

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON
AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
THAT ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

ZERO DRAFT Comments

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide further comments on this advanced version of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Food Systems that Ensure Food Security and Nutrition.

We note with appreciation the inclusion of previous suggestions, specially the interconnection of climate change and environmental degradation with agricultural food production and the diet people consume, and the consideration of nutrition and health principles in extension workers training. We would like to provide some suggestions on where we believe that the integration of healthy diets, nutrition and health aspects could be further strengthened in current Zero Draft.

In relation to paragraph 6 and 7 on the impacts that digitalization can have on food systems, we would like to suggest broadening the focus to embrace the entire food system by also including considerations of potential impacts of new technologies and digitalization on food environments and consumer demand. For example, the recommendation could also address consumers' interest in being better able to trace the origin of food they purchase; and, furthermore, the potentially harmful effects of technological progress as it relates to digital marketing and easier access to foods that favour unhealthy diets could be considered.

We would like to suggest that the recommendation in paragraph 22 on "Encourage sustainable consumption patterns that maintain or enhance, rather than deplete, natural resources and support circular economies " also relates to the section "Sustainable and Healthy diets" as it pertains also to supporting healthy diets that are sustainably produced.

Furthermore, actions to address and ensure food safety could be strengthened throughout the document.

- As the world's population grows, the intensification and industrialization of agriculture including animal production to meet increasing demand for food creates both opportunities and challenges for food safety. Climate change is also predicted to impact food safety, where temperature changes modify food safety risks associated with food production, storage and distribution (WHO Food Safety Fact Sheet). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/food-safety>
- This relates also to helping ensure that smallholder farmers have access to markets, as compliance with food safety and quality standards is one of the constraints to smallholder participation in markets. (FAO Strengthening Sector Policies for Better Food Security and Nutrition Results- Public Food Procurement) <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2281EN/ca2281en.pdf>
- A suggested addition could be that it is important to ".....support smallholders and farmer organizations in complying with food safety and quality standards in order to ensure their participation in public procurement and engagement in formal markets".

Finally, we support the section on sustainable healthy diets. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 25 we would like to suggest it could be strengthened by further addressing the quality of foods provided in public procurement policies. We would like to suggest the inclusion of the words 'that support healthy diets', so that the text could say based on locally and sustainably produced food 'that support healthy diets'.

With best regards

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