POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS THAT ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ZERO DRAFT

Input Switzerland to Zero Draft
Deadline: March 18, 2020

General comments:

- We take due note that the Zero Draft is substantially deviating from the usual procedure of CFS policy convergence processes, not taking into consideration the deliberations of the open meeting held on 27 January 2020, the written submissions and the CFS MYPOW 2020 – 2023 decision adopted at CFS 46: "the preparation of the policy recommendations will be informed by the scientific evidence provided by the HLPE report". Equally, we take note that the structure and the content of the Zero Draft has been substantially changed compared to the Rapporteur's Note and the feedback from the consultation on the Rapporteur's Note (which is available on the CFS working space and that we have read through carefully). Switzerland esteemes that this substantially complicates the technical discussions in this early phase of the policy convergence process.
- In our view, the upcoming process should substantially valorise the actual content and findings of the HLPE report on "Agroecological and other innovative approaches", which in our view are very well balanced, pragmatic, dynamic with different steps, incremental and transformational, and multiscale (including the diversity of agriculture and food systems).
- Agroecology and other innovative approaches present in today's market reality a business case. This CFS policy convergence should take this reality into consideration and develop recommendations based on this reality. Thereby, the applicability of the recommendations could be increased substantially. The policy convergence process should therefore also consider the entire horizon of stakeholders, particularly those being active in the food systems, and avoid addressing exclusively "states".
- The shift in the focus of this Zero Draft is very worrying and of concern to Switzerland. In our view, the policy recommendations should predominantly focus on agroecological and other innovative approaches, rather than turning this around and focusing on innovations, including agroecological approaches.
- The Zero Draft does – in our view - not sufficiently recognize the value of agroecology: The high-level conclusion of the HLPE Report is that agroecology offers a system-wide and integral solution to the multiple crises that humanity is facing. The current policy recommendations, however, adopt an "innovation framing" to look at agricultural production methods and that treats all the approaches simply as innovations, without establishing differences among their proposal, neither among their socio-environmental impacts, and without providing any clear guidance on prioritizing as to which approach would most effectively transform food systems. The result is a disregard of the HLPE recommendations, and lack of focus on agroecology as well as absence of guiding principles for all other relevant stakeholders on how to implement and strengthen agroecology for sustainable food systems in all dimensions.

✓ General positive points:

- Document makes reference to existing instruments and guidelines in its introduction (paragraph 9)
- The section «next steps» (Para 58-68) gives clear indication / highlights actions on how to operationalize recommendations
- The policy recommendations focus on approaches to drive the transitions needed for the major transformation of the current Food and Agriculture in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

X General negative points:

- The structure of the zero draft is less accessible than the HLPE recommendations and therefore presents a non-ideal base for the further process.
- The recommendations have a significantly reduced level of ambition and show less specificity and applicability.
- Contrary to the HLPE recommendations, the recommendations of the zero draft and show critical elements (e.g. agrochemicals: Para 20 talks about “optimizing the use of agrochemicals”, but the reference to foster the use of organic fertilizers and strengthen scientific research in this regard, does no longer appear)
- Compared to the HLPE-Report and the Rapporteurs Note, important policy recommendations or are insufficiently reflected (e.g. “agriculture subsidies and incentives”, “food waste and loss”, “employment and labour conditions” and “food product certification”, also any reference to the assessment of biotechnology disappeared), others have been included in addition to the ones in the HLPE report. This seems to us incoherent with the mandate of the Technical Consultant and the Technical Focal Points, as CFS Policy Recommendations need to be based on HLPE recommendations.
- Recommendations on incremental steps (level 1 and 2) need to be strengthened: e.g. in Para 20 on agrochemicals, a reference to foster the use of organic fertilizers and strengthen scientific research in this regard, is missing.
- The overall conceptual framework should be redressed by clearly differentiating between agroecology and other innovative approaches, such as the HLPE report did. “other innovative approaches” should be framed and addressed by an assessment of their impacts on sustainable food systems, human rights, environment and economic conditions. The HLPE report has presented a good framework of assessment (or “performance metrics”), where innovations could be “evaluated” against criteria not only related to productivity, but also agency and ecological footprint, for example.
- Policy recommendations should refer to «agroecological and other innovative approaches» and not to «innovations» (as for instance in Para 11, 67) in general.
- The Zero Draft’s emphasis on “efficiency”, for example, through continued use of chemical pesticides, is unwarranted and runs contrary to the findings of the HLPE Report, as such an approach was not identified as a way forward towards sustainable and equitable food systems. The Zero Draft therefore fails to forcefully put forward a strong assessment framework that can help evaluate different innovations. The HLPE report clearly listed every innovative approach and differentiated their advantages and challenges
- Gender and youth both deserve their own and specific recommendations.

