of agriculture, the government of Ethiopia has focused efforts to improve production and productivity in the agriculture sector. The Government has strived to expand agricultural productivity through continuous capacity development of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, ensuring access to improved technology, seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, agricultural extension and training services. The Ethiopia Government has allocated more than 16 percent of its annual budget to agriculture development and attained an annual mean agricultural growth rate of more than 8 percent for the last eight years. This is significantly higher than the agreement among CAADP/Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program/ member countries to allocate 10 percent of their national budget to the agricultural development and to attain a mean annual growth rate of 6 percent.

50. The government of Ethiopia firmly believes that an effective and efficient extension system plays an important role in bringing agricultural growth and transformation by facilitating the adoption and utilization of yield and quality increasing agricultural technologies. Based on this strong belief the government established and operationalized 25 agricultural technical and vocational training centres in different parts of the country to produce skilled development agents. Development Agents trained in crop production, livestock production and natural resource, one expert for each is deployed in each of the farmers' association. To date 45,000 development agents are currently deployed in Agricultural extension. Currently the government also has established close to 11,000 farmer training centres. The country has recently developed and deployed participatory extension systems. Ethiopia has one of the densest agricultural Extension systems in the world.

51. To ensure sustainable agriculture the government has done tremendous work in protecting the natural resource base, in preventing the degradation of soil and water and conserving biodiversity by mobilizing its people for the past two decades. The Extensive soil and water conservation work done in the country for the past two decades contributes to the expansion of small scale irrigation development and so far more than 2 million hectares of land irrigated that allowing communities to produce food and cash crops, vegetables, and fruits at least twice a year.

52. Due to the reason that extensive work has been done in restoring and afforesting the country's degraded land for the last two decades, the forest coverage increased from 3 percent to 15 percent. Ethiopia also champions in formulating and implementing Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.

53. Major policies formulated to ensure sustainable agriculture are Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Strategy, Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework: Ten year Road Map (2010-2020), Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy, Natural resource Conservation and Development Policy.

### **3. Factors contributing to the achievements**

- Presence of politically committed government and leadership in the country at all levels
- Formulation and implementation of pro-poor policies, strategies, plans and programs
- Decentralized administrative system with power devolution to regional states

- Full-fledged institutional and organizational arrangements at all levels to effectively implement the pro-poor policies, strategies, plans and programs within a decentralized administrative system
- Building of extensive infrastructure in the country/road, electric power, trail telecom
- Inclusive engagement and participation of all actors and stakeholders in the preparation, and implementation of plans and programs.

#### 4. Lessons learned

- Presence of politically committed government and leadership and Agriculture and Rural Development centre pro-poor policies are critical to eradicate poverty, hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.
- From the achievements made during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and The Growth and Transformation Plans of I and II, it has become evident that the coordinated efforts of the different ministries, stakeholders and the participation of the different actors within the people and the whole population can cause a very significant difference in the development of the country.
- Transparent and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in policy formulation and implementing phases is very important for the successful implementation of the policies, programs and plans.
- Gender equity and women empowerment and youth full participation in the implementation of SDGs plan are critical to end poverty and hunger by 2030.  
Local institutions that enable farmers to connect with their peers and other actors along the value chains should be supported and encouraged by the government. This support can take the form of training sessions, exchange visits, coordination and facilitative processes in registration and recognition.

#### 5. Challenges observed

##### 5.1 *Drought caused by El Niño*

54. Ethiopia has been periodically affected by El Niño induced drought. This undermines the agricultural production and productivity and threatens the lives and livelihoods of Ethiopian people.

##### 5.2 *Limitation of financial, technical and technological support*

55. The Ethiopian Government has put in place very ambitious targets in its Second Growth and Transformation Plan to end poverty and hunger and to sustain economic growth. However we are constrained by the need for financial, technical and technological support. We would like to be supported in this regard.

