

## CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches DRAFT ONE UNSCN comments

We thank the CFS Secretariat, the consultant and the Rapporteur for preparing the Draft One based on the discussions held in the previous months and for giving us the possibility to share written inputs.

The CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches are meant to provide indications for governments and other stakeholders to build sustainable food systems for better nutrition for all, through agroecological and other innovative practices. Bearing in mind that no one-size fits all and the importance of context specific interventions, this document should provide a comprehensive set of criteria and indications to support governments and bring about food system transformation in a sustainable way, and not a list of disconnected recommendations.

We appreciate this draft better highlights synergies between these recommendations and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN), as these two policy processes can certainly benefit from each other and should complement each other. In the first week of negotiations of the VGFSyN, stakeholders have stressed the importance of sustainability in its three dimension and reiterated the fact that no one size fits all and the need for context specific interventions.

This Draft One constitutes a good basis for negotiations and we would like to provide the following specific comments:

- We welcome the preamble that present the various dimensions of the issue and challenges, including a reference to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We believe the document should most and for all stress the importance of the quality and diversity of production and products, as currently the world only relies on a few crops and species for its food supply.
- Para 13 focuses on digitalization and its potential role in achieving global food security. The para also refers to some concerns and challenges associated with digitalization and we believe the issue of unequal access to digital technologies and digital literacy should be better highlighted here. [UNSCN Nutrition 45: Nutrition in a Digital World](#) could provide useful insights on this topic.
- We suggest to expand para 15 by including the UN International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs. The UNSG calls on all of us to take action to be able to achieve the entire 2030 Agenda. These recommendations will have to fit into that call to action as well. Also, we believe these policy recommendations would also contribute to the follow up of the UN Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020).
- In Recommendation 1 letter b) we would like to add nutrition to the list of relevant sectors:

*b) In cases where comprehensive assessments show that sustainability can be improved, develop context-appropriate plans to move towards sustainable agriculture and food systems through inclusive and participatory processes based on the results of such assessments; ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders (giving particular importance to the needs of the most*



*vulnerable) and all relevant sectors, including agriculture, **nutrition**, health, labour, gender, education, social protection, youth, finance, trade, energy and environment;*

- In Recommendation 1 letter k) we would suggest using the following language to be in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food:

*k) ~~Promote~~ **Respect, protect and fulfil** the right to adequate food and ensure that individual and collective actions that address the four dimensions of food security and nutrition at different scales adhere to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law;*

- Recommendation 2 includes some text mandating the CFS to develop *a model framework as a basis for assessment, planning, deployment of context-appropriate agroecological and other innovative approaches, policy implementation and investments decision*. We think we should refrain from duplicating efforts – FAO is already working on this (i.e. [FAO TAPE tool](#)). In addition, the CFS VGs also make a strong call for establishing or strengthening existing monitoring and reporting systems in order to assess the efficiency of laws, policies and regulations.
- Recommendation 3 is an essential recommendation indicating which steps should be taken in order to transition to more sustainable food systems. However, not all the elements mentioned in the introductory paragraphs are covered in recommendation 3. Therefore this recommendation seems to be a bit disconnected. What type of transition is needed to mitigate climate change? What steps are needed to stop bio diversity loss? How to ensure water use in agriculture is sustainable and responsible? Recommendation 3 could be more concrete on how agroecological and other innovative approaches would support and promote more biodiversity, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions and more responsible use of natural resources such as land, water and quality of soil.
- We would suggest adding the definition of agroecology/agroecological approaches in the annex