Specific comments per paragraph:

Text Zero Draft	Comments
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS THAT ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION	1. The introduction part is not focused and blurs the policy recommendations that should address agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable ag and food systems 2. The preamble should be reframed: a) Around a holistic food system approach: the preamble should state that any decision, innovation, policy, research, fora or initiative promoted within this decision box needs to be weighted according to its impact on the thirteen HLPE principles, as framed in the HLPE Report. This would prevent the promotion of items that are only beneficial to one of those principles (e.g. the resource efficiency part for instance) and detrimental to the others. b) In order to shape the proposed innovations around the needs of small scale farmers expectations: the preamble should state that in light of the increasingly well-documented power and decision asymmetries within food and agricultural value chains (including the ones presented under the "agency" terminology within the report), it is crucial that any innovation promoted within this decision box be weighted according to its level of appropriateness, replicability and adaptability by Indigenous peoples, local communities and small-scale food producers according to their social, environmental, cultural and political context. It should also state that given the fact that small-scale food producers are the ones feeding the world, but are, on the other hand, the main victims of food insecurity, it is crucial that any decision, innovation, policy, research, fora or initiative promoted within this decision box be: • inclusive and the result of democratic choices, • based on the promotion and improvement of traditional Indigenous, local and small-scale farmers' knowledge according to their environmental context and culture 3. Include a paragraph on the aim of the policy recommendations, as in Rapporteur's Note:

	→ *"The CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches aim to help all relevant stakeholders to develop concrete actions that will encourage and support the innovation required at local, territorial, national, regional and global scales to follow appropriate transition pathways towards sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition."*
1) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for "bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path."1 Agriculture (crop and livestock production, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry) and food systems2 are key to this transformation. Globally, 820 million people are undernourished, two billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies and two billon people are overweight or obese. At the current pace, it is likely that targets in relation to SDG 2 will not be achieved in many parts of the world.3 Many producers and food systems workers face unsatisfactory labour conditions and compensation. An estimated one third of all food produced globally is lost or goes to waste. Unsustainable agricultural production practices and climate change are increasing the pressure on natural resources and biodiversity, while productive land continues to be lost to degradation.4 1 UN (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2 HLPE (2014) defines a food system as "the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes". 3 UN General Assembly Resolution on Agriculture development, food security and nutrition. 2019. A/RES/74/242. 4 A number of global assessments provide evidence of these challenges, including: FAO. 2019. The State of The World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture; IPBES. 2019. Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; IPBES. 2018. Assessment report on Land Degradation and Restoration; IPPC. 2019. Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.	• CFS RAI para 2. already agreed language on food systems

2) There is a diversity of food systems which exist on a continuum, can be considered at different scales, and often co-exist within the same country.5 The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has recognized as a general guide three broad food system types6 each facing particular opportunities and challenges, notably in relation to labour availability and ecological conditions. All food systems have the potential to contribute further to sustainability and food security and nutrition. Achieving this potential requires embarking on transition pathways that respond to their conditions. Three intertwined operational principles define transition pathways toward sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition: (i) improving resource efficiency; (ii) strengthening resilience; and (iii) securing social equity/responsibility. 7 5 HLPE. 2017. Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome. 6 Final report, 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. 7 HLPE. 2016. Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Rome.	• Add reference to specific stakeholders → *"In addition to states, all stakeholders involved in food systems, including private sector, civil society, academia, financing institutions, foundations and funds, local authorities and intergovernmental organizations, have a key role to play in achieving the transformation towards sustainable food systems."* • What are these three broad food system types? Please clarify.
3) Innovative approaches are required to bring about food system transformations. Innovations include changes in practices, norms, markets and institutional arrangements, which may foster new networks of food production, processing, distribution and consumption that may challenge the status quo. 8 Innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition must contribute to the three dimensions of sustainability (~~economic, social and~~ environmental, social and economic) in such a way that they strengthen the four pillars of food security and nutrition (availability, access, stability and utilization). Innovations, which include but are not limited to technologies, must be appropriate to the context, affordable, accessible and respond to the needs ~~of family farmers~~. Harnessing innovative approaches with this aim will not happen without major shifts in policies at international, national and local levels. 8 HLPE. 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.	• Either add a long list with all relevant stakeholders or delete family farmer. Food systems go beyond (family) farmers. • The list of the three dimensions of sustainability should always be as follows: environmental, social and economic
~~4)~~ Numerous innovative approaches exist which can be characterized along an axis from increasing efficiency of input use toward re-designing multiple aspects of agriculture and food systems, including markets and governance. ~~They include, for example, the following approaches and technologies: agroecology,9~~	• Add the footnote when agroecology appears for the first time. Add to the note the reference to the 13 HLPE Principles.

