

Dear Moderator,

Let me start by welcoming this initiative. It is great to see and listen to the previous and current Chairs of CFS. I feel privileged to be able to call Yaya, Gerda, Mario and Thanawat by their first name, as good friends, since I have had the privilege to work with all of them. I have been involved in CFS related issues since 1985 when I attended my first CFS (CFS 10). Since then, but particularly since the reform of CFS, I have been a passionate advocate of CFS and its valuable products (guidelines and policy recommendations).

I wish to share my views on how to help uptake and implement these CFS products. I think all stakeholder groups (governments, academia, private sector, civil society, etc.) have their own responsibilities and they should simply need to do what their responsibilities require.

1. Research institutions and academia should continue to provide scientific evidence, including the use of the widely recognised reports of the **CFS HLPE**. Science can provide guidance also for the overall assessment of all food systems, with due attention to the positive and negative externalities, including the so-called "hidden" costs of food systems. These hidden costs are enormous, and can be quantified, as we could see it in the latest SOFI 2020 Report.
2. Governments and policy-makers should create the enabling policy environment, with appropriate (positive and negative) economic and financial incentives to guide and orient stakeholders in their policy options. These policy incentives should be based on evidence and neutral science (in line with the True Cost Accounting principle), paying due attention to the **CFS guidelines and policy recommendations**.
3. Following the principle of inclusivity, governments should pursue due consultation with the civil society and the local communities.
4. Government incentives should ensure that private sector stakeholders find their economic interests, they can maximise their profit while doing the "good things": producing nutritious food, preserving biodiversity, soil fertility, protecting the environment, preserving rural jobs and creating employment opportunities in the rural areas, etc.
5. Private sector stakeholders should simply continue to follow their profit interest. This is their job. If the incentives are appropriate, private sector stakeholders would contribute to reaching the shared goals: eliminate poverty and achieve zero hunger, through improving people's livelihood, attaining food security and sustainability.
6. Problems can occur when private sector stakeholders and their lobby-groups are making attempts to influence decisions of governments and policy-makers, trying to pursue their "supposed" interests. In fact, they should respect the division of labour as described above.
7. International organizations (including financial institutions, UN agencies) have important role as well. Let me mention some specific ways how FAO can help the implementation and uptake of CFS products.
  - When engaging in partnership with CFS stakeholders, particularly with the private sector, FAO should **demand its current and potential partners a commitment to comply with the CFS voluntary guidelines and policy recommendations** in the framework of their due diligence process.
  - While providing policy advice, FAO Management should make sure that it is based on independent and neutral science, with **due attention to all the CFS products**.
  - Finally, FAO strategies, policy papers should better rely on CFS guidelines and policy recommendations.