

Inputs in the CFS Rapporteur's Note

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the CFS Rapporteur's Note on the CFS Policy Convergence Process on Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

We consider this policy work an important contribution to further enhance sustainable food systems enabling healthy diets in support of countries' commitments at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

The ICN2 highlighted the role of food systems – the way food is produced, processed, distributed, marketed and prepared for human consumption – as crucial for better diets and a healthier planet, and eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition as well as overweight and obesity and diet related NCDs.

To this end, in the ICN2 Rome Declaration, Member States committed to 'Enhance sustainable food systems by developing coherent public policies from production to consumption and across relevant sectors to provide year-round access to food that meets people's nutrition needs and promote safe and diversified healthy diets' (Commitment 15c). This commitment is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 2. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition calls upon countries and other relevant stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the ICN2 commitments and its accompanying ICN2 Framework for Action over the 10 years period from 2016 to 2025. The Nutrition Decade aims to trigger intensified action for sustainable and resilient food systems that support ensuring universal access to healthier and more sustainable diets – for all people, wherever they are and wherever they live, and to end hunger and eradicate all forms of malnutrition worldwide.

CFS Policy Convergence Process on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches

We support that the introduction gives recognition to the role of diversification of food systems in achieving "nutrition security" and "sustainable production". We also support the inclusion of public health as one of the externalities to be included under section 1 point (b). We would like to provide some suggestions on where we believe that the integration of healthy diets, nutrition and health could be further strengthened in the suggested policy-relevant areas.

In the introduction, the interconnection of climate change and environmental degradation with agricultural food production and the diet people consume could be more clearly expressed. Furthermore, that this relationship is bidirectional: not only does climate and environment impact on food production but also the food we eat and the way it is produced negatively impact the climate and cause environmental degradation. The inclusion of these broader global contexts would also provide a better link to the policy-relevant areas that follow, for example to the ecological footprint and externalities addressed in section 1.

In section 2 "Support transitions to diversified and resilient food systems", the policy relevant areas could be strengthened by including clear language on healthy food environments and reflections on the complementarities to the CFS policy work on food systems and nutrition. The HLPE report in Section 4.2.3 (page 103) addresses the role, which agroecological approaches can have in influencing food

environments beyond the food production side. The report states that “diversification of food systems is not only related to production systems but also consumption patterns”. Food environments play a key role in shaping these consumption patterns. By further elaborating on the centrality of food environments and related consumer aspects, an important connection with the CFS policy convergence work on food systems and nutrition could be established. We support that key elements on nutrition labelling, education, public procurement as well as production and provision of nutrient dense foods contribute to improved food environments as part of sustainable food systems supporting healthy diets for all.

In point (i) on “food value chains” we would like to suggest specifying with concrete examples what kind of ‘fresh products’ is referred to. This would allow to provide a clearer connection to fresh foods that constitute healthy diets. The role of national food based dietary guidelines to inform production and supply of food could be incorporated here.

Moreover, the value chain connects to the people who consume the food produced and supplied, and the aspect of food safety merits stronger attention. The HPLE report recommendation 2.c.i (page 22) outlines the role that local/regional markets and processing hubs and transportation infrastructures have in promoting “improved processing and handling of fresh products”. We would like to suggest expanding by including the improved availability of, and access to fresh, nutrient-rich and safe food products that constitute a healthy diet for improved nutrition and health of all people.

In addition, the importance of creating a cross-sectoral understanding of the linkages between food production, consumption and health is vital. In Section three “*Strengthening support for research and reconfigure knowledge generation and sharing to foster co-learning*” related to capacity building, we would like to suggest integrating the elements stated in the HLPE recommendation 3d, which refers to training programmes for agriculture extension and public health workers to create a better understanding of the role of agroecological practices for nutrition, human, animal, and environmental health.

Finally, in Section four point (c) on “gender equality” could further elaborate on women’s role in nutrition and health. It could be included specifically, that women’s empowerment, in relation to increasing access and control over natural resources and education, should be strengthened, as this can significantly benefit food security, nutrition and health of family members.

With best regards,

Marzella Wüstefeld,

Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS)

World Health Organization

