



## **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>  
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- 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.

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<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 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] [into [comparable] food and product prices].

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, 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>; (agreed by FoR pending confirmation from capitals)

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

<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)~~.

<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.

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>; (agreed by FoR, pending endorsement by capitals)

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) In consultation with relevant stakeholders, enhance coordination and coherence with respect to their strategies, policies and programmes on agroecological and other innovative approaches, building on previous initiatives. [and guidance, including the Ten Elements of Agroecology] and taking into account the present policy recommendations.

**2. Establish [improve] and apply comprehensive [impact and] performance measurement and monitoring frameworks to [encourage] [align] the adoption [and improve the implementation] of agroecological and other innovative approaches [with desired food systems outcomes]**

**Rapporteur's proposal 2) Establish, and improve 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**

[Recognizing the [urgent] need for the development of [comparable], [comprehensive] [country specific but globally comparable, existing and] [and globally] accepted metrics and indicators covering social, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture and food systems, [and aligned with the international agreed methodologies and indicators for monitoring and reporting developed for the SDGs, FAO, [the RBAs in consultation with all the relevant actors] [and other organizations] should [the CFS, in collaboration with the HLPE should]:

Alternative: [Recognizing the importance of applying international agreed methodologies and indicators [developed for the SDGs] for monitoring and reporting on social, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture and food systems:]

<sup>22</sup> In line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 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)

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Recognizing the need for the application and further development of comprehensive and inclusive assessments, with country specific and globally comparable metrics and indicators covering social, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture and food systems, which are aligned with internationally agreed methodologies and indicators, FAO should:*

- a) Guide an inclusive process to 1) develop a model framework, guided by the findings of the HLPE report, including the transition principles, including practical, scientifically grounded and comprehensive performance metrics and indicators of agriculture and food systems, as a basis for assessment, planning, deployment of context-appropriate agroecological and other innovative approaches, policy implementation and investment decisions; and 2) in the short-term, select a combination of existing internationally agreed indicators (in particular the SDGs), to be applied in tandem with one another, to track progress towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems;

*Alternative 2a: Based on existing and accepted metrics and indicators, [as well as those which could be developed, FAO and other RBAs] [FAO] in consultation with other relevant actors should provide members with context appropriate assessment tools in the deployment of agroecological and other innovative approaches, policy implementation and investment decisions, in tracking progress made;*

**Rapporteur's proposal a)** *Support governments in applying and further developing* practical, scientifically grounded and comprehensive performance metrics and indicators of agriculture and food systems *based on SDG indicators and supplemented by complementary frameworks it has developed, including 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 be applied in tandem with one another,* to track progress towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems.

*[Argentina: Likewise, policies and plans should utilize assessments and mechanisms for adjusting and modifying policies that can better contribute to sustainability with consultation and participation of relevant stakeholders.]*

*Recognizing the importance of applying indicators and metrics that capture multiple dimensions of agriculture and food systems and collecting data, States, inter-governmental organizations (in particular RBAs), regional and local authorities, and research organizations are invited to:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Recognizing the importance of applying indicators and metrics that capture multiple dimensions of agriculture and food systems and collecting data, States, Governments, inter-governmental organizations (in particular RBAs), regional and local authorities, and research organizations are invited to:*

- b) Promote the use of existing comprehensive assessment frameworks, such as FAO's SHARP tool (Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists)<sup>24</sup> and the TEEB-AgriFood framework,<sup>25</sup> and finalize those under development such as FAO's Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation;<sup>26</sup>

**Rapporteur proposes to delete this paragraph b)**

- c) 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 c)** *Promote* Consider the use of ecological footprint in order to ensure that the ecological impacts of *food systems consumption, and the effect of current production on future capacity to*

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.fao.org/in-action/sharp/en/>

<sup>25</sup> The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (<http://teebweb.org/agrifood/>).

<sup>26</sup> FAO. 2019. TAPE Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation 2019 – Process of development and guidelines for application. Test version. Rome. Available at: FAO. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7407en/ca7407en.pdf>

~~produce~~, are adequately factored into assessments, ~~continuing to refine calculation methods as appropriate~~;

- d) Undertake holistic assessments of positive and negative employment and labour characteristics in agriculture to underpin policies and regulations that favour transitions toward sustainable agriculture and food systems, while ensuring decent conditions for agricultural labour and strengthening the health of farm and other food system workers;

**Rapporteur's proposal d)** Undertake holistic assessments of ~~positive and negative~~ employment and labour ~~conditions in agriculture and food systems, disaggregated by gender and age to underpin policies and regulations that favour transitions toward sustainable agriculture and food systems, while ensuring in support of decent labour conditions for agricultural labour and strengthened in the livelihoods, health, and social and legal protection, of farm and other food system workers, particularly the most vulnerable~~;

- e) 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 the adoption of agroecological and other innovative approaches; and,

**Rapporteur's proposal e)** 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 the adoption of~~ agroecological and other innovative approaches; and and,

**Rapporteur proposes to delete this subtitle and paragraph f)**

*In view of the upcoming HLPE report on data collection and analysis tools, the HLPE Steering Committee is encouraged to:*

- f) Consider data needs that arise from these policy recommendations, including in relation to comprehensive metrics and indicators covering social, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture and food systems.

### **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 and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and support the important past, present and future contributions

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of producers and researchers for the development, conservation and improvement of biodiversity, [and facilitate the access to genetic resources, and sharing of the benefits arising from its use, and promote the protection of farmers' rights to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds or propagation material subject to national legislation] taking into account the recommendations of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity, [the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] (for those states who have ratified these treaties); ~~(awaiting feedback from capitals) and,~~

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.)

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

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Recognizing the importance of [reducing reliance on] [the responsible-use of] agrochemicals for the protection and improvement of human, animal, plant health- and the environment[al]-health:*

- f) Raise public awareness (in particular among producers and consumers) about the risks of pesticides and other agrochemicals to human, animal and environmental health;

**Rapporteur's proposal f)** *[Reduce the use of chemical pesticides and phase out highly hazardous ones from use] Strengthen and enforce [Using a] [science, [and] a evidence-based regulations approach on the use of agrochemicals and compliance of the maximum residue limit of agrochemicals.], raise public awareness (in particular among [policy makers,] producers and consumers) about [the harm caused by agrochemicals] [responsible and prudent] [the proper use] and the safe handling of agrochemicals -as well as [possible] [their] risks [and benefits] [and increased knowledge of the availability, viability and benefits of non chemical agroecological approaches and crop management] [of pesticides and other agrochemicals] to human, animal, and plant health and the environment[al health];*

- g) Promote the use of ecological alternatives to pesticides that promote the greater integration of biodiversity to prevent pest outbreaks in order to optimize the use of pesticides in the short-term and phase them out to the extent possible in the long-term;

**Rapporteur's proposal g)** *Promote the use of ecological alternatives to pesticides that promote the greater integration of biodiversity to prevent pest outbreaks in order to optimize the use of pesticides in the short-term and significantly reduce, phase them out to the extent possible in the long-term to minimize their risks;*

- h) Recognize the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas to avoid using or being exposed to hazardous agrochemicals;<sup>27</sup>

**Rapporteur's proposal h)** *Recognize the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas to avoid exposure and poisoning from hazardous agrochemicals;*

- i) Drawing on the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, optimize the use of synthetic fertilizers, aiming to reduce pollution from excess use, maximize the recycling of nutrients and minimize the use of external inputs by promoting and rewarding innovative ecological alternatives;

<sup>27</sup> In line with UNDROP Article 14.

**Rapporteur's proposal i)** Building on FAO's International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, and Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, reduce and optimize the [safe] use of [synthetic] fertilizers, [including by reducing, as appropriate and depending on the innovative approach addressed, the effective and efficient use of fertilizers]} [to meet sustainable agriculture demands [while minimizing nutrient losses to the environment as appropriate]; promote transitions, in a coherent manner, as appropriate, according to and dependent on national contexts and capacities, to ecological nutrient management approaches that restore and regenerate soil plant and cropping system's health and nutrition, aiming to reduce pollution from excess use, maximize the recycling of nutrients and reduce, as appropriate, and optimize –the use of external inputs– by promoting and rewarding innovative ecological and other alternative approaches;

Commented [CC(2)]: To be addressed in the preamble

Alt. ecological nutrient management complemented by the optimal use of fertilizers while minimizing the environmental impacts

- j) 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

**Rapporteur's proposal j)** Strengthen and enforce national and international regulations and recognize and use international standards, guidelines and regulations, [in particular SPS WTO treaty] 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 UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on antimicrobial resistance recommendations,] recognizing the importance of the 'One Health' approach; and (pending further consideration)

Commented [CC(3)]: Pending FAO Council decision

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

- k) 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>28</sup> and strengthening inclusive public bodies, such as local food policy councils and multi-stakeholder landscape and watershed management platforms; (agreed ad ref.)
- l) 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.)

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- m) Incentivize young people to remain in, or move to, rural areas by creating decent and dignified work opportunities, including through addressing specific challenges for young people, such as access to land, credit and information, and by investing in rural infrastructure and services to reduce gaps between rural and urban areas.

**Rapporteur's proposal m)** Incentivize young people to remain in, or move to, rural areas by creating decent and dignified work opportunities, including through addressing specific challenges for young people (particularly in developing countries), such as access to land, mechanization of agriculture, credit and information, and by investing in rural infrastructure and services to reduce gaps between rural and urban areas.

<sup>28</sup> In line with UNDDF Pillar 7.

*Recognizing the multiple functions of markets and the need to promote innovative approaches to ensure that markets respond to the needs of resilient, diversified, and integrated production systems, and recalling the CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets (CFS 43, 2016):*

- n) Work with the private sector to promote local, regional and global markets, as appropriate, that demonstrate concrete contributions to the social, environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture and food systems, enhance food security and nutrition and do not impact negatively on human rights;
- o) Increase the resilience of food systems to global shocks, such as pandemics, by promoting diverse market arrangements that have greater flexibility in the face of disruptions; this involves addressing connectivity challenges in long food supply chains and strengthening short food supply chains to support local autonomy and resilience;

**Rapporteur's proposal o)** Increase the resilience of food systems to global shocks, such as pandemics, by promoting diverse market arrangements that have greater flexibility in the face of disruptions; this involves recognizing the importance of local smallholders and family farmers and addressing connectivity challenges in long food supply chains and strengthening short food supply chains to support increase their local autonomy and resilience;

- p) Take appropriate measures to strengthen local, national and regional markets (such as processing hubs, transportation infrastructure and adapted food safety regulations) to support rural livelihoods through capturing a high proportion of the value of production locally;<sup>29</sup>

**Rapporteur's proposal p)** Take appropriate measures to strengthen local, national and regional markets (such as processing hubs, transportation infrastructure and adapted food safety regulations) to link urban communities and rural territories through sustainable food production systems that support rural livelihoods by through capturing a high proportion of the value of production locally

- q) Support market innovations that strengthen linkages between urban communities and food producers, such as participatory guarantee systems (in compliance with public policy and safety standards), and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), for providing sustainably produced healthy food to all consumers while providing dignified livelihoods to producers; and,
- r) Support innovative public procurement policies (for example, school feeding programmes, other safety nets, food assistance and public regulatory and preparedness mechanisms) that give preference to locally and sustainably produced food while supporting rural development objectives.

**Rapporteur's proposal r)** Support innovative public procurement policies prioritizing low-income and food insecure people and family farmers through public procurement policies (for example, school feeding programmes, other safety nets, food assistance and public regulatory and preparedness mechanisms) that give preference to locally and sustainably produced food while supporting local and rural development objectives.

