



## **CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS THAT ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

### **DRAFT ONE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

- 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” while seeking to “realize the human rights of all”.<sup>1</sup> Agriculture and food systems<sup>2</sup> are deeply inter-twined with economies, cultures, societies, health, climate and the environment, including biodiversity, and hence both impact and are uniquely placed to contribute to all the SDGs.
- 2) The often inter-related challenges associated with agriculture and food systems require urgent attention. The number of undernourished people in the world has been on the rise since 2015.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile overweight, obesity, and micronutrient deficiency, as well as food losses and waste levels, are troubling.<sup>4,5</sup> The United Nations General Assembly had expressed concern that SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) targets will not be achieved in many parts of the world <sup>6</sup> even before the COVID-19 pandemic, which further threatens the food security and nutrition of millions of people around the world.<sup>7</sup>
- 3) Improving the sustainability of agriculture and food systems is necessary to reduce their environmental impact, including in relation to climate change, biodiversity, water, and land. Ruptures to the interlinkages between human and planetary health compromise the well-being of both biodiversity and people<sup>8</sup>. The One Health Approach aims at preventing these ruptures by addressing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment for achieving health outcomes.
- 4) Extreme poverty overwhelmingly affects rural populations.<sup>9</sup> Discrimination and human rights violations, in particular through land expropriation, forced evictions and displacement are serious problems for peasants and other people working in rural areas.<sup>10</sup> Small-scale producers contribute to about 80 per cent of the food consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, but public policies and markets do not adequately consider their needs.<sup>11</sup> These realities point to imbalances of power in

<sup>1</sup> UN (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this document, agriculture refers to crop and livestock production, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Rome, FAO.

<sup>4</sup> Global Nutrition Report. 2020. Action on equity to end malnutrition. Bristol, UK: Development Initiatives.

<sup>5</sup> FAO. 2011. Global food losses and food waste: Extent, causes and prevention. Rome.

<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution on Agriculture development, food security and nutrition. 2019. A/RES/74/242.

<sup>7</sup> UN. 2020. The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. New York.

<sup>8</sup> WHO/CBD. 2015. Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health – A state of knowledge review.

<sup>9</sup> UN. 2019. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019. New York.

<sup>10</sup> Human Rights Council. 2012. Final study of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the advancement of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. UN General Assembly.

<sup>11</sup> HLPE. 2013. Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

agriculture and food systems, and emphasize the importance of leaving no one behind, by respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights, in particular the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

- 5) The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge for human health, economic prosperity and food security and nutrition. The impacts have been very unequal because of socio-economic contexts at national and global levels<sup>12</sup>. The pandemic has exposed some of the risks, fragilities, inequalities and strengths characterizing agriculture and food systems. It has highlighted the importance to integrate sustainability in its three dimensions throughout agriculture and food systems, as well as the importance to foster the transition - in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities - to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches. It has shown that agriculture and food systems are embedded in, and interact with, wider environmental and human-made systems (such as economies, ecosystems and landscapes).
- 6) The challenges food systems face are highly complex, context-specific and often unpredictable. Consequently, holistic and innovative approaches to addressing food system challenges have been gaining the interest of many stakeholders over the past years. This led the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to request its High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to develop the report, *Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition*, which informs these policy recommendations.<sup>13</sup> Agroecological approaches were highlighted in the CFS request to the HLPE, and are increasingly prominent in debates around the sustainability of agriculture and food systems because of their holistic approach and emphasis on equity.
- 7) An innovative approach gives rise to myriad technologies and practices. The HLPE report identified a number of agroecological and other innovative approaches<sup>14</sup> – from those that place more emphasis on holistic solutions to those that focus on a single outcome, measured quantitatively – often productivity per unit of resource (e.g. land, water).
- 8) The HLPE report highlights the importance of policy contexts because they shape the behavior of agriculture and food system actors. Policies in most countries are guided by the drive to increase production levels and revenues, rather than by taking a holistic approach that also prioritizes sustainability and equity concerns. For example, policies and research funding that support unsustainable practices tend to lock agriculture and food systems into unsustainable pathways. Meanwhile, agroecological approaches, which have shown promising results, tend to be under-researched worldwide and investment has been severely limited when compared to other innovative approaches.
- 9) Today a powerful emerging instrument, which is relevant to all innovative approaches, is digitalization. Digitalization impacts on multiple aspects of agriculture and food systems. At the same time, concerns about access and benefit-sharing, capacity-building, equity, and appropriate safeguards regarding data privacy, access, control and ownership signal the need to consider potential risks to food security and nutrition, which could be addressed by a regulatory policy framework to create a safe and level playing field for the sector<sup>15</sup>.
- 10) The aim of the following policy recommendations is to assist Members and stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and

