

HLPE 2019 – COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE

HUNGARY

I wish to send you a short note regarding the selection of the HLPE topic.

As you know, the proposal for an HLPE report 2019 on agroecology for food security and nutrition has received the highest support in the CFS ranking exercise. Subsequently, both at the OEWG meetings and in written submissions a high number of countries supported agroecology as topic for the next HLPE report.

The list of supporting countries included members of the Group of Friends of Agroecology and a number of other countries as well (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Austria, Ireland, Estonia, Slovak Republic, Romania, Czech Republic, Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Poland, Croatia, Montenegro, etc.)

This is why I really do not understand and accept resistance from some countries against the selection of this topic or to try to mix up with some other, completely different topics, like biotech or others.

As I said at the last meeting, clear focus should be kept on agroecology, to avoid "Christmas-tree" impacts.

Consensus would be fine, but I do not think that the use of red lines is appropriate in this process.

For the sake of consensus, I am ready and available to discuss and accept a reasonable compromise.

In this respect we can support the proposal of France but would not accept any requests to go further.

Last week's IPES event, with the participation of the Heads of RBAs and Bioversity was a great success and was a clear indication that agroecology does have a very important role in creating a new, more sustainable food system.

Furthermore, FAO DG Graziano announced last week that there will be a FAO global event in April 2018 on agroecology. This is also a clear confirmation of the need to consider agroecology seriously.

Last but not least, voices of the great majority of small farmers all over the world should be listened. They know what they need. They want agroecology. With nothing else added...