**CFS POLICY PROCESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION**

The following submission has been prepared by the Forests, Trees and Agroforestry research program of the CGIAR (FTA) during its nutrition priority workshop. It builds upon the HLPE reports on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition (2017) and on Nutrition and Food systems and on other scientific publications, with main references listed in the end of this contribution.

1. **Does Chapter 1 adequately reflect the current situation of malnutrition and its related causes and impacts, particularly in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? What are the underlying problems that currently hinder food systems to deliver healthy diets?**

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| **General comments:**   * Chapter 1 adequately reflects the global current situation of malnutrition, proximate causes and impacts. There could be value in better showing that situations vary a lot between countries and groups. For instance the specificities of small island states, land locked countries, mountainous areas, as well as of indigenous and traditional food systems need to be mentioned. * The food system dimension should be better framed; The underlying problems that currently hinder foods systems to deliver healthy diets are not described. It could be done by referring to the HLPE report. Different perspectives on why the food systems is failing are not addressed. Environmental focus needs to be highlighted, forests, oceans, natural resources etc.. It could include the parallel often made between planetary and human health. Nor is mentioned the critical role of investment by the private sector.   **1 and 4**: Too strong focus on nutrition and too little focus on diets, on foods, particularly in 1 and 4. E.g. It is not mentioned in number 4 that too little consumption of fruits and vegetables is also leading to diet-related non-communicable disease. Not only overweight and obesity is leading to NCD;  **7**. Could also be mentioned the effects of global changes, such as the impacts of deforestation on the diets of forest dependant populations, including indigenous peoples.  **9**. Missing drivers of negative behaviour, private sector should be mentioned  **10**. Technological processes/changes is missing;  **11**: This paragraph could deserve some rewording, in particular to distinguish people with high nutrient requirements and people that have low access/are more vulnerable.  **12**. Wording could be improved:, e.g. income is not a sector, gender is not a sector; there are no policies on income. Other sectors should be added – land use planning. The different agriculture sectors should be explicitly mentioned, like forestry, fisheries;  **18**. Could be added the need to ensure that it is sustainable.  **20.** add “diversity and” before “complexity”.  **24**. This paragraph would be better placed earlier in the text, for instance between paras 9 and 10.  **26**. Community based organizations could be added.  **28**. footnote 13 need to be corrected, the reference is HLPE. 2014. Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems.  **32.** Focus on nutrient adequacy, but not much on diversity, |

1. **What should be the guiding principles to promote sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable healthy diets? What are your comments about the principles outlined in Chapter 2? Are they the most appropriate for your national/regional contexts?**

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| Page 8: Guiding principles  The guiding principles contain principles that are more objectives, like c), d) and f) and others that are more means of interventions like a), b), e), g). There could be value in reorganizing the list. It would be good to add a guiding principle on “coordinated action” between different categories of actors, including partnerships. a) replace “maximize outcome”by “optimize outcome”   add “with particular attention to the trade-offs involved”  b) Replace “policies” by “policies and measures”.  d) Could be enlarged to vulnerable and marginalized groups, with “Equity and inclusiveness” as an objective.  e) Nutrition knowledge is an activity rather than a principle.  g) Capacity-building is again an action rather than a principle. With e) could be gathered under an aspect of integrated learning that also addresses learning loops |

1. **In consideration of the policy areas identified in Chapter 3 and the enabling factors suggested in paragraph 41 of the Zero Draft, what policy entry points should be covered in Chapter 3, taking into account the need to foster policy coherence and address policy fragmentation?**

