



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition • FSN Forum

FSN FORUM WORKSHOP

FSN Forum policy dialogues: contributing to food security and nutrition policy processes at the country and regional level

10–11 December 2015 • FAO HQ, Rome

CONCEPT NOTE

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop is being organized by **FAO's Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition** (FSN Forum) to strengthen the impact of online policy dialogues on the design, implementation and monitoring of food security and nutrition policies and processes, particularly at the regional and country level.

Key FSN Forum members and stakeholders will gather to review challenges and identify ways forward for a stronger engagement of decision-makers in online policy dialogues.

In addition to strengthening the regional FSN Forum platforms in **West Africa** and in **Europe and Central Asia**, the workshop will identify the road map for other platforms that are at an initial stage of implementation or are being planned (the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, the Near East).

Background

Over the past few years, the FSN Forum has increased its relevance to food security and nutrition policy processes by facilitating online policy dialogues for a growing community of experts and practitioners.

FAO's traditional policy work aims to support all stages of the policy cycle: the analysis of policy options; the formulation, negotiation, adoption and implementation of policies; and the evaluation of policies and the assessment of their impact – all of which can benefit from the FSN Forum's extended outreach by opening policy dialogue to actors who would not otherwise be involved through traditional means.

The FSN Forum online consultations are shifting towards more inclusive and transparent policy and governance processes related to food security and nutrition, and are introducing a new modality in the way FAO provides policy support at the global, regional and national level.

These innovative mechanisms for consultations and policy dialogue are also in response to the increased expectations of citizens and other stakeholders to be involved in and informed about policy processes, from the design phase to implementation.

Since 2009, the FSN Forum has enabled several food security and nutrition processes to benefit from a wide range of input coming from numerous stakeholder groups and from increased outreach across sectors. For instance, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) at the global level; the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP) at the regional level; and food security policies in the Dominican Republic and in Kyrgyzstan, have all been supported by the FSN Forum.

In addition to the processes the Forum has already engaged with, there are more opportunities to improve the modalities by which outcomes of the FSN Forum activities influence policies, taking advantage of the existing wide network of experts affiliated with the Forum and supporting FAO in targeted policy communication and outreach.

It is particularly important to tackle these opportunities at the regional and country level, taking advantage of the regional platforms the FSN Forum has created and of the upcoming initiatives planned at the regional level for the next biennium.

The **FSN Forum in West Africa** and the **FSN Forum in Europe and Central Asia** allow the voices of a broad set of stakeholders to be included in policy processes, programmes and events related to food security and nutrition in the respective regions. Both platforms take into account cultural and linguistic peculiarities of the two geographic contexts, and have fostered knowledge sharing in contexts that are less accustomed to practices of inclusive policy dialogue among key stakeholders and institutions.

Content of the workshop

Presentations and discussions will be based on three pillars:

- **Food security and nutrition policies:** What elements make food security and nutrition policy process successful? How can the FSN Forum contribute into food security and nutrition policy processes at regional, sub-regional and country levels?
- **Engaging stakeholders and key decision-makers into FSN policy processes in specific geographic areas:** Who are relevant stakeholders and decision-makers in the field of food security and nutrition? How the FSN Forum can increase the stakeholders' engagement and key decision-makers participation in online policy dialogue?
- **Building partnerships and expanding expert communities:** What would be an efficient mechanism of collaboration in the field of food security and nutrition between the FSN Forum and regional and country partners? What are incentives of FSN Forum members to take part in policy processes? What are new approaches and methods for better outreach?

Technical presentations on global, regional or country initiatives will be included, depending on time available.

Expected outcomes

- Well-functioning networks that contribute to improving the design, implementation and monitoring of food security and nutrition policies in the regions, and that expand FAO's outreach and dialogue with country stakeholders.
- Enhanced linkages and synergies for FAO regional initiatives and projects via the FSN Forum platforms.

Participants

About 25–30 participants will be selected among FSN Forum members of the global and each of the regional platforms, representing the widest possible range of professional expertise and of countries, key partners, and members of the FSN Forum based in FAO.

Methods

The workshop will be facilitated, and will include a mix of plenary and parallel (breakout) group sessions to allow for both comparison and mutual exchange between the regional groups as well as focused, in-depth reflection on the specificities of each regional network.

Some participants will be asked to present particular food security and nutrition policy processes from their region that can offer entry points for FSN Forum dialogues and activities.

Simultaneous English–French and English–Russian translation will be provided.

Venue and date

Lebanon Room (FAO-HQ), 10–11 December 2015.

Links

- **Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum)**
www.fao.org/fsnforum
- **FSN Forum in Europe and Central Asia**
www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/en
- **FSN Forum in West Africa**
www.fao.org/fsnforum/west-africa