

**Expert Consultation on Strengthening FAO-Academia Partnerships**  
**5-6 June 2014**  
**FAO, Rome**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Introduction**

In an intertwined and globalized world knowledge and solutions are spread across a vast array of institutions and organizations. FAO recognizes that partnerships are a crucial enabler for assisting Member States in their efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. Through its Reviewed Strategic Framework, a set of Strategic Objectives<sup>1</sup> have been identified representing the main areas of work on which FAO will concentrate its efforts to achieve its vision and global goals. Strengthening alliances with diverse partners, including the academia, civil society organizations, private sector and farmer organisations and cooperative is an essential factor in enabling the success of this new approach.

The role of academia as a source of cutting-edge research, data resources and skill development for current and future needs is well recognised. Institutions of higher education generate knowledge for evidence-based decision making and create an environment to nurture innovation and critical thinking. There is a recognition both amongst the academia and the development community that academia could play a more direct role as partners in the global fight against poverty and hunger. Knowledge and effective access to it at all levels, is central to eradicating hunger, achieving sustainable food systems, equity, rural prosperity and resilience.

### **From Knowledge to Action**

Over the years, FAO has engaged with many universities and research institutions for scientific, social and economic research inputs, largely in an *ad hoc* manner. The current Strategic Framework provides opportunity to identify, engage and promote sustainable partnerships at an institutional level, that capitalize on the comparative advantages and increases value-propositions for mutually beneficial alignments to addresses the global and local challenges. By leveraging mutual partnerships, FAO can assist Member States to stay ahead on knowledge advancements, provide relevant policy advice and technical expertise in a world of rapidly evolving technologies and innovations.

**The main objective** of the expert consultation is to reinforce partnerships and identify ways and means to strengthen FAO-Academia partnerships to support the delivery of the Strategic Objectives. The consultation will provide an opportunity to review the FAO Academia partnership Strategy and chart a road map to address the knowledge needs of the Strategic Objectives through value-added collaborations. It will catalyse dialogue to promote effective, efficient, transformational partnerships at the global, regional and national levels.

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<sup>1</sup>The Strategic Objectives (SO) are discussed in Reviewed Strategic Framework  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/027/mg015e.pdf>

SO1: Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

SO2 : Increase and improve provision of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

SO3: Reduce rural poverty

SO4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

**Date and Venue:** The Expert Consultation will be held on 5-6 June, 2014 at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

**Output:** The consultation will provide recommendations for strengthening FAO-Academia partnerships strategy and develop a road map for FAO-Academia partnerships. The road map will identify the process, immediate options and future opportunities for engaging with the academia to support the work of the FAO Strategic Objectives.

**Strengthening FAO–Academia Partnerships**  
**Expert Consultation**  
5-6 June 2014  
FAO Headquarters, Rome,  
Agenda

Day 1 : German Room C229

Time	Session I – Setting the Scene	Lead
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00- 09:30	Welcome and Opening remarks	D.Gustafson, DDO M. Villarreal, Director, OPC
09:30-10:00	Role of academia in food security and development	W. Belik, University of Campinas, Brazil
10:00-10:30	FAO-Academia partnership strategy: Opportunities and Challenges	C.Mielitz, K.Ghosh, OPCP
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
	Session II - Leveraging Academic Knowledge	Lead
11:00-13:00	Working Group A: Eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition Venue : German Room (C229)	FAO Strategic Objective 1 Team Members
	Working Group B: Enabling more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems Venue: Philippines Room (C223)	FAO Strategic Objective 4 Team Members
13:00-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-15:45	Working Group A: Reducing rural poverty Venue: German Room (C229)	FAO Strategic Objective 3 Team Members
	Working Group B: Increasing resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises Venue: Philippines Room (C223)	FAO Strategic Objective 5 Team Members
15:45-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:30	Working Group A and B: Making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable :German Room (C229)	FAO Strategic Objective 2 Team Members

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Day 2: German Room (C229)

Time	Session III: Knowledge for Action	Lead
09.00-09:30	FARA and its role on capacity development in Africa	Irene Annor-Frempong, Director, Capacity Development, FARA
09:30-10:30	Roadmap for FAO-Academia partnerships  Working Group A – presentations and discussion	R. Castañeda, Chief, OPCP  Group A Team Leader
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:30	Working Group B– presentations and discussion	Group B Team Leader
12:30- 1.00	General Discussion	C. Mielitz, OPCP
1:00 -1.15	Closing remarks	M.H Semedo, DDN