



Advisory Group Reporting Exercise

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Reporting Exercise for the period January – December 2021

As per the agreed annual reporting exercise, members and ad-hoc Participants of the CFS Advisory Group were requested to answer the following questions concerning the activities undertaken by them over the period January-December 2021:

I. CONTRIBUTION TO CFS ACTIVITIES

Describe the work your organization or constituency has carried out in support of various CFS intersessional and plenary activities (meetings, Technical Task Teams, Open-Ended Working Groups, Bureau/Advisory Group meetings, etc), including coordination activities and the exchange of information and consolidation of inputs between your constituency and CFS;

II. USE, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CFS OUTCOMES

Provide examples of the use and application of CFS products (guidelines, recommendations, etc.) in your work programmes and describe the main elements of your outreach activities undertaken to disseminate CFS products;

III. STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY GROUP CONSTITUENCIES

What suggestions do you have to enhance the interaction between the Committee and different relevant actors on the ground to increase knowledge about CFS work at country level?

IV. SUCCESS STORIES (optional)

Describe how your organization or constituency has used a CFS product or products to improve the food security and nutrition situation of individuals, communities, etc. in furtherance of accomplishing SDG 2.

Reports were submitted by the following Advisory Group members:

- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- ✓ United Nations World Food Programme (WFP);
- ✓ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- ✓ UN Nutrition;
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO);
- ✓ UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;
- ✓ The World Bank
- ✓ Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);
- ✓ Civil Society Mechanism (CSM);
- ✓ Private Sector Mechanism (PSM);
- ✓ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;
- ✓ World Farmers' Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

As a member of the joint CFS Secretariat, FAO continues to provide:

- services to the joint CFS Secretariat, contributing at least 1/3 the costs for human and financial resources, as well as physically hosting the Secretariat
- most of the meeting venues, including for inter-sessional activities/events and CFS Plenary and associated side and other events
- translation, interpretation, and conference services (messengers, security, IT support, etc.)
- assistance for managing financial contributions and trust fund support for CFS activities
- FAO LEG provides legal advice to Plenary and Bureau and Advisory Group, as necessary.

FAO actively participated in the joint Bureau and Advisory group meetings, open-ended working groups (OEWG) and other inter-sessional activities and provided substantial inputs to technical task teams (TTT) and to CFS47, CFS48, and CFS49 Plenary sessions, including:

- Lead the preparation of the annual SOFI report to provide a situation report and help identifying important FSN issues for consideration by CFS 49
- Co-hosted numerous side events during various CFS sessions in 2021
- Worked closely with FAO management regarding World Food Day and CFS events
- Provided experiences and actively supported the preparations for the Global Thematic Event on the use and application of the *Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises* at CFS 47
- FAO's Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality division (ESP) participates in the CFS policy convergence process on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems, including summarizing feedback received from youth during multiple dialogues linked to the UN Food Systems Summit, such as the [independent dialogue on "The Y factor: youth role in agri-food system in the lead-up to the United Nations Food System Summit"](#),
- Provided substantial inputs to the Agro-ecology and Other Innovations workstream, including through TTT and OEWG, especially in reference to the FAO Ten Elements of Agroecology, active participation during the negotiation process leading to the adoption of the policy recommendations at CFS 48
- Distribution of the CFS newsletters through the forum of the Pastoralist knowledge Hub <https://www.fao.org/pastoralist-knowledge-hub/en/>
- The Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) team has lead or contributed to several CFS and High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) open consultations, including:
 - Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems - HLPE e-consultation on the V0 Draft of the Report https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/youth_engagement_employment-v0
 - Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition - HLPE e-consultation on the Report's Scope <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/data-collection-analysis>
 - Call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/CFS_climate_change_water

- Consultation for the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
<https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/consultations/CFS-voluntary-guidelines-GEWE>
- CFS 49 - ESA side event, 'Rethink > Repurpose > Reform: Why and How We Need to Overhaul Agricultural Support for Better Food Security and Nutrition'
https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/CFS49/SideEvents/Summary/SE16_CFS49_-_Summary.pdf
- What are your experiences in the use and application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) for improving food security and nutrition?
<https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/open-calls/CFS-RAI>
- Call for best practices in transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets and addressing key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition
https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/SOFI_transforming_food_systems
- Webinar Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets and addressing key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition
https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/webinars/SOFI_transforming_food_systems
- As part of the observance of the international year for the elimination of child labour, FAORAP (Asia and Pacific) organized a regional workshop on ending child labour in agriculture in Asia in September 2021 in close collaboration with ILO and published a regional policy brief for capacity development on accelerating action to help to end child labour in agriculture in Asia.
- FAO Regional Offices contributed to the preparation of Regional Consultations to support the CFS Voluntary Guidelines (VGs) on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
<https://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/gender/regional-consultations/en/>.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

FAO continues to support the application of CFS results through several outputs within the Strategic Framework, such as:

- In response to a COAG 27 recommendation, FAO's support to Members to reduce food loss and waste (FLW) has been following a holistic agri-food systems approach that is aligned with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) and CFS agreed policy recommendations.
- FAO formulated the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC), which was endorsed by the FAO Conference in June 2021. The CoC draws on the HLPE report and VGFSyN to frame its interventions.
- FAO Forestry is supporting the recommendations of the CFS 44 report and the implementation of the VGGT in the forestry sector through several processes, such as by:
 - Developing resource materials to raise awareness of sustainable forestry for food security, nutrition and human health, building on the 2017 CFS 44 report "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition", including: Forestry Working Paper, <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb1468en>; Poster adapted from the Forestry Working Paper, <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/tools/tool->

[detail/en/c/1361820/](https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/1361820/); and, an 8-page brief on forests for human health and well-being, <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb1491en/>

