

Comments on latest version of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) – 11 May 2020

World Resources Institute

Colleagues at WRI reviewed the document and found it very well done. It is very comprehensive and addresses key issues on gender, equality, climate, and food. There is hardly anything in here to disagree with!

The main question we had was, “what can be done to increase the likelihood of governments adopting the Guidelines?” The text is solid, so the key question becomes one of adoption and implementation. I wonder if more could be articulated in the final section about approaches for catalyzing adoption.

There is a typo on page 14 . . . “support food producers in their efforts to adaptat to climate change” . . . should be “adapt”.

There was little on food loss and waste reduction, which I would have thought is something that can help with nutritious food systems (esp. since a lot of fruits and vegetables are lost or wasted). Having a paragraph encouraging countries and companies to “target, measure, and act” to reduce food loss and waste (and thereby increase the amount of nutritious food making it to people) would be a good addition.

Finally, the document has a lot of lists per area/theme. The reader starts to get lost in it. For the sake of the reader “grasping it” much more easily, I wonder if the authors could create a nice summary page that has the lists per theme designed in a manner that could be the stand-alone “one page infographic or list”. It would have the guidelines nicely displayed, in color, etc. Just a suggestion for strengthening the communication.