The Fourth Meeting of the FAO-UNEP Agri-food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held on 11 and 12 June 2013 at FAO headquarters in Rome. A full list of participants with their organization, country and contact e-mail is given in Annex 1.

The meeting began with welcome and introductory remarks from Mr Alexandre Meybeck, FAO Focal Point for the Sustainable Food Systems Programme on behalf of Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, FAO, and from Ms Fanny Demassieux, Coordinator, Resource Efficiency Sub-programme, and Head, Responsible Consumption Unit, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP.

Mr Meybeck highlighted how the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP) is a unique collaboration between the leading intergovernmental agencies in the areas of food, agriculture and the environment. He underlined the catalysing role that UN agencies play and the importance of UN inter-agency cooperation in promoting and implementing sustainable consumption and production (SCP) policies and initiatives. He acknowledged the role of the Agri-food Task Force on SCP by bringing together a broad coalition of concerned stakeholders, including governments, food and fish producers, agro-industry, retailers and consumers. He recalled that the FAO and UNEP partnership in the joint SFSP, built on the comparative advantages of their respective mandates, was established in 2011 with the support of the Government of Switzerland, within the context of SCP, with the purpose of spearheading efforts to improve resource use efficiency and reduce the pollution intensity of food systems from production to consumption. He presented the shift towards sustainable food consumption patterns aimed at responsible utilization of natural resources as a pre-requisite for achieving food and nutrition security for all. Natural resource limitations and degradation of ecosystems, along with the multiple burdens of malnutrition across the globe, have made a compelling case for re-thinking the sustainability of food systems. Therefore, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, and all its technical divisions, have been giving much thought and effort to sustainability in their sectors. Sustainability has thus become a dominant focus of attention in the activities of the FAO Agriculture Department and these activities provide concrete strategies and solutions for optimizing production, while embracing sustainability issues. He underlined that the solutions to the myriad of food and agriculture problems the participants deal with will come from a multidisciplinary approach and, given the escalating population growth, land degradation and increasing demands for food, achieving sustainable food systems and sustainable food supply chains is critical to the issue of food security and poverty alleviation. It is fundamental to the sustained productivity and viability of agricultural systems worldwide. He stated the importance that this Task Force meeting will have in addressing the many challenging issues related to sustainability of food production and consumption with the engagement of the private sector and civil society.

Ms Demassieux presented how the agri-food system programme initiated. She presented the four activity clusters of the Task Force programme of work, which were further developed in the second day session. She summarized the process that was undertaken at Rio +20 and the adoption of the ten-year framework programme on SCP. She introduced the Zero Hunger Challenge, and spoke of its importance in creating awareness with regard to sustainable food systems. She informed the group
of various meetings that will take place, such as the World Environment Day, FAO Conference and World Food Day, as opportunities to increase the visibility of the programme. She gave a brief presentation on the SCP clearinghouse Web platform that is being developed by UNEP. This Web site allows the sharing of information with regard to activities/events, creating communication possibilities between different members, the sharing of documentation and creation of private forums for discussion.

Ms Unati Speirs, South Africa, reported on the 1st National Agri-food Roundtable on SCP that took place in Pretoria, South Africa, on 22 April 2013 and a meeting summary was distributed to the participants. She informed the group on facts and figures in relation to South Africa, providing information on food waste (9 million tonnes per year), increase in obesity and the negative perception of people have with regard to resources for agricultural production. She then gave a description of the roundtable, informing the group of the participation of various high-level actors from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, retailers and the private sector. She explained the discussions that were undertaken during the four sessions, highlighting the main outcomes, such as the preparation of a policy document on SCP certification and the increase in funding mechanisms through banks. She also provided the group with the preparation details and referred to the documentation that is available to obtain more information.

Ms Florence Agyei, Ghana, then provided a short presentation on the state of SCP in Ghana. She mentioned that Ghana has developed a national programme on sustainable consumption and production; the EPA is the lead organization, and that they will build on lessons learned from South Africa to organize a roundtable in Ghana. The group felt that the experience from South Africa was beneficial and could be used as a building block for the future. However, it was felt that there is a need for dialogue with the development banks to provide monetary tools for future projects. There also needs to be some form of certification to include traceability. It was agreed that this is a huge task and that assistance from international organizations is essential.

A video on the Think.Eat.Save campaign on food waste was shown followed by a presentation by Mr James Lomax; UNEP Focal Point for the SFSP He introduced the toolkit prepared in collaboration with FAO and WRAP UK, on how to reduce food waste at household and company level. Examples of food loss and waste at the different stages of consumption and production from the countries present were provided. The group agreed that there is a need to change consumer behaviour and develop policy to increase knowledge and understanding.