- FAO Forestry developed training materials on VGGT, RAI, and ASEAN RAI international instruments for use in Laos PDR and Sierra Leone, to promote awareness of and use of the global instruments for improving land-based investments in country
- VGGT based forest tenure assessments were conducted in Timor Leste and Algeria to identify gaps against VGGT and recommendations for better alignment. National dialogues were held in both countries to discuss the recommendations and way forward.
- Published the article: "Tenure reform for better forestry: an unfinished policy agenda" in March 2021 in *Forest Policy and Economics*, Volume 123, 2021, 102376, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2020.102376>
- An e-learning module was developed "Tenure security for better forestry: Applying the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure" and published between March and May 2021 on FAO e-learning academy <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=643>
- Methodologies were developed to address land conflicts, including conflict resolution and prevention in protected areas and territories under customary tenure (indigenous communities' territories) in Colombia
- A knowledge management platform (www.africalandpolicy.org/eu-programme) was developed to provide a one-stop information point for all 17 countries participating in the European Union Land Governance Programme and FAO transversal support project using the VGGT to improve governance of tenure
 - In regard to documenting best practices and success stories, the following publications were generated in the reporting period, including: The Country Level Experiences collection <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA8783EN>; and, The Colombia Success Story brochure has been developed <https://www.fao.org/3/cb6242en/cb6242en.pdf>
- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), 2021 were used as a key reference in several National Food Systems Dialogues and events in Asia and the Pacific region, including, 'Governance and Policy of Food Systems for the Promotion of Fruit and Vegetable Consumption,' and 'Creating Demand for Healthy Diets from the Sustainable Food Systems.'
- The FSN Forum held CFS consultative processes on *the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment*, which included the online consultation and six regional consultations.

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

- Actively supported, through FAO Regional Offices, the regional consultations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines (VGs) on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, including the promotion of inclusive participation with key partners to identify gaps and highlight relevant regional priorities.
- Continue to actively promote CFS principles and the application of CFS results, in the FAO Strategic Framework, through bi-lateral discussions, development of projects, designing seminars/side events, etc.

- Ensure that CFS results are cited/used, where appropriate, in all relevant FAO meetings/seminars and publications, including governing body documents, flagship publications, briefing notes, etc.
- Regarding the Food Systems Summit (FSS) follow-up, CFS could build on its role as a global platform for policy convergence, bringing together Member countries and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen the ecosystem of support regarding food systems transformation at country level, in collaboration with the Coordination Hub hosted at FAO.
- In this context, CFS should continue to provide guidance to countries and coalitions on the use of CFS policy products at country level, including by sharing successful country experiences and facilitating exchanges among CFS stakeholders in this respect and within relevant fora.
- As a follow up to the Food Systems Summit, and to strengthen CFS governance and inclusivity, CFS may consider to expand the Advisory Group to include representation from city and local government so that their contribution can be a permanent element in the deliberations of this extremely important platform. An important outcome of the FSS was the clear recognition of the role of local and sub-national governments as a key part of the solution in promoting sustainable food systems transformation. For example, the Urban Food Systems Coalition has been established and it is now formally recognized as one of the emerging coalitions coming out of the UN-FSS process.
- The FSN Forum helps strengthening the linkages of CFS with countries and regions by engaging stakeholders in the online activities organized for HLPE and CFS, facilitating their involvement in the development of HLPE and CFS products, and by informing its community about relevant products and events.
- Many country experiences are limited to invitations to regional consultations. So a suggestion could be improving knowledge and capacity of Rome-based Agencies' (RBAs') Country Offices to include CFS outputs in the Country Programming Frameworks (CPF), including how to further use this knowledge and CPF in partnership with other development partners.

4. Success stories

- *Forests for Food Security, Nutrition and Human Health Expert Group meeting and the 2nd World Conference on Forests for Public Health.* On the 21 May 2021, the FFSNH programme organized an informal Expert Group meeting, during which the Forestry Working Paper on “Forests for Human Health and Well-being: Strengthening the forest-health-nutrition nexus” (above mentioned under section II.) building upon FAO’s working paper, “Forests for Human Health and Well-being: Strengthening the forest-health-nutrition nexus.”
- In Algeria, a national policy dialogue was held 16-17 November 2021 and generated great interest in findings from the VGGT based forest tenure as well as community based forestry assessments conducted in country. The government and non-government stakeholders discussed extensively the recommendations where forestry is heavily nationalized with little recognition of rights of local communities and smallholders.
- The draft Uzbekistan National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy has drawn on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition as a source of latest international collaboration and thinking to ensure that the Strategy reflects a state-of-the-art understanding and consensus around bringing together the complex challenges faced in the field.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

INTRODUCTION

Joint support to the CFS is a priority for the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD, and WFP – and exemplifies successful RBA collaboration. Since 2019, the RBAs are *ex-officio* and *extra-quota* members (i.e., permanent members) of the CFS Advisory Group. In 2021, WFP actively engaged in the implementation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, and continued to provide financial, technical, and staffing support to the CFS. This included the secondment of a senior staff member (P5) to the CFS Secretariat in FAO, and the funding of another professional staff (P3 level) to the Secretariat. Another junior professional staff member, based in WFP Headquarters, works full-time on WFP’s engagement in and support to the Committee. Following some internal reorganization within WFP, as of mid-2021, the CFS function has been brought under the Programme and Policy Development Department, led by Assistant Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri. This new internal alignment will provide stronger linkages between CFS thematic workstreams and WFP’s programmatic areas of work. WFP’s dedicated capacity to CFS ensures a systematic coordination mechanism and two-way communication between WFP and the CFS Secretariat. It also ensures, on the one hand, timely dissemination of information and requests related to CFS within WFP while, on the other hand, consolidation of WFP’s technical inputs and their streamlined submission to CFS. Throughout 2021, the engagement and strategic participation of WFP senior and technical staff in CFS was encouraged, facilitated, and attained in the following CFS workstreams: Food Systems and Nutrition; Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches; Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment; Data; and Youth.