~~biotechnology, digitalization, agroforestry, permaculture, precision agriculture, mariculture, climate-smart agriculture, organic agriculture, protected agriculture and sustainable food value chains.~~ ~~5)~~4) 9 The FAO Council has characterized agroecology through ten elements (FAO. 2019. The Ten Elements of Agroecology – CL 163/13 Rev. 1).	• Agroecological and related approaches and sustainable intensification and related approaches need to be weighted according to their impact on the thirteen agroecological principles, as framed in the HLPE Report. This would prevent the promotion or singling out of the approaches that are only beneficial to one of those principles (e.g. the resource efficiency part for instance) and detrimental to the others. • As per HLPE Report digitalization and biotechnology are not part of these approaches.
5 A given innovative approach may be more or less relevant to a specific context as a function of the nature of the challenge and context faced.10 Specific and distinct transition pathways toward sustainable food systems should be implemented for different types of agriculture and food systems, adapted to their contexts and to local needs and expectations. There is a spectrum of different pathways and approaches, which include agroecological approaches and ~~sustainable intensification~~ other innovative approaches. 10 See, for example, FAO Conference Resolution 7/2019, Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO.	
6 Among the most critical and far-reaching current innovative approaches is digitalization, presenting a new paradigm of innovation. Digital technologies, services, products, and skills are fundamentally transforming modern economies and entire systems of production, management, and governance at a rapid pace. Digitalization clearly has the potential to play an increasingly important role in achieving global food security and improving livelihoods especially in rural areas, provided that access to such technologies exists. Digitalization can support smallholders in improving their resource management and competitiveness. It can also lead to stronger inclusion of youth by creating more appealing jobs in rural areas, and preventing the migration of rural youth to cities.	• The HLPE Report refers to 6 topics with diverging perspectives. Why is only digitalization addressed and not the others? We suggest to also address the other 5 topics.
7 However, digitalization can also create risks, particularly for the vast majority of farmers who are smallholders and consumers. These include deepening structural inequalities through the digital divide, and compromising data ownership and privacy when accumulating big data, especially for those less able to defend their interests such as smallholder farmers. Lack of transparency and trustworthiness around issues such as data ownership, privacy and liability contribute to a range of challenges, which could be addressed by a strong	

regulatory policy framework to create a safe and level playing field for the sector.11 11 FAO. 2020. Realizing the potential of digitalization to improve the agri-food system: Proposing a new International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture. A concept note. Rome.	
8 While there are no one-size-fits-all solution~~s~~ to accomplishing the transformation of food systems, all governments must make efforts to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of food systems in accordance with national and international obligations. In addition to states, all stakeholders involved in food systems, including farmers, private sector, civil society, academia, financing institutions, foundations and funds, local authorities and intergovernmental organisations should foster the transformation towards sustainable food systems. 8) bis The right to food as a universal human right is the basis for ensuring sustainable food systems and achieving food security and nutrition for all. In line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security, agroecological and other innovative approaches should support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. ~~Key among these is the right to food, which can serve to guide efforts to achieve food security and nutrition for all.~~ Impact assessments are crucial for understanding the impacts of innovative approaches on food system sustainability, food security and nutrition and the right to food.	• Add text of the Rapporteur note
~~8~~9 The following recommendations have been elaborated building on the main findings of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) report on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition”. The recommendations also build upon, and complement in a synergistic manner existing CFS polices and instruments,12 as well as relevant global instruments and processes such as the UN Decade on Family Farming (UNDFF), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), and the upcoming Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the UN Food Systems Summit. 9 bis) The recommendations aim to help all food system actors to develop concrete actions that will encourage and support the innovation required at local,	• Add text of the Rapporteurs note • We welcome the mention of UNDROP • The synergy and link to the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition should be prominently highlighted here.

national, regional and global level to follow appropriate transition pathways towards sustainable food system that enhance food security and nutrition 12 In particular, the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.	
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	• The recommendations need to be reworked to obtain the proposed objectives of this document: give guidance on how to implement and strengthen truly transformative pathways towards sustainable food systems in all its dimensions by by improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience and securing social equity/responsibility • Expand references to cooperatives and associations of family, small-scale and peasant agriculture, highlighting the importance of small and medium family enterprises in the organization, processing and marketing of organic and agroecological production, linked to food and nutritional security policies and access to public and private markets.
I. ~~Lay policy foundations for transforming~~Promote agroecological and other innovative approaches to foster transformation of food systems to ensure sustainability and enhance food security and nutrition ~~through agroecological and other innovative approaches~~	• The first four recommendations of the HLPE Report (1.a) – d) , page 21) are crucial to "lay policy foundations for transforming food systems to ensure sustainability and enhance food security and nutrition through agroecological and other innovative approaches" (as per Recommendation I of the Zero Draft) and should be maintained. They have disappeared although they clearly and very well summarize the main points to transform food systems: o Take into account and value the diversity of food systems o Use relevant performance metrics for food systems o Improve the ecological footprint o Encourage integration of transdisciplinary science and local knowledge • Especially the HLPE-Recommendation: "take into account and value to diversity of food systems and their context across scales when developing transition pathways to SFS's" has entirely disappeared in

	the Zero Draft. Although the diversity of food systems is crucial to achieve the transformation towards more sustainable food systems. • The mention of "ecological footprint as an operational principle for transitioning to sustainable food systems" has completely disappeared for the recommendations I. Include the paragraphs as per HLPE-Recommendations: ○ *Use relevant performance metrics for sustainable food systems that consider environmental, social and economic impacts of food production and consumption, such as environmental and social (including public health) externalities, both positive and negative, of agriculture and food systems based on available scientific evidence, and thereby encourage appropriate consumption practices that maintain or enhance, rather than deplete, natural capital for improving the ecological footprint of food systems* ○ *Strengthen research which takes into account nutritional quality and nutrient content of different food products and whether food is produced, processed, transported, sold and consumed sustainably.*
10) Ensure that public policies, budgets and incentives support the transformation towards sustainable food systems in a coherent manner, adapting policies and re-directing budgets and incentives based on impact assessment findings.	
11) Ensure that policies promote innovations that are appropriate, affordable and acceptable and contribute to the three dimensions of sustainability –economic, social and environmental – in such a way that they strengthen the four pillars of food security and nutrition (availability, access, stability and utilization).	• The formulation of the HLPE Report is preferable, as the mentioning of potential trade-offs is important. ○ *Address sustainability, acceptance, accessibility and affordability of agroecological and other innovative approaches and their potential trade-offs for all people, including agricultural smallholder producers and the planet.*
12) Strengthen the role of the public sector in monitoring and regulating innovative approaches, including technologies, which impact sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition and the right to food.	• [,including technologies,]: There is no reason to add this here. Please delete. • [regulating innovative approaches]: Innovation should not be regulated.

13) Develop strategies to support transitions towards sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition through agroecological and other innovative approaches, including through the definition of long-term goals at national and regional levels, ensuring policy coherence across sectors, with the participation of public administrations and relevant stakeholders involved in agriculture, forestry, health, gender, education, finance, trade, energy and environment.	
14) Promote inclusive and participatory governance arrangements of food systems, cross-sectoral involvement and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in accordance with their roles, rights and responsibilities.	• "in accordance with THEIR roles, rights and responsibilities. What if citizens in a particular country do not have a right to participate in governance issues? Can this last part be deleted? [~~in accordance with their roles, rights and responsibilities.~~]
Area-based planning for diversified and resilient food systems	• What if citizens in a particular country do not have a right to participate in governance issues? Can this last part be deleted?
15) Support the use of participatory and inclusive territorial management planning to identify and foster agroecological and locally sustainable practices to protect common natural resources at different levels (landscape and community, national, regional and global), and to strengthen local, national and regional markets.	• The HLPE-Recommendation make reference to the sustainable use of natural resources too. Add this part to the text: o *Support the use of integrated, participatory and inclusive territorial management planning approaches at landscape or watershed level, to identify and foster* locally sustainable practices to protect *and sustainably use* common natural resources at different levels (landscape and community, national, regional and global), and to strengthen local, national and regional markets.
16) Build social capital and inclusive public bodies at landscape-scale so that policy processes are implemented at a scale where it is possible to govern and manage the provision of, and the trade-offs among, key ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural).	
17) Where rural employment opportunities are needed, consider the potential of agroecological approaches to preserve existing jobs and promote decent job creation.	
18) Ensure legal protection of customary access and tenure rights for small-scale food producers, including women, youth, the landless, indigenous peoples and food insecure people, in line with the CFS's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).	
II. Support transitions to diversified and resilient food systems	• All specific recommendations related to "food value chains", "food waste and loss" and "agriculture subsidies and incentives", have disappeared from the Zero Draft, although mentioned in the HLPE-

