

## **Selection and Prioritization of CFS Activities for the Biennium 2016-2017**

**Discussion No. 101 from 22 April to 13 May 2014**

**Extracts from CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work and Priorities (MYPOW) adopted at CFS 40 in October 2013**

At its 40th Plenary Session in October 2013, the Committee on World Food Security adopted a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) - for the biennium 2014-2015.

It is the result of the work carried out in 2013 in the MYPOW Open-Ended Working Group. Its purpose is to help improve CFS efficiency through better preparation, prioritization, organization and the implementation of work, including the identification of funding needs.

The document includes the process and steps for the major workstreams that will lead to the finalization of CFS key products in the biennium. It also includes guidance on the work to be carried out within other CFS workstreams. The MYPOW also sets out the themes of the upcoming reports that will be produced by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition – the HLPE.

The following activities were included in the CFS MYPOW 2014-2015:

### **1. MAJOR WORKSTREAMS**

#### **a) Responsible Agricultural Investment principles (rai) – 2014**

29. The consultative process that was launched in 2012 will continue in 2014. The overall purpose of the rai principles is to offer policy guidance and a common understanding for all governments, investors and other stakeholders to ensure that investments in agriculture have a positive impact on food security and nutrition. The expected outcome is a set of principles that will promote investments in agriculture that contribute to food security and nutrition and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Each of the principles will address the roles and responsibilities of the relevant actors. The rai principles will be developed following a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations (October 2013 – January 2014), an electronic consultation (January 2014) and a final global negotiation (Spring – Summer 2014) to enable a broad and inclusive participation and ensure the outcome is relevant to all contexts and actors. The intention is to present the principles to CFS in 2014 for endorsement.

#### **b) Agenda for Action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises (A4A) – 2014**

30. The consultative process that was launched in 2012 to develop the A4A will continue in 2014. The A4A will be developed following a series of multi-stakeholder consultations to enable a broad and inclusive participation and ensure the outcome is relevant to all contexts and actors. The final negotiation will take place in July 2014. The expected outcome of this process is a greater understanding of the multi-dimensional causes of protracted crises, the sharing of more effective analytical tools to assist in identifying root causes and the appropriate combination of political and technical responses to address them. New ways of working in partnership and harmonized action at global, regional, national and local levels will be identified as well as improved monitoring. The intention is to present the A4A to CFS in 2014 for endorsement.

**31. The OEWG on PWP recommended that no new major workstream be initiated until the two major workstreams above are finalised.** CFS should strive to have no more than two major workstreams at the same time (see Guidance note in annex). Pending the completion of the above major workstreams, the following topic is proposed as a major workstream for 2015 (preparatory phase).

**c) Framework for implementing the post-2015 agenda on issues related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition - Preparatory phase: CFS role in facilitating country-initiated multistakeholder assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition – 2015**

32. As the foremost international platform of exchange on food security and nutrition issues, providing a transparent framework for a broad range of stakeholders to discuss, build relationship and work together, CFS should play a leading role during the implementation of the post-2015 development goals, on aspects related to its core mandate. A possible CFS major workstream could be launched in 2016 to develop a framework for implementing the post-2015 agenda on issues related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition (to be decided at CFS Plenary in 2015) i.e. once the post-2015 agenda will be adopted by the UN General Assembly.

33. To pave the way for this possible CFS major workstream, the Committee will start working in 2015 on its role in facilitating country-initiated multistakeholder assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. This proposal stems from the Rio+20 Outcome Document and the Ministerial Declaration of the 2012 ECOSOC high level segment, which both reaffirmed the important work and inclusive nature of the CFS.

34. The purpose of this preparatory phase is to enhance country-level capacity in planning and implementing multistakeholder integrated assessments on sustainable food systems, as a prerequisite for determining effective food security and nutrition strategies and actions, which will be indispensable to achieve the post-2015 development goals. This preparatory phase will directly contribute to the achievement of the CFS' overall objective, in particular through its third outcome dealing with assistance to countries and regions. The term "assessment" refers to tools, processes and methods that are instrumental in revealing the status of sustainability of agricultural and food systems, including their capacity to address hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition with a long term perspective.