1. Contribution to CFS activities

In the course of 2021, WFP:

- Contributed to the work of the CFS through active participation: i) as a Member of the Advisory Group to the Bureau; ii) in Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs) and Technical Task Teams (TTTs) of various workstreams; iii) in related intersessional activities, as well as; iv) identifying relevant technical staff for specific workstreams in order to contribute substantive and insightful inputs to CFS processes.
- Engaged in the three virtual CFS Plenary Sessions (CFS 47, CFS 48 Special Session, and CFS 49), and their preparatory processes, at all levels, by:
 - Ensuring the Executive Director’s and/or Deputy Executive Director’s live participation or video statement in the opening sessions ([CFS 47](#); [CFS 48](#); [CFS 49](#)).
 - Providing strategic inputs, technical advice and support to develop background documents and talking points.
 - Co-organizing/hosting, with a wide range of partners, the following side events to CFS Plenaries: (i) “How COVID-19 affected school feeding programmes and how to

strengthen them post-COVID, including through home-grown school meals” ([recording/summary](#)); and (ii) “Healthy Diets at the Nexus of Food Systems, Biodiversity, Climate and Nutrition: Global Summits, Local Transformation and the CFS VGFSYN” ([recording/summary](#)).

- Providing inputs and technical support to the inter-sessional workstreams and related activities leading up to the three CFS Plenaries: (i) food systems and nutrition; (ii) agroecological and other innovative approaches; (iii) gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Co-leading the preparation of the 2021 SOFI report “Transforming Food Systems for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Affordable Healthy Diets for All”, which guided the discussion at CFS 49 inaugural day.
- Actively engaging in the CFS 47 Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) ([link](#)). *See section II for further details.*
- Contributing to the CFS 47 session on the “Endorsement and Uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” ([link](#)).
 - Supported the CFS Secretariat and the Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches in developing ‘Draft One’ (i.e. ‘Draft for Negotiations’) of the CFS Policy Recommendations on the topic.
- Technical [inputs](#) from various relevant divisions and units were gathered and consolidated to feed into ‘Draft One’ of the Policy Recommendations.
 - Engaged in the third and last round of formal negotiations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, held in January 2021.
 - Engaged in and supported the CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment by:
 - Attending, at technical and senior level, the TTT and OEWG meetings, which led to the finalization and endorsement at CFS 47 of the Terms of Reference for the CFS Voluntary Guidelines, as well as the subsequent development of their Zero and First Draft.
 - Providing [inputs](#) to the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines.
 - Participating, through Regional Bureaus and Country Offices, in the six virtual regional consultations held between September and November 2021 to discuss the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines. Joint RBA statements were delivered, and sessions were moderated by WFP field staff, in alternance with the other two RBAs.
 - Providing inputs ([1](#); [2](#)) to the e-consultation for the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines.
 - Engaged in the kick-off of the CFS Data workstream by supporting the CFS Secretariat in organizing the webinar “Closing data gaps and promoting

evidence-informed decision-making for food security and nutrition”, held on July 1st, while contributing to its open discussion.

- Engaged in the “informal core group” established by the CFS Secretariat to promote the uptake and implementation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- Engaged, through WFP youth focal point/WFP Youth Network enabler, in the TTT meetings on Youth.
- Engaged, through WFP FSS Team, in the meetings of the “Friends of the Chair” Group on the implications of the UNFSS for CFS.
- Provided inputs to the call for experiences in the use and application of the CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water.
- Shared widely across the Organisation the call for inputs for experiences in the use and application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) in preparation for the related Global Thematic Event at CFS 50 in October 2022.
- Facilitated an introductory call between the CFS Secretary and the new WFP representative in the CFS Advisory Group, Ms. Valerie Guarnieri.
- Facilitated, together with FAO and IFAD, the visit and introductory meeting of the new CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, with the Directors of the RBA Offices in New York.
- Continued overseeing the implementation of the four-year project “Strengthening governance of food security and nutrition through the CFS” (2019-2022), whereby the European Union (EU) provides financial support to the CFS Secretariat, HLPE, and CSM. WFP acts as “indirect manager”/Administrative Agent – while FAO as “co-delegatee” – of the EU’s financial contribution to CFS.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

Dissemination and awareness raising

- In 2021, WFP continued to regularly and timely channel all communications/correspondence from the CFS and HLPE Secretariats to relevant HQ divisions and field offices on a case-by-case basis, particularly regarding requests for inputs to CFS workstreams and HLPE e-consultations.
- Reports and highlights from CFS meetings were prepared and shared with WFP Senior Management, Directors, as well as relevant divisions/decentralized offices, to keep them abreast of the CFS work.
- The outcomes of CFS work were cited, where appropriate, in relevant WFP meetings and briefing notes.
- Webcast of CFS meetings and events – including the three virtual CFS Plenary Sessions held in 2021 – as well as information about CFS workstreams and policy products, were made available on WFP intranet.