##### 5.3 *Natural Resource, soil, land and forest degradation*

56. Land and soil degradation is a serious problem in Ethiopia and this affects agricultural production and productivity. The government is trying to reverse the soil and land degradation and to improve our forest coverage by mobilizing its people and the limited financial resource but financial and technological support is still important to address these problems.

#### 6. Conclusion

57. The Ethiopian economy has registered an average annual growth rate of 10.1 percent for the past 13 years and this helped to lift millions of people out of poverty. The reason behind this success is the presence of a politically committed government, the formulation of Agriculture and Rural Development centre policies in the country and the generous support of our development partners. The

Government of Ethiopia has done its best to implement the policies by mobilizing its people and spending its limited financial resources. Through continuous capacity development of smallholder farmers and pastoralists and by ensuring access to improved technology and agricultural extension services crop production and productivity has increased significantly. Although we made progress in increasing crop production and productivity it remains low as compared to global crop productivity level. We need our development partners and donors to step up their financial, technical and technological support to maximize our potential.

## V. INDONESIA

### 1. Progress on Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture

58. In the food and nutrition sector, Indonesia has managed to increase the sufficiency of food consumption. In 2015, rice production reached 75.40 million tons and maize 19.61 million tons. At this production rate, in aggregate, Indonesia has been able to meet the need of rice as a staple food. Beef production in the period of 2006-2015 grew by 3.11% per year, and egg production by 4.50% per year. In addition, chicken meat production in the period of 2010-2015 grew by 5.74% per year.

59. The quality of food consumption of the Indonesian population has increased, as marked by the Desirable Dietary Pattern Score, by an average of 82.9 during the period of 2009 - 2013. Indonesia has also increased the availability of sustainable food and agricultural productivity. This is marked by the release of 57 high yielding rice varieties (Varietas Unggul Baru - VUB), 25 VUB of corn and 10 VUB of soybean.

60. The nutritional status of pregnant women, infants and under-five indicate improvement, albeit still below expectation. The Basic Health Research (Riset Kesehatan Dasar - Riskesdas) reveals that the prevalence of wasting of under-five has decreased significantly from 13.6% in 2007 to 9.8% in 2016. The prevalence of under-five stunting (short and very short) has decreased from 36.8% in 2007 to 33.6% in 2016 (National Health Indicator Survey or Survei Indikator Kesehatan Nasional– Sirkesnas). In addition, the coverage of exclusive breastfeeding for infants aged six months has increased from 15.3% in 2010 to 30.2% in 2013 (Riskesdas).

### 2. Strategy, Policies and Programmes

a) In terms of regulation and policy, several regulations that support efforts to accelerate the nutrition improvement have been enacted, among others:

- i) The policy on nutrition improvement that focuses on The First 1000 Days of Life (Gerakan 1000 Hari Pertama Kehidupan/Gerakan 1000 HPK) under the Presidential Decree No. 42 of 2013 on the National Movement for the Acceleration of Nutrition Improvement. This policy integrates health services, specifically maternal and child health and diseases control through a cross-sectoral approach.
- ii) The National Action Plan on Food and Nutrition (Rencana Aksi Nasional Pangan dan Gizi/RAN-PG) for the period of 2005-2010; 2011-2015, and 2015-2019 has been formulated. This has been followed by the formulation of the Regional Action Plan on Food and Nutrition (Rencana Aksi Daerah Pangan dan Gizi /RAD-PG) at the provincial and district levels. Currently, Presidential Decree on Strategic Policy on Food and Nutrition (Kebijakan dan Strategi Pangan dan Gizi/KS-PG) is being drafted as a guideline in integrating food and nutrition improvement intervention.
- iii) Efforts to fulfill children's rights to the best nutrition and to protect mother's rights to exclusively breastfeed are supported by Government Regulation No. 33 of 2012 concerning on Exclusive Breastfeeding.