*Aware of the importance of digitalization, and welcoming the establishment of the FAO Digital Platform:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Aware of the importance of digitalization, and welcoming the establishment of progress towards the FAO Digital Platform International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture:*

- s) Promote the potential of digitalization through capacity building and a transdisciplinary approach involving all actors (scientists, producers, industry, governments);

**Rapporteur's proposal s)** Promote the potential of digitalization through capacity development building and a transdisciplinary approach involving all actors (scientists, producers, consumers, civil society

<sup>29</sup> In line with UNDROP Article 16.

organizations, industry, governments, extension organizations and local communities);

- t) Promote digital and other ICT as an entry point for the involvement of youth and women in agriculture and food systems;
- u) Strengthen innovation platforms through the appropriate use of digital technologies to facilitate wider networking; and,
- v) Harness digital technologies to strengthen links between producers and consumers, including through brokering sustainable finance initiatives and market incentives.

**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) 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.

#### **4. Strengthen research, training and education, and reconfigure knowledge generation and sharing to foster co-learning**

*Research organizations, academic institutions, educational, training and extension organizations, the private sector, producers' organizations, civil society, inter-governmental organizations and States, regional and local authorities are encouraged to:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Research organizations, academic institutions, educational, training and extension organizations, the private sector, producers' organizations, civil society, governments (including regional and local authorities) and inter-governmental organizations, regional and local authorities are encouraged to:*

*Recognizing the crucial role played by multi-disciplinary and participatory approaches to research, dissemination and education, such as transdisciplinary science, for understanding and shaping the complex social-ecological systems in agriculture and food systems:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *Recognizing the crucial role played by multi-disciplinary and participatory approaches to research, dissemination and education, such as transdisciplinary science, for understanding and shaping the complex social-ecological systems, the interactions between the three dimensions of sustainable development in agriculture and food systems:*

- a) Reform agricultural knowledge, information and innovation systems to support agroecological and other innovative approaches by ensuring that research, extension/dissemination and education/capacity building are integrated in an inclusive, participatory, and problem-oriented approach;

**Rapporteur's proposal a)** ~~Reform~~ **Improve** agricultural knowledge, information and innovation systems ~~to support agroecological and other innovative approaches~~ by ensuring that research, extension/dissemination and education/capacity building are integrated in an inclusive, participatory, and problem-oriented ~~approach~~ **manner aimed at finding holistic solutions to food system challenges;**

- b) Develop and support problem-oriented transdisciplinary research, and encourage its integration

with local and indigenous knowledge in participatory innovation processes across the range of contexts experienced by producers and other stakeholders in agriculture and food systems;

- c) Re-design agricultural knowledge, information and innovation institutions to: enable transdisciplinary science, valuing the knowledge of all relevant stakeholders and involving them, including in the setting of research priorities; engage in research at the local, national, regional and international levels, ensuring communication and sharing of knowledge between them; consider and address power imbalances and conflicts of interest between stakeholders and researchers; and, reward researchers who engage in such research;

**Rapporteur's proposal c)** ~~Re-design~~ Support agricultural knowledge, information and innovation institutions to: i) enable transdisciplinary systems science, valuing the knowledge and involvement of all relevant stakeholders (particularly indigenous and local communities) and involving them, including in the setting of research priorities; ii) engage in research at the local, national, regional and international levels, ensuring communication and sharing of knowledge between them at local, national, regional and global levels; iii) consider and address power imbalances and conflicts of interest between stakeholders and researchers; and, iii) reward researchers who engage in such transdisciplinary research;

- 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;

**Rapporteur's proposal d)** Prioritize problem-oriented research that addresses the needs of people in vulnerable situations ~~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 and benefit sharing, ecosystem service provision, positive and negative externalities of agriculture and food systems, ~~global~~ emergencies such as pandemics, and market concentration across supply chains;