35. In its preparatory phase, this major workstream could help CFS stakeholders reach a common understanding on the challenges in planning and implementing multi-stakeholder, multisectoral country-initiated assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition, and discuss further options on how CFS could best support countries and regions in planning and implementing such assessments. Main issues and criteria to be considered to assess sustainability of agricultural and food systems, as well as relevant indicators, could also be identified, taking into consideration the work already conducted by others, and inputs provided by the 2014 HLPE report on *Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems*. In addition, the preparatory phase could build upon the activities proposed during the selection

process in 2013 and not retained at this stage, among others and if appropriate (see Annex II). Practically, a series of inclusive consultations and discussions among all CFS stakeholders could be organised in 2015, whose consolidated results could be presented at the CFS Plenary in 2015. On this basis, CFS stakeholders could elaborate on a process for subsequent work related to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

36. Draft terms of reference (ToRs) for the preparatory phase should be prepared by the CFS Secretariat, and discussed by the Bureau and Advisory Group by August 2014 at the latest. Envisaged activities should closely follow and be in line with the results of the deliberations held in New-York and the decisions of the UNGA regarding the preparation of the post-2015 agenda, in order to avoid any duplication.

## **2. OTHER WORKSTREAMS**

### **a) Programme of work and priorities (PWP) – 2014-2015**

37. The OEWG on programme of work and priorities (PWP) will continue its work in 2014-2015 to prepare the MYPoW 2016-2017, based on the revised process for selection and prioritisation of CFS activities MYPoW, to be adopted at CFS 40, and taking into account all previous discussions and proposals (see Annexes I and II). In particular, it will imply choosing HLPE report themes, major workstreams and other workstreams for 2016 and 2017 on issues related to food security and nutrition. It could, if deemed necessary by the Bureau, also work on the further definition of the Terms of reference of the new workstreams in 2015.

### **b) Monitoring – 2014-2015**

38. The Open Ended Working Group on Monitoring will continue its work in 2014 as outlined in paragraph 5 of document CFS 2013/40/8 and report back to CFS at its 41st Session, subject to available resources, if the Committee decides so.

### **c) Communication Strategy – 2014**

39. A plan of action, including outreach campaigns will be developed and implemented to raise awareness of CFS and its products amongst the staff of the three Rome-based Agencies both at headquarters level and in the field. Other members of the Advisory Group will also be consulted on the best way to engage their constituencies and, if necessary, targeted specific material will be developed. Outreach strategies will continue to be developed for each CFS product including ways to engage those who do not easily have access to the Internet. The Communication strategy and its action plan will be monitored and updated/modified accordingly.

### **d) Rules of Procedure (RoP) – 2014**

40. Matters to be addressed in this biennium include more precise terms of reference for the ad-hoc technical selection committee for the next renewal of the HLPE Steering Committee, the composition, categories and selection process of the Advisory Group and the distinction between CFS Participants and Observers.

### **e) Right to Food follow-up: 10 years later – 2014**

41. At CFS 39, the Committee agreed that at CFS 41 in 2014, a session be included on a ten year retrospective on progress made in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. Preparation for this retrospective should be carried out in 2014, mainly based on the work of FAO

ESA Division, of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

#### **f) Roundtable on “Building knowledge, skills and talent development to further food and nutrition security” - 2015**

42. A key constraint to creating food security and nutrition is the lack of appropriately-trained and work-ready people in the agriculture sector. Some of the primary skills lacking are numeracy, agronomics, communications, business management (specific to the food and agriculture sector), marketing, finance, logistics, nutrition, food processing, and broad, yet critical, teamwork and management skills. Disinvestments in extension programmes and agriculture education are notable challenges. Among the existing agriculture universities and colleges, disconnection between agriculture education and the marketplace is another. Extension services need fresh models that make use of best practices, new technologies and more inclusive approaches.

43. A roundtable will be held on this theme during CFS 42. It will bring together a diverse range of actors to discuss capacity building and talent development in the agricultural sector, through a food security and nutrition lens. The work of several UN agencies can intersect with this work, and many NGOs and private sector people are concerned with these issues.