- Ahead of the CFS Plenary Sessions, all relevant information, background documents and registration details were shared with WFP staff worldwide.
- A webpage dedicated to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) was created on WFP intranet. It contains all relevant and up-to-date information on the VGFSyN as well as related useful links.
- WFP continued to raise awareness of and disseminate relevant CFS policy instruments/outcomes and related information within the Organization at all levels.
- In February 2021, at the first regular session of WFP Executive Board, WFP provided Executive Board members with an oral update on “WFP’s (plans to) support to the implementation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)”.
- As part of WFP’s endeavours in supporting the uptake and implementation of the Guidelines, in December 2021, Assistant Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri reached out to all WFP Regional and Country Directors to share the Guidelines while underlining their relevance to WFP. In the same communication to the field, Ms. Guarnieri:
 - Shared a practical guidance note with indications on how to utilize the Guidelines at country level. Specifically, the guidance document explains: (i) what are the Guidelines and why they are relevant to WFP; and (ii) how WFP could support their uptake and implementation.
 - Highlighted the importance of the Guidelines as a policy coherence tool for governments and other stakeholders to reshape food systems to sustainably deliver improved nutrition.
 - Emphasized the key role that can be played by WFP, through its field presence, in raising awareness about the Guidelines and supporting Member States in implementing them.
- RBA collaboration on CFS was reported on in the 2021 “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies”. A specific paragraph, titled “RBA Collaboration as the Backbone of CFS” (paragraph 15, page 6), was included in the paper, which was presented and discussed at the second regular session of WFP Executive Board in November 2021.

Use and application of CFS policy products

CFS Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change

- In April 2021, the call for inputs, launched by CFS, on the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition was shared widely in WFP, with relevant HQ divisions, Regional Bureaus and Country Offices. This endeavour also helped further raising awareness of these two sets of CFS policy recommendations amongst WFP staff worldwide.
- Two relevant HQ units – namely the Climate & Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes and the Asset Creation, Livelihoods and Resilience – were particularly engaged and provided with support and guidance in view of their potential contribution to this call.
- Building on a global policy dialogue “Building Food and Water Security in an Era of Climate Shocks”, co-organized by UNDESA, FAO and WFP in March 2021, as well as WFP’s

expertise on the two subject matters covered by the call, the latter provided WFP with an opportunity to: (i) present its corporate work on climate and disaster risk reduction, and water-related issues; (ii) highlight how this work is linked to/can benefit from these two sets of CFS policy recommendations; and (iii) how these policy recommendations could potentially be used and applied in the future by WFP, as well as Member States and other CFS stakeholders.

- WFP's contribution to this call showcased the relevance of the two sets of CFS policy recommendations to WFP's work while providing the following key points:
 - The policy recommendations could provide a successful contribution to the UN Decade of Action on SDGs as they help to promote dialogue across a variety of sectors which strengthen coordination and linkages between climate, nutrition, food systems and food security, due to the inter-disciplinary nature of the CFS policies and their ability to prevent a one-sectoral approach.
 - This approach works well since a complex issue, such as climate change and its impacts on food security and food systems, requires multi-sector perspectives.
 - The policy recommendations can represent an occasion to enhance and continue to advocate for the need of allocating significant climate financing for climate change adaptation measures.
 - To be successful, the policy recommendations must align with any key priorities and general recommendations resulting from an analysis of the submitted National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
 - The policy recommendations should be used to improve the understanding of how the impacts of climate change can affect food security, food systems and nutrition, which will then help Member States, private partners, and the wider aid sector to understand and prioritize climate change and food security into policies, plans and programmes at local, national, and global level.

CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

- In February 2021, WFP actively engaged in the CFS 47 Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), specifically its panel discussion (recording, 55:40-1:06:55), highlighting the following:
 - Given the multi-dimensional risk driven by conflict, climate, and COVID-19, including the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, it is needed to redouble efforts in applying the CFS-FFA.
 - Since the adoption of the CFS-FFA in 2015, WFP worked in all of its focus areas (i.e., nutrition, assessment, livelihoods, innovative financing, gender equality and women's empowerment), including through a humanitarian-development approach to address not only the root causes of hunger but also contribute to peace, as recognized by the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.
 - In preparation for the GTE, WFP did a sampling: 11 Country Offices working in fragile settings stressed that all CFS-FFA's Principles are relevant and were applied *de facto*, however the awareness of the CFS-FFA at country level was less evident.

- Therefore, as we redouble our efforts to end hunger in this UN Decade for Action, WFP needs to reach the full potential of applying the Framework: WFP’s “second-generation” Country Strategic Plans provide an opportunity to apply the CFS-FFA.
- There is a need to revisit the CFS-FFA to catch up with the following major global developments occurred since the adoption of the CFS-FFA in 2015: UN Reform; Leaving No One Behind Agenda; UN Guidance on Resilience; OECD-DAC Recommendation on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; Food Systems Summit; relevant thematic issues like migration, urbanization, pandemics, innovation and digitalization (e.g. cash-based transfers, remote sensing, biometrics); increased concern on water and its relation to food security and nutrition.
- The GTE was informed by the CFS Secretariat’s analysis of documented experiences and good practices in using and applying the CFS-FFA.
- The document (paragraph 38, page 8) features, among other experiences, how the CFS-FFA Principles were used in the design, formulation and implementation of the ongoing 5-years joint RBA initiative (2017-2022), funded by Canada, to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods in Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Somalia. Adoption and adaptation of the CFS-FFA were made a precondition by the donor for countries to be included in the initiative.

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

General remarks and suggestions

- The political and strategic leadership role of the CFS Chair - along with his/her outreach efforts - is key to raise the CFS’ profile at all levels, strengthen the interaction with relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge about CFS work in different fora at global, regional, and country level.
- Side events organized by the CFS Secretariat during the HLPF sessions in New York, FAO Regional Conferences, and Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin are a major opportunity to showcase the relevance of CFS work and its policy products to a global multi-stakeholder audience.
- In 2022, the CFS should explore ways to strategically engage in key global fora and related processes. This would provide CFS with a strategic opportunity to further raise its profile and the importance of its work.
- It is crucial that the CFS ensures a solid and systematic connection to country level, namely relevant Ministries (e.g., Food and Agriculture, Health, etc.) through its Member Countries, as well as regional and country networks through its Advisory Group Members. Its inclusive platform may provide the safe space needed to share ideas and practices.
- Outreach events and thematic webinars can enhance the interaction between the CFS and the different relevant FSN actors on the ground, as well as increase the knowledge of CFS and its policy products at country and regional level.
- In this regard, successful examples are the webinars/events organized in 2020 and 2021 by the CFS Secretariat with WFP, World Bank, and WHO, to raise awareness and foster the uptake of the CFS VGFSyN.
- In 2022, the African Union Year of Nutrition and the FSS Healthy Diets Coalition will provide strategic opportunities to further raise awareness of the CFS VGFSyN and promote its uptake.