<sup>12</sup> HLPE. 2020. Interim issues paper on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. Rome

<sup>13</sup> 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. (Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf>)

<sup>14</sup> HLPE 2019. Table 3 and 4 for a characterization of different agroecological and other innovative approaches.

<sup>15</sup> HLPE, 2019, and 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

food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. The FAO Conference considered the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology in FAO's work in 2019.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>17</sup>

- 11) In working towards this aim, these policy recommendations build upon and complement relevant existing instruments of the CFS, including the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN).<sup>18</sup> Moreover, the policy recommendations are intended to be applied, consistent with the following instruments, as far as each of these instruments are relevant and applicable and as far as they have been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States: the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). These policy recommendations aim to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and pay particular attention to the promotion of family farming, in particular small-scale food production, as these production systems make highly significant contributions to food security and nutrition, equity, poverty alleviation, employment and sustainable management of natural resources, and require specific policies to support them.

---

<sup>16</sup> See FAO. 2019. The Ten Elements of Agroecology (document CL 163/13 Rev. 1) for an internationally agreed formulation of the main elements that characterize agroecology. H.L.P.E (2019) has defined a set of 13 agroecological principles (Table 1).

<sup>17</sup> FAO Conference Resolution 7/2019, Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO.

<sup>18</sup> Other relevant CFS instruments include the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of 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, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### ***1. Lay or strengthen, as appropriate, the policy foundations for agroecological and other innovative approaches to contribute to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition (agreed ad ref)***

*Governments (national, regional and local authorities, as appropriate) in consultation with [inter-governmental organizations, producer organizations, the private sector (including micro, small and medium as well as larger-sized-entities) and civil society, are invited to (agreed ad ref.):*

*Recognizing the need for context-specific measures for moving towards and improving sustainable agriculture and food systems (agreed ad ref.):*

- a) Undertake comprehensive and inclusive assessments of the sustainability of their agriculture and food systems (see Recommendation 2 pending), paying due attention to all positive and negative environmental, economic, social externalities, trade-offs and synergies, as the first step to developing context-specific transition pathways, in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities; (agreed by FoR)
- b) In cases where comprehensive assessments show that sustainability can be improved, develop context-specific policies and plans to move towards, and to improve, sustainable agriculture and food systems through inclusive processes based on the results of such assessments; ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders: particularly women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and people in vulnerable situations, and sectors; (agreed by FoR)
- c) Promote the integration of agroecological and other innovative approaches<sup>19</sup> [footnote to be addressed in the preamble] in policies and plans that address agriculture and food system challenges in a given context by strengthening the resilience of food systems, thus contributing to the three pillars of sustainable development within the 2030 Agenda; those policies and plans should make agroecological and other innovative approaches affordable and accessible, respond to local employment needs, contribute to equity and respond to the needs of all actors, in particular people in vulnerable situations; (agreed by FoR)
- d) Implement, monitor, evaluate and continually improve context-specific agriculture and food systems' transformation policies and plans, with the inclusive participation of relevant stakeholders, giving particular attention to the people in vulnerable situations, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities. (agreed by FoR)

*Recognizing the need to promote enabling conditions for agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition: (agreed by FoR)*

- e) Promote science and evidence-based public mechanisms to assess the effects and impacts of agroecological and other innovative approaches on key aspects of sustainable agriculture and food systems related to food security and nutrition, resilience, food safety, producers' revenues, the environment and public health, the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and the reduction of food losses and waste; (agreed by FoR)
- f) Using science and evidence-based approaches, re-direct public policies, budgets and public and private investments, to agroecological and other innovative approaches, as well as sustainable practices and innovations, as appropriate, that reduce economic, environmental, and social negative impacts, including externalities, and lead to improved economic, social and environmental outcomes, while considering all externalities, trade-offs and synergies and contributing to the three dimensions of