Mr Meybeck briefly presented the outcome from the Workshop on voluntary standards for sustainable food systems: challenges and opportunities.

For the morning of the second day of the meeting, the participants were divided to discuss the four activity clusters of the Task Force. Their reports are presented below.

**Activity cluster 1: Information sharing on SCP in agri-food**

**Participants:** Florence Agyei (Ghana); Alexandre Meybeck (FAO); Suzanne Redfern (FAO); Feliz Teillard (FAO)

The group presented a set of activities for 2014:

- Analyse the needs for information, data and tools; including specific needs of the various actors and members of the Task Force.
- Review the already existing information, in terms of databases and documentation. What indicators are available?
• Prepare scoping papers on information available, issues and challenges for specific topics. For example for sustainable diets, look at the methodologies that are available to assess them, in the form of working documents.

• Identify or develop tools that are scientifically based, easy to use, inexpensive and appropriate for the various specific situations, including tools that can be directly used by farmers.

It was noted that it is crucial that required tools be adapted to the needs of the various actors. Often very simple tools, such as dialogue or a questionnaire could help identify the main points to be improved.

Activity cluster 2: FAO/UNEP Toolkit on prevention and reduction of food waste

Participants: Krishna Kumar Singh (ICARDA, India); Koki Okawa (OECD); Anne Roulin (Nestle); Christine Mueller (FOAG, Switzerland); James Lomax (UNEP); Duncan Williams (WWF); Camilla Bucataru (FAO)

The following points were raised:

– UNEP expressed an interest in implementing the Toolkit, which is currently in its draft stage and under revision, at country/business level. It targets food waste prevention and reduction: e.g. retail, hospitality, consumers. Although good feedback has been received from partners consulted so far, more examples are being sought. It was felt that it could be used as a baseline to provide quantification of food waste.

– FAO and UNEP could enable and facilitate the implementation at country/regional level.

– FAO referred to the concern about the regulatory and definitional boundaries for food loss and food waste for the Toolkit, and the need to carefully balance the neutrality of the Toolkit to allow adaptation; for example, by-products and co-products could be legally classified very differently in different legal contexts. Also, policy measures need to be carefully considered in their specific context before any endorsement could take place.

– UNEP suggested that India and OECD countries may be feasible for pilot tests.

– An awareness-raising outreach could also address urban areas in developing economies.

– Switzerland noted that the awareness-raising component is essential and needs messages that are targeted well in different contexts and at different levels.

– Nestlé could share some examples from their efforts to reduce food waste: the agri-food industry is connected with optimization of their supply chains – for instance, by-products go into pet food production.

– India could consider implementation at country level. However, regions in India have to be carefully considered – thus, implementation may be feasible at regional level. Enabling consumers to make informed choices and subsequently facilitate them to change their behaviour is particularly important (for example, weddings in India waste considerable amounts of food). A cultural shift may be required and education on how to have food considered as a value.

– WWF felt that communication about the economic impact of food waste may have the largest potential – as seen in the UK when consumers are made aware of the amount of money they throw away by wasting food instead of, for instance, having a holiday.

– UNEP suggested that South Africa, Brazil and Hong Kong may be of potential interest for pilot testing at country level, which is very important. The appropriate number of pilot projects was debated.

– It may be relevant to consider that piloting will allow adaptation of the tool kit. Implementation in India could provide a better understanding of how the Toolkit could support activities at the regional level – it could be data gathering or softer measures such as awareness-raising.

– Food loss is a recognized priority in developing economies. Both food waste and food loss could be present in the same region. The FAO Regional Near East Expert Consultation on Food Loss and Food Waste held in Egypt in December 2012 supported addressing reduction and prevention of
food waste and food losses concurrently. Coordination along the value chain is necessary. The target groups are different and the policy aspects to be considered also differ: e.g. food loss may refer to infrastructure or market access; food waste may refer to consumer behaviour. Nevertheless, food waste has an impact on the production pressures and emerging economies may face both in the same time.