- Use and uptake, adoption and adaptation to context of CFS policy products are also opportunities for sound programming but also for fundraising.
- The six regional multi-stakeholder consultations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment, held in 2021, were key to ensure adequate alignment between the Guidelines and regional/national priorities and needs, as well as the ownership and success of the policy convergence process from the outset.
- The awareness of CFS policy products could be raised by looking into the CFS 2020-2023 communication strategy, which outlines ways to target not only UN agencies, aid and development organisations, civil society, and food security organisations, but also academic institutions, media, and members of the general public.
- The CFS Secretariat should continue disseminating the “CFS quarterly newsletters”, as well as developing information briefs on the Committee’s work and its policy products, when appropriate, to support and facilitate CFS stakeholders’ interaction with their constituencies and relevant actors on the ground.
- It is key to strengthen CFS social media presence by engaging in regular use of Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok and LinkedIn platforms. This would be particularly useful when it comes to reaching younger generations and future policymakers. This would require accessible formats of policy documents without the use of jargon, and instead sharing blogs, infographics, as well as short articles and videos (no longer than 1 minute and 30 seconds).
- It would also be important for CFS to establish connections with academic institutions - particularly those with a nutrition focus - and international development departments and centres at universities. This would be an effective outreach strategy to promote CFS policy products to students, as often universities have dedicated blog pages and distribute regular e-newsletters, which could be used to spread awareness of CFS policy recommendations.
- The HLPE should continue to accompany the launch of its reports with short documents containing the reports’ main findings and recommendations with a set of key messages which can be disseminated to a wide and non-technical audience on the ground.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members

- CFS Members, with the support of all CFS stakeholders, have the necessary convening power to take up a leading role in outreach activities (e.g., workshops, webinars, seminars, etc.) at country and regional level.
- The linkage and coordination between the Permanent Representations in Rome and capitals should be strengthened to ensure that relevant Ministries are aware of the CFS work and policy products, especially when interacting with partners at country level.
- Advisory Group members should:
 - Ensure timely correspondence, including through periodic updates, on all CFS-related matters.
 - Further actively engage in the Advisory Group, OEWGs and TTTs, as appropriate.
 - Strengthen internal communications and preparation to CFS processes/activities.
 - Enhance advocacy efforts and disseminate the results of the CFS work through various channels (e.g., publications, meetings, seminars, etc.).

- Once in-person participation will be possible - more CFS meetings and the launch of HLPE reports could be hosted by WFP HQ, and be live webcast both in Rome and in the field. This would in turn help raising the profile of CFS and HLPE within WFP.
- WFP could contribute to the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings by updating/briefing Members on its work for improved food security and nutrition at country level.
- In doing so, WFP's analytical and monitoring tools and products (i.e., Hunger Map, Global Report on Food Crises, Cost of Hunger/Cost of Diet/Fill the Nutrient Gap reports, etc.) could be used as reference, in particular in the context of the upcoming Data workstream unfolding in 2022-2023.
- WFP, FAO, and the EU could provide a joint briefing on the Global Network Against Food Crises during one of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

In 2021, IFAD continued to provide financial and technical support to the CFS Secretariat:

- **Policy and Strategic Considerations:** IFAD's core vision of pro-poor and inclusive rural transformation recognizes the importance of integrating food security and nutrition concerns into poverty reduction efforts to ensure synergies between eradicating poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The path to ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for future and present generations lies in our joint efforts to reduce gender inequalities and social exclusion and by placing people and communities at the centre of our development interventions. IFAD has stepped up its engagement with the CFS due to its strong belief that the CFS multi-stakeholder platform has the capacity to further policy guidance that will assist in achieving the 2030 agenda, with a focus on the linkages to SDG2 and its food-security and nutrition dimensions.
- With under ten years left, to achieve the 2030 agenda and lift 811 million people out of hunger, the importance of diverse mechanisms such as the CFS becomes very clear. IFAD recognizes that the CFS has been able to create a space for governments, researchers, agencies, civil society and the private sector to come together to discuss how to lower the number of hungry people and promote food security for all. Furthermore, the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic underlined how important that CFS has been rapidly increasing its capacity and ability to operate as a vibrant mechanism for technical expertise and knowledge sharing on critical responses to food security issues. This was clear when the HLPE provided timely and rapid analysis on the pandemic, which informed UN entities and IFIs early on, of the risk of a food crisis triggered by the pandemic. As we move into a post COVID world and the UNFSS follow up, it is clear that the CFS will remain an ever-important mechanism and resource tool in the universal aim of a zero-hunger world.
- IFAD attaches high importance to its engagement in the CFS, which is highlighted as a priority in IFAD's corporate global engagement approach paper and IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025 and a pillar of RBA Collaboration.
- The Fund continued to strengthen engagement in CFS work streams and the promotion of CFS products. This was done through (i) systematic consideration of CFS policy recommendations in the development of IFAD country strategies and country level policy dialogue, depending on their relevance to the country context; (ii) Sensitization of IFAD staff to the existing CFS policy products database and a new impetus for the use of CFS policy products (i.e. IFAD Interact sessions); and (iii) providing an annual update to the Executive Board on IFAD's engagement in the CFS.
- **Engagement in CFS management and Operational Content:** IFAD has been an active participant in the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and has provided long-standing contribution efforts to guide the strategic direction of the CFS. IFAD has also routinely contributed its staff expertise through CFS Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs), provided technical support to the CFS on nutrition through the UNN umbrella and joint events on themes of strategic importance for achieving the food security and nutrition goals of the 2030 Agenda.