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| General comments:  The organization of this part, by component of the food systems, risks not hide the links between them. In a determined food system, they interact and determine each other. It should be highlighted in the beginning and the end.  It also risks hiding the diversity of food systems, their specificities, specific constraints, challenges and opportunities. It should be emphasized in the beginning of the part, making explicit reference to the typology of food systems. It could mention the need to take into account the specificities of small island states, land locked countries, mountainous areas, as well as of indigenous and traditional food systems. It could also explicitly mention the need to build upon traditional healthy diets.  In general, this part seems to be very urban food systems oriented. It should recognize that in spite of growing urbanization an important part of the population, and an important of the undernourished and malnourished are rural. Rural food systems deserve equal attention, particularly those that are isolated, marginalized and/or confronted to changes in land use and diets. Solutions are likely to be very different from those for urban areas.  When “agriculture” covers also forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, as per FAO’s definition, there would be value in making it explicit for those who are not accustomed to FAO’s definition.  43. The list of policy relevant areas could be better organized, thematically and logically.  a) should explicitly mention agoecology and agroforestry.  b) add “for the different categories of the population”.  c) should explicitly mention agoecology and agroforestry.  Replace “crop varieties” by “plant species and varieties”.  Policy-relevant areas that refer to sustainable and diverse food production systems should be more explicit. They should for instance consider the inclusion of tree-based systems which provide direct and indirect benefits: around 74% of fruit produced globally are harvested from trees[1], which also produce nutritious leafy vegetables, nuts, seeds and edible oils. Surveys show that tree cover is positively associated with dietary diversity and fruit and vegetable consumption (Ickowitz et al. 2014). Moreover, the deep and extensive roots of trees make them more drought tolerant than annual crops, meaning they can provide food in dry periods when other food sources are not available (Jamnadass et al. 2011; Kehlenbeck et al. 2013). Tree foods have thus the potential to complement and diversify the predominantly staple-based diets of rural households through the year.  d) Need to integrate, either in this item or in the previous one the definition of agrobiodiversity:  “The variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries. It comprises the diversity of genetic resources (varieties, breeds) and species used for food, fodder, fibre, fuel and pharmaceuticals. It also includes the diversity of non-harvested species that support production (soil micro-organisms, predators, pollinators), and those in the wider environment that support agro-ecosystems (agricultural, pastoral, forest and aquatic) as well as the diversity of the agro-ecosystems.” (FAO. 1999a. Agricultural Biodiversity, Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land Conference, Background Paper 1. Maastricht, Netherlands. September 1999.)  The title of this section could be “sustainable management and use of forests, aquatic resources and other wild resources to better cover their multiple contributions to food security and nutrition:   * As a direct source of food, not only complementary, but in many cases fundamental, see the HLPE report on fisheries and aquaculture for the contribution of aquatic resources to the nutrition of small island states, and of various categories of population and the HLPE report on sustainable forestry for FSN on the contribution of forest foods to forest dependent people. * As a source of income (see the HLPE reports mentioned above) * As providing other ecosystem services that are essential to all agriculture activities   e) could explicitly mention food trees and vegetables for which both knowledge and conservation efforts are lagging behind staple crops.  g) Women & gender issues are only discussed with reference to production systems, but they cut across the different aspects including marketing, distribution, availability, accessibility, and particularly social norms and values.  h) after “fruits”, add “nuts”. Need to also make explicit reference to the potential of numerous indigenous vegetables and tree crops, including so called “orphan crops” that need to be characterized, domesticated, and made available.  **47**. Misses the cultural and social dimension of the definition of “food environment” as it figures in para 30.Replace the last line by “towards food environments that are conducive to healthier diets and more sustainable food systems”.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [1] Data for 2016, http://www.fao.org/faostat/en, accessed on 14 April 2019.  **48.** a) Important to consider also the specificities of food deserts and food swamps out of urban areas. Rural food systems deserve equal attention, particularly those that are isolated, marginalized and/or confronted to changes in land use and diets. Solutions are likely to be very different from those for urban areas.  **49**. first line, add “and isolated populations”.  **50.** c) social protection programs should be based on traditional diets that are supportive of local cultural food practices; risk of changing food cultures particularly with subsidies or in-kind transfers of staple foods.  **51.** Communication about food does not arrive in a vacuum. Need to relate it to Food Culture.  Labelling is not onlyfor young people; labeling of unhealthy foods is important for all segments of the population particularly with respect to sugary beverages and processed meats. Important also to communicate appropriate information about unpackaged food to avoid creating biases.  **52** B. or in 55. Idea for policies to improve desirablility of healthy foods such as ‘chef manifesto’ ; having celebrities market healthy foods.  **53**. Could link to sustainability in all its dimensions.  **55.** b) should be put first as the FBG should guide all actions towards consumers.  **56**. a) add “globalization”. |

1. **Can you provide specific examples of new policies, interventions, initiatives, alliances and institutional arrangements which should be considered, as well as challenges, constraints, and trade-offs relevant to the three constituent elements of food systems presented in Chapter 3? In your view, what would the “ideal” food system look like, and what targets/metrics can help guide policy-making?**