	Recommendations and the Rapporteur's Note. Please add them to the text: **a)** ***Support food value chain innovation platforms, incubators and aggregation mechanisms in which private sector actors, as well as public bodies, invest in and reward agroecological food producers and processors by:*** • *Support the development of local and regional markets, processing hubs and transportation infrastructures* • *Improve agroecological food producers access to markets, especially local markets* • *~~Strengthen~~ Increase responsible investment and provide incentives for young entrepreneurs, women and community-led enterprises.* • *Promote short food supply chains in order to make them a viable, accessible, and affordable alternative to mass retail outlets in favour of farmers' markets.* • *Harnessing the use of digital technologies to strengthen links between food producers and consumers.* • *Encourage recycling systems by supporting the recycling of animal manure, crop residues, and by-products from food processing.* • *Consider the reduction of food losses and waste (FLW) as an important component of the transition to sustainable food systems.* ***b) Agricultural subsidies and incentives*** • *In line with multilateral rules, explore the role of subsidies and incentives in fostering the transition towards sustainable food systems.*

	• *Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of agricultural subsidies and incentives – both positive and negative – on ~~the economic viability of~~ food systems and redirect subsidies and incentives that at present benefit unsustainable practices* • *Develop and use performance metrics to assess whether subsidies and incentives foster sustainability of food systems and improved food security and nutrition.* • Add something on social justice dimension (e.g., the diets we aim for should not be built on exploitation of food producers including workers, and ensure fair prices/decent wages, working and living conditions, social protection etc. for them. This is increasingly important for many concerned consumers.
States should:	
Mainstream Biodiversity, ~~and~~ ecosystem approach13 ~~mainstreaming~~ and land degradation neutrality for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to combat desertification, land degradation and drought 13 The ecosystem approach was officially endorsed in May 2000 at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, through Decision V/6. It has been further implemented through Decision VII/11. + add reference to UNCCD decision	• Add reference to land
19) Promote diverse and resilient agroecosystems that assemble soil, water, genetic resources (crops, livestock, trees and aquatic species), and other elements in spatially and temporally diversified schemes, favoring natural processes and biological interactions that optimize synergies so that diversified production units are able to sponsor their own soil fertility, soil water, crop protection, animal health and welfare, and productivity.	• Mention agroecology specifically as an effective and efficient climate adaptation and resilience strengthening measure.
20) ~~Optimize the use of agrochemicals and promote innovative systems that reduce over-usage and dependency. Strengthen and enforce regulations on the use of agrochemicals in order to protect and improve human and environmental health.~~ – Consider the use of organic fertilizers, supplemented with an appropriate dose of mineral fertilizer, based on scientific analysis of soils, as part of an integrated component and strategy that can lead to agroecological transitions towards sustainable food systems. Encourage recycling systems by supporting the recycling of animal namure, crop residues and by-products from food processing.	• [~~Optimize the use of agrochemicals~~]: We do not need this addition. • Add reference to the consideration of the use of organic fertilizers and the strengthening of neutral and scientific research a) *Consider the use of organic fertilizers, supplemented with an appropriate dose of mineral fertilizer, based on scientific analysis of soils, as part of an integrated component and strategy that can lead to agroecological transitions towards sustainable food systems.*

