



THE VISION OF THE REFORMED CFS IS TO BE THE MOST INCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO WORK TOGETHER IN A COORDINATED WAY TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION FOR ALL

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Investing responsibly in agriculture, and particularly in smallholder agriculture, is essential for reducing poverty, creating decent employment opportunities, enhancing food security and nutrition, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Agricultural investments can generate a wide range of developmental benefits. In order to do so, however, they need to be responsible and specifically directed towards the achievement of such benefits, while aiming at avoiding potential negative consequences.



To address these needs, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has launched a consultative process to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investments (CFS-RAI). The CFS-RAI principles are expected to promote investments in agriculture that contribute to food security and nutrition, and that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The principles are intended to provide practical guidance to governments, private and public investors, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations, research organizations and universities, donors and foundations. They will be voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied in line with existing obligations under national and international law.

Regional consultations:

- ✓ Africa
- ✓ Europe and Central Asia
- ✓ Asia and Pacific
- ✓ North America
- ✓ Latin America & Caribbean
- ✓ Near East

Consultations will be held from November 2013 to February 2014 and will include regional meetings as well as electronic consultations. All consultation outcomes will contribute to the preparation of the First Draft which will subsequently be negotiated by the CFS-RAI OEWG in Rome in May 2014. The resulting CFS-RAI principles will then be presented to the 41st Session of CFS in 2014 for endorsement by the Plenary.

OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The objective of the regional consultations is to receive feedback and input on the Zero Draft of CFS-RAI from a broad range of stakeholders in order to improve the existing draft and foster ownership of the principles on a global level.

The expected outcome of the regional consultations is a Chair's summary, which will be finalized after the close of the event based on the comments received. The outcome of each break-out group discussion will be attached to the Chair's summary, and written comments received will be included as an Annex. The outcomes will contribute to the preparation of the first draft of the principles. The Chair's summary with Annexes will also be made available on the CFS-RAI webpage at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/rai>.

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS



Based on the CFS multi-stakeholder model, the regional consultations will gather participants from governments, civil society organisations (through the CFS Civil Society Mechanism), private sector associations (through the CFS Private Sector Mechanism), agricultural research organisations, UN bodies, international financial institutions, and private philanthropic foundations, to ensure the multi-stakeholder nature of the discussion and its outcomes. The regional consultations will be organized by the CFS Secretariat in collaboration with the decentralized offices of FAO, IFAD, WFP and other relevant partners.

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The consultation will be made up of Plenary Sessions and Break-out Groups. Interpretation in all UN official languages that are relevant for the region will be provided for the Plenary Sessions.

Break-out Groups

Participants will be asked to form Break-out Groups in order to ensure maximum interaction among stakeholders. Each Break-out Groups will nominate a Break-Out Group Chair and a Rapporteur who will present the summary of the group discussion in the Plenary. The Break-out Groups will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat and a Power Point template for the summary will be provided. The outcomes of the Break-out Groups will be included in the Chair's summary.

The discussions in the Break-Out Groups should focus on the identification of specific gaps, redundancies and suggestions for improvement in each section of the document, taking into account the Terms of Reference (see Background Documents below).

Plenary Sessions

The discussion in plenary should focus on the CFS-RAI Principles Zero Draft as a whole in order to provide input and answers to the Guiding Questions (see Draft Agenda).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The following documents serve as background information for the regional consultations and are available on the CFS-RAI Principles web page in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese:

Link: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/rai>

Documents: CFS-RAI Zero Draft
Terms of reference to develop principles for responsible agricultural investments
Chair's Summary from the OEWG Sep 23rd & 24th Meeting



Monday, 9 December 2013 – Red Room, FAO

08.30 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 10.00	Welcoming remarks and introduction to the CFS-RAI process
10.00 - 11.00	Presentation of the CFS-RAI Zero Draft
11.00 - 12.30	Plenary Discussion (General statements and Guiding Question 1)
12.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 - 17.00	Plenary Discussion (Guiding Questions 2, 3 and 4)
17.00 - 17.30	Working arrangements for Break-out Groups

Tuesday, 10 December 2013

09.00 - 12.30	Break-out Group session
12.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 - 16.30	Plenary: Report of Break-out Groups
16.30 - 17.15	Plenary: Presentation and discussion of the Chair's Summary
17.15 - 17.30	Plenary: Wrap up and closing remarks



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Are all relevant issues and areas related to fostering responsible agricultural investments adequately addressed in the Zero Draft? If not, what should be changed?
2. Are the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders clearly defined in order to facilitate implementation of the principles? If not, what should be changed?
3. Does the Zero Draft achieve the desired outcome to promote investments in agriculture that contributes to food security and supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security? If not, what should be changed?
4. The principles are intended to provide practical guidance to stakeholders; therefore:
 - a) Are the current structure and language used clear and accessible for all relevant stakeholders to apply?
 - b) What steps need to be taken for the CFS-RAI principles to be used and implemented by different stakeholders after endorsement by CFS?

