

FiBL Europe inputs on CFS Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition - Zero Draft

General comments

We welcome the CFS Policy Recommendations as they are key in promoting the necessary transformation of the current food and agriculture system in order to achieve the SDGs. Integrated approaches are needed to facilitate this transformation thanks to the accumulation of knowledge and synergies between different agroecological approaches.

We consider the recommendations are well addressing the biggest problems of our food systems. However, we consider that stronger focus should be put on:

- Increase the cooperation at country-by-country and region-by-region level in the development of policies addressing these recommendations. We consider that there are currently several important initiatives going on (e.g. Farm to Fork strategy in the EU) addressing directly some of these recommendations. These initiatives will improve thanks to further coordination and harmonization that a global framework can provide.
- Despite that the topic is mentioned in several points, the effectivity of all these recommendations will depend on the financial resources invested and committed by countries. To achieve these ambitious recommendations resources will be needed and this document should, therefore, be strongly asking for this commitment.

Specific Comments

I. Lay policy foundations for transforming food systems to ensure sustainability and enhance food security and nutrition through agroecological and other innovative approaches

Add in point 12: This should include investments to ensure better quality and availability of data and statistics on sustainable food systems (e.g. organic farming statistics).

II. Support transitions to diversified and resilient food systems

Biodiversity and ecosystem approach mainstreaming for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Add in point 20: The overall goal should be a clear **reduction** of agrochemical inputs rather than just an optimization.

Add a new point 20b: Furthermore, agrochemicals should be phasing out by the use of inputs with reduced environmental inputs (e.g. organic, natural inputs, biocontrol). The use of these alternative inputs should be facilitated when they are available and further supported and promoted.

Add a new point 21b: In order to phase out unsustainable breeding approaches and to increase animal and vegetal agrobiodiversity, the development of sustainable breeding approaches (e.g. organic breeding) should be promoted and supported. These alternative breeding approaches can increase the agrobiodiversity while ensuring the resilience of the agricultural and food system.

Add a new point 28b: Support the development and deployment of mild and sustainable processing technologies and methods in the agri-food supply chain. With the objective of reducing the complexity of recipes of food products and increasing the sustainability of the whole value chain. Increase the use of small-scale and on-farm processing transformation to allow farmers adding value to their products.

Add a new point 29b: The strong growth of the organic market, at global and local level, should be taken into account as an incentive for farmers to adopt more sustainable practices. Organic premium prices are key incentives for the transition towards more sustainable farming systems.

III. *Strengthen comprehensive monitoring and impact assessments to ensure that innovative approaches support sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*

Add a new point 30b: The multidimensional assessment of sustainability is key to understand the impact of our food system and its related policies better. Therefore, increasing importance and attention should be given to sustainability assessment tools. Using sustainability assessments on farms, processing companies or other points along the value chain presents a significant opportunity to make use of the benefits of results-oriented approaches, such as the potential for innovation by farmers, motivating farmers, fair remuneration, and context-specific adaptation. Efforts should build on previous efforts and tools such as the Sustainable Assessment for Food and Agriculture Systems developed by FAO.

Add in point 32: States should also invest in improved methods to assess the delivery of environmental public goods by agricultural policies.

IV. *Strengthen support for research, training and education and reconfigure knowledge generation and sharing to foster co-learning*

We welcome the focus on research, training and knowledge generation. There is the need for strong financial support in the sector, especially in the field of organic agriculture.

Add a new point 46: States should invest in research on agricultural technologies that can be used and applied in different production systems. The past has shown that support and investments for the organic sector also have benefits for conventional agriculture. Research has demonstrated a “cascade” effect of the investment in organic research for the sustainability of other agricultural sectors (especially in the field of inputs).

Add a new point 46b: States should invest in organic and agroecological advisory services that could support the knowledge sharing between farmers and develop peer-to-peer approaches. Only with better trained advisors and increased use of digital knowledge sharing tools and peer-to-peer approaches farmers can increase their resilience to climate change and the transition to sustainable food systems.

V. Strengthen stakeholder engagement, empower vulnerable and marginalized groups and address power inequalities in food systems

We welcome the call to increase stakeholder engagement and assess power imbalances at all levels. Increase participation and inclusion in the decision-making process is key for the development of better and forward-looking agricultural policies that can increase the resilience of our agricultural systems.

Add a new point 48b: The decision making process should be also based on a transparent science-policy dialogue, where scientific evidence should inform and contribute to, but never substitute, the decision-making process.

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About FiBL

Since 1973, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL has been finding intelligent solutions for a regenerative agriculture and sustainable nutrition. About 280 employees carry out research, advisory services and training at various sites to support organic agriculture. FiBL Europe is the umbrella organisation of the different national FiBL institutes.

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