- iv) As one of the first countries from the 59 countries that joined Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Movement, Indonesia has developed and implemented the SUN platform through advocacy to the highest level leaders, increased stakeholder participation (philanthropy and businesses, CSOs, academics and development partners), ensured coherent policies through program legal framework, aligned relevant programs to the SUN Movement framework, and identified sources of fund
- b) Integration of sensitive and specific intervention components has been done but still limited both in design and scope, for example the pilot project to integrate nutrition-specific interventions and sensitive interventions such as sanitation i.e. the National Community Empowerment Program for Healthy and Smart Generation (Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Generasi Sehat dan Cerdas/PNPM-GSC), and the Prestasi Family Hope Program (PKH) achievement.
- c) Non-cash food subsidy (an enhanced form of rice subsidy) for the poor that enable people from the lowest quintile to have wider food options (e.g rice and egg) and quantity based on their actual needs to meet the minimum dietary intake. This subsidy is implemented through poverty alleviation program.
- d) Policies on central and local government food reserves; food diversification and community nutrition improvement; food crisis criteria and response; distribution, trade, and food subsidy; as well as food and nutrition information system (Government Regulation No. 17 of 2015 concerning Food Security and Nutrition).
- e) Assignment to National Logistic Agency (Badan Urusan Logistik/ BULOG) to maintain food availability and price stability at the producer and consumer levels for 11 food commodities, through management of government food reserves, food distribution, and development of food-based industries (Presidential Decree No. 48 of 2016 concerning Assignment of BULOG for Food Security).
- f) Empowerment of rural communities to be more self-sufficient in food availability and security, through among others, the Village Food Security Program (Desa Mandiri Pangan) and Home-Food Gardening Program (Kawasan Rumah Pangan Lestari).

### 3. Main Challenges

- a) Rural and farmer's poverty hinders the adoption of agricultural R&D and technology innovation by farmers.
- b) Due to archipelagic condition, a huge amount of investment is needed for rural and agricultural infrastructure.
- c) Scarcity of agriculture land and water resources will impact the food production capacity. Land and water resources become increasingly rare from year to year due to continuous of population growth, industrialization, and climate change.
- d) Limited access to food and inadequate knowledge of the community on balanced nutrition causes the fulfillment of nutritional adequacy is not optimal. Maternal education and inadequate parenting practices shown by the low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding contribute to the nutritional problems in Indonesia.
- e) Nutrition-sensitive interventions have been carried out but are still not integrated optimally due to lack of knowledge and communication among program managers. Moreover, nutrition improvement interventions that have been proven to be effective through various pilot projects have not been able to be scaled up due to resource constraints.
- f) The gap between regions in reducing nutritional problems is another challenge. In 2013, there were 15 out of 34 provinces that showed a serious stunting issue where stunting prevalence is more than 40%.

### 4. Improvement Measures

- a) Intensify continuous agricultural research and development to create innovative agricultural technology and agricultural institutional engineering that can improve productivity, business efficiency, and competitive products in domestic and international markets.
- b) Accelerate the issuance of local regulations on the land allocation for sustainable agriculture and new potential agricultural land.
- c) Build and rehabilitate agricultural infrastructures, promote/facilitate private investment in rural agribusiness, and empower smallholder farmers and farmer groups to improve productivity, business efficiency and product competitiveness.
- d) Improve post-harvest handling and its distribution to final consumers to significantly reduce food loss.
- e) Intensify socialization to decision makers, program managers, and the general public on the importance of quality food consumption and good nutrition for health and productivity, including socialization of a food consumption pattern namely diversified, nutritionally balanced and safe (Beragam, Bergizi Seimbang dan Aman/B2SA) that is based on local products.
- f) Improve coordination and operationalization of Food and Nutrition Action Plan documents at the central and local levels, including increasing participation of philanthropy and businesses, CSOs, academics and development partners in improving food and nutrition.
- g) Accelerate the implementation of the First 1000 Days of Life Movement (Gerakan 1000 Hari Pertama Kehidupan/HPK) through an integrated interventions to reduce the prevalence of stunting and other forms of malnutrition. Implement regional development approach and strengthen the provision of supporting data to reduce the gap between regions.