- WWF felt it is important to assure flexible access to markets.
- OECD suggested that FAO could have an international year on food waste prevention and reduction.
- FAO participates in FUSIONS for the definition of food loss and food waste, policy indicators, economic impact of food loss and waste on food prices. Quantification challenges are also addressed. Date marking – on which FAO has been working for the EU, Pacific Island countries and some African countries (with possible linkages also with the Codex Alimentarius) – could support the connection of the processing steps in the food supply chain with the retail/consumer level food waste.
- Switzerland acknowledged the relevance of date marking coherence at international level that could potentially support prevention and reduction of food waste.
- OECD also works on quantification of food loss and waste.
- UNEP will attend the FUSIONS Advisory Board meeting in Paris on 19 June 2013.
- FAO will present the Global initiative on food loss and waste reduction work on food waste and loss at the OECD meeting on food waste along the supply chain of the Food Chain Analysis Network on 20–21 June, 2013.
- Nestlé mentioned the European Sustainable Consumption and Production Roundtable draft, ENVIFOOD Protocol.
- Pilot tests of the ENVIFOOD Protocol and Communications tools are ongoing until the end of 2013.
- The EU may have potential funds available for activities outside EU. Nestlé is interested in participating in an application for EU funding.
- The results could potentially feed into the evidence necessary to make the targeted messages for awareness-raising for the Toolkit.
- UNEP suggested that India and OECD should collaborate to set a potential road map that could have two phases: Phase 1: 1 to 3 years; Phase 2: 3 to 5 years.
- Nestlé is interested in participating at the Interpack 2014 meeting. FAO will liaise with Nestlé and SAVE FOOD co-founder Messe Düsseldorf.

Activity cluster 3: Creating enabling conditions for the uptake of SCP in food systems

Participants: Unati Speirs (South Africa); Savio Jose Barros de Mendonca (Brazil); Allison Loconto (FAO); Corinne Fjankaus (Switzerland); Fanny Demassieux (UNEP); Pilar Santacoloma (FAO)

It was recalled that the “ten-year goal” of this activity cluster as defined in last year’s meeting will be to have 50 national governments that are actively involved in implementing policy frameworks, activities and initiatives on SPC agri-food.

In 2012, a Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in South Africa with the participation of nearly 50 participants from the private and public sectors. It was an awareness-raising activity where participants held conversations and established the own sustainability goals. Representatives from different departments of the Ministry of Agriculture started to think about a common policy on SPC. Currently each department has its own policies related to sustainability of water, land, and so on. Private sector actors also defined the particular internal objectives on sustainability.
One lesson learned from this experience is the need to provide guidelines on how to establish a roundtable on SCP. Therefore, a process step procedure is going to be finalized and handed out to the focal points of the countries willing to launch a roundtable.

For 2013–2014, according to their expressions of interest, Ghana and Indonesia are the next countries where roundtables will be set up. Other countries on the list are Mozambique and probably India. It will be highly desirable to include a developed country such as The Netherlands, United Kingdom or USA, which are members of the Task Force; however not concluding agreement has been reached.

After discussion, it was concluded that the roundtable is a means to an end and there is a need to provide tools in order to facilitate participants to define their goals as well as monitoring systems to check progress. It was advised that FAO-UNEP can assist in this purpose.

Activity cluster 4: Promoting resource-efficient production methods through market-based approaches

Participants: Roberto Azofeifa (Costa Rica); Li Xiande (China); Frank Grouthas (UNFSS); Alison Loconto (FAO); Youssef Lakbida (Morocco); Erizal Jamal (Indonesia); Maryam Rezaei (FAO)

Reference was made to the goals as set at the Third Task Force meeting in 2012:

- Long term goals – 2012 to 2022: within ten years, food supply chain stakeholders will have access to SCP tools and incentives that ensure food system efficiency and long-term sustainability.
- Mid-term goals – 2012 to 2018: identify points where there is lack of access in supply chain to tools and incentives; coordinate dialogue in priority supply chain; and identify existing tools and how these tools contribute to fill the gaps in priority areas in supply chain.

The group felt there was a need for harmonization of activities and to have a starting platform. It was suggested that the target and activity for year 1 should be to establish a set of principles for SCP in agri-food systems that could be applicable in all the national systems.

For year 2, to address the need for an extensive supply chain analysis in each country, with field surveys (throughout the supply chain), a literature review and consultation with agri-food experts at national and regional level, the target and activities should be to:

- identify important supply chains and spot their sustainability issues in each country (e.g. Costa Rica’s Blue Flag Program was implemented for three commodities according to their GHG emissions);
- increase the level of understanding of governance of the supply chain and the way it functions in order to identify gaps and influence the main actors in the supply chain;
- organize workshops and meetings at national level as tools to share the experiences and lessons learned;
- elaborate a clear definition of SCP in the agri-food system in order to facilitate the practices by developing a conceptual and methodological guideline on SCP practices based on the market approach.

For years 3–6, the target and activities should be to:

- develop proposals for pilot implementation of the guideline in some countries;
- implement SCP guideline in pilot country’s food system;
- evaluate the results and sharing experience in a workshop with Task Force members.