- Notably, IFAD provided technical expertise towards the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN); Monitoring the use and application of CFS policy recommendations; and Policy Recommendations on Agro ecological and Other Innovative Approaches. IFAD also actively participated in regional consultations of the VGFSyN and has provided cross-divisional feedback on the latest version of the document, taking into consideration its broad and multi-disciplinary nature. IFAD has highlighted the importance of these VGs as a critical input into the technical preparatory process in the lead up to the Food System Summit as well as in the follow-up process. IFAD has also actively contributed to the open-ended working group on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment and to the development of the Zero Draft of the said Voluntary Guidelines.
- Additionally, IFAD contributed to the work of the CFS through its active engagement with various CFS Advisory Group constituencies such as the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). IFAD has been a strong partner and supporter of the CSM in fulfilling its mandate to facilitate and strengthen civil society participation in the CFS. IFAD participated at the highest level in the annual CSM forum that precedes CFS week and provided support for their interactions and meetings.

In 2021, the CFS hosted three plenary sessions, CFS 47, CFS 48 (Special session) and CFS 49, all of which IFAD actively played a role in.

- In February at CFS47 IFAD ensured the President's high-level participation during the opening session and organized two key side events. The first event focused on the UN decade of family farming that allowed participants to discuss the impact of the UNDF implementation specifically within the context of COVID and its impact on women and youth. In addition, the second event focused on how CFS partners can ensure adequate food as a human right for all, this was an especially poignant event as it brought stakeholders together to discuss how this can be achieved in a meaningful way and handle the new challenges of the COVID pandemic. The President of IFAD delivered an impactful and timely statement on the work done by the HLPE and its key role in providing scientific evidence on the COVID-19 pandemic. IFAD also provided substantial support to the Global Thematic Event on the CFS Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises that discussed the ways in which to improve the CFS framework.
- Later that same year the special session (CFS 48) on Agro-ecological and innovative approaches was held in June whereby the policy recommendations were adopted. IFAD played a key role in the lead up to this session, partaking in the negotiations and finalization of this policy recommendation as well as providing feedback during the bureau and advisory group meetings on the aforementioned subject. At CFS 48 IFAD's Vice-President provided opening remarks focusing on innovative approaches and IFAD's engagement and commitment to utilizing the recommendations and promoting their dissemination. The statement highlighted the importance of "moving smarter, quicker and most importantly together" to achieve the goals set out in the 2030 agenda.
- Finally, in October 2021 CFS 49 was held, with a focus on the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report (SOFI), the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and the COVID 19 Pandemic impact. IFAD played an active role in the plenary session, organizing a side-event on Advancing equitable livelihoods for all Food Systems workers alongside ILO, Care and IAFN; and assuming a lead role in organizing the 2021 International Rural Women's day, a yearly event that honours and

recognizes the impact and work of rural women. IFAD's leadership in organising this special event has now become a traditional role - as requested by the CFS Chair and Secretary on an annual basis.

- IFAD led the organization of 2021 International day of rural women, from the selection of a diverse panel of women speakers from different constituencies and nations including women producers, indigenous peoples, civil society, UN organization, to assisting in the preparation of participants' talking points and working closely with the CFS on the overall logistics. The result was a robust and engaging discussion on the transformative role of rural women and their communities in food production and food security.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- Operationalization and promotion of CFS Products: With the aim of further leveraging CFS policy products to support country programmes, encouraging deeper engagement from countries and other organizations IFAD made an effort to increase visibility of CFS products in 2021.
- IFAD continued to encourage key considerations for responsible investment, as defined by the CFS-RAI Principles, to help deliver on internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards and commitments in its operations. IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate assessment procedures – the SECAP protocols - were rigorously applied to IFAD's entire programme pipeline. As the SECAP protocol is in full alignment with the CFS-RAI principles, IFAD is de facto furthering their deployment in countries where it works.
- Additionally, IFAD has further actualized its commitment to the CFS through the development of an online database. IFAD launched the online database in October 2020 and all CFS recommendations are readily accessible on the easy-to-use platform as a global public good. The database will assist in expanding the use and application of CFS products and can be referenced in IFAD's policy dialogue with borrowing-country governments (to help trigger policy reform) and assist in providing an enabling policy and institutional environment in those countries.
- Depending on the country context and IFAD priorities, relevant CFS policy recommendations would be duly considered in forthcoming COSOPs, Country Strategy Notes (CSNs), and IFAD policy dialogue efforts – with a sharper focus on outcomes of relevance to poor smallholder communities/family farmers. CFS products on themes of direct relevance to IFAD and its stakeholders, have continued to be used in various fora as a basis for further the food security and nutrition agenda. As reported on earlier occasions, the VGGT has been used as a basis for providing voluntary guiding principles to underpin access and ownership of land and water (including forests and fisheries) in the design of several loan projects in developing regions. In an effort to increase the visibility of the CFS within IFAD, a sharper focus was made in 2021 on internal dissemination to highlight CFS activities and products, e.g. HLPE report. Following IFAD's engagement, blog posts and updates on the success of the event were made available via the intranet.
- IFAD engagement in the CFS in the Context of the UNFSS: IFAD worked alongside the RBAs and the CFS to prepare for the 2021 Food Systems Summit (FSS). IFAD has encouraged and supported CFS's active engagement with the UN FSS. The CFS actively participates not only in Action Track 4 which IFAD is Anchor Agency but also engages in all action tracks, the FSS Scientific Committee, and Advisory Group. The policy convergence process on Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition are two CFS policy processes that

were central to the FSS. Discussions have now been ongoing on the important role that the CFS will have in the post Summit follow-up.