<sup>19</sup> See HLPE 2019 Table 3 and Table 4 for a characterization of different agroecological and other innovative approaches.

sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs; (agreed ad ref.)

g) Strengthen public policies to harness market mechanisms [as possible] to enable sustainable agriculture and food systems by [factoring [considering as appropriate] economic, environmental, social, including and public health externalities] [and through true-cost accounting] [through innovative market approaches]- [into comparable and transparent food and product prices] [taking into account the limited capacities of the most vulnerable populations] [in accordance with multilaterally agreed trade rules];

Rapporteur's proposal g) [Strengthen public policies] [explore the possibility, when feasible, of establishing public policies] to [harness] [leverage] market mechanisms, [based on the SDG indicators] as feasible, to enable sustainable agriculture and food systems by considering, as appropriate, economic, environmental, and social, including public health, externalities, accessibility [for all], into prices, trade-offs and synergies, while promoting the stability of markets and the limitations of extreme food price volatility-

Alt. Strengthen public policies to harness market mechanisms, as feasible, to enable sustainable agriculture and food systems by considering economic, environmental, and social, including public health, externalities trade-offs and synergies, [taking into account accessibility for all to food prices], including [impact] [effect on] [influence on] [into] prices, as appropriate.

h) Encourage policies to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns that support, maintain, or enhance conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and resource use efficiencies, including through supporting circular economies and other sustainable approaches and systems, while enhancing livelihoods and offering economic opportunities and growth, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders; (agreed ad ref.)

i) Promote the development of policies and the implementation of joint actions among all relevant stakeholders for the reduction of food losses and waste including, when promoting agroecological and other innovative approaches, in order to achieve sustainable development; (agreed ad ref.)

j) Strengthen the policy coherence and synergy between the promotion of healthy diets through sustainable food systems and the support for agroecological and other innovative approaches; (agreed ad ref.)

k) Ensure that [peasants] [farmers, including], family farmers [and other people working in rural areas], in particular small-scale food producers, have equal access to, and control over land and natural resources, in accordance with national legislation, that are the essential basis for any form of sustainable agricultural production, by adopting appropriate regulations at the national level, consistent with CFS VGGT and other relevant frameworks<sup>20</sup>; (previously agreed by FoR- now pending)

l) Promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and enable individual and collective actions that address the four dimensions of food security (availability, access, stability and utilization) and nutrition at different scales taking into account to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion,

<sup>20</sup> For example: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

accountability and rule of law;<sup>21</sup> (agreed ad ref.)

m) Strengthen policies, programmes and actions that eliminate structural barriers to address root causes of gender inequality, in particular by considering that laws and policies to support inter alia equal access to natural resources, finance and public services, respecting and protecting women's knowledge, as well as –eliminating all forms of violence, including gender-based violence and discrimination against women, and promoting women's empowerment<sup>22</sup>; (previously agreed by FoR, now pending (see footnote.)

n) Enhance policy coherence and coordination of agroecological and other innovative approaches across sectors consistent with para 26 of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (CFS-VGFSyN)<sup>23</sup>; (agreed ad ref.)

[The United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) are also [invited] encouraged to:]

o) [Ensure] [Enhance] coordination and coherence with respect to their strategies, policies and programmes on agroecological and other innovative approaches, [including through consultation with other relevant stakeholders] [reference to the Ten Elements of Agroecology, including through the *Scaling up Agroecology Initiative*], taking into account the present policy recommendations.

Rapporteur's proposal subtitle and o) The United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) are encouraged to:

o) Consider through their governing bodies the ~~enhancement of~~ coordination and coherence with respect to their [strategies, policies and] programmes on agroecological and other innovative approaches to be finalized

~~[building on previous initiatives [and guidance, including the Ten Elements of Agroecology] [the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative] and taking into account the present policy recommendations. To be included in the preamble]~~

Formatted: Strikethrough

## ***2. Establish, improve and apply comprehensive performance measurement and monitoring frameworks to encourage the adoption of agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. (agreed ad ref.)***

*Recognizing the need for the application and further development of comprehensive and inclusive assessments applicable to and/or defined for agroecological and other innovative approaches, with country specific and globally comparable metrics and indicators covering social, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture and food systems, based on those in development within the 2030 Agenda, which are aligned with internationally agreed methodologies and indicators, governments and relevant stakeholders should: (agreed ad ref.)*

a) Apply scientifically grounded and comprehensive performance metrics and indicators frameworks of agriculture and food systems based on SDG indicators and supplemented by complementary frameworks (insert footnote: 'there are many different complementary frameworks available. The

<sup>21</sup> These principles are recognized in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

<sup>22</sup> In line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as appropriate, and taking into account- in particular its General Recommendation 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women, which was underscored by CFS 44.