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

- 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>30</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 right of peasants and other people working in rural areas to maintain, express, control, protect and develop their knowledge,<sup>30</sup> taking into account the specificity of including 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

<sup>30</sup> See UNDROP Articles 20 and 26

- g) Support innovation platforms for transdisciplinary research that foster co-learning between practitioners (e.g. producer organizations) and researchers; these may include producer-to-producer networks, communities of practice, “transdisciplinary labs”, and decentralized centers of excellence (e.g. agroecological lighthouses);<sup>31</sup>

**Rapporteur’s proposal g)** Support innovation platforms for transdisciplinary research that foster co-learning between practitioners (e.g. producer organizations) and researchers; these may include producer-to-producer networks, communities of practice, “transdisciplinary labs”, and ~~decentralized~~ centers of excellence (e.g. agroecological lighthouses);<sup>31</sup>

- h) Support the horizontal sharing of knowledge and experiences, building on existing farmers’ organizations and networks, including schemes designed specifically for women;

**Rapporteur’s proposal h)** Support the horizontal sharing of knowledge and experiences, building on existing ~~farmers’~~ producers’ organizations and networks, including schemes designed specifically for women;

- 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;
- j) Support capacity development for producers, in particular small-scale producers, 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,
- k) Promote sharing of experiences and co-learning amongst countries on moving towards sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches.

**Rapporteur’s proposal k)** Promote sharing of experiences and co-learning amongst regions and countries on moving towards sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches.

*Recognizing the need to re-direct investments in research, dissemination/extension and education/capacity building towards the priorities and approaches mentioned above for agroecological and other innovative approaches:*

**Rapporteur’s proposal subtitle** *Recognizing the need to ~~re-direct~~ foster investments in research, dissemination/extension and education/capacity building towards the priorities and approaches mentioned above for agroecological and other innovative approaches:*

- l) Increase responsible investments in public and private research and development at national, regional and international levels and redress the relative under-investment in agroecological approaches; and,

**Rapporteur’s proposal l)** Increase responsible investments in public and private research and development activities at national, regional and international levels and redress the relative under-investment in agroecological and other innovative approaches; and,

- m) Prioritize and strengthen public research to address the needs of family farmers, in particular small-scale food producers, women and youth.

## ***5. Strengthen institutions for stakeholder engagement, create an enabling environment for***

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<sup>31</sup> Lighthouses are societies or training centres that foster farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing and create communities of practice

***empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups and address power inequalities in agriculture and food systems***

**Rapporteur's proposal title** *Strengthen institutions for stakeholder engagement, create an enabling environment for empowering marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations and address power inequalities in agriculture and food systems*

*States, regional and local authorities, producer organizations, indigenous peoples, women's organizations, community leaders, the private sector and civil society are invited to:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *States Governments, regional and local authorities, producer organizations, indigenous peoples, women's organizations, community leaders, the private sector, producers' organizations, and civil society are invited to:*

*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 all people have the possibility to participate actively and meaningfully in defining their desired approaches:*

**Rapporteur's proposal subtitle** *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 ensured: all people have the possibility to participate actively and meaningfully in defining their desired approaches:*

- a) Support inclusive 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);

**Rapporteur's proposal a)** Support inclusive, transparent 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);

- b) Create and strengthen associations, organizations and cooperatives in all parts of food systems, including food producers and consumers, build capacities, create and exchange knowledge, and promote inclusive decision-making processes;
- c) Facilitate the use of social media and digital networking to promote producers' engagement in relevant processes;
- d) Give a central role to the marginalized and vulnerable groups most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, including women, youth and indigenous peoples in all decision-making that affects them; and,
- e) Reinforce the autonomy of women, particularly family farmers, their organizations, collective action, negotiation and leadership skills, to increase access to and control over *inter alia* education, appropriate extension services, gender-friendly technology, and full participation in related policy processes.<sup>32</sup>

**Rapporteur proposes to delete and address in CFS48 draft decisions**

*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

<sup>32</sup> See Pillar 3 of the Global Plan of the UN Decade on Family Farming

includes numerous actions for strengthening innovation in family farming.

