

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

PROPOSAL B

Tackling inequalities to enhance food security and nutrition

a) Proponents

IFAD

b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream

A combination of both

c) Rationale for including the proposed thematic workstream, based on the prioritization criteria and building on CFS main comparative advantages, as described in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report

In a world that produces enough food to feed everyone, yet an estimated almost 821 million people are chronically malnourished, it is clear that the issue of inequality is at the heart of the challenge of reducing and eliminating hunger. In particular, those working within food systems at local level – including smallholder farmers, rural workers, rural women, rural youth and indigenous peoples – are among those most likely to suffer exclusion from economic and political systems, and to have their rights in the context of food security and nutrition unrealized. Challenges in addressing food security and nutrition must engage with power dynamics and the various manifestations of inequality that explain why some groups are more likely to be food insecure than others.

This is a topic that CFS is uniquely placed to address, building on past work related to the food security and nutrition of groups who suffer the most from inequality – especially products such as "Connecting smallholders to markets", the "VGGT" and the "Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food" – and benefitting from the experience and expertise of the RBAs in the area of promoting more inclusive and equitable societies with a particular focus on actors involved in food systems. As such, a policy guidance tool that promoted policy convergence around tackling inequalities to enhance food security and nutrition would be intimately related to the CFS' vision and overall objective of addressing the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as building on its unique comparative advantage, focusing on overcoming the inequalities that afflict the lives of those most likely to suffer from hunger.

d) Expected results and how they will contribute to the achievements of the CFS MYPoW Strategic Objectives and FSN-relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda

The expected result would be a policy guidance tool that would raise awareness and capacity to address the power imbalances and inequalities that are at the heart of the prevailing global food insecurity situation.

Significantly, the voluntary guidelines would build go beyond technical approaches to advancing the interests of those most affected by food insecurity and go to the very heart of why these groups are left behind in the first place. They would provide recommendations for governments, partners, development agencies, private actors, and other stakeholders on how redressing power imbalances and multiple forms of social exclusion can be the building blocks for promoting more equitable societies, where those who tend to be most affected by food insecurity have greater control over their lives and livelihoods and are able to claim their rights in the context of food security and nutrition. The recommendations would be global in scope and offer guidance on how to adapt to different contexts.

e) Potential activities that could be considered after the adoption of the CFS policy product to promote its use and application

The organization of workshops, training and capacity development programmes at global and local levels will be needed. Further, the policy tool would be of relevance for the 2030 Agenda review process, in particular the High-Level Political Forum, where side events may be organized, and the document could be advanced and disseminated in the context of the various review processes around SDG 2, as well as SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). With regard to the CFS monitoring mechanism, the policy tool would include guidance on the evaluation of their use and application.

f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline

Timeline:

- HLPE report
- TORs to be developed and approved by CFS plenary
- development of the voluntary guidelines to be presented for endorsement by the plenary in 2021.

Costs:

- HLPE report
- translation of documents
- translation/interpretation negotiation process
- e-consultations
- regional consultations
- dissemination workshops in Rome and at regional/country level
- side event organization and travel to HLPF

g) Indications on whether the preparation of a HLPE report is foreseen and its potential contribution to the proposed CFS thematic workstream

The workstream would benefit from an HLPE report which would provide in-depth analysis of root causes of inequalities –looking especially at power imbalances within societies and their relevance to food security and nutrition – as well as their multiple manifestations in the context of food security and nutrition. Accordingly recommendations on how these can be addressed would inform the development of the policy convergence tool.