<sup>23</sup> CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (CFS-VGFSyN)

examples here are illustrative and should not be read as endorsement) under development, as appropriate, including, but not limited to, the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE), Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems tool (SAFA), and the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) tool to track progress towards agroecological and other innovative approaches, and for related policy implementation and investment decisions. (agreed ad ref.)

*Governments, regional and local authorities, inter-governmental organizations (in particular RBAs), and research organizations are invited to: (agreed ad ref.)*

b) Promote the use of ecological footprint in order to ensure that the ecological impacts of consumption, and the effect of current production on future capacity to produce, are adequately factored into assessments, continuing to refine calculation methods as appropriate;

Rapporteur's proposal b - Moved under rec. 4d pending)

c) Undertake holistic assessments of employment and labour conditions in agriculture and food systems, disaggregated by gender and age in support of decent labour policies and regulations for sustainable agriculture and food systems and improved livelihoods, health, and social and legal protection, of farmers and other food system workers, particularly migrant workers and people in vulnerable situations; (agreed ad ref.)

d) Encourage data collection (differentiated by factors including gender and farm size) and analysis at national level, documentation of lessons learned and information sharing at all levels to support evaluation of the performance of agroecological and other innovative approaches; and (agreed ad ref.)

(2f to be handled with 3w, and 5f as part of the CFS48 draft decision)

### **3. Foster the transition to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches (agreed by FoR)**

*Governments, regional, national and local authorities, as appropriate, along with relevant inter-governmental organizations, research organizations, extension agencies, civil society (including producer and consumer organizations) and the private sector (including micro, small and medium sized enterprises) are invited to: (agreed by FoR)*

*Recognizing resilience, diversification and integration as key foundations of sustainable agriculture and food systems: (agreed by FoR)*

a) Raise awareness about the importance of diversified production systems that integrate livestock, aquaculture, cropping and agroforestry, as appropriate, to enhance resilient livelihoods and promote sustainable production for healthy diets; (agreed by FoR)

b) Strengthen public policies, responsible investment and research in support of agroecological and other innovative approaches; (agreed ad ref.)

c) Provide producers, and in particular small scale producers and women, with public policies and private investments, for diversification and integration of their production, including providing support during the process of transitioning, in a coherent manner, as appropriate, according to, and dependent on national context and capacity, to more sustainable food systems; (agreed ad ref.)

d) Strengthen policy instruments and coherence for the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and support the important past, present and future contributions of producers and researchers for the development, conservation and improvement of biodiversity, taking into account, as appropriate, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

Commented [CC(1)]: Insert footnote with caveat text

for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the recommendations of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (for those states which have ratified those Treaties); (agreed ad ref.)

(to be addressed in the preamble) [and facilitate the access to genetic resources, and sharing of the benefits arising from its use, and [promote [the protection of] farmers' rights (insert footnote: as defined in article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) [(for those states who have ratified these treaties) [to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds or propagation material subject to national legislation;

[the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants], and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples][,as appropriate](for those states which have ratified those Treaties) (pending)

e) Promote an integrated One Health approach, including through agroecological and other innovative approaches, that fosters cooperation between the human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors to address antimicrobial resistance, strengthen food safety, enhance resilience and minimize, control -and strive to prevent the emergence of diseases of animal origin and the potential and not necessarily correlated pandemics; (agreed ad ref.)

(new f) Promote healthy diets through sustainable food systems including through the implementation of agroecological and other innovative approaches in order to improve food security and nutrition; (agreed ad ref.)

(new g) Promote measures to improve animal welfare, in line with OIE standards, including through the implementation of agroecological and other innovative approaches<sup>24</sup>. (agreed ad ref.)

