

Comments to the preliminary version of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food systems and Nutrition with deadline June 28th, 2019

Norad, 27.6.2019

These comments are attached to part II of the document, which include descriptive text intended to inform the preparation of the upcoming versions of the document.

The proposal is comprehensive and includes all the essential parts of the food system. We find that the proposed structure dividing the text under three headlines: food supply chains, food environments and consumer behavior can function well, but are willing to consider other options if such come under consideration. We will point at some elements that should be included or elaborated more:

A comment valid for the entire chapter III is that the text still does not reflect the different typologies of food systems as identified in the HLPE report. Many of the underlying chapters need to be nuanced according to these different typologies. There are different challenges.

Part 1- food supply chains

Production systems should also include food from the waters; fish and other food. These are valuable food sources from a nutrition point of view and is also an important income source for many poor and food insecure people.

The same chapter should also address the needed intensification of agriculture and the need for higher productivity per land unit. This is important in view of population increase and climate mitigation measures. Food production and agriculture expansion should not lead to decreased forests and biodiversity.

The same chapter: Investments in research and innovation should not be restricted to commercial development only.

It should be considered to merge chpt 2: Handlings storage and distribution and chpt 3: Processing and packaging. It might become difficult to divide recommendations under each of these headlines, as they describe much of the same.

Under chpt 4. Retail and markets: support to smallholder should also include organizing smallholders in groups as for example cooperatives or other kinds of collaborative measures.

Part 2 – Food environments

Discussions on availability should take into the account that food is a trade commodity and its availability will be influenced by the purchasing power of a population. Policies should reflect this.

Under economic access: The dual and contradicting challenge that food needs to be affordable for the poor consumer, but at the same time be sold at prices that gives a decent income to the small-scale farmer and fisherman should be addressed.