Comment from Thailand on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN): Draft One

Part 1

1. Thailand supports CFS to promote the implementation and monitoring of the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition at all levels in collaboration with CFS stakeholders.

2. This part should refer to the UN Decade of Family Farming as one of the major producers and the most vulnerable groups in food systems.

Part 3

1. The role of private sector should be clarified along the food chain in order to set strategies to enhance sustainable food system appropriately and comprehensively that cover all three pillars which are economic, environment, and society. Our proposal is to edit the last few words of the Section 3.1.1 B from …. “the private sector to build strategies that improve food environment” to “……the private sector to build strategies that improve sustainable food systems.”

2. Regarding the management of water resources for agriculture and food production as mention in Section 3.2.1 B. The second sentence which states that “These approaches should foster the reduction of water wastage in irrigation, ensure the systematic use of appropriate water-saving technologies, minimize water pollution stemming from agriculture…..” We proposed to change the world from “water pollution stemming from agriculture” to “water pollution stemming from food producers”. Since we have to consider all stakeholders in the food systems from agricultural sector, industrial sector, etc. that everyone should take responsibility for reducing water pollution. Therefore, in the mentioned sentence, we should state “food producers” rather than “agriculture” which might reflects only farmers not the food producers as a whole.

3. To promote the nutritious crops, the Voluntary Guideline should focus on the development of such crops for the sake of small scale farmers that they are provided the high quality of nutrition crops in affordable price. Accordingly, they are able to be more self-sufficient, have greater well-being in terms of economic and health. The diversification of crops are also crucial for nutritious food. If the Draft in Section 3.2.2 F mentioned that “the state should invest in research and innovation for commercial development of nutritious crops...” the focus might be distorted to focus on the nutritious crops for trades instead of nutritious crops for food diversification. Therefore we propose to delete the word “commercial” from the sentence.
4. With regard to the regulatory instruments to promote reformulation as mentioned in Section 3.2.3 E, which states that “states should institute regulatory instruments to promote reformulation, complemented with warning labels and taxes on less nutritious food products…”. The approach should be in line with national law and regulation. The warning label shall be applied with the hazardous products. Instead of putting the warning labels on less nutritious food products, we shall have a campaign to promote labels on high nutritious food products to guarantee the product quality.

5. Section 3.6 building on the FFA mainly focuses on the humanitarian responses, but the long-term strategies and related mechanism that embrace agricultural development to enhance FSysN, to increase the resilience, and to reduce the dependency on humanitarian assistance for the local are needed for further elaboration.

**Part 4**

In this part, we may need to highlight the roles of the 3 Rome-based agencies how they will ensure the support in developing and promoting implementation the national policies by using the guidelines in collaboration with other key stakeholders at the country level.

The national mechanism among all stakeholders (including government, parliamentarian, private sector, producers, civil societies, and consumers) to promote the implementation and monitoring is another element that we need to highlight and establish at the country level.

In paragraph 46, we are seeking clarification of the word “National Councils. Each country may have different meaning and setting body.

In paragraph 49, we would like to emphasize that the voluntary guidelines on food system and nutrition should also support the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming and other CFS policies to strengthen sustainable food system and agriculture.