- Strengthen neutral scientific research to assess the impact of the use of agrochemicals on human, animal and environmental health in order to inform policies and programmes with a view to reduce their use. Strengthen the regulations on the use of agrochemicals harmful to human health and the environment, promote alternative to their use and reward practices that produce without them.	*b) Strengthen neutral scientific research to assess the impact of the use of agrochemicals on human, animal and environmental health in order to inform policies and programmes with a view to reduce their use.*
21) Support the enormous contribution that ~~family~~ local and indigenous communities and farmers have made and continue to make for the conservation and development of genetic resources by promoting Farmers' Rights and benefit-sharing, as acknowledged in the texts of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity and by ~~protecting Farmers' Rights~~not limiting any rights that farmers have to save, use, ~~and~~ exchange and sell farm saved~~their~~ seeds, subject to national law~~.~~ Improve smallholders access to diverse, traditional and locally adapted genetic resources, as well as farmer-to-farmer seed exchange	• Use already agreed language (International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) • The HLPE-Recommendations have a specific reference to the access to diverse, traditional and locally adapted genetic resources that should be reflected here: • *Improve smallholders access to diverse, traditional and locally adapted genetic resources, as well as farmer-to-farmer seed exchange.*
22) Encourage sustainable consumption patterns that maintain or enhance, ~~rather than deplete~~, natural resources and support circular economies.	
23) Promote innovative approaches to the reduction of food loss and waste (FLW) with the support of the private sector and civil society.	
Sustainable healthy diets	• Para 24-26: We welcome the para's on sustainable healthy diets, to be in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
24) Promote sustainable healthy diets14 through enhanced diversification of production and food and nutrition education, bearing in mind local context and culture, including indigenous and traditional food systems. 14 FAO and WHO. 2019. Sustainable healthy diets – Guiding principles. Rome. Definition currently being discussed in the context of the CFS policy convergence process on the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.	
25) Support low-income consumers and ~~family~~ small scale farmers through public procurement policies (including for school feeding programmes, other safety nets, food assistance and public regulatory and preparedness mechanisms) based on local~~ly~~ and ~~sustainably~~ agroecological produced food, and integration of social	

protection programmes with capacity development for ~~sustainable~~ agroecological agricultural production.	
26) Promote appropriate food labelling, in line with applicable national and international standards, to enable conscious and informed consumer choices leading to sustainable healthy diets.	• Para 26: add "certification" after "labelling" ➔ *Promote appropriate food labelling and certification […]*
Markets for ~~sustainable food systems~~agroecological products	
27) Support innovative approaches in short food supply chains, including adequate infrastructure, participatory guarantee systems (in compliance with public policy and safety standards), and digital technologies with appropriate safeguards.	
28) Support small and medium sized enterprises that provide goods and services for diversified and resilient food systems.	
29) Promote ~~local, regional and global~~ markets, especially at local and regional markets, processing hubs and transportation infrastructure that provide greater processing and handling capacities for fresh products from small and medium-sized farmers adopting agroecological and other innovative approaches and improve their access to local food markets. level ~~that contribute to sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition.~~	• Add text as per HLPE Recommendation 2., c), i) , page 22
III. Establish and use comprehensive performance measurement and monitoring frameworks for food systems. ~~Strengthen comprehensive monitoring and impact assessments to ensure that innovative approaches support sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition~~	• Use wording as in HLPE-Report, as focus lies more on performance measurements and monitoring frameworks for food systems, rather than on comprehensive monitoring. • Policy Recommendations III. need to be strengthened, e.g. through the mentioning of the assessment of biotechnology as highlighted in the HLPE-Recommendations (Page 24, 5.e)) or in the Rapporteur's Note (Paragraph 5. d)).
States should:	
30) Apply system-wide assessment frameworks to assess the performance of food systems and their economic, social and environmental impacts, including on food security and nutrition and the right to food, while considering the following principles that shape transitions to sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition: regenerative production, recycling and efficiency, animal health, synergy, diversity, integration, climate change adaptation and mitigation,	• Para 30: It is not clear what "*principles that shape transitions to sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition*" are listed here. Some of them are part of the 13 agroecological principles according to HLPE, other not. We suggest to refer to the 13 agroecological principles.

knowledge production and dissemination, cultural coherence, human and social values, connectivity, governance, empowerment and participation.15 15 HLPE. 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.	2. Compared to the Rapporteur's Note, policy recommendations on "Food product certification", "employment and labour conditions", and "performance evaluation as a basis for investment decisions and policy implementation" do not appear anymore in the Zero Draft. 3. We suggest to maintain these important recommendations: *→ Performance evaluation as a basis for investment decisions and policy implementation - Consult agricultural producers, particularly small-scale food producers and those most affected by current production models to ensure that metrics are relevant to regional conditions and specific food products. - Develop a performance evaluation framework that captures and quantifies relevant multidimensional indicators including social, economic, political and ecological aspects of different agri-food systems on multiple scales.* *→ Food product certification - Recognize the importance of participatory guarantee systems in compliance with public policy and safety standards to certify organic and ecological products.* *→ Employment and labour conditions - Consider the promising solution of agroecology and other innovations, based on knowledge intensive, environmental friendly, socially responsible and innovative, to preserve existing and promote decent job creation.*
31) Assess the impacts of innovative approaches on the sustainability of food systems, food security and nutrition, and the right to food.	
32) Assess the impacts of public incentives on the sustainability of food systems and food security and nutrition for all.	
33) Assess the environmental and social (including public health) externalities, both positive and negative, of agriculture and food systems, for example using true cost accounting.	Please use the wording of Rapporteur's Note here: **True cost accounting** - *Recognize the importance of true cost accounting for negative as well as positive (environmental and social, including public health) externalities in food systems and take steps to effectively implement it where appropriate.*