## 5. Lesson Learned

- a) Achieving the targets of Goal 2 requires an integrated approach across sectors and among stakeholders, including active participation of private and community.
- b) Program planning and implementation should be supported by the use of accurate data and information.
- c) Surveillance, including early monitoring, plays a great role in addressing hunger and nutrition issues.
- d) Research, development, technology innovation and institutional engineering are needed to increase food availability.
- e) Community empowerment, including knowledge increased is one of the key factors to achieve food and nutrition development Goal.
- f) Planning, policy and programme should be evidence-based interventions.
- g) One design or a complete intervention policy needs to be strengthened to synergize the nutrition improvement efforts carried out by all sectors. Evidence-based intervention is currently only project-based with limited scope and coverage. Therefore, the interventions that have been proven to be effective are not able to be scaled up easily and become national policies.

## VI. ITALY

### 1. Key elements (strategy, policies, programmes) characterizing national efforts to progress on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture-related goals, and first results

61. Italy is in the process of finalizing its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (from now on “the Strategy”), with the general purpose of defining a strategic plan that confirms, with a long term outlook, its recent structural reforms agenda, in the framework of the National Plan for Reforms and the Economic and Financial Document.

62. The Strategy will set goals related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, as they represent high priorities for Italy, both nationally and in partner countries, in line with the goals, targets and principles set forth by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
63. In particular, Italy believes all people deserve to have a dignified life in order to fulfil their potential. This is why it has made the fight against material and alimentary deprivation one of the primary goals of the Strategy, in strong relation to Goal 2.1 of the 2030 Agenda.
64. Further, Italy is convinced on the importance of implementing policies that are sustainable for our planet. More specifically, protecting and restoring biodiversity, genetic resources and natural ecosystems linked to agriculture, silviculture and aquafarming is amongst Italy's highest priorities, in line with Goals 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of the 2030 Agenda.
65. Moreover, in order to guarantee prosperity to all, the strategy will hold the importance of guaranteeing the sustainability of agriculture, silviculture, aquafarming and fishing along the entire food chain high on its priorities, thus moving towards the achievement of Goals, 2.3, 2.4., 2.5 and 2.a..
66. In light of the above, at national level, Italy adopted and updated a "Strategy for Biodiversity" as an instrument to integrate conservation sustainable use of natural resources in national sectoral policies, in alignment with the European Strategy for Biodiversity; a "National Plan on Biodiversity for Agricultural Interest"; a "Strategic Plan for Innovation and Research in the Agro-Alimentary and Forestry Sector", among others.
67. Italy has also endorsed the idea that diversified agro-ecological systems can succeed in reconciling the need for producing higher quantities of food, with producing higher quality goods, as well as with environmental protection and social equity. This is also a legacy of EXPO 2015 and the Milan Charter, launched in its framework, which embodies the shared belief that agriculture is fundamental, not just for food production, but also for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and the preservation of feeding cultures and landscapes.
68. Italy also believes in the importance of developing winning partnerships to achieve these goals. Partnerships should be developed among different Ministries, with local authorities and relevant Government agencies, with multilateral organizations and civil society.
69. Partnerships in the agricultural sectors are particularly important to guarantee governance and access to land, water and natural and production resources to families and smallholder farmers. They can also strengthen the ability to respond to natural disasters and help promote agricultural, environmental and social policies that are favorable to family-owned agribusinesses, as well as help favor the adoption of policies that enhance market competitiveness for agriproducts. Finally, partnerships can strengthen entire supply chains, within the Italian SME, cooperatives and local districts models.
70. In partner countries, Italy is especially focusing on dissemination of sustainable farming, processing and marketing practices, on improving quality and quantity of production and promoting the entrepreneurial role of rural people.
71. In accordance with its commitments on agriculture, food security and poverty reduction, Italy maintains close relationships with the UN's Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), whose activities and knowledge represent a critical asset in implementing rural and agricultural development projects in partner countries.

*Has CFS policy guidance been useful to design or reform national policies?*

72. To develop and design Italy's national policies regarding food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture-related goals, CFS policy recommendations, such as the Voluntary guidelines

on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests (VGGT) and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, have been kept in high consideration.