- In the context of the FSS, the fund has continued to encourage the use of CFS products in the UNFSS national action pathways, in particular, the Voluntary guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches can both be useful for countries aiming to achieve the goals set out by the NAPS.

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

- The most recent UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) has re-centred the importance of food systems in the fight against hunger and in the achievement of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. This renewed commitment has placed global eyes on the CFS and is a clear opportunity for the CFS to build on the momentum of the UNFSS.
- The CFS is already working hard to ensure visibility of its work. IFAD is active in the Finance for Development (F4D) work-stream and coalition on the role of PDB in the FSS follow-up. IFAD would further encourage the Committee to engage in ongoing multilateral mechanisms such as (F4D) process and other relevant global initiatives to promote CFS knowledge sharing at all levels.

4. Success stories

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UN Nutrition

1. Contribution to CFS activities

UN Nutrition has been actively engaging with the CFS throughout the entire year 2021. The Secretariat participated in and supported various CFS intersessional activities.

- The UN Nutrition Executive Secretary took part in all Advisory group meetings in 2021, providing inputs when relevant to make sure nutrition is mainstreamed in CFS work. UN Nutrition constantly tried to highlight and strengthen possible linkages between CFS work and other UN System processes in the area of nutrition.
- The UN Nutrition Chair, Dr Naoko Yamamoto, spoke at the 47th and 49th CFS Plenaries, as well as at events organized by the CFS Secretariat, highlighting the importance of UN system-wide coherence in support of Members States. Noteworthy are the following events:
 - The WHO Health Talks session: [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – Promoting healthy diets through sustainable food systems](#), on 8th June;
 - The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 side event: [Global Policy Coordination for SDG-2: CFS amid COVID-19](#), on 14th July;
 - The UN Food System Summit Pre-Summit Parallel Session: [Multilateral Policy Convergence for Food Systems Transformation; CFS and its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#), on 26th July.
- UN Nutrition members, supported by the Secretariat, co-organized four well-attended virtual side events at the 48th and 49th Session of the CFS Plenary. The aim was to raise awareness among CFS stakeholders on topics of high relevance to improving nutrition, and to advocate for tackling them. The engagement with non-UN partners in these events amplified the key messages and the outreach to a much larger audience.
 - [Shaping the future of the food systems for the youth, with the youth](#), co-organized by the SUN Movement FSS Youth Coalition, UN Nutrition, SUN Business Network, SUN Civil Society Network, and supported by the European Commission (DG INTPA) and Canada, on 8th June (CFS48);
 - [Transforming Food, Land and Water Systems for Sustainable Healthy Diets](#), co-organized by UN Nutrition, Stanford University, WorldFish, the Environmental Defense Fund, CGIAR, and ILRI on 11th October (CFS49);
 - [Healthy Diets at the Nexus of Food Systems, Biodiversity, Climate and Nutrition: Global Summits, Local Transformation and the CFS VGFSYN](#), co-organized by UN Nutrition, specifically the members WFP, FAO, and the World Bank (Agriculture and Food Global Practice) on 12th October (CFS49);
 - [Human Rights, Nutrition and Law: Keys to Transform Food Systems](#), co-organized by Chaire de recherche en droit sur la diversité et la sécurité alimentaires, WHO, UNICEF, IDLO intergovernmental organization, FAO, and the UN Nutrition secretariat on 13th October (CFS49).
- UN Nutrition Secretariat volunteered to be part of the Group of Friends of the Chair to discuss the UNFSS implications on the CFS.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) were endorsed at the 47th session of the Committee in February 2021, as the result of a five-year intensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process. The UN Nutrition secretariat mobilized, facilitated, and coordinated the input and expertise of 10 UN agencies that worked together and spoke as one. This also allowed non Rome-based Agencies such as OCHA, UNEP, IAEA, UNDP, and others, to become more closely engaged with CFS and its processes. In this spirit, UN Nutrition Members have provided relevant resources, tools and standards to the [FAO Evidence platform for agri-food systems and nutrition](#).
- With the VGFSyN endorsed and launched, promoting uptake of the VGFSyN at country level has been included as part of the country support activities in the UN Nutrition work plan for 2021.
- As part of these efforts, the UN Nutrition technical working group for CFS (made of Member Agencies and the Secretariat) prepared an information note about the VGFSyN (available in all six UN official languages) to promote this new policy tool with its networks at country level. The note highlights UN Nutrition members' role in developing the VGFSyN, presents them as a useful tool to support Member States in the development of coordinated and multi-sectoral policies and programmes to enable healthy diets through sustainable food systems, and stresses the importance of using them in conjunction with the guidance presented in the FAO Evidence platform.
- The Executive Secretary also participated in two sessions that were organized by the PSM to share insights about the VGFSyN and their use by PS entities.
- The former CFS Chair, Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, participated as panellist in the launch event of the UN Nutrition discussion paper on The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets (7th May), where he highlighted the role of VGFSyN in enabling healthy diets from sustainable food systems.
- UN Nutrition keeps its Members constantly updated on the work of the CFS, by regularly sharing information about CFS products and activities and calling for feedback and inputs, when relevant. UN Nutrition makes sure to distribute CFS outcomes and reports to relevant members beyond the RBAs (and WHO), who are already part of the AG.
- Throughout the year, UN Nutrition facilitated outreach in several international meetings, contributing to increasing awareness about CFS and its products beyond Rome, including in the UN Food System Summit, UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Tokyo Summit.
- CFS products and processes are widely promoted through UN Nutrition outreach channels (landing page, e-newsletters and e-alerts, social media, etc). In particular, articles about the CFS VGFSyN and the CFS Plenaries featured in Issue 1 and Issue 2 of the UN Nutrition Newsletter.