#### **g) High-Level forum on "Connecting smallholders to market" – 2015**

44. The commercialization of produce from smallholder farmers gives them opportunities to increase their production, their income, to foster rural development and food security. Linkages with livelihood considerations, including employment and income diversification issues in rural areas, are direct. Connecting smallholders to market can contribute significantly to food security and nutrition in rural areas, as well as urban areas, since smallholder farmers' produce can increase the food availability and be integrated also into programs for food security and nutrition. Different initiatives to connect smallholder farmers to local, national, regional and international markets, building linkages with retailers and other actors, such as cooperatives, private sector, non-governmental institutions and local governments exist and should be thoroughly discussed.

45. Recent publications, such as the 2013 FAO publication on Smallholder integration in changing food markets, the 2013 ODI's publication on *Leaping and learning: Linking smallholders to markets*, or the 2013 HLPE report on *Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security* have comprehensively developed the different aspects of this topic. Drawing on case study analysis, they have proposed diverse modalities for connecting smallholders to markets and have provided concrete recommendations to policy-makers. Several international organisations have included this issue in their programme of work, including the three Rome-based organisations.

46. Approaching this topic through a CFS high-level forum could bring together concerned actors, in a transparent and inclusive way, with the view to enhancing coordination and providing necessary coherence and convergence among initiatives, programmes and projects, while ensuring continuity with previous CFS work, such as the aforementioned 2013 HLPE report. Packages of existing recommendations should be scrutinised in order to highlight the most relevant and effective ones, possibly based on presentations of successful experiences and best practices. A set of concrete recommendations for policy makers issued from this forum will then be presented to CFS 42 for endorsement.

47. Draft terms of reference (ToRs) for this high-level forum, including draft agenda and expected outcomes, should be prepared by the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with focal points of the relevant divisions and programmes in concerned organisations, especially FAO and IFAD,

discussed by the Bureau and Advisory group and agreed by the Bureau by August 2014 at the latest.

48. The *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition* will be annually updated to incorporate the policy decisions endorsed by the latest CFS Plenary, through the regular updating process to be agreed upon at CFS 40.

### 3. HLPE REPORTS

#### a) Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems – 2014

49. CFS 39, in October 2012, requested the HLPE, to undertake a study on ‘Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems’ to be presented to the Plenary in 2014. This report has to be policy-oriented, practical and operational. The main question underlying the various aspects of this issue is what can be the contributions of a reduction in food losses and waste to the improvement of food and nutrition security in the context of sustainable food systems. To address this question, the HLPE proposes to look at several issues (concepts and definitions, measuring and data availability, impact of food losses and waste on the four dimensions of food security, the role of public policies...) in order to propose recommendations for action.

#### b) The role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition – 2014

50. CFS 39, in October 2012, requested the HLPE to undertake a study on the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition to be presented to the Plenary in 2014. In this study, CFS requires the HLPE to "consider the environmental, social and economic aspects of fisheries including artisanal fisheries, as well as a review of aquaculture development". The related report has to be policy oriented, practical and operational. The HLPE will review, with a food security and nutrition lens, a range of issues, which are key determinants to the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. The HLPE will look at what can be done at multilateral, regional and national levels for enhancing the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition in a sustainable and equitable manner. COFI's activities, in particular the Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries document process, will be taken into account, among others.

#### c) Water and food security – 2015

51. In the follow-up of major international events such as Rio+20 and the World Water Forum, the HLPE will further explore the “water and food security” issue. Water has an important role in food security through its multiple impacts on: health and nutrition (drinking water, cooking water, sanitary aspect/diseases), on agricultural production (access to water, water management, improvement of irrigation and dryland agriculture) and on food processing (water management, quality of water...). This topic should be seen in the wider context of the nexus between water, soil, energy and food security which is recognised as a pillar of inclusive growth and sustainable development. The HLPE report could put together information on how countries and regions are addressing the management of this important resource.

52. Through a food security lens, the HLPE will focus its analysis on water for agricultural production and food processing, taking also into account gender-related aspects. More specifically, the HLPE could, from a food security perspective, assess the impacts of water management practices on food security, including water usage for agricultural production, food processing and other ways of consumption. It should also consider in particular issues related to the sustainability of irrigation systems, the salinization of agricultural land and the reduction of the quality of the ground water. On this basis, it will give appropriate recommendations so as to

improve water and food security policies, as well as coordination among the different fields and actors at all levels, with a long-term perspective.