**2. Main challenges encountered in implementing these (particularly, bottlenecks and remaining policy gaps), and lessons learned by the country on SDG implementation.**

73. Since the onset of the global economic and financial crisis, Italian productivity has progressively slowed. A priority for Italy is to resume a path of stable growth, which must be sustainable from the economic, social and the environmental perspectives.

74. Sustainable development implies the integration of economic strategies with social and environmental ones. This can only happen through a changeover of growth patterns and socio-economic relations and a substantial improvement in the competitiveness of the Italian economic system. Such objective can be achieved through a fair distribution of resources, a decrease of the unemployment rate, the implementation of economic measures by means of investments in the national health system, in education and in social programs that guarantee widespread access to services and social cohesion.

75. Sustainable development targeted actions and commitments are closely linked to the implementation of policies aimed to eliminate poverty and social exclusion. Social sustainability has to do with distributive equity, human and civil rights, social conditions of children, teen-agers, women, elderly and disabled people, immigration and cooperation among countries.

76. The main government policy priorities are aimed at implementing national and regional cooperation actions in the fields of food security, agricultural safety, food quality, agri-food policies and rural development, by enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural production systems and of agro-industry enterprises and increasing the quality of life and economic diversification in rural areas.

77. A range of investment programmes operates for supporting agricultural production and benefitting Italy's rural areas by helping to maintain diversified activities and to transform them into a feature of economic strength, cultural richness and social cohesion.

78. The main challenge identified so far is to align policies and priorities through cooperation and partnership with local authorities and any other involved party.

79. The Government has already introduced reforms and other provisions, among others in the area of poverty, employment, education and development cooperation, which are very much consistent with the SDGs. Nevertheless, the real challenge is to strengthen cooperation, adopt shared policies and coordinate the activities among central Administration, governmental Agencies and local authorities. The goal is to maximize the results and achieve increased prosperity and development in all geographical areas, making the best use of the resources invested.

80. Italy is working towards translating the global commitments into local objectives and targets. The active involvement of regional and local authorities and the mobilization of relevant stakeholders will provide a further contribution in this sense. Italy must succeed in developing effective policies collectively, allowing all stakeholders to be key actors in accelerating the transition from commitment to action.

81. It is also important that Italy harmonizes the efforts made both at national and at international level to design innovative tools aimed at supporting the sustainable development agenda. This could focus, in particular, on designing more effective public financial instruments to leverage private resources.

82. Overall, a collective effort is needed to increase and improve the level of awareness of citizens through stronger public information, in order to increase their active participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

83. As far as the external dimension of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is concerned, Italy plays an active role in the field of humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development are traditionally top priorities in the framework of the Italian development cooperation strategy.

84. In line with the commitments undertaken at the UN's third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa (2015), the Italian Government has provided for the gradual increase of Italy's ODA within the framework of a reformed, stronger and inclusive system of international cooperation.

85. This is part of the government's efforts to mobilize resources devoted to the effective implementation of the sustainable development Agenda, which include also the conception of innovative public instruments aimed at involving the private sector and at leveraging private funds for development activities.

## VII. SWEDEN

### 1. Progress review on SDG 2

86. Access to food is good in Sweden. Hunger is among the exceptions. Although there are no exact figures, the occurrence of malnutrition in children is marginal. Very few children in Sweden suffer from growth retardation due to malnutrition. Data instead points to an increase in overweight and obesity in society over the past decade. This increase is tangible in the age group 16-29 years. More than half of all adults in Sweden are overweight or obese. However, there are elderly people who suffer from malnutrition. There are differences and inequalities in eating habits and health that are closely associated with socio-economic situation, educational level and income.

87. Swedish agriculture is not small-scale. Data shows an increasing productivity in Swedish agriculture. Sweden's production value per annual full-time equivalent has increased in total over the past decade. Employment in the agricultural sector, measured as the number of full-time equivalents in the sector, has fallen continuously over a long period of time. At the same time greenhouse gas emissions per unit produced has decreased. Swedish animal production has a low use of antibiotics.