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Rapporteur proposes to delete as reference to the UNFSS is already included in the CFS48 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.



## ANNEX: DEFINITIONS

**Digitalization** in food and agriculture, often referred to as digital food and agriculture, is a process involving digital technologies (internet of things, artificial intelligence, blockchain, etc.) that covers access, content and capabilities.<sup>33</sup>

**Ecological footprint of food systems** expresses the impact of food consumed by a defined group of people (an individual, a village, a city, a country or the whole global population), measured in terms of the area of biologically productive land and water required to produce the food consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated.<sup>34</sup>

**Family Farming** (including all family-based agricultural activities) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production that is managed and operated by a family, and is predominantly reliant on the family labour of both women and men. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.<sup>35</sup>

A **Food system** gathers all 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.<sup>36</sup> A diversity of food systems exist on a continuum, at different scales, and often co-exist within the same country.<sup>37</sup>

**Innovation** is used as a verb (to innovate) referring to the process by which individuals, communities or organizations generate changes in the design, production or recycling of goods and services, as well as changes in the surrounding institutional environment, that are new to their context and foster transitions towards SFSs for FSN. Innovation is also used as a noun to refer to the changes generated by this process. Innovation includes 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. Innovation in agriculture and food systems may be principally institutional, or may relate more to knowledge or to practice.<sup>38</sup>

An **innovative approach** to sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition is a well-articulated set of principles, practices and methods, that is widely understood, promoted and practiced, and that is intended to foster transitions towards more sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and is set within an overarching philosophy and a strategic vision for the future. Different innovative approaches fostering transitions to sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition have tended to place emphasis on different modes of innovation.<sup>39</sup>

**Innovation platforms** are initiatives or efforts bringing together diverse stakeholders to create space for

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<sup>33</sup> FAO working definition (July 2020).

<sup>34</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.

<sup>35</sup> FAO and IFAD. 2019. United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028. Global Action Plan. Rome.

<sup>36</sup> HLPE. 2014. Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2014.

<sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>38</sup> HLPE, 2019.

<sup>39</sup> HLPE, 2019.

co-learning and collective action that support transitions towards SFSs for FSN.<sup>40</sup>

**The right to adequate food:** “is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement. The core content of the right to adequate food implies (...) the availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture (and) the accessibility of such food in ways that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights (...) Accessibility encompasses both economic and physical accessibility”.<sup>41</sup>

A **Sustainable food system** is a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised.<sup>42</sup>

**Small-scale food producers** are producers who:

- operate an amount of land falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of land size at national level (measured in hectares); and
- operate a number of livestock falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of the number of livestock per production unit at national level (measured in Tropical Livestock Units – TLUs); and
- obtain an annual economic revenue from agricultural activities falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of economic revenues from agricultural activities per production unit at national level (measured in Purchasing Power Parity Dollars) not exceeding 34,387 Purchasing Power Parity Dollars.<sup>43</sup>

**Transdisciplinary science** transcends disciplinary boundaries and seeks to generate transformative outcomes by having:

- i. a problem focus (research originates from and is contextualized in “real-world” problems);
- ii. an evolving methodology (the research involves iterative, reflective processes that are responsive to the particular questions, settings and research groupings involved); and
- iii. collaboration (including among transdisciplinary researchers, disciplinary researchers and external actors with interests in the research).<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> HLPE, 2019.

<sup>41</sup> The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) (E/C.12/1999/5 – General Comment 12 , pp 6, 8 and 13) (as referenced in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security)

<sup>42</sup> HLPE. 2014. Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2014.

<sup>43</sup> Metadata for SDG 2.3.2 (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-03-02.pdf>)

<sup>44</sup> HLPE, 2019.