**Call for experiences in the use and application of three sets of CFS policy recommendations on smallholder agriculture in the context of food security and nutrition**

**Template for submissions**

**Please use this**[submission form](http://bit.ly/2nAitb1)**to share your experience in the use and application of three interconnected sets of CFS policy recommendations on smallholder agriculture in the context of food security and nutrition.   
  
For the necessary background and guidance, please refer to the topic note:** <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/CFS-smallholders-fsn>**.**  
**You can upload the completed form to the** FSN Forum **(**[www.fao.org/fsnforum](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum)) **or send it via email to** [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org)**.**

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| **Title of your submission\*** | **Translating CFS Policy Recommendations into Action** |
| **Geographical coverage**  *Indicate if your submission covers several levels, e.g. national level and regional level* | **Sub-national, national and Regional** |
| **Country(ies)/ Region(s) covered by your submission** | **Asia** |
| **Contact person** | **Name: Shalmali Guttal**  **Email address: s.guttal@focusweb.org** |
| **Affiliation (indicate your affiliation)** | **Civil Society / NGO**  **Focus on the Global South** |

*\*Please choose a title for your submission, referring e.g. to your organization or/ and geographical coverage*

**If the information provided in your submission results from a multistakeholder consultation, please also fill the table in annex.**

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| 1. Awareness of CFS policy recommendations | * How have you heard of these policy recommendations (e.g. CFS meeting or event, internet, colleagues, government, civil society organization)?   **Focus on the Global South (Focus) is an active member of the CFS through the CSM. I served as a CSM Coordinating Committee (CC) member for NGOs from the South for four years. Focus was involved in the preparation and negotiation processes for the VGGT, RAI, Policy Round tables on investing in smallholders and the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets. Focus was also on the editorial team of the CSM Analytical Guide on Connecting Smallholders to Markets and contributed a case study to the Guide.**   * Have you taken any actions to make these policy recommendations known to colleagues or other CFS stakeholders (Please tick the answer below)?   **No**  **Yes**  If yes, please explain:  **We have presented these policy recommendations at national and regional workshops/seminars in Thailand, Laos, Philippines, and on webinars, where majority of the participants have been members of smallholder, fisherfolk and women’s organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs and academics. We have also urged independent researchers and consultants engaged in relevant programmes/projects to use these recommendations.**  **We have shared the CSM Analytical Guide widely with social movements, CSOs and organisations of small-scale food providers.**   * What would you recommend to CFS member states, Rome-based Agencies or/ and other stakeholders to make CFS policy products more widely known? Please explain:   **CFS member states and Rome-based Agencies (RbAs) need to take these policy recommendations seriously, use them (put them into practice) and discuss with smallholders’ organisations, and relevant government officials, trade cooperatives, para-statal agencies and CSOs at different levels—local to regional—how to implement these recommendations effectively. Steps they can take include:**   1. **National govt officials can convene meetings with officials from relevant ministries, departments and boards (national-local), organisations of smallholders and CSOs/NGOs to discuss how best to enact these recommendations, which ones should be prioritized, etc.** 2. **RbAs can play important roles in assisting governments to implement these recommendations. Government machineries tend to be over-worked and informed by concepts that may be outdated in the current contexts. RbAs have the credibility and acceptance by governments to bring in new thinking from the CFS, smallholders’ organisations, academics and CSOs. To do this, they need to educate their own officials in regional and national offices about the importance of these recommendations, related CFS processes and how to promote them with host governments. These agencies have many opportunities to promote these recommendations, but they tend to promote policy proposals that benefit large agribusinesses and large-scale food producers rather than smallholders.** 3. **RbAs should reach out to CSM members who are active in the CFS, especially in Connecting Smallholders to Markets process, and conduct collaborative outreach activities with them.** 4. **CFS member states that are bilateral donors should promote these recommendations with their partner governments. They can reach out to CSM members who are active in the CFS, especially in Connecting Smallholders to Markets process, and conduct collaborative outreach activities with them.**   **At present, CFS members who use these policy recommendations most are CSM members. But we cannot make progressive policies happen without the active interventions of governments and support from RbAs.** |