88. The production capacity of Swedish farmland is assessed to be good. The status of the ecosystem services of cultivated land is assessed to be satisfactory today. The commitment regarding a sustainable agricultural area lacks an agreed definition. If the proportion of organically cultivated area, which however does not have a globally accepted definition, is used as an alternative indicator, this area has continuously increased in Sweden since 2005.

89. According to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's 2017 follow-up of Sweden's environmental objective "A Varied Agricultural Landscape", which includes the preservation and strengthening of biodiversity, the development is negative. Existing and adopted policy instruments are considered insufficient. According to compilations by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, just over 60 per cent of the local breeds are at risk in Sweden.

90. The Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants (POM) has collected seeds and other older varieties throughout Sweden. The seeds are preserved in the Nordic Gene Bank. POM reintroduces old cultivated plants on the market. The Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which works with projects supporting the conservation of genetic resources in developing countries, is supported by Swedish development cooperation.

91. Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to responsible investments for increased productivity and sustainability in agriculture (including forestry) and for sustainable fisheries. Women have a central role for food security, and interventions to ensure women's rights to own, utilise and inherit land and other natural resources constitute an important area for Swedish development cooperation. In 2015, approximately SEK 803 million of the total Swedish aid went to agricultural interventions in various parts of the world.

92. Sweden's challenges regarding Goal 2 include tackling the population's increasing overweight and obesity, ensuring environmental sustainability and biodiversity in agriculture and strengthening all sustainability dimensions in the entire food chain.

## **2. Examples and good practices related to Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture**

93. Sweden would like to highlight some examples and good practices, related to Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture, referred to in the Swedish HLPF Volunteer National Review.

### *Improving the income of small dairy farmers (Bangladesh)*

94. In a project in Bangladesh (called Dairy Hub), in cooperation with the domestic company PRAN, Tetra Laval has helped to provide small dairy farmers with the opportunity to develop their household production to also cover retail production. The company does this by establishing modern milk centres for the effective and safe storage of delivered milk and by offering tailored technical consultation. This gives small producers greater knowledge and opportunity to improve their income in a stable manner, at the same time as controlling milk quality. Following successful initial trials, Sida has supported PRAN to expand the network of milk centres by covering parts of the costs of technical training over three years. According to information, the first milk centre led to the average monthly income for the small dairy farmers going from USD 100 to USD 244 after 60 months. The average production of milk per cow and day increased from 4.45 litres to 10.8 litres. The quantity of milk delivered per day to the first milk centre increased from 2 000 litres to 41,000 litres.

### *Research in collaboration and partnerships - Resilient societies and landscape-based approaches for sustainable land use*

95. SEI also hosts the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI), which supports and promotes knowledge development and the communication of information on issues concerning poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture and global food security. SIANI works in line with the approach of the Policy for Global Development (PGU) and acts across sectors in collaboration with a large number of actors in the Swedish resource base. By highlighting problems and receiving input from different sectors, SIANI works for sustainable land use with a landscape-based approach together with other Swedish networks and clusters, such as Agroforestry Network and Stockholm International Water Institute's cluster group, Water in the landscape. This is also increasingly receiving global attention through work such as that performed by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in the context of the Global Landscape Forum, normally held in conjunction with global climate negotiations. A landscape-based approach is able to highlight any conflicting goals and pursue possible synergies in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

### *Research in collaboration and partnerships - Water and Seas*

96. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) actively contributes to knowledge-building for a better marine environment, focusing on waters surrounding the coast of Sweden, i.e. the Baltic Sea, Kattegat and Skagerrak. Together with the fishing industry and national authorities, SLU develops selective methods that aim to reduce unwanted catches in Swedish fishing. Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) also works with the fishing industry and recently organised a high-level dialogue with some of the world's most influential food companies in the fishing industry. This resulted in commitments to improve transparency and traceability and reduce illegal fishing in the companies' supply chains.