

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

PROPOSAL G

Fostering farmers' access to innovation to improve food security and nutrition standards within the context of increased climate variability and extreme weather events

a) Proponents

This proposal is submitted by the World Farmers' Organisation.

b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream

The proposed thematic workstream will contribute both to output 1.1 (inclusive discussions) and output 2.1 (global policy guidance).

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

According to the SOFI 2018, the number of hungry people is on the rise and around 821 million people do not get enough food to eat and one of the main factors that, apart from conflicts, is exacerbating this worsening situation, is climate change. Farmers, as food producers, have a key role to play in achieving food and nutrition security and yet are at the same time among the ones who suffered the most from food insecurity and malnutrition. Agriculture has an impact on climate but also holds the potential to find solutions. Farmers are already implementing climate smart approaches both to mitigate and adapt to climate change while at the same time increasing their production and this is easier when they have access to innovation.

This theme would directly address the CFS overall objective of eliminating hunger and malnutrition through improved policy coherence/convergence at a global level, leading to strengthened actions at national and regional levels, by raising awareness on the need to foster farmers' access to innovation in order to improve food security and nutrition as well as increasing resilience to climate extremes. By better understanding farmers' needs, as well as the benefits of innovation within this context, dialogue and research on this topic would create opportunities for shared learning and more holistic approaches to innovation. This would reduce silos by taking a comprehensive approach, through inclusive dialogue on leading innovation-related developments (Output 1.1), trends, and emerging issues with direct bearing on food security and nutrition, recognizing the critical role that climate change and extreme weather events will have on the future of food production.

Given the inclusion of innovation and climate smart approaches in existing voluntary policy guidelines, this could also help address Output 2.1 and generate a more integrated approach to how innovation can improve FSN outcomes.

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 objective of the proposed thematic workstream is to develop policy recommendations on how farmers' access to climate smart innovations can contribute to improve food security and nutrition standards.

A CFS high-level forum will be organized in 2020 to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss policy implications, challenges and lessons learned from concrete examples of how farmers use innovation to improve food security and nutrition, within the context of increasing climate variability. This will contribute to reaching a common understanding of their opportunities and challenges and the potential contribution that CFS, as a global multi-stakeholder platform, could make in addressing them and identifying recommendations on priority areas.

The outcomes of the high-level forum will be analyzed with the aim of extrapolating lessons from farmers' good practices as well as identifying options for overcoming access barriers and maximizing their opportunities.

The results of this analysis will inform the discussions, leading to the development of a set of CFS policy recommendations that can strengthen farmers' access to innovation, thus contributing to strengthen the agricultural sector and its contribution to food security and nutrition.

This set of policy recommendations will be presented for endorsement by the CFS Plenary in 2021.

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

The policy recommendations can be broadly disseminated with a view to informing future policies and programmes and be the basis for future stocktaking and sharing of lessons. Being innovation and climate change cross-cutting topics in the global agenda, this will also create occasions for the CFS to increase its visibility and reduce the silos thinking.

Side events as well as workshops can be organised during international and regional conferences related to the workstream in order to raise awareness on the CFS work and its policy products and disseminate the recommendations.

f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline

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