



**Joint discussion paper from the Rome-based Organizations¹
for the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Dialogues - Food and Nutrition Security²
"Sustainable agriculture, universal food and nutrition security - making it happen"
16-19 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro**

1. Main challenges

Zero hunger and ensuring access to nutritious food. Current pathways have left 1.4 billion people in extreme poverty, 925 million hungry and many more malnourished and food insecure. There can be no sustainable development when people have no protection from risks and shocks, and no hope to contribute to and benefit from growth, nor to fully enjoy their human development potential.

Building resilience in view of growing uncertainty and risk: increasingly uncertain weather patterns and conditions, and high and volatile food and energy prices. It is poor and marginalized communities in developing countries – both rural and urban - who are typically most exposed to these risks and least able to deal with them.

Balancing environmental sustainability and growth in agriculture. More food will need to be produced to meet the changing needs of a growing human world population – An estimated 60% increase in global production and 100% in developing countries is necessary by 2050. Yet the world's ecosystems, biodiversity and associated goods and services are already under pressure, with loss of crop diversity, over-exploitation of fish stocks, deforestation, degradation and losses of arable land and aquatic ecosystems, and growing competition for increasingly scarce water and the impacts of climate change.

2. Main negotiation challenges in the international arena

- The need to ensure universal acceptance of the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger
- The need for all stakeholders to have a voice in negotiations; ensuring that negotiations are inclusive, encourage an exchange of views and experiences and build on empirical evidence, local knowledge and scientific analysis
- How to convert this into practical actions to ensure adequate supplies of food and effective access to food for all, and monitor the effectiveness of actions and the accountability of stakeholders and systems
- How to significantly support smallholder production systems, and how to reach the most vulnerable communities (emphasizing the importance of smallholders for sustainable development)
- Among the negotiators, there is need for better understanding of the opportunities and challenges related to technology and science
- Charging for the negative environmental impacts of both small-scale and large scale production, and providing payment for positive impacts (Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Payment for Agro biodiversity Conservation Services (PACS) – especially for smallholder farmers in developing economies).

3. Recommendations of solutions

Sustainability requires inclusive and equitable development pathways that ensure access to nutritious food and safety nets for the most vulnerable. Ensuring access to nutritious food by all people at all times requires coherent approaches that involve broader development initiatives relating to poverty reduction, health and other areas, given the strong linkages between food and nutrition security and social equity. Social protection systems and

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² This paper is complemented by a discussion paper on food and nutrition security submitted by WFP and others, focusing on hunger and undernutrition.



productive safety nets, aimed at protecting and empowering vulnerable communities and people and enhancing their livelihoods and resilience, are indispensable means to ensure equity and access.

Food and nutrition security requires a comprehensive reform in agriculture and food systems that are focused on sustainable consumption and production. There is need to increase productivity and efficiency and reduce losses and waste in food systems, and to take a broader and integrated perspective for managing them, for both smallholder and large scale systems, and to focus on the role of consumers and sustainable diets, There is also need to help build resilience of communities and ecosystems, to make them better able to deal with the increasing risks and uncertainties, including those of climate change. Making the changes necessary will require massive scale up of successful initiatives, major policy changes and supportive incentives, significant investments in research, innovation, human capacity and expanded market opportunities.

Sustainable management of natural resources – land, water, fisheries, forests and biodiversity – is a precondition for long-term agricultural growth. Adoption of responsible tenure systems of land, fisheries and forests and innovative, sustainable, “climate-smart” agriculture that makes full use of agro-ecological processes, modern technologies and traditional knowledge provides an important part of the response to this challenge. Depending on the context, they can deliver multiple benefits: not only increasing productivity and profits for farmers – small as well as large – and contributing to national food and nutrition security and development goals, but also enhanced resilience and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Promotion of crop diversification also contributes to sustainability, by ensuring that agriculture produces a diversity of foods suitable for health and nutrition.

4. Stakeholders

Civil society and non-governmental organizations, particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisher folk, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people, need to play a central role in the Rio+20 negotiations and post-Rio environment.

Empowering smallholder households, landless farmers and other producers is critical to the Rio vision. Many of these smallholders are women, playing a vital role throughout the entire value chain, and it is estimated that actions to empower rural women could lift as many as 150 million people out of hunger. The 500 million smallholder farming families in the world are the backbone of many rural economies, and custodians of a large proportion of the world’s natural resources. Effective governance is critical for giving them a stronger voice in the formulation of policies, management of risk and strengthened rights to the natural resources on which they depend. Their membership-based organizations can play a key role in asserting that voice.

Engaging policy makers of Member States at all levels, in a multi-sectoral dimension: Better and more coherent global, national and local policies are needed for sustainable development and to support the reform of agriculture and food systems at scale. Rio+20 must generate the political will to improve governance and reform policy to realize the necessary transition to sustainable agricultural and food systems. Government investment in public goods and institutions needs to underpin private investment and help to drive innovative solutions.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to function effectively at all levels, as the foremost, inclusive, evidence-based, international and intergovernmental platform in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food and nutrition security for all human beings. The CFS platform ensures that multiple-stakeholders (civil society, private sector, international research organizations, farmer organizations, etc.) are involved and work together with Member States, to share knowledge and concerns, build on a common understanding, enhance policy coherence and convergence and shape the direction of global governance in food and nutrition security and support to country-led processes.



5. *Suggestions on how to have Food and Nutrition Security high up on the priority list in the discussions on a Rio+20 follow-up and implementation process*

The Rome-based Organizations recommend that the following aspects are considered in the formulation of goals, targets and indicators to help support realization of food and nutrition security and sustainable food production and consumption systems:

- hunger and poverty eradication – zero hunger challenge
- progressive realization of the right to food
- ensuring access to nutritious food for all
- sustainable, climate-smart and resilient agriculture and food production systems
- social protection and safety nets in support of the most vulnerable
- significant reduced losses and waste along the food supply chain
- fair and well-functioning agricultural and food markets
- internalizing full health, environmental and other externalities in food prices
- equity, including gender equality
- governance based on multi-stakeholder engagement and participatory decision-making.

6. *Inputs for discussion on recommendations to Heads of State*

- What constrains leaders of National Governments from prioritizing eradication of hunger and the full achievement of Food and Nutrition Security for all?
- How to strengthen the implementation of the national and international commitments? What will it take to have movement from ‘political will’ to ‘political action’ in addressing food and nutrition security?
- What kind of incentive and/or accountability framework will facilitate the process towards measurable action?
- How will the member States ensure that the voices of multiple stakeholders are heard?
- How to enhance current governance arrangements for food and nutrition security? How can CFS assist in this?
- How best can the UN system – and, specifically, the Rome-based Organizations – enhance implementation of the Rio vision?