| 1. Use of the three sets of policy recommendations | * Which set(s) of policy recommendations have been used at sub-national, national, regional or/ and global level to support smallholder agriculture (please tick the answer below)?   ***[If these policy recommendations have not been used, please go directly to question (xi)]***   * For each set that has been used, please indicate for which main purpose(s) it has been used   (*e.g. training; awareness raising; capacity development; development/ assessment of projects, national strategies, plans of action, legislative or policy framework; investments by national governments or international financial institutions in favour of smallholders; development of finance proposals that are more favourable to small-scale producers; formulation and implementation of specific national strategies in favour of smallholder agriculture; other*)  Set 1: [Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition](http://www.fao.org/3/a-av034e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):   1. **Create awareness among policy makers and the public of the importance of smallholders in ensuring food and nutrition security, preserving local/regional food systems and cuisines, and the progressive realization of the right to food.** 2. **Highlight the centrality of smallholders in combating hunger and malnutrition, regenerating biodiversity and developing food provision means that are compatible with the deepening climate crisis.** 3. **Advocate for national, sub-national and regional policies and strategies that recognize the valuable roles of smallholders, strengthen their capacities, protections and agency, and regulate all relevant sectors such that smallholders are able to access the goods and services they need.**   Set 2: [Connecting Smallholders to Markets](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq853e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):   1. **Create awareness among policy makers, officials, consumers and the public of the importance of local markets and local/area-based relevant ways of retailing food and food related products and services (for e.g., traveling vendors, periodical market spaces, barter, food-labour exchanges), etc., in ensuring food and nutrition security.** 2. **Create awareness among officials, CSOs and the public about the central roles of smallholders and local food systems in ensuring food and nutrition security, maintaining local/regional cuisines, and seasonal production, and the importance of local markets and other relevant ways of retailing food and food related products and services (what CSM members call “territorial markets”) to ensure the sustainability of smallholder production and local food systems.** 3. **Create awareness among policy makers, CSOs, officials and the public of the importance and urgency of supporting smallholders’ markets, their access to wider markets (if they so need) through improved marketing structures (e.g. cooperatives, public procurement, etc.); appropriate financing, infrastructure, technologies and other services; regulatory and legal protections, and; opportunities for new learning, skilling, know-how, etc.**   ☐ Set 3: [Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq854e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):     * Which policy recommendations were found particularly useful to support smallholders and their food and nutrition security? Please explain: |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for smallholders   *Indicate the results obtained/ expected in the short term and in the medium-to-long term, with quantitative indications where feasible (i.e. estimate of the number of smallholders that have been or are expected to be affected)* | How have smallholders benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from the use of these policy recommendations for food security and nutrition in the short and medium to long-term? How have they contributed to the progressive realization of the right to food? *(please answer in the two boxes below)* |
| Results in the short term (qualitative and quantitative):  *(In addition to providing a qualitative assessment, please indicate where feasible the number of smallholders that have been directly involved in activities, e.g. six training involving a total of 250 people)* |
| Results in the medium to long term (qualitative and quantitative):  (*In addition to providing a qualitative assessment, please indicate where feasible the number of smallholders that have been or are expected to be indirectly affected by activities, e.g. training leading to development of local plan of action expected to affect 1,000 smallholders*) |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for female smallholders | * Have any specific actions been taken (in line with these policy recommendations) topromote the realization of women’s empowerment, women’s rights and gender equality in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain: * How have female smallholders benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from these actions in terms of food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to food? Please explain: |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for the youth | * Have any specific actions been taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the involvement of youth in agriculture and related activities in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain: * How have youth benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from these actions in terms of food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to food of youth? Please explain: |
| 1. Contribution of the use of these policy recommendations to SDGs | * How has the use of these policy recommendations contributed (or is expected to contribute) to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 1 & 2 and some of the SDGs targeted in the 2019 review, and to fostering policy coherence? (please tick the answer):   SDG 1 (no poverty)  Please explain:  SDG 2 (zero hunger)  Please explain:  ☐ SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)  Please explain:  ☐ SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)  Please explain:  ☐ SDG 13 (climate action)  Please explain: |
| 1. Relevance and expected benefits of the use of these policy recommendations to the [UN Decade of Family Farming](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1479766/files/A_RES_72_239-EN.pdf) and the [UN Decade of Action on Nutrition](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259) | * How could these policy recommendations contribute to the UN Decade of Family Farming or (further) contribute to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders? Please explain: |
| 1. Catalysts and constraints | * What were the key catalysts that influenced positively the use of these policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders? * What were the main constraints and challenges in using these CFS policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition smallholders? |
| 1. Good practices | * What good practices would you recommend for successful use of these policy recommendations? |
| 1. Lessons learned | * Do you have any suggestions to make to CFS in order to enhance the use of these policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders?   **Please see my responses in section (i)** |