---

<sup>24</sup> CFS policy recommendation on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: what role for Livestock? Recommendation VIII d.



*Recognizing the urgent necessity of the responsible use of agrochemicals for the protection and improvement of human, animal and environmental health:*

*Recognizing (insert footnote: in the framework of agroecological and other innovative approaches) the importance of the optimization, proper management and the reduction, as appropriate, of the risk of and the reliance on chemical pesticides and other agrochemicals for the protection and improvement of human, animal, plant health and the environment: (agreed ad ref.)*

- f) Raise policy makers' and public awareness, using a science and evidence-based approach, about the risks of pesticides and other agrochemicals, to human, animal and plant health and the environment; (agreed ad ref.)
- g) Promote, based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, alternatives to chemical pesticides and the greater integration of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Promote the removal of highly hazardous pesticides, in line with recommendation 7.5 of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and depending on specific context and national capacities; (agreed ad ref.)
- h) Promote the human rights of all and recognize the importance of the values and interests of peasants, indigenous peoples, local communities, family farmers, and other people working in rural areas, and the importance of strengthening their ability to avoid exposure and poisoning from hazardous agrochemicals; (agreed ad ref.)
- i) Drawing on the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, and consistent with national strategies and contexts, recognize the value of, and strengthen support for, agroecological and other innovative approaches that promote recycling, optimizing, or reducing, as appropriate, the reliance on external inputs, and facilitate the regeneration of soil health; (agreed ad ref.)

- i) Strengthen and enforce stricter national and international regulations on the use of antimicrobials in agriculture and food systems, phase out their use as growth promoters, and implement the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, endorsed by the World Health Assembly; and

Recognize the value of agroecological and other innovative approaches in tackling the increasing challenges posed by AMR, and in supporting the implementation of national action plans in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, taking note of and , [as] where appropriate, [taking into account] the recommendations of the UN inter-agency coordination group on AMR.

*Recognizing that territorial planning is a key element of fostering diversity and the long-term provision of ecosystem services: (agreed ad ref.)*

- h) Govern territories and landscapes at appropriate levels and in an inclusive way with particular attention to people in vulnerable situations so as to respond to local needs, including enhancing the provision of ecosystem services and managing trade-offs between them, protecting biodiversity-rich habitats, and responding to the local impacts of global emergencies, in

particular by supporting social innovation<sup>25</sup> and strengthening inclusive public bodies, such as local food policy councils and multi-stakeholder landscape and watershed management platforms; (agreed ad ref.)

~~k)~~ Strengthen responsible investment and innovation in micro, small and—medium sized enterprises that support sustainable agriculture and food systems and retain value locally; and, (agreed ad ref.)

m) Create an enabling environment for young people to remain in, or move to, rural areas by protecting their rights and livelihoods, creating decent work opportunities, including through applying agroecological and other innovative approaches, addressing specific challenges for young people such as access to land , in accordance with national legislation, mechanization and technologies , credit and information and educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, and by investing in rural infrastructure and services, to reduce gaps between rural and urban areas. (agreed ad ref.)

(new n) Recognizing the multiple functions of markets in attaining sustainable, resilient, diversified, and integrated agriculture and food systems, including food safety, and acknowledging the CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets (agreed ad ref.)

n) In collaboration with relevant actors, including the private sector, promote local, national, regional and global markets, and their interconnections, as appropriate, that enhance food security and nutrition, strengthen supply chains in particular local ones<sup>26</sup> and demonstrate concrete contributions to sustainable agriculture and food systems , that do not impact negatively on livelihoods<sup>27</sup>; (agreed ad ref.)

o) Increase the resilience of food systems in facing crises, by promoting diverse market arrangements that have greater flexibility in the face of disruptions, promote an open, transparent, non-discriminatory, predictable, rules-based trade including in the sectors of agriculture and sustainable food systems, and protect farmers and consumers against food price volatility. This involves recognizing the special challenges faced by small scale producers in addressing existing relevant challenges in food supply chains at all levels; (agreed ad ref.)

p) Strengthen local, national and regional markets (through appropriate measures such as processing hubs, transportation infrastructure and adapted food safety regulations in line with international standards (IPPC, Codex and OIE) to link urban communities and rural territories through sustainable food production systems that support rural livelihoods, including by capturing a high proportion of the value of production locally; (agreed ad ref.)

q) Support market and social innovations that strengthen linkages between urban communities and food producers, in particular small scale producers and family farmers that provide sustainably produced healthy, safe and nutritious food to all consumers while providing living wages and decent livelihoods to producers. This could include Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), participatory guarantee systems (in compliance with public policy and safety standards), and relevant product differentiation systems; (agreed ad ref.)

r) Support innovative public procurement of food from small scale producers and local SMEs and micro enterprises in public policies regarding, among others, school feeding programmes, other safety nets, food assistance and public preparedness mechanisms, prioritizing low-income and food insecure people. Preference should be given to sustainably produced food that contributes to

<sup>25</sup> In line with UNDDF Pillar 7.

<sup>26</sup> [CFS 43. 2016. CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets. Paragraph on 'Local, national and regional markets and food systems' pg. 2](#)

<sup>27</sup> [CFS 43. 2016. CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets. Recommendation 2.](#)

healthy diets while supporting local and rural development objectives (agreed ad ref.)

*Aware of the importance of digitalization, and welcoming progress towards the FAO International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture: (agreed ad ref.)*

- s) Realize the full potential of digitalization for sustainable agriculture and food systems through capacity building and cooperation and technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, in particular for developing and low-income countries, and include safeguards for data privacy and for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest. Undertake analysis and provide scientific evidence to assess the benefits and potential risks of digital technological applications to contribute to agroecological and other innovative approaches and promote a participatory transdisciplinary approach of all relevant actors, recognizing the relevance of the FAO International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture to these discussions and assessments; (agreed ad ref.)
- t) Promote agroecological and other innovative approaches including, as appropriate, through the use of digital technologies and other ICT as an entry point for the involvement of youth, women, indigenous peoples and local communities in agriculture and food systems; (agreed ad ref.)
- u) Strengthen innovation platforms and promote digital technologies and applications that enhance sustainable agriculture and food systems to facilitate wider networking, taking into account traditional and ancestral knowledge, consistent with context-specific needs of small scale producers and family farmers; (agreed ad ref.)
- v) Harness digital technologies to establish and strengthen more direct links between producers and consumers offering opportunities for economic diversification, including through brokering sustainable finance initiatives, market opportunities and solidarity economy initiatives; (agreed ad ref.)
- w) Promote context-specific policies to bridge the digital divide between and within countries, as well as between rural and urban areas, by reducing currently existing technical, legislative, economic and educational barriers, and promote cooperation schemes to facilitate access to the application of digital tools, digital infrastructure, and technological solutions to improve rural attractiveness in particular for young people and women. (agreed ad ref.)

*Rapporteur proposes to delete subtitle and paragraph w)*

*Aware that the potential positive and negative impacts of digitalization on food security and nutrition require attention, the CFS should:*

- w) ~~[Consider in current and future mandated CFS workstreams the opportunity ]~~ Request the HLPE] to review evidence of benefits and challenges of digitalization for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition; assess the potential of digitalization for contributing to the full range of agroecological and other innovative approaches; review national and regional policies, including with respect to safeguards; consider challenges and implications for governance; and provide relevant policy advice on data collection and analysis tools. **(to be tabled by the Rapporteur at May Bureau and Advisory group meetings)**

#### ***4. Strengthen research, innovation, training, and education and foster knowledge co-creation, knowledge sharing and co-learning, on agroecological and other innovative approaches (agreed ad ref.)***

*Governments (including regional and local authorities) and inter-governmental organizations, research organizations, academic institutions, educational, training and extension organizations, the private sector,*

*producers' organizations, civil society are encouraged to: (agreed ad ref.)*

*Recognizing the crucial role played by multi-disciplinary and participatory approaches to research innovation, dissemination and education, such as transdisciplinary science, including the interactions between the three dimensions of sustainable development for improving sustainable agriculture and food systems: (agreed ad ref.)*

- a) Strengthen agricultural knowledge, information and innovation systems by enabling that research, extension/dissemination and education/capacity building to be integrated in an inclusive, participatory, bottom-up and problem-oriented manner in order to find holistic solutions to food system challenges based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, while not discouraging research and adoption of existing technologies and practices that contribute positively to sustainable development; (agreed ad ref.)
- b) Develop and support problem-oriented transdisciplinary research, and encourage giving value to local and indigenous knowledge in participatory innovation processes across the range of contexts experienced by producers and other stakeholders in agriculture and food systems; (agreed ad ref.)
- c) Re-design, where relevant, and support agricultural knowledge, information and innovation institutions to:
  - i) enable transdisciplinary science and capacity building, valuing the knowledge and participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly indigenous and local communities and sharing of knowledge among them, including in the setting of research priorities;
  - ii) Include safeguards for the identification and management of possible conflicts of interest and against power imbalances;
  - iii) recognize researchers who engage in transdisciplinary research;
  - iv) promote the co-creation of knowledge in a systemic and holistic way for the development and strengthening of the sustainability of food systems;
  - v) deepen the horizontal exchange of knowledge and experiences between producers and other relevant actors of food systems at local, regional and international level; (agreed ad ref.)

- d) Prioritize problem-oriented research that addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, and focuses on the local dimensions of global challenges, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecological footprint of different production systems and value chains, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem service provision, positive and negative externalities of agriculture and food systems, global emergencies such as pandemics, and market concentration across supply chains;

Promote, as well as, enable responsible investment in participatory research and innovation on agroecological and other innovative approaches addressing especially the specific needs of people in vulnerable situations with their active engagement. This might include a focus on the local dimension of global challenges such as socio-economic inequalities, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ~~the evolving concept of ecological footprint~~ <sup>[insert a footnote]</sup>/ environmental impact, agricultural productivity, increasing returns to labor, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, infectious and non-communicable diseases, market concentration across supply chains, reduction of food loss and waste, and access to new technologies;

Formatted: Highlight

2b) Ensure that the environmental impact [ecological footprint] of food systems, including [production modalities] food losses and waste are adequately [factored] [considered] into assessments and continue to refine calculation methods [based on the SDG indicators] [such as environmental footprint], as appropriate; Ensure that the environmental impact of food systems, including food losses and waste, are adequately [factored] [considered] into assessments. Continue to refine calculation methods that consider the environmental impacts of food systems, including through the use of ecological footprint;

- e) Invest in advisory services and strengthen training programmes for promoting ecological alternatives to agrochemical use through agricultural extension, veterinary services, wildlife and forestry services using methods such as farmer field schools (FFS) and producer-to-producer networks; promote women as extension agents and providers of advisory services for women;

Rapporteur's proposal e) Promote advisory services and strengthen training programmes to improve the implementation of agroecological and other innovative approaches, which could include [ecological and] environmental-friendly alternatives to agrochemical use as a mean to achieve food security and nutrition while protecting the environment through agricultural extension, integrating all agricultural sectors, using methods such as farmer field schools (FFS) and producer-to-producer networks; promote women as extension agents and providers of advisory services or as public health workers;

f) Take appropriate measures to promote the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas to maintain, express, control, protect and develop their knowledge,<sup>28</sup> taking into account the specificity of women's knowledge, and support agricultural heritage systems, including those recognized as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), as an important space for innovation through local and indigenous knowledge;

Rapporteur's proposal f) Take appropriate measures to promote the [universal rights of all people, including peasants, indigenous people and other people] working in rural areas [and their ability] to maintain, express, control, protect and develop their knowledge,<sup>30</sup> [delete footnote 30] [taking into account the specificity of] [including] [rural and indigenous] women's [and men's] knowledge, and support as well as knowledge embedded in agricultural heritage systems, including those recognized as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS); as an important space for innovation through local and indigenous knowledge

- g) Support innovation platforms for transdisciplinary research that foster co-learning between

<sup>28</sup> See UNDROP Articles 20 and 26

practitioners (e.g. producer organizations) and researchers; these may include producer-to-producer networks, communities of practice, “transdisciplinary labs”, and decentralized centers of excellence; (agreed ad ref.)