New Para: Promote rigorous, transparent and inclusive assessments of modern biotechnology, including support for a global observatory for gene editing	The proposed text is from the HLPE-Recommendations. Alternatively, the wording of the Rapporteur's Note can be used here: **Assessment of biotechnology** - *Promote the assessment of biotechnology in accordance with sustainability criteria.*
IV. Strengthen support for research, training and education and reconfigure knowledge generation and sharing to foster co-learning	
Transdisciplinary research	
Public research institutions should:	
34) Encourage integration of transdisciplinary science, integrating global scientific knowledge and local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, including producers' and traders' knowledge, in participatory innovation processes that support transitions toward sustainable food systems.	The reference to "foster co-learning" needs to be highlighted here. We suggest to maintain the formulation of the HLPE-Recommendations: • *Develop and support transdisciplinary research that foster co-learning between practitioners and researchers and horizontal dissemination of experience among practitioners, such as farmer-to-farmer networks, communities of practice and agroecological lighthouses*
35) Develop and support transdisciplinary and participatory action research that fosters co-learning between practitioners and researchers, and horizontal dissemination of experience among practitioners, such as farmer-to-farmer networks and communities of practice, taking advantage of appropriate digital technologies to facilitate wider networking.	• Facilitate the establishment of "transdisciplinary labs" at research institutes to bring together farmer groups, civil society organisations and researchers
Co-learning for innovation	
36) Strengthen co-creation and sharing of knowledge, including local and indigenous knowledge, in participatory innovation processes to develop and implement agroecological and other innovative practices to transition to sustainable food systems.	
37) Strengthen exchanges and networking between actors with long-term knowledge and experience of living in specific climatic conditions with those actors who need to learn to adapt to those conditions.	
38) Protect and promote food and agricultural heritage systems as an important source in the reconfiguration of knowledge generation and research and recognize the role of women in such knowledge accumulation.	• Public research organizations cannot protect

39) Identify knowledge gaps and, in particular, support research in climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, nutritional quality and nutrient content of different food products, creating and maintaining knowledge and know-how at the territorial level, strengthening agency of family farmers, and financial literacy and business management skills for farmers.	
40) Strengthen public research to assess the impact of the use of agrochemicals on human, animal and environmental health.	• Public research to strengthen public research?
41) Develop and apply research protocols to address power imbalances and conflicts of interest in relation to the generation, validation and communication of knowledge about food production and processing, by valuing different sources of knowledge and bridging gaps between knowledge generated and transmitted through social movements on the one hand, and research on the other.	
Capacity development	
42) Encourage explicit coverage of "transitions to sustainable food systems" in school and university curricula, integrating hands-on, experiential learning.	• Support the development and deployment of holistic performance measurements for agroecology (e.g. FAO TAPE); base metrics for research and development projects on alignment with the SDGs. • Facilitate and support the establishment of a network of decentralized centers of Excellence (e.g. Agroecology Academy) by facilitating exchanges with relevant stakeholders and promoting lessons learned of successful showcases.
43) Strengthen training programmes for agricultural extension and public health workers, including on the contribution of agroecological and other innovative approaches to nutrition and human, animal and environmental health.	
Investment in research, training and education that supports transitions to sustainable food systems	
44) Increase responsible investment in research, formal and informal training and education at all levels to support agroecological and other innovative approaches, ensuring that context-specific needs and capacities and the needs of agricultural producers, including women and youth, are prioritized.	
45) Redirect current investments in research and development towards agroecological and other innovative approaches, enhancing diversification and resilience of sustainable food systems.	
46) Prioritize and strengthen public research to address the needs of ~~family~~ small scale farmers, including women and youth.	

