

**Proposed Elements of Terms of Reference for a Possible
HLPE Report on
“Agroecological approaches and the use of innovative technologies for
sustainable food systems and food security and nutrition”
PSM Preliminary Views**

Note: This represents the preliminary input from members and maybe subject to further improvements and additions due to the limited time allowed for this consultation

The PSM reiterates its concern that an HLPE report on “agroecology” is duplicative to existing work at FAO, and does not enjoy the broad-based support of other proposed topics.

Agroecology is the study of the relation of agricultural crops and environment (OECD <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=81>). Agroecology seeks to apply ecological principles in order to design and manage agro-ecosystems in more sustainable ways. As such it supports the development of best practices, integrated solutions, techniques, *et cetera* that allow agriculture to minimize its ecological footprint, including approaches at the landscape level.

In the scope of this report, HLPE shall focus specifically on agroecology as a scientific and analytical tool that helps to understand the impacts of different practices on crop productivity and the local environment. The mandate of the report shall focus specifically on how agroecological and other innovative approaches can advance agriculture in the face of growing environmental challenges, including climate change, finite water resources, and loss of biodiversity. Approaches such as climate smart agriculture, precision agriculture and sustainable intensification are among those that have a role.

The CFS recognizes many definitions of agroecology exist. The purpose of the HLPE and CFS is not to define or endorse a single agricultural system since those systems are highly variable based on national circumstances, location, and food systems. The HLPE study shall focus on the science of agroecology approaches with innovative technologies to minimize the ecological footprint of agriculture.

“Systems high in sustainability can be taken as those that aim to make the best use of environmental goods and services whilst not damaging these assets. [] The idea of agricultural sustainability, though, does not mean ruling out any technologies or practices on ideological grounds.” (Pretty, Jules; University of Essex, 2006)

Social movements, trade, and certification systems would be outside the scope of the report.

The HLPE report shall avoid duplication with the recently negotiated CFS positions with:

- Access of smallholders to markets
- Livestock
- Climate change

The HLPE report shall be mindful that separate work is underway on nutrition.