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# Who’s taking care of food security?

The Committee on World Food Security meets in Rome

Rome, Italy, October 2016

*Being “food secure” means that you have a reliable supply of the food you need to live a healthy and productive life*

As delegates arrive in Rome for the annual global summit on food security and nutrition set to kick-off on the 17th October and run through the 21st, questions and ideas abound about how to finally end hunger and malnutrition. This year’s meeting builds on the momentum of the agreement on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The stage is now set for discussion and agreement on some of the most pressing challenges for achieving food security and nutrition.

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| **CFS is 40!**  2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Committee which had its first session in 1976 following a decision by the World Food Council in 1974. |

The Committee within the United Nations mandated to cover food security and nutrition is the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). CFS is unique in that while Member Countries take the policy decisions, the discussions that lead up to the decisions include civil society, the private sector, UN agencies, international financial institutions, research bodies and those most affected by food insecurity. This means that CFS policy recommendations not only have the input from a wide range of expertise and perspectives, but also have buy in for implementation.

At CFS 43 this year the Committee will benefit from the input from the largest number of stakeholders since its founding with over 1000 registered. Important policy recommendations will be endorsed which will give smallholder farmers - who total 500 million across Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and supply 80% of the food supply in these regions - better access to markets. The CFS High Level Panel of Experts produced an evidence based report on sustainable agricultural development, including livestock and policy recommendations are also set to be endorsed. They will provide guidance on areas ranging from resource efficiency, climate change, health and safety, and the important roles of diverse livestock systems.

In 2012 CFS endorsed voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure and at CFS 43 there will be a discussion about using them in order to identify good practices. The Committee is also set to explore the linkages between urbanization, the resulting impact on rural areas, and what together they might mean for ending hunger and malnutrition in both rural and urban areas. For the first time in history, more than 50% of the world’s population now lives in cities and large towns and this figure is expected to rise to 66% by 2050. The lines between urban and rural are blurring and more integrated approaches are needed that can address the dynamic needs of those living across the spectrum.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require the action and input of all stakeholders, including all aspects of the United Nations system. CFS has been working over the past year to identify the most effective ways to contribute and will benefit from learning from countries that have volunteered to showcase their own plans and progress. With 2016 marking the start of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, CFS will discuss how it can best contribute and build on the opportunities that it will bring.

Outside of regular session times, CFS week is full of Side Events. They are organized by the CFS constituencies and give the opportunity for networking and understanding different points of view. Because of its positive atmosphere of collaboration CFS has been described as the “docking station” for food security and nutrition.

More information about CFS 43 is on the [CFS 43 web page](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs43). All sessions are webcast. Side Events are not webcast.