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| There are numerous examples of policies, interventions, initiatives, alliances and institutional arrangements which should be considered both in the HLPE report and in the consultations conducted for it.  Several types of initiatives are of particular interest:  Those that build upon national and local identity, food culture and specific food system including the revitalization of the Mediterranean diet, the Nordic diet initiative, the promotion of traditional and healthy diets and traditional foods in China, Korea, Japan.  Measures that support local food systems.  Measures that build upon traditional practices, like the community freezer program in inuit communities of Canada.  Initiatives that builds upon local agrobiodiversity to promote more diverse and nutritious diets. For instance:   * In Kenya, Bioversity International and its partners focused on conservation, capacity building and raising awareness of the nutritional and culture values of traditional vegetables. Demand for leafy vegetables in Kenya now outweighs supply, with an astonishing 1 100 percent increase in sales in just two years. Incomes have increased too, particularly where farmers have been successfully linked to markets, with women, the main producers of leafy vegetables, the main beneficiaries. In almost 80 percent of households surveyed, it was the women who kept the cash from the sale of leafy vegetables and who decided how * it would be spent – mostly on more and better food and schooling for the children (Bioversity International, 2010). * In Marrakech, the Global Diversity Foundation is restoring a school garden with the help of the staff and students of the Lalla Aouda Saadia School. The garden, which features both ornamental and edible plants, draws on Morocco’s rich cultural history. The project, which aims to reach 1 300 schoolgirls, will provide nutritious food for the students while teaching them about the environment and food traditions. The students take part in field research by interviewing Marrakech herbalists about important cultural recipes. http://tinyurl.com/6k6367p * In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a shift from traditional to imported foods over the past three decades has brought serious health problems to the region. Prior to the 1970s, there were no documented instances of vitamin A deficiency in FSM. By 2000, over 50 percent of all children under the age of five were deficient in vitamin A, a condition that often leads to childhood blindness and early death. The Island Food Community of Pohnpe initiated a “Let’s Go Local” campaign to promote important elements of nutrient analysis and conservation. It is particularly concerned with promoting foods that are rich in provitamin A carotenoids, especially beta-carotene. It has seen a significant increase in the consumption of indigenous bananas, taro and green vegetables in the target communities. www.islandfood.org/index.htm   Measures that promote diverse indigenous foods through the creation of new value chains, thus both improving the food security and nutrition of small producers by adding a new source of income and the nutrition of urban consumers by providing a new source of nutrient rich foods; like for instance Son tra in Vietnam. Son tra is an indigenous wild fruit tree species that grows naturally in forests around the Himalayas. In 2013, researchers from the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) teamed up with the National Institute of Medicinal Materials in Hanoi, Vietnam, and identified in son tra fruit essential bioactive substances of polyphenols (key human dietary antioxidants) and triterpene acids, which have anti-inflammatory and antitumor properties. FTA helped domesticate the tree and expand the market for son tra, developing and commercializing novel products to overcome difficulties in consuming it fresh, allowing prices to be maintained, while supply increases because more farmers are growing the fruit. For farmers growing son tra alongside other crops, this has led to increased farm livelihoods and resilience to crop price shocks. Read more at blog.worldagroforestry.org/6625  As mentioned above, and shown by some of the examples above, the analysis of constraints, trade offs and synergies needs to be done in the food system, it cannot be reduced a priori to one of the components. More over it is generally in the system as a whole that actors need to be coordinated and need to find their own interest to act. One critical point to consider is the question of food prices. Some authors insist on the need for prices to be low, to facilitate access of the poorest to food. However, most of the poorest are food producers. On the contrary low food prices do not enable food producers to have a decent income that would them to have a diversified and healthy notr to invest for future food production. Therefore access of the poorest to food should be assured by other means than a low price, like for instance social protection and ultimately poverty eradication to which a healthy and remunerative food sector is a key contributor.  The ideal food system is well envisioned by the HLPE definition of sustainable food systems: “A sustainable food system (SFS) is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.” Meaning that it provides healthy diets for all, including the poorest, while providing enough income to food producers that they themselves can benefit from a good standard of living conducive to health and good nutrition and can invest for future food production, while sustainably managing the natural resources on which food production depends.  With the adoption of the SDGs the global community has already a clear set of targets and indicators to orient its action. However, it may be necessary to identify, for a determined food system, what are the priorities, the most critical points to address and to select specific targets and indicators reflecting these priorities. |

1. **How would these Voluntary Guidelines be most useful for different stakeholders, especially at national and regional levels, once endorsed by CFS?**

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| These Voluntary guidelines could, along with a strong evidence base, ground a shared understanding of the situation of a specific food system, what needs to be done and how it can be achieved.  They can facilitate the implementation of FBDGs as well as the design of policies and measures that support their implementation.  They can guide the action of public authorities responsible for the design and implementation of policies related to food systems.  They can facilitate collective and coordinated action of diverse categories of actors. |

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