- h) Support the horizontal sharing of knowledge and experiences building on existing producers’ organizations and networks, including processes designed specifically by and for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities; (agreed ad ref.)
- i) Encourage explicit coverage of achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems in curricula of educational institutions at all levels, and integrate hands-on, experiential learning; (agreed ad ref.)
- j) Promote nutrition education including through the implementation of agroecological and other innovative approaches as part of a range of activities to support healthy diets in line with recommendation 3.5.1.h of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition) (agreed ad ref.)
- k) Support capacity development for producers, in particular small-scale producers, as well as policy makers and all other relevant actors, on agroecological and other innovative approaches to support innovation processes suited to their contexts and needs, and link these with social protection programmes where appropriate; and, (agreed ad ref.)
- l) Promote sharing of experiences and co-learning amongst countries and regions on moving towards sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches. (agreed ad ref.)

*Recognizing the need to foster investments in research, dissemination/extension and education/capacity building towards the priorities and approaches mentioned above for agroecological and other innovative approaches: (agreed ad ref.)*

- m) Encourage, in line with national context and regulations, increased resource allocation in public research and responsible investments in private research, with appropriate safeguards for the identification and management of possible conflicts of interest, innovation and development activities at national, regional and international levels promote evidence-based balanced investment towards enhanced support for agroecological and other innovative approaches addressing the specific needs of people in vulnerable situations; and, (agreed ad ref.)
- n) Strengthen public research to address the needs of farmers and all other people working and living in rural areas in particular women, youth, elders, indigenous peoples and local communities. (insert footnote from relevant section of UNDEF) (agreed ad ref.)

***5. Strengthen institutions for stakeholder engagement, create an enabling environment for empowering people most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and people in vulnerable situations and address power inequalities in agriculture and food systems (agreed ad ref.)***

*Governments, regional and local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, women’s organizations, community leaders, the private sector, academia, producers’ and consumers’ organizations, and civil society are invited to: (agreed ad ref.)*

*Considering that agroecological and other innovative approaches are more likely to contribute to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition when active participation of all stakeholders is enabled: (agreed ad ref.)*

- a) Support inclusive, transparent, participatory and democratic decision-making mechanisms at all

levels in agriculture and food systems (for example, national inter-ministerial food security and nutrition committees and municipal food policy councils);(agreed ad ref.)

- b) Create and strengthen producers', consumers', labor associations and other relevant stakeholders' associations, organizations and cooperatives across the different components of food systems, build capacities, create and exchange knowledge, promote inclusive decision-making processes and strengthen linkages between urban communities and food producers; (agreed ad ref.)
- c) Facilitate the use of social media and digital networking to promote producers' leadership and engagement in relevant processes and to increase availability and access to affordable and reliable networks; (agreed ad ref.)
- d) Support processes that facilitate and prioritize the active participation of people most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms and people in vulnerable situations, including women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making at the local, national and global levels that affects them through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security; and, (agreed ad ref.)

*Recognizing the need to advocate, promote and strive for gender equality, in the framework of agroecology and other innovative approaches, through transformative approaches that are able to tackle both the symptoms and structural causes of gender inequalities with the aim of achieving lasting change in terms of the power and choices women have over their own lives, rather than just temporary increases in opportunities: (agreed ad ref.)*

- e) Promote the empowerment of women, particularly small scale food producers and family farmers, their organizations, supporting collective action, negotiation and leadership skills, to increase access to and equity in the control over land and natural resources, according to national legislation, increase access to, *inter alia*, education, appropriate extension and financial services, methodologies and technologies that are adequate for women, youth and elders, and full participation in related policy processes.<sup>29</sup> (agreed ad ref.)

*(to be tabled by the Rapporteur at May Bureau and Advisory group meetings)*

*Promote the role of innovation in family farming by inviting the Steering Committee of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming, in collaboration with FAO and IFAD, to:*

- ~~f) Integrate the findings of the HLPE report, and the present policy recommendations, into the implementation of the Global Action Plan of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming, which includes numerous actions for strengthening innovation in family farming.~~

\*\*\*

**Rapporteur proposes to delete as reference to the UNFSS is already included in the CFS18 draft decisions**

*In view of the relevance of agroecological and other innovative approaches for the UN Food Systems Summit, the CFS Chair should:*

- ~~a) Transmit the HLPE report and the present policy recommendations for information to the UN Secretary General, the Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit, the Advisory Committee and the Scientific Group.~~

<sup>29</sup> See Pillar 3 of the Global Plan of the UN Decade on Family Farming

