

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry – written correspondence procedure

Item 9.2 Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition

Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on item 9.2 of the Agenda - *Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition*. All comments are well noted.

FAO appreciates the valued comments from Argentina to the Vision and Strategy of FAO's Work in Nutrition (the Strategy), which are carefully noted. FAO appreciates Argentina's comment that there is no one healthy diet and that there are unique geographic and demographic factors that influence dietary habits. FAO recognizes the importance of diverse contexts in food system action and policy and will work to ensure this is well reflected other parts of the document.

FAO appreciates the comments and questions posed by **Peru** on the draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition. FAO stresses that the Strategy helps frame the focus work in nutrition to allow technical divisions and country offices a scaffolding to support the specific activities to be undertaken in all diverse and unique contexts. In this regard, FAO considers, all of the work outlined in the Strategy on data, evidence, policy, capacity, and partnership relevant for forestry activities. Given the diverse nature of the work FAO supports around the world, works plans will be developed by FAO offices anchored in FAO Country Programming Frameworks derived from the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, as per corporate standard processes, that will describe the specificities of the work relevant to the context. Furthermore, efforts at the global level including normative and technical work in forestry in support of healthy diets would be specified in work plans aligned with the FAO Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

FAO confirms that the work of agroforestry system could be considered as part of the forestry activities to be implemented when it is appropriate in any given context.

FAO confirms that (in paragraph 12) the agricultural sectors referred to in the strategy include crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. In the original English document, this is defined as "agricultural sectors" and in the Spanish language version that term was translated into "Sectores agrícolas". FAO will work with translation services to ensure the correct term is used in the final translated version.

FAO confirms that (in paragraph 16) small, medium and large-sized producers have been considered for inclusion along with their respective associations.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by **Mexico** on the draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition. FAO concurs with Mexico regarding the great importance of efforts to strengthen access to nutritious food and a healthy environment. FAO recognizes the important role of forests in healthy diets and sustainable development and will aim to ensure that the six points listed on page 3, paragraph 11 of the document COFO/2020/9.2, which were highlighted by Mexico, are reflected in the Strategy. FAO appreciates the support of Mexico in FAO's role in achieving the goals of the Strategy.

FAO thanks **Switzerland** very much for the valued comments, which are carefully noted. These suggestions will be considered, together with those of the other Members, in updating the draft Strategy to produce the final version. Switzerland's continuous engagement in the consultative process and contribution to the improvement of the language in the draft Strategy are greatly appreciated.

FAO appreciates the valued comments from the **United States of America**, which are carefully noted. FAO will work to highlighted the importance of innovation in the finalization of the Strategy. FAO appreciates the importance of national circumstances and adapt to fit the local context, and continues to work in an inclusive manner to ensure that consultation included in the drafting of the Strategy. In view of the wide scope of FAO's work in nutrition, the Strategy attempts to frame that work so that country offices and technical division can effectively develop biennial workplans aligned with FAO corporate processes.

FAO appreciates the feedback from **Indonesia**, which are well noted and appreciated.

FAO thanks **Brazil** for the feedback, and the recognition of the draft Strategy's vision to enable healthy diet through a food systems approach. The specific suggestions for updating language in the strategy are well received and will be considered in finalizing the language of the strategy.

FAO is also pleased to report that an accountability framework and implementation plan have been drafted, since the submission of the draft strategy to COFO25. The Strategy draft including those components will be discussed at the 129th session of the Programme Committee, to be held during 9-13 November 2020.

FAO thanks the **European Union and its 27 Member States** for the feedback to the Vision and Strategy of FAO's Work in Nutrition. FAO appreciates the rich experiences and insights EU shared on the multi-dimensional linkages between sustainable forestry and nutrition, in particular the emphasis in the coordination of policies with regard to quality assurance of forest products for nutrition, and the consideration of trade-offs between preserving the forest ecosystems and the role of forests to supply food resources for better nutrition. FAO notes the suggestion that enhancing the nutrition role of forests can support their sustainable maintenance as an alternative to conversion into farmland. FAO will bear these aforementioned intricacies in mind in the finalization of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition.