

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

PROPOSAL H

Youth engagement in FSN policy-making processes

a) Proponents

List of CFS Members and Participants supporting this proposal:

1. Italy
2. South Africa
3. Costa Rica

b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream

The workstream is intended to contribute to output 1.1 (inclusive discussions).

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

Engaging youth in the FSN-related policy-making process is key to ensure that appropriate policies aiming at youth capacity development, education, employment and inclusion are designed, and that they are effective.

The FAO Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers has meaningfully recognized the unique role and potential of youth in agricultural innovation declaring Youth as custodians of the UN Decade of Family Farming, which was also addressed by the International Steering Committee that has been established to implement it, reiterating the importance of guaranteeing adequate youth representation in the international FSN scenarios to ensure that their concerns are taken into due account. Inclusiveness has been recognized as a key element for effective innovation, particularly through appropriate policies that must ensure no one is left behind and increased recognition of the needs of youth (and women) and their greater involvement in the innovation processes has been recommended.

But the needs of youth can be multiple and diverse depending on a particular category (young farmers, young entrepreneurs in FSN, young researchers, etc).

CFS is in the position to give a multifaceted contribution in understanding and framing possible options for youth in designing FSN environments. The first step to make CFS able to give a significant contribution in this endeavor should be to bring together the different voices of youth. From this basis, as a second step, different and operational actions could be recommended.

Due to its commendable multistakeholder nature, CFS can indeed offer a unique space for coordinating the different voices of youth.

The proposal is to have a substantive and inclusive discussion in a Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting format on how to engage youth in FSN policy-making processes; the members of the Advisory Group would be called to invite the representatives of youth/youth constituency of their respective category, to share their perspectives on the topic, or will be called to share their experiences (e.g. financial institutions could share experiences on specific financial tools/facilities and investments for youth).

This would represent an ideal continuation of the CFS42 special event Special Event “Developing the knowledge, skills, and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition” which the objective was to raise awareness of the challenges and lessons learned in building the capacity of youth in agriculture and food systems. The outcome of this event was the creation of a list of contacts to be possibly used to build networks of organizations addressing youth capacity development issues. It would be important to establish a follow up mechanism.

This would also represent a concrete follow up of the evaluation decision that “The Bureau will encourage AG members to strengthen their coordination roles, according to CFS Rules of Procedure”, and that, as far as the interaction with the AG is concerned, the Bureau could consider (among other elements) “developing clear requests to the AG, as needed, to provide more substantive input” and “developing more strategic agendas of meetings”.

The work-stream should also develop a proposal for a platform to assist networking between youth farmers, youth entrepreneurs and youth financiers in order to inspire promote and inspire the active participation of the youth in FSNs.

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

Youth is a cross-cutting theme among SDGs, and the primarily focus on SDG2 that characterizes CFS’ activity will contribute to significantly address the topic through the perspective of FSN challenges, but with its interconnections with other SDGs and targets.

The discussion of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and concrete proposals that would be shared should be summarized in a Chair summary, for possible follow up.

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

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f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline

Timeline: one Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in 2020.

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

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