

17 October PM

XI. MONITORING CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON SMALLHOLDERS

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, everybody, for your approval. Now, we move to item XI, Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders. This is the time CFS is monitoring the use of its policy recommendations. The two previous CFS monitoring exercises, the Plenary Global Thematic Events in 2016 and two years later, in 2018, focused on the use of two CFS policy guidelines: the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security, these are the famous VGGTs; and the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

This session will take stock of the uptake of three sets of CFS policy recommendations to support smallholders. These are of great relevance to smallholder producers who are important contributors to food security and nutrition and the most numerous category of family farmers. As we have heard this morning, they are key protagonists of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming. This stockholding event will constitute a specific contribution of CFS to the United Nations decade on Family Farming. The event is informed by the experiences and good practices of a broad range of stakeholders. We will focus on how smallholders have effectively benefitted or are expected to benefit from these CFS policy recommendations. We will also look at the contribution of the recommendations to the SDGs.

Let me give a warm welcome to those participating in this event. First of all, Minister Gilberto Silva from Cabo Verde. A warm welcome to him. Also, Mr Jan Douwe Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritus of rural sociology at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. Jan is also Professor at the College of Humanities and Development Studies of China Agricultural University in Beijing. He specializes in the comparative analysis of rural development processes and has recently published two books, *The New Peasants the Art of Farming* which are highly relevant to our event. He is also an old face in the CFS. If I remember correctly, sir, you were on a panel in CFS37 in 2011. My memory has not begun to betray me. I also welcome our moderator, Ms Hlamalani Ngwenya, International Development Consultant and Lecturer at the University of Free State, South Africa. Lani, as you are known, according to my notes, has over 25 years of international experience in the broader agriculture, food, nutrition security, natural resources management and climate change. She is also the founder of Facilitating Systemic Change Consulting. She has moderated a wide range of high level policy dialogues and multi-stakeholder engagements worldwide. We also have four panellists that have come a long way to be with us today. But, for the sake of time, I will ask Hlami to introduce them at the appropriate time. We will now listen to Jan first for his keynote. Please, you have the floor.

Mr Jan Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritum, Wageningen University

Thank you, sir. This session will discuss activities of policy recommendations that regard investments in smallholder agriculture that regard linkages with markets and, finally, the use of all kind of animals within smallholdings. These are very practical and very important questions, of course, but underlying them there is another issue, a major issue, that I want to address briefly. That is, is it indeed possible to maintain and to develop smallholder agriculture in today's world or are smallholders deemed to disappear?

When talking about smallholder agriculture, about smallholdings, about smallholders, there is always the danger that the notion of weakness is smuggled in. The term small, very easily associates with weakness, with vulnerability, with being pitiful, being lamentable and, in the case of smallholders and smallholder agriculture, this is absolutely not correct. There is an impressive book written by a Brazilian priest, *Frei Sérgio Antônio Görgen*, who has been working for all his life with the Brazilian smallholder association and he writes the smallholder family is able to live and to survive with little land and that is exactly how it is. Smallholders excel in the art of making, even on a small piece of land, a good living and to produce food for themselves and for others. They turn even a small piece of land into an important resource base that allows them to go ahead.

They are not pitiful, they are to be admired. They are agile, they can adapt to different circumstances, they resist and they produce, per unit of land, more than other types of producers are able to do and they contribute, according to a recent CFS document, one on investing in smallholder agriculture. They contribute to overall economic development. They feed the majority of the world and they are crucial for food sovereignty and food security. Alongside that, they protect biodiversity and scenic landscapes and they are an essential ingredient of our cultures. There are many of them, there are at least 500 million smallholdings on our planet and calculating four people per smallholder, father, mother and two children, I am very modest as you see, then this makes for 2 billion people. That makes smallholders into the largest professional group on Earth. But, to perform well, they need the required conditions.

It is important to take into account, ladies and gentlemen, that smallholder agriculture is not limited to what we call the Global South. It is only present in the Global North as well, in Europe we have more than 12 million farms, 97 percent of them are family farms and 80 percent using a ten hectare limit which is common use in Europe. More than 80 percent of all these are smallholdings.

Looking to the United States, with 2007 census data, and using economic size as a border, there are 91 percent of all farms are smallholdings and being smallholdings does not make them irrelevant. There was a senate commission on small farms in the USA that studied this data and they recognized the small farmer as the cornerstone of our agricultural and rural economy, arguing that a rural renaissance is needed that is anchored in a vibrant, dynamic, small farm sector.

In the 1960s, '70s and '80s, we have had, in many parts of the world, a modernization of agriculture, also known as green revolution. The central idea was to move labour out of agriculture and to move capital in in the form of new technologies, new seeds, many inputs, mechanization, loans, you mention it. Now, this modernization, at that time, reflected the historical context, especially of Europe and the USA, there was an urgent need for more labour in industry and agriculture could provide that. There was a need to enlarge food exports, etcetera.

Now, if you look to the current context, in many countries in the world you see that it is radically different. Industry cannot absorb all the available labour force. Instead, new attractive employment opportunities are to be created in the countryside and instead of exporting food, there is an urgent need to feed the own population. In this vein, there are many other contextual differences. It means that a simple repetition of modernization, as it was done in the USA and in Europe, is not viable. A new solution, based and centred on small scale farms are needed.

Currently, we have a new scientific methods and new databases that allow for a more precise study of the role of smallholdings in the overall process of agricultural and rural development. Let me briefly refer to my own country, The Netherlands. In 1980, we had 70,000 farms with grazing animals, cows, sheep, and goats. Out of these 70,000, 50,000 were smallholdings, then there were 18,000 medium farms and 2,000 were considered as large farms.

Now, these farms can be followed over the period of 1980 to 2006 and then it shows that there are farms disappearing. But, not only small farms disappearing, also medium farms and part of the large farms are disappearing and alongside the disappearing farms, there are newly created farms. Over the same period,

12,000 new smallholdings were created because young people, professionals from the city, like to build and construct a farm and make a living there. All size categories showed a complicated and even contradictory dynamic. Some of them are growing, others decreasing in size.

It showed us there was considerable throughput. Indeed, some small farms disappear, other small farms grow into medium farms and medium farms develop into large farms. You see, there is not this simple reality of small farms disappearing, large farms growing, it is far more complicated. You can ask, what does this mean?

Well, it was studied, the overall effect of these complex processes. It was studied, what is the net contribution of the different size categories to the overall process of agricultural growth in The Netherlands. It shows that small farms contributed 175,000 economic units and large farms only 40,000. That means that, in the core of Europe, it shows that smallholdings contributed nearly four times as much to overall agriculture than large farms. At the level of single enterprise, the growth of a large farm may look very impressive, very strong, and very macho. However, a small farm, when growing, looks modest.

But, since there are far more small farms, the overall contribution of small farms to agricultural growth and rural development outnumbers the contribution of large farms. At the same time, of course, it applies that many smallholders are pushed out of the markets. Their resources are often grabbed by other, more powerful actors. Smallholders are denied access to major services, sometimes they are subordinated to regulatory schemes that hardly match with the specific conditions. All this often blocks the productive potential entailed to smallholder agriculture. Agriculture policies are needed to address and remove these major hindrances. More generally speaking, adequate agricultural policies are needed to put smallholder agriculture centre stage and to give it the conditions that allow them to contribute to the development of our societies. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. In the interest of time, the Chair has already mentioned and given a brief background of what this session is all about and we have also heard from our keynote address.

I want to go straight to call our panellists. We have four of them. Our first panellist that I am going to call, or maybe before I call the panellist, I want us to come together regarding the three policy recommendations that inform this discussion. The first one is the policy recommendation on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition. That was endorsed in 2013 by the CFS. The second set of policy recommendations is Connecting Smallholders to Market. That was endorsed in 2016 and, lastly: Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock, also endorsed in 2016. These are the basis that inform this discussion today.

We know the process already, we are going to have our panellists speak then, after that, we will give the time to the floor for your inputs and if we have sufficient time, I will also give you some time to ask questions to the panellists. I would like to call our first panellist: that is Mr Gilberto Silva. He has been introduced already. He's the Minister of Agriculture from Cabo Verde. He is going to share the experience of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. Over to you, sir, you have seven minutes.

Mr Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Cabo Verde

Thank you, very much, Moderator. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. As Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Cabo Verde, I am the President of the Council of Food Security and Nutrition of the

Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). I would like to start by thanking the Chair of the CFS for the invitation. For us, it is a wonderful opportunity to share, in this session, the progress we have made in our work in food security and nutrition at the CPLP, which is, of course, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and from now I will refer to it by its acronym.

As you know, the CPLP, as a community of countries that share the Portuguese language also has something else in common. A common history, cultural and economic links and other links which are very strong. The CPLP includes Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste and also Equatorial Guinea and Portugal, of course, Mozambique as well. We are talking here about a community of 280 million people, spanning four continents. Within the CPLP, these countries have decided to strengthen their diplomatic relations and their cooperation in the main development areas like education, health, security and others. It is also a space for consultation and exchange of experiences and good practices. It also involves harmonizing practices for good governance.

Food security and nutrition is one of the top priority areas of cooperation within our community which decided to create a Council of Food and Nutrition Security, CONSAN. This is an advisory body made up of heads of state and Government of the CPLP. Of course, working in the area of food security and nutrition.

Allow me to speak a little bit about the main activities undertaken by CONSAN. The example that I like to give is that of our food security and nutrition strategy and a special focus on its third priority which goes to strengthening family farming. The other priorities include governance, food security and nutrition and social protection. I would like to say that the food security and nutrition strategy was born in 2011 inspired by the United Nations work in this area and the United Nations strategy in relation to food security and nutrition inspired by one of the first documents, which was actually adopted by the CFS.

Our strategy is based on a formal participation between actors at the national and regional levels, headed by the CONSAN Council and, also, national Councils for food security and nutrition which they participate in. That is to say that in each country there are also bodies that consist of representation from Government, civil society, they also include family farmers, the private sector, academia and members of Parliament.

CONSAN is the advisory body for the summit of heads of state and Government of the CPLP. Declarations and resolutions approved by the heads of state include the recommendations and the ideas coming out of CONSAN. Over the last eight years, we have setup a multi-level institutional architecture involving many different stakeholders on governance of food and nutrition security in line with the recommendations from the Committee on World Food Security. To give you an example of this, we approved the guidelines on food and nutrition security in the CPLP countries and, also, the idea of promoting family farming in 2017. That covers various different chapters, taking account of the documents and recommendations coming from the CFS, particularly investing in family farming for food security, connecting smallholders and connecting them with market structures.

The CPLP guidelines recommend, for example, that Member States should adopt legislation and specific programmes on family farming, supporting the development of access possibilities to markets through public purchasing of foodstuffs. The promotion of local food systems with the active participation of young people and women, encouraging the economic autonomy or rural women investing, also, in technological transfer for rural families and their access to productive structures. The CPLP Member States have committed to establishing national legal frameworks which aim in that direction. I can give you the example of Capo Verde which approved the human right to adequate food. All of this is moving towards achieving the SDGs, namely one, two, eight, ten and 13.

We are also involved in implementing the Decade on Family Farming. I am moving towards my conclusion for the CPLP. There are various different options but, I do not have enough time to mention them all here. I would like to conclude, however, by saying that we are all convinced that the CFS can

help us to continue strengthening our capacity and that our own experiences can inspire other regions to introduce their own institutional architecture along the lines of the CPLP for governance of food and nutrition security which will allow them to become more effective in promoting and strengthening family farming at regional, national and local level. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much, Mr Silva, for sharing with us your experiences. In the interest of time, I am not going to commentate much. Let us see how we are progressing and we can summarize later on. Let me take our next presenter.

I would like to introduce Mr Mamadou Goita. He is the Executive Director from the Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development. He is going to present the global experience on Mapping of Territorial Markets. This is the activity in response of the CFS recommendations on connecting smallholder to markets, to improve the evidence based policies. Mr Goita, the floor is yours. You only have seven minutes. When you are about seven minutes, I am going to ring the bell so that we keep to our time. Over to you.

M Goita, Executive Director, IRPAD, Mali

Thank you very much, Madam Moderator. Thank you, very much, ladies and gentlemen. I am going to speak to you about an exercise which was rolled out between FAO and other members of civil society, as well as some Universities, to react to a concern flagged up in a report from CFS in 2016. This was about access of smallholders, small farmers to the markets and this was connecting particularly to the territorial and local markets. The markets, in other words, where most of the food that we eat are marketed. As you know, the statistics established by bodies such as FAO show that only between ten and 12 percent of food which is produced actually goes through international markets and we are talking there about very specific types of products.

We are talking about those markets where all of the rest of the food we consume go through these local markets and so we have established a set of decisions and one of the conclusions was that these markets are not well known and, since they are not, then we have to encourage the various different stakeholders to start collecting information by gender.

So, now, I am changing the microphone. This means, Chair, since we give it time on Euros, I will translate it in CFR. So, I have 14 minutes instead of seven.

What I was saying was that these markets, it is here that most of the foodstuffs we consume translate through them because only between 10 and 12 percent of what we consume at global level go through international markets. So, recommendation one made following recommendations from CFS involves saying that the stakeholders have to start to collect data to ensure that these markets become better known but, also, so that this information can be used to enhance policy and practices in member states. That was a recommendation and, in 2017, FAO together with various different actors from civil society and also research they conducted participation based research. The project which emerged from that was run an NGO but, also involving research institutes from France, The Netherlands, Mali and elsewhere and there was a co-responsibility for smallholder Organizations, Via Campesina and also civil society. The smallholder organizations were very much involved, together with research, to establish this participation based research which would collect data about these markets to make them better known. The pilot

project was conducted by ROPPA and it established a research framework to collect the information. It produced two reports, they have just been produced, one was on Burkina Faso, the other on Senegal.

This is a process which is still running and the aim is to collect precisely this type of information. As I have already told you, this followed up recommendations made when CFS took certain decisions and the point was to see how these markets could become key markets for smallholder farmers and help them in decision taking as well. This initiative was linked to SDG-1, eradicating poverty, but also SDG-2, to combat hunger.

This initiative aims at establishing optimal conditions to ensure that the majority of people who produce can actually have access to a market which will pay them because the problem was not the problem of accessing the markets, it was actually having access to a feasible market which would provide them with an income. Eight criteria were defined on the territorial markets and the first of those was the link which exists between production systems and marketing systems. It is part and parcel of this idea of enhancing income for those people who produce to create the conditions for them to work on these markets and also for those who do not produce to have access to food.

This then produced to reports which are still being worked on now, but they came out of this participation based approach. Certain major lessons can be learnt from this. I myself was involved in leading the group which established the methodology and the implementation of this. So, I think it is true to say that this multi-stakeholder approach and working together with smallholder Organizations in the field, training them, etcetera, is a very useful approach if you have an appropriate support for them through research because it gives you the necessary scientific basis but, it also means that action can then be taken at state level.

The second lesson we can learn is that we need longer, we need more time for this type of exercise. If you are going to start this type of exercise, you need more time but, you need energy and you need resources as well in line with your objectives because we run into certain problems in terms of the period of time for the research in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Argentina has worked on this, this is a second stage and then next year it will be for Asia. We have to learn the lessons in order to push this further and make headway as we move through this into the future.

The third lesson is that the potential is out there to actually document these markets. There are structural issues facing these markets and we can only solve those by involving the states. But, with the setup we have now, the Government was not there and so the lesson is that the methodology, the teaching lines that are introduced should involve the Government as well because that can open doors to certain information but, it can also help move forward on the conclusions which emerge from all of this.

I wanted to share some of these ideas with you at the end of this exercise to say that this participation based mapping of territorial markets was particularly useful and appropriate. It corresponds to decision number one from that box of decisions on the territorial markets but, it can also have a major impact on smallholder access to markets and also addressing the question of their income because it creates optimal condition for accumulation of wealth on these markets and a distribution of that wealth throughout the territory in which these markets are based, working up from regional to national and even to global level as well. I will leave it there and I hope that others can add to what I have already said. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much. We are going to go to our next speaker, Ms Andrea Martinez. She works in a Secretariat of Family Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Ecuador. Their mission

is to develop public policies to support peasant agriculture, sustainable production and peasant knowledge systems.

In particular, we are going to hear how they have made efforts to generate and strengthen the local peasant markets. Over to you, Madam, your seven minutes start now.

Ms Andrea Martinez Galarza, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ecuador

Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. I am here representing the Ministry of Agriculture from Ecuador and I would like to share with you some of the experience we have built up on the question of creating public policy in line with the recommendation two, connecting smallholders to markets.

For the past seven years, we have been working out certain strategies in order to develop and strengthen the creation of direct local markets. We call these [inaudible: 01:05:17] in my country and these are the alternative marketing circuits. We have supported, thus far, 230 areas of direct marketing for producers, the smallholders. In Ecuador, we call this sector peasant family farming, 6,500 plus producers have been affected by this. Most of them are women and we have worked out strategies in order to enhance family income and also to create economic autonomy and social autonomy in these families.

One of the main strategies we have worked out as a result of this work has been to create geographical and organizational links in our territories through the markets. We also had a discussion about the role of family farmers in local development and we wanted to bring in environmental and socially responsible consumerism issues. That is linked with how and when we consume foods and why and one of the main weaknesses, one of the main problems we had is that, in Ecuador, the constitution of our country talks about food sovereignty and it also talks about the creation of local solidarity based markets and so the problem was to provide an operative process within the technical framework and the institutions that were going to be responsible for working through these processes.

The weakness was in finding budgets and also in our negotiations to actually establish the priorities for these policies. Amongst the challenges we have had as a country, the main thing has been to continue strengthening these direct local markets for family farmers on the basis of fair trade policies and solidarity based marketing. That is a main challenge. We also had to plan productive supply on the basis of the new requirements we have as countries in providing sustainable produce on the basis of agroecology.

Thirdly, as I was telling you, it is important to continue thinking about this and creating greater consumer awareness. Awareness in producer families as well in terms of the link between these two levels in the agrofood systems, very often distances created by the main chains in the markets and we are talking about producing healthy, nutritious food and that is a big challenge we are facing as a country.

We also want to encourage access for family farms to public and private financial services. We have developed two major strategies as a country, I would like to tell you about this. Creating information through the peasant family farming register that has been collecting information from 2017. We have now got 1,700 producers and we have created the basic information about the form of production, how they are involved in the marks for all of those peasant farmers who are in the system. We are also creating a stamp for peasant family farming. This strategy bring together seven experiences we have seen in South America, particular in the south countries, which have create tools to render family farming visible on the markets through this type of public policy.

I would like to turn now to the possible contributions which exist on the basis of what I have been telling you about, creating local markets, creating this stamp for family farming and also creating information. We believe that, through these strategies, we can, as Ecuador, help to encourage and provide information for indicators and which will help to focus public policy on SDGs one and two, zero hunger and responsible production and consumption. We can raise awareness of family farming as a crucial role in nation policy. That is a challenge, but it is one we are moving towards as a country.

Finally, we want to create economic, social and environmental resilience programmes which will fit in with our various different communities. I think we can do this through the information systems we have and through capacity building for family farming. We want to develop strategies in order to strengthen innovation in this sector, thinking in particular of the role of rural women in these new forms of development.

We have been talking an awful lot today about agroecology as a further tool which will help us achieve the SDGs. I think I can provide that to you as a summary and as an explanation of what we have been doing in Ecuador. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much, for sharing those experiences. Last but not least, let me introduce you to Ms Edithrudith Lukanga. She is a Co-President of World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers and a member of the Civil Society Mechanism. She is going to give an overview of the use of the CFS policy recommendations on smallholder based on independent report that was actually produced by the Civil Society Mechanism. The report title is Towards Smallholder Oriented Public Policies. Over to you, Madam.

Ms Edithrudith Lukanga, Co-President, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers, WFF

Thank you, Moderator. Good afternoon everyone. As you have just introduced, my intervention is going to focus on the independent report by the Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism, monitoring the use and application of the CFS recommendations on smallholders. I am part of the Coordination Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism, facilitating the participation of fisher folks constituency.

Following the human rights based approach on monitoring and based on consultations with other actors, this report takes reality on the ground as the basis for its analysis. To begin, the CSM acknowledges the special nature and composition of the CFS. It has been possible in this forum to reveal the reality of the role of smallholders in promoting food security and nutrition as reflected in these three states of recommendations that are under review. The smallholders, the farmers, fisher folks, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, men, women, I name them all, apart from producing most of the food that is consumed in the world, they promote sustainable and nature based models of production embedded in social structures and territorial food systems.

However, this acknowledgement and the normative guidance provided by the CFS contrasts with what is existing on the ground today. The dominant paradigm and powerful economic interests promote industrial modes of food production and agri-business led value chains which are detrimental to the smallholder's livelihoods and their rights. However, some progress has been made in the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations and these recommendations have helped so much in shaping the content of other United Nations policy initiatives and legal instruments including the United Nations Declaration on Family Farming and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Within the CFS itself, these policy recommendations have contributed to a common understanding and language on the importance of respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights in the context of food security and nutrition.

We also acknowledge that the civil society groups across the world have used these CFS recommendations in their advocacy work in their efforts to influence policies that support smallholder

production for the territorial markets, appropriate food safety standards and women's rights. These three examples demonstrate how these recommendations can make a difference in improving smallholder's capacity to make fundamental contribution to food security and nutrition as well as towards the progressive realization on the rights to adequate food.

Despite this progress that has been noted, there are problems at different levels, including a continuous lack of recognition of the central and crucial role played by the smallholders in feeding the world. We have been hearing, throughout this week, that very few Governments have adopted the CFS policy recommendations but, also, very little about these recommendations is known down at the national level and outside Rome. Even where these policies have been adopted, challenges still remain due to failures in its full implementation. There are problems of policy incoherence and lack of Government's commitment to monitor through participatory process that include smallholders into the processes. This is another challenge.

We are seeing smallholder's priorities remaining underfunded, under supported and instead funding and support is channelled through large scale production and global value chains. As a result of all this, smallholders remain invisible and their rights unrecognized and unrealized.

With this, we want to bring some recommendations and this call for action to member states and to Rome-Based Agencies but, also, to CFS itself. In the interest of time, I will just focus to the member states because, at the country level, that is where real implementation happens.

I would like to encourage the member states to make efforts to apply the CFS policy recommendations to national level policy programmes and strategies, as well as national reviews, under the sustainable development goals and within the human rights treaty body systems within the countries.

I would also like to encourage the member states to apply these recommendations inclusively to develop nationally owned visions for future of the smallholder production in connection to the United Nations declaration on family farming and other international instruments such as the United Nations declaration on peasants and other people working in rural areas. We also call for the national Governments, the member states, to strengthen policy coherence at the national level by ensuring that the analysis and monitoring of these policies impact the smallholders.

To finish, I would like, on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism, to call for the Rome-Based Agencies to apply the necessary resources and technical expertise to ensure that the CFS policy recommendations and products are translated in their policy guidance and programmes of work at regional and global level.

Finally, to conclude, the Civil Society is fully committed to these processes, it is fully committed to work together with the member states and the United Nations agencies, to further implement the CFS policy recommendations. This report that we, the Civil Society, have produced and our participation, not just in this podium but in all the policy convergence processes, is a symbol of this commitment and our willingness to continue working together with different actors in ensuring that policies that support a realization of the right to food are realized and are implemented. Thank you, very much.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you, very much, to our panellists. According to our time schedule, we started late, we have about half an hour, or maybe we can steal another ten minutes, to engage. Before we take questions for the panellists, I would like to invite some interventions from the floor.

Initially, you will be given three minutes but, in the interest of time, I will appeal that we limit our interventions to two minutes maximum. If we can do it in less, the better. We have Iran and Private Sector Mechanism and Finland. We will start with those. Iran

Iran

Thank you, Madam Chair. I actually have some questions mainly, not a statement, particularly for the Professor from Wagenigen University. When we talk about a small, medium and large farmers, the most important issue which actually bring the discussion and negotiation is: “what is the characteristic and indicator when we are going to categorize the farmers?” If it is the land size, of course, the fertility of land is much more important than size. If it is about the property, it also needs to be considered. This is one question.

My second question is about when we are talking about, and I fully agree with you that most of the farms all over the world, particularly in Europe, North America, Australia and Canada are, more or less, the small farmers, then “why are the majorities of these countries following and supporting the large scale farmers in the policy formulation in the international venues?”

Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Private Sector Mechanism.

PSM

Thank you, Madam Moderator. My name is Maya Stewart Conge (?) and I am the owner of Lenziemill Milling, a family owned poultry business in Malawi that provides day old chicks, feed and training to smallholder farmers. We are living proof of the work of CFS and am honoured to speak today on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism.

The CFS policy recommendations on smallholders, in particular the recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets, are a vital tool in promoting the livelihood and nutrition of smallholder farmers and all who depend upon them for healthy and sustainable food systems. Smallholders remain the backbone of global agricultural production and the private sector has played an active role in disseminating these recommendations, furthering their uptake and integrating them into their own activities.

However, there is significant scope to making progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition and safeguarding smallholder interests. One of the most important of these is the urgent need for greater investment in rural areas where smallholders predominate. This investment is needed on two fronts, enhancing rural infrastructure on the one hand and providing access to new skills and training on the other. For many stakeholders, mutually beneficial engagement with markets will depend upon reliable access to improved physical and informational infrastructure in the form of transport amenities, storage facilities, marketing information and communication systems. In order to fully take advantage of these, they will also need access to training and support services to deal with a rapidly changing and digitizing sector. These can include extension services, commodity exchanges and provision of credit and insurance. Greater investment in all of these areas is in line with the CFS policy recommendations and would contribute to healthy and sustainable food systems and smallholder interests. Thank you, very much.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. We can take Finland.

Finland

Thank you, Madam Moderator. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We mainly have remarks on the monitoring process. We would like to thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive report.

Despite the relatively low response rate, especially from Governments, we believe that this has been a useful exercise. It will help the CFS membership to better understand the impact that CFS policy recommendations can have at various levels.

We welcome the fact that the policy recommendations are so comprehensive in nature. They can be powerful tools for the whole CFS membership. However, we need to do much better when it comes to raising awareness of the recommendations and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

An important finding is that the policy recommendations contribute to reaching those SDGs that are particularly relevant for smallholders. This is a strong encouragement for all CFS stakeholders to take full account of the recommendations.

To conclude, we acknowledge the importance of strengthening our efforts to monitor at all levels how the recommendations are used. This is essential for getting broader and more comprehensive picture and brings clear added value to the Committee's work. Thank you, Madam.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. I will give time to Mexico.

Mexico

Thank you, Moderator. We thank the panellists for their presentations. In Mexico, we have President Obrador who has come in now. He has got policies promoting small scale farmers. In previous years, 100 percent of the subsidies went to the 10 percent. But, now we have got a turnaround and we have got a lot going to smallholder farmers and we have commercial farmers who say that this will lead to a decrease in the production of food. They do not recognize the role of smallholder farmers in the production of food.

I think that, despite the international year of family farming and the decade of family farming and despite the crisis in 2008 with prices, we are seeing a decrease in the promotion of family farming all around the world. I would like to suggest and I propose that CFS strengthen their policies of awareness raising in relation to the importance of smallholder farming and small scale farming as the Doctor mentioned in his studies that were done in China and other countries.

I would also like to propose the following. In each Government, we can have policies to promote smallholder farming to strengthen policies at a national level. But, when we have international markets, when it comes to coffee, cotton or other things, other products that are very valuable in international markets, there is not much that national Governments can do here. We need to have a look at the international markets so that smallholder farmers can have access to them so that they can have stable incomes over time. Thank you, very much, and congratulations to Dr Van Der Ploeg on his studies in relation to smallholder farming. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, very much. I now will give a chance to France.

France

Thank you, very much. France aligns itself with the declaration made by the European Union. We welcome this session on the monitoring of CFS policy recommendations and especially their impact on smallholder farmers. We already said, in our dialogue on the Decade on Family Farming, smallholder farmers play a very important role in global food security. We need to have policies which are adapted to their needs and the three policy recommendation documents developed by the CFS cited in the document are very valuable in this context.

We would like to highlight the recommendation on livestock. It is very important, livestock, to guarantee food security, nutrition and the fight against rural poverty all over the world. Livestock products provide essential nutritional elements and they are very important when it comes to resilience for smallholders. It is very important when it comes to promoting defavoured and the least well-off areas around the world. In countries where we have economic and environmental issues, this is the subject of lots of debates and the CFS has shown that it has been able to put forward useful proposals and recommendations. We recognize the need to spread awareness about these CFS documents and other important CFS documents, for example the VGGT guidelines, because land tenure is very important for smallholder farmers as they play a role in decision making. Thank you, very much, Chair.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Now, I will give the chance to World Bank Group.

WBG

Thank you, Madam Moderator. As confirmed by the distinguished panel, current levels of investment in agricultural value chains, especially involving smallholder farmers, are insufficient to achieve key development goals by 2030. Therefore, the World Bank Group strongly supports Governments to invest in all areas suggested by the recommendations.

We are convinced that private sector solutions tailored to smallholder needs and combined with public sector reforms can lift the sector and create a thriving food economy that reduces poverty and creates jobs. The World Bank Group's maximizing finance for development approach draws in private resources and solutions in fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable ways, including in agricultural research, finance and supply chains, to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Please allow me to highlight three examples of inclusive agribusiness models. Some 20 years of World Bank experience with productive alliances model, across 15 countries in Latin America show that it is possible to increase productivity, climate resilience, market integration and incomes to smallholder farmers through inclusive sustainable approaches.

In a number of African countries, World Bank Group supports Government legal and regulatory reforms to introduce, for example, warehouse receipt systems to help improve the integration of producers, traders and processors into value chains by improving their access to provisional storage and credit. For example, in Vietnam, the World Bank and the IFC provide technical assistance for capacity building and institutional reform to promote, facilitate and retain private investments in the coffee and rice sectors.

Currently, the World Bank assists about 54 operations in countries representing about USD 1.4 billion in active investments in livestock. Over the last three years, we observed a substantial increase in these requests. Most of the growth has been in Africa and South-Asia. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you, so much. You have to listen to the bell. Now, we give the chance to Switzerland.

Switzerland

Thank you, Madam Chair. Switzerland is a strong supporter of regular monitoring events and welcomes this report on monitoring the use of three CFS policy recommendations. Switzerland suggests complementing monitoring events with side events or other events that reflect on how concretely CFS products are used. This would significantly enhance learning about the relevance of policy recommendations to different stakeholders.

It is critical that policy recommendations predominantly on smallholders and their respective challenges. The fact that connecting smallholders to markets received most feedback shows a certain relevance. While some informative aspects are reflected in the report, others will need to be included in the future to enhance the formulation, relevance and use of CFS policy recommendations, such as information on distribution channels used and targeted stakeholders. In countries where enabling political environments are absent, the CFS recommendations need to be known and understood. They need to be shared in the right fora, through the right channels and messengers will be necessary who help to focus and to communicate most important things first and in clear language.

To enhance use and uptake, a crisp and clear formulation of recommendations, as well as a reduction of the number of recommendations should be considered. This would ease the operationalization and dissemination process. Let us not forget, policy recommendations can only be monitored if policy recommendations are actually taken up and operationalized. Thank you, very much.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. Our last intervention, we give a chance to Cameroon.

Cameroon

Moderator, thank you. We are making this statement on behalf of Africa. We welcome the contributions from all the panellists. I would like to particularly say that we appreciate the participation of Minister Gilberto Silva for his contribution to SIDs. I think this has been a very important contribution that he brings to this areas. Thank you, Minister.

The holding of an event at CFS46 to monitor the use of the three sets of policy recommendations that provides CFS policy guidance to support smallholders, recognizing that Africa's agriculture is essentially in the hands of smallholders, our Regional Group welcomes the present event. We note that you accept an acceptable number of contributions from all regions and all stakeholders. It appears that, except the North-America region, the policy recommendations have been used in all other regions, which is a good record.

We endorse the fact that all the good practices documented deserve global attention. This first exercise towards monitoring CFS policy recommendations, has identified interesting good practices concerning decision making processes, allocation of resources, institutional partners, involvement, and empowerment of stakeholders and so on and their impact in shaping policies and global processes concerning food and agriculture. We look forward to the next monitoring exercise. I thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

I will take an intervention from Civil Society Mechanism.

CSM

Thank you. First of all, we want to really thank this fantastic panel. This shows how the work was well done and how important are the smallholders, how the CFS has contributed, in an essential way, to change the narrative of the fundamental role of smallholder to feed the world and the three policy recommendations are there to show the good job that we have done in these years. This is extremely important that we can see the next steps that we essentially need because when we go and see the plan of action of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming, we see that the three recommendations are there. This means that the three recommendations are not up in the air, but are translated in something very concrete and practical. The United Nations Declaration on Peasant Rights, the process was influenced by all that.

This is extremely important but, this is what we want to see in the next step. We have a very important policy recommendation in front of us, we have very important discussions on food systems and nutrition, agroecology and other innovations. All these, will be done working and building on all that. Smallholder is the heart of the work of the CFS. Those people, fisher folks, pastoralists, the fact that, for example, in the livestock recommendation, we finally recognize the fundamental role of pastoralists. Those are the things that make the CFS something that is extremely important.

In that sense, we need absolutely that there is a major commitment of the Governments for sure we are really happy of all the Government. The panellists show they are starting to use these policy recommendations. But, indeed, we need much more. We absolutely need much more and we really invite you to read this document. This document that is our independent report shows how important can be impractical, how can its fundamental in terms of new policy at national level. We need to see that now and we need to see that not only in the Government but, in the next step of the CFS. This is what we need now. Thank you.

Applause

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you. I think we have all the interventions. I think there was one question. I would like to give the floor to Professor Van Der Ploeg. Let us keep it short, to respond to the question that came from Iran.

Mr Jan Van Der Ploeg, Professor Emeritus, Wageningen University

These have been two important questions articulated by Iran. The first, how are these categories between small, medium and large, how have they been defined given all the impacts of soil fertility, you mentioned, and many other factors affecting these concepts. Now, what is normally done, and it is now standard procedure in Europe, that you take the gross value added produced by specific factors of production. So, when it comes to land, you take into account soil fertility and can combine land and cattle on it and the crops next to it and you can put them all together into one indication of the economic size of

a particular farm. This allows, also, to compare arable farms with fruit producing farms, with dairy farms. This is a powerful tool which is useful.

Then, you ask how it is possible that, given the centrality of smallholder throughout Europe, how policy is still focusing mainly on large farms? Well, it is an answer on two levels. I will be fairly brief. Firstly, this still reflects the previous epoch of modernization and then the routine if previous policies is fairly strong, that makes past dependency. There is still this bias towards large reflected in the fact that 80 percent of subsidies go to 20 percent of the biggest farms which is ludicrous, of course.

Then, the other level of the answer is that there are strong interests involved here and it is a public struggle, especially in the European Parliament. One notices that there is a strong movement for changing this unhappy situation. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, before we close, I have seen a hand from the CGIAR.

CGIAR

Thank you, Moderator. I am from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), one of the 15 CGIAR research centres working for a food secure future.

Smallholder farmers in the developing countries are the world's food heroes. They feed most of the world's people today. They produce 55 percent of our cereals, 50 percent of our beef, 72 percent of our lamb and 41 percent of our milk. With a growing demand for meat, milk and eggs across the developing world, there are huge opportunities to help those smallholders who raise livestock to significantly and sustainably increase their production to meet this demand. With access to the right technologies, support from well-designed policies and infrastructure, these small scale producers will gain wider access to critical inputs and services such as better animal feeds, breeds, veterinary services and access to markets. In Ethiopia, to give just one example, a market led approach targeting more 110,000 dairy households led to the number of households selling milk doubling and the volume of milk traded tripling.

The developing world's livestock keepers, two thirds of whom are women, raise the camels, buffalo, cows, sheep, goats and poultry that are the mainstay of 1 billion livelihoods across the world. The meat, milk and eggs that their animals produce, provide hundreds of millions of families, not only with livelihoods but, also, with regular incomes, nutritious foods, jobs for youth and business start-ups for women. In short, these animals are major and enduring instruments for achieving better lives.

Livestock are a major driver of economic growth in virtually all low and middle income countries. Globally, livestock accounts for 40 percent of agricultural GDP and the developing countries that figure is growing. The livestock sector continues to receive a pittance, less the three percent of official development assistance. That is a shocking deficit that will have to be closed if we are to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and have any hope of achieving a more just and sustainable world. Thank you, Moderator.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Thank you. Okay, looking at our time, we know that we started late and we are targeting to still finish on time. Allow me to conclude the session, if there is no other pending input. There is another intervention here from Private Sector Mechanism. That will be our last speaker and please limit it to two minutes.

PSM

Thank you, Madam Moderator. I am Helen, a farmer and a crop aggregator from Kenya and I am standing in for Private Sector Mechanism. As my colleague has noted, the private sector has welcomed the CFS policy recommendation on smallholders and has been proactive in sharing and implementing them. She has also correctly noted that they contain certain principles which are worth welcoming if they are to achieve their full potential, particularly with regards to connecting smallholders to markets.

One of the most important of these is the creation of stable, predictable fair policy and legal environments by Governments. Government policies are crucial in the creation and maintenance of inclusive, efficient and well-functioning markets, which are essential to livelihoods and wellbeing of smallholders.

A key part of this policy and current event and their support for smallholders to organize themselves to pursue their common interests. For example, through farmer Organizations or agricultural cooperatives. These arrangements can allow smallholders to leverage economies of scale, secure better prices for their goods and better manage risk and volatility. A great example is the multi-stakeholder partnership of the Farm to Market Alliance made up of six agri-focused Organizations including the private sector, Segenta, AGRA and World Food Programme. They help to build resilient value chains for smallholders.

We need more such partnerships that empower farmers for the strong markets and improve global food security. Thank you.

Ms Hlamalana Ngwenya, Moderator

Okay, thank you, very much, for the contributions. Listening to their presentations, our keynote speaker and the interventions that we got from the floor, we can tell a story. And the title of the story will be, small is big and strong. The keynote speaker indicated that small is normally associated with weakness. However, in the context of smallholder farmers, it is not the case.