V. Strengthen agency and stakeholder engagement, empower vulnerable and marginalized groups and address power inequalities in food systems	
States should:	
Inclusive and democratic decision-making	
47) Support inclusive and democratic decision-making mechanisms at all levels in food systems and take specific measures to ensure the participation of rights holders, including marginalized and vulnerable groups most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, and other stakeholders.	
48) Support the role of smallholder, peasant, indigenous, ~~and~~ family farmers and consumers, including women and youth, as central agents in transitions to sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition, including through the progressive realization of the right to food.	
Gender equality *Recognize the centrality of women's rights and gender equality as a key driver of agroecology* *~~Women~~ and youth*	• Do not merge women with youth! Both issues deserve its own consideration (see RAI Principles as example)
49) Invest in training programmes and horizontal training platforms on agroecological and other innovative approaches which are knowledge intensive, including digital technologies with appropriate safeguards.	
50) Strengthen responsible investment and provide incentives for women and youth in community-led small and medium sized enterprises that support sustainable food systems.	
51) Promote youth engagement in production, processing and marketing activities, including green jobs, as a desirable decent employment opportunity for youth.	
52) Invest in rural infrastructure and services to reduce gaps between rural and urban areas and to make rural life attractive for youth.	• Rural – urban linkages are not only for youth relevant
53) Ensure adequate attention to the needs of young women and girls.	
54) In line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), support gender transformative policies, programmes and actions that support women's autonomy and self-determination, challenge the underlying causes of gender inequality within food systems with respect to norms, relationships and institutional structures, in particular by ensuring that laws and policies ensure equal participation between men and women, equal income,	• Would better fit under I

shared power and access to resources and public services, and ending gender violence and sexism.	
Agency, power imbalances and conflicts of interest	
55) Strengthen food producers' and consumers' associations, organizations and cooperatives that build capacities, create and exchange knowledge to facilitate the adoption of agroecological approaches to foster transitions toward sustainable food systems.	
56) Establish mechanisms to address power imbalances and conflicts of interest in relation to food production, processing and marketing, ensuring appropriate consultation mechanisms.	
57) Assess impacts of concentration of market control in the agriculture and food sectors on the agency of food system actors and the impacts on their right to food. 57bis) consider the emerging importance of the concept of "agency" and request CFS to discuss the inclusion of "agency" as a fifth pillar of FSN	
Next steps	• Consider the co-organization of a global event during the year on how trade agreements can better support transitions to sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition and present the findings at CFS 2021
In order to operationalize recommendations, the following actions are addressed at relevant inter-governmental institutions.	
CFS should:	
58) Transmit for information to the UN Secretary General and the UN Food System Summit Advisory Committee, the CFS policy recommendations and the HLPE report on Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.	
59) Request the HLPE to examine how existing comprehensive assessments of food systems,16 including metrics and indicators, can best guide food system transitions and present its findings as a contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit. 16 These include SDG monitoring efforts, the TEEB-AgriFood framework, and the FAO Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE), amongst others.	
60) Taking into account that the global biodiversity framework is being renewed in 2020 by the Convention on Biological Diversity (and 2020 is also the International Year of Plant Health), organize a high-level dialogue on the contributions of biodiversity to sustainable food systems as a contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit; invite the cooperation of FAO and specifically its Commission on Genetic	• Agroecology should be at the centre of the HLD, e.g. contributions of agroecology to biodiversity

Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the FAO Technical Committees and the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
61) Support national governments in reviewing the impacts of policies and incentives on the sustainability of food systems by organizing a special event to share national experiences and draw lessons.	
62) Ensure that the CFS work stream on Data Collection and Analysis Tools considers data needs in relation to economic, environmental and social dimensions of food systems, considering the principles that shape transitions to sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition (paragraph 16).	
New Para: raise awareness of the importance of the contribution of agroecological and other innovative approaches to achieving most of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and to advancing the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) at national level and consequently at regional and global levels.	
CFS, in collaboration with the RBAs, should:	
63) Invite the World Trade Organization (WTO) to co-organize a dialogue during the CFS plenary in 2021 on how trade agreements can better support transitions to sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition.	
FAO is invited to:	
64) Support at national level data collection on sustainable food systems and documentation of lessons learned.	
65) Assess and document the contribution of agroecological and other innovative approaches to sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition in collaboration with member countries.	
66) Consider and develop options for promoting digitalization for sustainable food systems and enhanced food security and nutrition while mitigating risks by developing appropriate safeguards.	
67) Explore options for developing mechanisms to assess the system-wide impacts (economic, social and environmental) of new innovations, including digitalization, on the sustainability of food systems and on their capacity to deliver food security and nutrition and the right to food.	
FAO and IFAD are invited to:	
68) Organize a special event to consider opportunities and challenges in promoting agroecological and other innovative approaches for family farmers within the framework of the UN Decade on Family Farming.	