

CFS Policy Convergence Process on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Sweden

1. Which priority issues and policy-relevant areas should be addressed through this CFS policy convergence process and included in the policy recommendations?

An accurate perspective on agriculture's sustainability

Increasingly food is discussed related to environmental degradation and climate. There is in the global discussion a somewhat negative touch around something as genuinely positive and absolutely vital as food production – an activity that touches upon many of our common challenges such as food security, economic development, environment, climate and poverty reduction. For young people to join the sector this issue should to be addressed. A true and fair description of food production based on science, knowledge and facts will increase the attractiveness of the sector for young people.

Profitability in the agricultural and food sector

Food production, from soil to table, is an economic activity. Farmers, small or grand, rich or poor, need profitability to develop sustainable businesses contributing to employment, growth and prosperity. This is sometimes forgotten. Profitability should to be addressed if youth shall be attracted to join the agriculture and food sector. This also relates to issues on Research, Development and Innovation and the potential contribution to a modern and sustainable agriculture and food system, attracting skilled workers and entrepreneurs to enrich all aspects of the agriculture and food sector.

2. Do you have any suggestions for CFS meaningfully engaging youth constituencies in the policy convergence process?

WFO and other farmer's organisations

Farmers' Organisations as the World Farmers Organisation can play an important role in liaising with youth on the ground. This should apply both to the consultation process per se as well as to the future implementation of the guidelines, to make sure that the CFS products reach young people, including young farmers, and that they get engaged in the decision-making and implementation process at national level.