Note: Resource efficiency as an important element for sustainability and interconnection between the national and regional plans were discussed. Participants agreed on the programme being context-specific, pointing out examples of priority areas in their countries.
The work plan was summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Establish the general principles on SCP practices in the Agri-food System (AFS)</td>
<td></td>
<td>A general guideline on main principles and concept related to SCP in AFS</td>
<td>Role of Task Force/FAO/UNEP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify the most important supply chain</td>
<td></td>
<td>A strategic plan describing each supply chain main actor, efficiency indicators, gaps and good practices regarding sustainability</td>
<td>National level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Describe the governance and the way supply chains function</td>
<td>Research and survey, national and regional meetings and workshops</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify gaps and main influence of main actors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Develop a conceptual and methodological guideline on SCP practices based on the market approach</td>
<td>Projects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3–6 - Develop proposals for pilot implementation of the guideline in some countries - Implement SCP guideline in pilot country’s food system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National/international level</td>
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<tr>
<td>3–6</td>
<td>Evaluate the results and sharing experience in a workshop with Task Force members</td>
<td>Workshops with Task Force members</td>
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</table>

The participants regrouped in the afternoon of 12 June:

- A presentation on sustainable food systems was given by Mr Meybeck. He talked about food security being the aim of sustainable food systems and pointed out the four dimensions of food security (availability, accessibility, utilization and stability) and that they are cross-cutting with the three dimensions of sustainable development. Resource availability and accessibility play a crucial role as well as the evolution of consumption patterns. It was noted that, in order to improve the sustainability of food systems, there is a need to identify the hotspots and problem areas with the concept of LCA as a model. Mr Meybeck reported on the current collaboration with CIHEAM-Bari on improving the sustainability of food consumption and diets in the Mediterranean area. The change in people’s consumption patterns was discussed – increase in meat consumption, land availability is decreasing and many more farmers have less than one hectare of land on which to grow crops, and countries such as the United States of America are now suffering from water scarcity. He noted that there is also a need to understand the priorities of each actor as, although all agree on the need for sustainability, each actor has different priorities. It was also mentioned that resilience and its synergy with efficiency needs to be taken into consideration. Although production may be efficient, if it is not resilient it cannot survive for long. The effect of the passing of time on changing sustainability patterns was discussed. The need to develop sustainable diet approaches, also promoting a broader utilization of biodiversity for nutrition was also mentioned.
• Ms Anna Crole-Rees, Switzerland, gave a presentation on the role of the Task Force in the implementation of a possible programme of sustainable food systems within the ten-year framework of the programme on SCP. She provided a brief background as to what took place in Rio+10 and the Marrakesh process and provided background information on CSD 19, the past Task Force meetings and Rio+20. She informed the group that the Swiss would be willing to provide support in the transformation of the sustainable food systems Task Force into a programme within the 10 YFP, in order to increase implementation, allow for up-scaling the whole effort and increasing synergies to obtain funding to help in mainstreaming.

• It was noted that the other five Marrakesh Task Forces are becoming programmes themselves, and the Task Force was asked if they agreed to SCP also becoming a programme. The advantages of becoming a programme were outlined:
  o to respond to the intergovernmental mandate to accelerate the shift to SCP;
  o to respond in a more coherent and cost-effective manner to the regional and national SCP needs and priorities;
  o to contribute to sustainable development through poverty alleviation resource efficiency and decoupling;
  o to increase visibility – showcase, scale up and replicate initiation and act at global and regional levels;
  o to create synergies and the establishment of new partnerships;
  o Help to increase opportunities for additional funding.

• The group agreed that moving towards a programme is an important and interesting progression in order to advance at country level, bearing in mind that, owing to increasing visibility, the bigger the Task Force gets the more political it becomes. However, it should be ensured that the momentum is not lost along the way and that the programme will remain very activity focused.

• In this respect, the following steps were outlined:
  o At least three letters of support from different governments are needed.
  o Need to take what is available now and, through an online process conducted through the clearinghouse site, identify where members and various actors can contribute (initially proposed from mid-July to 10 August).
  o Approval of the draft programme (revised by FAO/UNEP before resubmission to the Task Force for agreement by the end of September.
  o Creation of an Advisory Committee, that should agreed on a “modus operandi” of the programme (November).
  o Submission of draft programme to the 10 YFP secretariat and board for approval (December).
  o Possible launch of the SFS programme in January/February 2014.

It was noted that South Africa, Switzerland, Indonesia and Costa Rica (upon consultation within country) would provide the letters needed for support.
## Annex 1: List of participants

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