Smallholder farmers are not necessarily weak, they can be big, they can be productive and they need to be appreciated and they need to be supported. We heard from the presentation from our Minister that strong cooperation and collaboration and harmonization of policies and partnerships is very crucial to address the challenges that are faced by our smallholder farmers and also to tackle the big challenge of food security.

Linking smallholder farmers, not only to markets but, to feasible markets need creation of optimal conditions. This is a message that we heard from one of our panellists and the role of research is very important to provide evidence to inform decision making.

Our panellists there also brought the aspect of consumer awareness which is very crucial and important. Talking about awareness as well, there was an intervention that, while the adoption of these policy recommendations is there, the adoption at national level is not satisfactory, therefore, there is need for strong awareness creation, and there is need for advocacy for adoption by member states.

The issue of investment came out very strongly as well. We need to invest in smallholder farmers but, also, invest in rural areas. The issues of infrastructure and training. Capacity building also came out very strongly. We cannot talk about smallholder farmers and not talk about the issue of land tenure. That, also, was highlighted as a critical issue that needs to be taken into consideration for us to realize the implementation of these recommendations.

We need to monitor, I think the issue of monitoring and evaluation, monitoring the use but, also, monitoring the impact is very crucial.

Lastly, there was a call for action by Member States. Commitments from Governments, it is very important, it is not sufficient to have this recommendation on a piece of paper without implementation. Implementation happens at national level, therefore, the commitment by Member States and Governments

is very crucial to realize the implementation of these recommendations. Thank you, very much. I will hand it back to the Chair.

Applause

Chairperson

Thank you, very much, Ms Ngwenya. Thank you to all the members of the podium, Mr Van Der Ploeg, the keynote speaker, Minister Silva, Ms Martinez, Mr Goita and Ms Lukanga who participated as panellists. Thank you, so very much. I will tell the Plenary that the Chair's summary for this session will be as we have already agreed.

The summary, not the Chair's summary. The summary will be sent to the Drafting Committee in the manner we have agreed. Thank you, so very much. I would like to go further into thanking each and every one of you and highlighting what you said but, the crux of the matter is that we have to make a decision in the next agenda item. In any event, everything that you said here will be transcribed and linked to from the final report into the CFS website for everybody to access. So, thank you, very much, again, and this concludes this item XI, the Monitoring of CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders.

We now go to item XIIA because, on Monday morning, we agreed to bring item XIIA forward, so we can deal with it before the Drafting Committee which meets this evening. The Drafting Committee meets as soon as we are adjourned for the afternoon session. This is a proposal by the bureau to amend paragraph one, rule four of the CFS rules of procedure.

The draft decision on the table, please refer to document CFS2019\46\8, document ending in the number eight, titled Amendment to the CFS Rules of Procedure. A proposal by the bureau to amend paragraph one of rule four of the CFS Rules of Procedure. The draft decision on the table, the document that I just referred to, which ends in eight, is the outcome of two years of dialogues within the bureau with the Advisory Group and in open meetings with all CFS stakeholders.

In line with the mandate from CFS44, the bureau began discussing the functions and composition of the Advisory Group starting in October 2017. Indeed, this subject has been, by far, the single most debated item in the bureau during the past 24 months, both in the number of occasions it came up and in the amount of time invested in it. The bureau agreed to submit to Plenary, for us here today, a decision to recognize the special role of the three Rome-Based Agencies within CFS. The bureau, therefore, proposed to elevate the status of the Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and the World Food Programme, WFP.

This elevation of status of FAO, IFAD and WFP in the Advisory Group would consist in them becoming *ex officio* members. Being *ex officio* members that means that FAO, IFAD and WFP will, in practice, be permanent advisors. That is to say, they will not need to justify *a priori* every two years that the advice they stand to provide is, in fact, useful.

Plenary agreement would send powerful political messages, that CFS is inextricably conjoined with FAO, IFAD and WFP, that the Advisory Group is reaffirmed as a significant resource in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition and that the revolutionary CFS reform process is being consolidated as we celebrate its first decade and as enter the last ten years towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The text of the draft decision is self-explanatory and I move for the Plenary to approve it by acclamation.

Applause

Thank you. The Secretary, please.

Secretary

Thank you, Mr Chair. I will keep it short, since I do not have a voice. Side events will commence at 6.00 p.m. Tomorrow our session, which is a special session on youth, will commence at 10.00 a.m. in the red room. Again, we ask you, beg you, please give us feedback on the CFS websites. The youth are looking for your input as well in two survey boxes out in the hallway and I think that concludes our business until tomorrow. The Drafting Committee will be meeting at 6.30 p.m in the Lebanon room. Thank you.

Chairperson

Thank you, Chris. The side events we have tonight are agri-preneurs, how can agri-businesses support agriculture. That is happening in the red room. Anti-microbial resistance in the Iran room. Using schools to transform food systems and promote nutrition in the Iraq room. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and CFS in the Mexico room and tackling obesity, policies for healthy and sustainable food in the Philippines room. The meeting is adjourned, see you tomorrow.

The hammer had come down just as the United States was asking for the floor. So, let us listen to the US. Please.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. I was trying to request the floor, I just wanted to ask a question and a clarification as we are on item XII. When will the Bureau nominations be released to all membership, since we have not seen the nominations for the Bureau elections that are anticipated, I believe, at the next session of the Plenary? Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson

This is a technical question and the Secretary is supposed to respond but, as you could all listen, he is having problems with his vocal chords. I will give the answer for him. The Secretariat will inform the Plenary of the candidates for the Bureau tomorrow morning, in the course of the morning. Thank you.

The meeting is adjourned.