



Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

Please find below written inputs from WFO on the Zero Draft of the policy recommendations:

Para 3, p.2: Innovation must be appropriate to the context, affordable, accessible and respond to the need of all farmers, including family farmers. Innovation must be farmers driven. Farmers have to feed the research programmes with practical input on their challenges and needs. Farmers will never buy something that is not viable for them.

Para 4, p.2: The first sentence of this paragraph is not clear. Innovation has characterized the agricultural sector since ever. Science and technology have to work together with natural approaches and traditional knowledge to propose the most effective practices in agricultural towards sustainability.

Para 5, p.3: Referring to the end of this paragraph, WFO would like to reiterate that it is not in the interest of the farmers to create a distinction between sustainable intensification and agroecology. On the opposite, agroecology and sustainable intensification should be integrated in a vision of an efficient, smart and sustainable agriculture that can provide solutions to the many challenges we are facing including food security, climate change, biodiversity loss, in the transition to sustainable food systems. Commonalities should be strengthened so that benefits of both approaches could be applied in unison.

Para 6, p.3: Digitalisation could support and empower farmers in general, including but not limited to small-scale farmers.

Para 7, p.3: The use of digitalisation puts several questions on the table in terms of affordability and utilisation of those technologies by all types of farmers, including small-scale ones. It is essential to understand if farmers are ready to adopt such technologies, as they need to use them and maximize the results. Let's not forget the economic aspect of sustainability: for the farmers, a solution in order to be feasible needs to be viable first.

Para 15, p.4: In this regard, practices such as local markets and direct selling should always be promoted as they connect consumers directly with farmers, establishing deep ties between production and territories, quality of food products and their production mode.

Para 17, p.4: It is not clear enough why and to which extent agroecological approaches should preserve existing job opportunities in rural areas and create more. The potential of agriculture as an economic sector that generates wealth and job opportunities in general should be considered and unlocked. The multi-functional nature of agriculture, which is a sector that doesn't produce raw materials and food only, should be explored (i.e. social farming, preservation of culture and traditions, on/off farm jobs).

Para 20, p.5: WFO would like to reiterate the need to support a sustainable and efficient use of agrochemical inputs. It is critical that any strengthening of regulations be done in a science based manner in order to examine the best patterns of use and chemical formulations needed to protect health and environment. A ban or restriction of such products based more on political decisions instead of scientific evidence would not be helpful. In fact, in order to produce healthy and affordable food, farmers should always rely on the broadest possible toolbox, where multiple alternatives are offered to them prior to any product cancellation.

Para 47, p.7: We would suggest to add “especially farmers” among the “marginalized and vulnerable groups most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition”.

Para 55, p.8: For the sake of consistency, WFO would suggest to mention not only agroecology but also other innovative approaches (i.e. climate-smart agriculture, precision agriculture, organic farming) to foster transitions towards sustainable food systems.

Next steps: CFS should provide a formal opportunity for engagement of farmers, farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives, in the formulation of its recommendations, through granted representation of the above-mentioned actors.

Para 58, p. 8: CFS should transmit for information this policy recommendations and the HLPE report also to the UN Special Envoy for the Food System Summit, Dr Agnes Kalibata.

Para 61, p.8: The CFS should help national governments make sure that farmers are aware of such policies and incentives, and make sure that those policies take into account farmers' needs. National policies on agroecology should target farmer and involve them in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the same policies.