

CGIAR System Statement 14 April Open meeting on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

This focused on the Rapporteur/CFS Sec summary of the many written inputs to the zero draft, submitted last month.

1. Situation analysis. 'There were a range of views on the degree of change needed. Some rejected the call to transform food systems or to embark on transition pathways.'

I stated that transformation of our Food Systems is called for: since i) the 2030 agenda for the SDGs calls for 'bold transformation'; ii) the CFS meeting on 31/3 on UNFSS recorded Agnes Kalibata's note that 'the world's current Food Systems are failing our people, the environment and our future - agricultural transformation is necessary to achieve zero hunger.' iii) Covid 19 further underlines this need; recall the CFS Chair's summary of our 19 March meeting: '*Never before has it been so important for all of us to focus our collective energy and efforts on promoting resilient, sustainable food systems. In addition to saving lives and meeting immediate needs through emergency responses, we need to start planning for longer-term solutions to support recovery, strengthen preparedness, build resilience, and promote sustainable socio-economic development.*'

Two principal on-going CFS policy processes, which are especially pertinent to UNFSS are this Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems, and the VG on FSN. These draw on many of the earlier CFS policy guidelines, and re-enforce several of the UN decade initiatives, such as UNDF.

2. Agroecological and other innovative approaches. 'Some stakeholders raised concerns that the Zero Draft diverged substantially from the intended topic.....'

I echoed the earlier written input from Switzerland that this policy convergence process should valorise the content and findings of the HLPE report - following its strong reception at CFS46 and at our open meeting on 27 January. The balance between agroecological and other innovative approaches is well covered and balanced in the full HLPE report (less so in its Executive Summary). Recommended compromise is to at least follow the FAO recommendation to re-insert paragraph 4 of the 10 February initial draft.

3. Digitalization. 'Some stakeholders underlined the need for access to digital technologies by family farmers, the need for capacity building and, in particular, the need for a strong regulatory framework.'

I noted that the EU, WFO, Costa Rica amongst others had indicated the importance of digital technologies to contribute to transformative approaches for farmers. CFS hosted a seminar last February on 'bridging the data divide' which also indicated some of the potential of digital technologies. The IFAD written input to this Zero Draft referred to CGIAR work on geospatial analysis, remote sensing/ earth observation as means of assessing the utility to farmers of different farming system innovations. Of course we need a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguards: but CFS 46 convened a side event as part of the launch of the Digital Council (that meeting included the RBAs, OECD, development banks and others) which includes focus on that - Australia's written input to this Zero Draft also cited this Digital Council.

5. Stakeholders. 'Some respondents raised the need to address recommendations to all stakeholders and not just states (e.g. private sector)'.

Strongly supported by CGIAR (also in our written input to this Zero Draft of 26 March), by many others in written comments, and as clearly stated in this HLPE report. And by the HLPE consultation on the Report – Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs of 2018 and 2019). This MSP approach to all stakeholders should be in this zero draft.

Time prevented comment on the other issues - many of which were covered in earlier CGIAR written and verbal inputs. I would strongly support the New Zealand intervention yesterday on the need for coherence and complementarity between the two current policy convergence processes: this Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems, and the VG on FSN. The latter is particularly relevant for the following items in the Rapporteur/CFS Sec summary of the many written inputs to the zero draft: 6. Markets. 7. Right to food. 8. Healthy diets. 11. Gender.