U.S. Comments on the Scope of the Proposed 2019 Theme

In light of the recent release of the High Level Panel of Expert's (HLPE) Second Note on Critical and Emerging Issues in Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) – which highlighted the role of ***both agroecological practices and new research and technologies*** in addressing FSN in a sustainable manner – there is a compelling need to examine the potential for these inputs in a focused, but holistic manner.

- We are witnessing an unprecedented confluence of pressure on global food and agriculture and these pressures have the potential to further exacerbate hunger, poverty, malnutrition and cause significant environmental degradation. (***Page 16 of Note)*** "New knowledge and technology development for FSN and appropriate innovation policies are needed to find solutions in view of changing circumstances."
- There is no single technology or approach for achieving sustainable and resilient food systems: science, knowledge, and evidence should be the basis for decision-making and all options have a critical role to play to ensuring sustainable and resilient food systems for a growing global population.
- The report should examine the potential contributions of each approach to sustainable and resilient food systems and also identify potential for synergies between approaches and remaining gaps.
- ***(page 9 of Note – recommending a holistic approach)*** "Although all the HLPE reports are knowledge and evidence-based, the potential contributions of knowledge and technology to FSN, as well as their limitations, have never been the core focus of any HLPE report. Such a study could provide useful insights: on the role of innovation and access to technologies in agriculture and food systems, as well as on the integration of diverse forms of knowledge, including traditional and indigenous knowledge."

A) Context: drivers and challenges

1. The HLPE report should begin with a focused assessment of the contributions of both agro-ecological approaches and innovative technologies to meet existing projections of future food demand in a sustainable manner. It should review the work of recent regional workshops conducted by FAO and other research in the areas of agroecology and biotechnology with particular focus on areas of synergy and remaining gaps.

As outlined in the Note on Critical and Emerging Issues: "FSN implies that knowledge and technology be applied throughout entire food systems, from input suppliers to farmers, food processors and consumers. Innovation involves the fine-tuning and adaptation of existing knowledge and practices to specific conditions. Applied research is essential to avoid a blueprint or one-size-fits-all approach."