| 1. Potential use of the policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders | * If these policy recommendations have not been used (or not sufficiently used), how could they be (further) used in the future for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders, advancing the progressive realization of the right to food, achieving SDGs or/ and fostering policy coherence? Please explain:   **Across Asia, the activities of small-scale food producers, processors, and agricultural and fish workers are key to ensuring food and nutrition security in their families, immediate communities, among rural and urban poor, and even among lower middle classes who depend on local vendors and markets to purchase food. Further, majority of the cuisines and local food systems across Asia depend on seasonal production and gathering, and these local food providers (including small-scale local businesses) can all be considered smallholders by the CFS definition of smallholders.**  **The CFS has adopted many recommendations that are positive for the livelihoods of smallholders and are complementary in terms of their potential effects on food security and nutrition, and the progressive realization of the right to food. However, if CFS member states do not enact these recommendations, and RbAs do not proactively promote their use, the recommendations are of little use.**  **Using these recommendations requires concerted efforts by governments to match them to national contexts and draw out from them policy actions that respond to national/sub-national opportunities and challenges. The recommendations are general, not prescriptive: translating them into appropriate policy and regulatory actions requires collaborations among different government agencies/departments, smallholders’ organisations, CSOs, research institutions and specialized agencies (for compiling statistics, tailoring/adapting technology, supporting local biodiversity protection, etc.).**  **Also, fostering policy coherence needs to be approached with caution: governments and RbAs need to be attentive that fostering policy coherence across all CFS products/outcomes does not undermine the livelihoods and food-nutrition security of smallholders. Although the CFS is an international multi-stakeholder platform, all stake-holders do not have the same interests, nor do all the stakes have equal weightage. Policies and regulations that benefit medium to large private sector actors represented by the PSM do not benefit smallholders. Past experience from trade and investment agreements, intellectual property rights protection, investor rights protections, credit and transportation facilities, etc., show that smallholders are extremely vulnerable to risks from markets, retailing, weather, climate, changing consumer preferences, digitalization, proprietary laws, etc. These vulnerabilities need to be recognized and addressed through appropriate policy and regulatory protection for smallholders.**  **The overall goals of policy coherence in the CFS should be to enhance and strengthen the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and rights to food for smallholders, rural and urban poor, and those populations that are rendered vulnerable because of gender, caste, class, ethnicity, geographic location, wars, conflicts, natural disasters, etc. Middle and upper classes, and medium-large businesses already have plenty of protection nationally and internationally. All CFS stakeholders need to commit to these goals. It is especially important that smallholders are protected against abuse and exploitation by intellectual property rights (IPR) and patent laws, global value chains, and race-to-the-bottom contract and employment terms.**  **The progressive realization of the right to food cannot be achieved without adequate attention to other rights (individual and collective). The right to food depends on many other rights and is possibly the most easily abused right, even if unwittingly and unintentionally. The use of these recommendations and policy coherence to realise the right to food must also ensure coherence with all human rights instruments, conventions and declarations.**   * What actions could be taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the realization of women’s empowerment, women’s rights and gender equality in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain:   **Women’s rights, status and empowerment are deeply embedded in social, ethnic, religious and economic contexts. As already stated above, the CFS policy recommendations are general in nature and translating them into actions requires contextual understanding and collaborations among different government agencies/departments, smallholders’ organisations, CSOs, research institutions and specialized agencies.**  **Gathering gender disaggregated data to better understand where women are under-represented and need support to achieve equity and equality is important, but not enough by itself. Equally important is developing and enforcing policies, regulations and laws to ensure that women have equal access to and control over the use and management of natural resources, financial resources, and decision-making over family and community wealth/assets. Girls and women need to have at least the same educational, learning and skilling opportunities as boys and men, and the required time away from family and community care tasks to be able to develop their potential. This is especially important in the contexts of smallholder agriculture since across Asia, rural and peri-urban areas severely lack basic essential, services such as healthcare, water, sanitation, transportation, electricity, banks, etc. As a result, the care and social reproductive responsibilities of girls and women are greatly increased. While they continue to be central actors in food production and provision, their opportunities for equality and equity will not be realized if domestic and care tasks demand their time and energy.