

Policy convergence process on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

Comments from the United States

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide input to this policy convergence process on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. Please consider the following suggested parameters and areas of focus where we see the greatest added value for the prospective recommendations. We expect that the policy convergence process will result in a set of focused, practical [apolitical] and evidence-based voluntary recommendations that CFS members can consider in adopting approaches to enhance food security and nutrition (FSN). We look forward to working with CFS and its members in this process.

General comments/parameters:

- We appreciate that the HLPE recommendations highlight that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to realizing the transformation of food systems to achieve and maintain FSN. We agree, it will require supporting a diversity of approaches, transitions from different starting points, along different pathways, adapted to the local conditions and challenges. However, the recommendations of the HLPE are exceedingly broad and cover the whole spectrum of sustainable food systems and in some areas, overlap with recommendations from other reports and policy convergence processes. We strongly recommend that for developing the most practical and relevant recommendations possible, this process draw from those HLPE recommendations that are most immediately relevant to agroecology and other innovative approaches and technologies.
- It should be made clear that the recommendations resulting from this policy convergence process will be strictly voluntary and create no rights or obligations. To underscore this, we suggest including some of the same framing language that was used in the CFS policy convergence process on Sustainable Forestry for FSN, as follows.

“The recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for [INSERT: consideration in the development of] public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement and not restate related guidance previously provided in other CFS policy products and recommendations.”

- Along those same lines, with regard to HLPE recommendation 5 – Establish and use comprehensive performance measurement and monitoring frameworks for food systems, we feel that it would be inappropriate for the CFS to monitor if and how these prospective recommendations are implemented by Members.
- We would like to see the following concepts highlighted in this process:
 - The importance of cross sectoral, multi-stakeholder collaboration
 - The need to build the evidence base for agroecological and other innovative approaches through relevant metrics that consider the environmental, social, as well as economic impacts of various policies and approaches.

- The need to strengthen support for research and foster co-learning in knowledge generation and sharing (HLPE recommendation 3 which we find particularly relevant)
- A recognition that international obligations including trade obligations must be considered in countries implementation of policies to promote agroecological and other innovative approaches.
- Incentivizing and facilitating the adoption of agroecological and other innovative approaches to support FSN.

- This process is not the appropriate forum to deliberate on:
 - Legal protection for land rights
 - Agricultural subsidies
 - Diet-related non-communicable diseases
 - Intellectual property rights [access and benefits sharing]
 - A Global observatory for human gene editing

Questions from the Rapporteur:

- 1. Do you think that the recommendations in the HLPE report accurately reflect the findings of the report?*
- 2. Do you think that major problems are missing from the HLPE recommendations?*
- 3. Can you give examples of policies related to agro-ecological systems and other innovation systems for sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition? How were these policies formulated and what was their impact?*
- 4. Are there any other thoughts that you think should be taken into account by the CFS as part of this policy convergence process?*