**  **Another important factor here is the increased stress on girls and women because of increasing precarity of smallholder agriculture arising from the expansion of agribusiness operations, corporate controlled contract farming, land grabbing and deforestation for industrial plantations, mining, energy production, infrastructure projects, etc. If smallholder food production itself is threatened, the empowerment of women in the context of such production faces even bigger challenges. The forced relocation and displacement of rural communities in such cases makes food provision a daily struggle, greatly increasing the workload and vulnerability of girls and women.**  **Further, given the social, cultural, ethnic, religious and economic contexts of smallholder agriculture in Asia, awareness and acceptance of the importance of girls’ and women’s empowerment and agency in their families, communities and broader society, are imperative. Without family and social support, even the best designed empowerment programmes will flounder. Here, governments and RbAs should seek the assistance of the UN Human Rights agencies, UN special rapporteurs, human rights and women’s organisations, smallholders’ organisations, and academics and other CSOs working on the empowerment of women, children, workers, peasants, fishers and indigenous peoples.**   * What actions could be taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the involvement of youth in agriculture and related activities in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain:   **Our dialogues with youth indicate that for many, smallholder agriculture is too challenging a livelihood option to engage in. Because of the threats that smallholder agriculture faces from land grabbing, large-scale industrial agriculture, energy and infrastructure projects, and the lack of adequate services, secure markets and steady revenues that enable youth to live with dignity and envisage improved futures, many youth consider smallholder agriculture too precarious to commit to. Further, youth in smallholder agriculture contexts do not come from wealthy or even middle classes, and have far fewer opportunities for education, social interactions and developing longer term visions than youth in urban areas. A large proportionate of young people are migrating to work in non-agricultural sectors to repay family debts and find new occupations.**  **This is an extremely worrying situation for several reasons:**   1. **If young people today move away from smallholder agriculture, their families will become food insecure and poor; further, many poor, low-income and vulnerable communities will lose their main sources of food and livelihood security. This will deepen the demographic shift away from smallholder agriculture and result in far greater food insecurity and hunger than governments are prepared for.** 2. **The diversity of local cuisines depends on local food systems, which in turn depend on smallholder agriculture, fisheries, gathering/foraging and processing, which are done by people. But these people need to be organized, living and working in communities to protect, conserve and expand the ecological, social and economic conditions that enable local food systems. If young people have little incentives to remain in smallholder agriculture, our food systems will be dominated and controlled by corporate agriculture, which will have severely negative impacts on food and nutrition security worldwide.** 3. **Smallholder agriculture is in a sense, a commons form of production, where the producers, processors and support peoples have roles, respect rules, etc. This then enables innovation, biodiversity, mutual help groups/systems, etc. Many crucial food sources have evolved from such local innovation and commons. But again, these need people—young, smart, visionary and committed people, without who, our food systems will be consigned to corporate ‘sameness.’**   **To date, the youth we have met who are interested in remaining in, reviving, revitalizing and newly engaging in smallholder agriculture are those who are members of, or supported by strong local organisations and social movements. We see this as evidence of the importance of supporting organisations and networks of smallholder agriculture and food providers.**  **Further, youth need stronger incentives than are presently available to remain in, revitalize, or engage in smallholder agriculture. These could include easily accessible opportunities for education, participating in technological advancements, social interactions and relations, and developing identities for themselves that are ‘modern’, networked, innovative and able to contribute towards building new, sustainable futures.**  **A final word that pertains to all our responses above: in order to protect eco-systems, biodiversity, landscapes, food systems, knowledge/know-how, technologies and innovation. smallholders themselves need to be protected from judicial and extra-judicial threats. Too many smallholders face imminent threats of violence, persecution and criminalization, and do not want their families to be put at risk. CFS members and RbAs must address these issues of physical insecurity and risk as a priority, and promote and enact justice and protection systems that empower smallholders.** |
| 1. Link to additional information | <https://focusweb.org/a-tribute-to-local-food-systems/>  https://focusweb.org/the-hands-that-feed-us/  <https://focusweb.org/solidarity-with-those-who-feed-the-world-intro/>  <https://focusweb.org/publications/new-challenges-and-strategies-in-defense-of-land-and-territory/>  <https://focusweb.org/publications/6769/>  <https://focusweb.org/publications/the-agrarian-crisis-and-forced-migration-in-english-and-hindi/>  https://focusweb.org/publications/the-changing-face-of-food-retail-in-india/  <https://focusweb.org/publications/defending-food-sovereignty-confronting-the-challenges-of-small-food-providers/>  https://focusweb.org/publications/towards-human-rights-based-tenure-governance-in-asia-perspectives-challenges-and-strategies/  <https://focusweb.org/publications/international-day-of-peasants-struggles/> |

**Annex: to be filled if the information provided results from a multi-stakeholder consultation**

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| **Date of the multistakeholder event** |  |
| **Location of the event** |  |
| **Which groups of stakeholders participated in the event?** | Government  UN organization  Civil Society / NGO  Private Sector  Academia  Donor  Other ………………………………………………………………… |
| **Who organized the event?** | Government  UN organization  Civil Society / NGO  Private Sector  Academia  Donor  Other ………………………………………………………………… |