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

- Governments have the primary responsibility in strengthening the linkages between CFS and actors on the ground as well as ensure CFS products are well received and used at country level.
- UN Nutrition will continue to promote the inclusion of nutrition as an important crosscutting theme in the CFS programme of work, and is willing to support CFS stakeholders by, for example, organizing thematic

meetings/seminars specifically about nutrition related topics in CFS to enhance interaction with relevant actors and increase knowledge of the work done in Rome.

- In countries, UN Nutrition works in collaboration with Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country teams (UNCTs) and, as part of its country support efforts, UN Nutrition promotes uptake of CFS policy products on the ground.

4. Success stories

- In 2021, UN Nutrition has issued a discussion paper on [The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets](#) that aims to build consensus on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets, presenting the breadth of evidence available to inform and steer policy, investments and research to make full use of the vast potential of aquatic foods. The recommendations of this paper build on the [CFS Policy recommendations on Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition](#) and place these in the context of new insights that emerged since their adoption by the CFS Plenary in 2014. The discussion paper, co-authored by Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, 2021 World Food Prize Laureate and member of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition, stimulated a lot of discussion around the topic of aquatic foods, including in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit, thus attracting attention to existing evidence, such as the CFS recommendations.
- Specifically, the paper recommends to encourage the adoption and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO, 2018) and the CFS Recommendations on Fisheries and Aquaculture (CFS, 2014) to improve governance of aquatic resources for food security and nutrition, which provide the backdrop for issues such as: ensuring that fisheries management policies protect dependent communities and safeguard physical, economic and institutional access to and availability of aquatic foods; and balancing agricultural (and fisheries) policies and incentives towards more nutrition-sensitive investment and the prioritization of diverse aquatic foods as public health assets rather than commodities.

World Health Organization (WHO)

1. Contribution to CFS Activities

Between January and December 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) contributed as Advisory Group member, represented by its Department Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS), to the implementation of the CFS programme of work.

More concretely WHO engaged in the intersessional work and preparatory process for two of the CFS annual sessions that took place in 2021, CFS 47 and CFS 49:

- WHO assisted the Bureau in the identification of new developments and expert debates in the area of food security and nutrition through its active participation in joint Bureau and AG meetings (in 6 meetings), provided relevant updates on WHO related work and in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition including on aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, food safety, WHO engagement in global summits in support of a systemic cross-sectoral approach for food systems supporting sustainable healthy diets towards the achievement of food security and nutrition for all.
- WHO supported and actively contributed to all stages of the development process of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), which is CFS's contribution to the Nutrition Decade. In particular, WHO continuously provided technical expert advice and WHO evidence-informed guidance on healthy diets and related policy measures for food systems enabling healthy diets, as active member of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Nutrition and the Friends of the Chair (FoC) Group (participated in all meetings); and provided written inputs on the various draft text parts of the VGFSyN throughout the negotiation process.
- Moreover, as member agency of UN Nutrition, WHO contributed to the development of joint support and interventions for the negotiation process for evidence-based and evidence-informed advice on nutrition and health relevant matters to the OEWG and the FoC Group, outlining the existing evidence-based standards, normative guidelines and recommendations of mandated international bodies and normative agencies.
- Furthermore, the WHO contributed to other workstreams including to the development of 'CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition' through WHO Regional Officers participation in the Regional Consultations (3 workshops).
- For the new High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Report on 'Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition', WHO provided written inputs into the e-Consultation to shape the scope of the report.
- Regarding CFS and the UN Food Systems Summit, in which WHO was UN Anchor Agency of Action Track 2, WHO joint the 'Group of Friends of the CFS Chair– Implications of UNFSS on CFS', and participated in 2 meetings that discussed further analysis and potential next steps on the matter for the Bureau's consideration.

WHO contributed to the CFS 47 annual session (8-11 February 2021):

- Aligning itself with the Statement of UN Nutrition, delivered by the UN Nutrition Chair, WHO Director NFS delivered complementary remarks, in collaboration with UNICEF, on the CFS VGFSyN to the CFS47.

WHO contributed to the CFS 49 annual session (11-14 October 2021):

- Jointly WHO and FAO Directors presented the 3rd Progress report on the Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition as part of the plenary session III “Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- WHO partnered with FAO, IFAD, WFP and UNICEF, in the joint report The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. The report shows that the world is not on track to meet its commitments to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 and how the COVID-19 pandemic put these targets even further out of reach. Highlighting the need for ‘Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition, and affordable healthy diets for all’, this report offers in-depth guidance on integrated food systems solutions for achieving SDG2. It informed the session objectives to take stock of the policy implications of the current food security and nutrition situation and the role of CFS in the context of COVID-19.
- WHO co-organized two multistakeholder side-events, and contributed with the moderation and as panelists:
 - Side event 5: ‘From Commitments to Action: The Importance of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for a Coalition for Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems’. This side event explored how the Coalition for Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for All, an outgrowth from the UNFSS, can work together with CFS on the implementation of the VGFSyN.
 - Side event 9: ‘Human Rights, Nutrition and Law: Keys to Transform Food Systems’. This event explored the role of law and human rights in transforming food systems. Countries shared experience on how human rights based legislation and legal action has had a positive impact on nutrition and their potential to transform to sustainable food systems.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- WHO plays an active role in communicating the nutrition related work of CFS beyond the food and agriculture community, supporting a multi-sectoral communication. One of the priorities for WHO’s work in nutrition and food safety is to leverage changes in relevant non-health sectors to improve and mainstream nutrition, such as through WHO’s continuous contributions with a nutrition and health lens to the development of global policy frameworks that address the needed transformation of our agriculture and food systems including food environments (e.g. through thought leadership and technical contributions to the work of CFS).
- WHO’s constituency are the Ministers of Health in 194 Member States. WHO works through its six regional offices and WHO staff in 150 country offices. WHO promoted CFS’s engagement in nutrition within its constituency and beyond including through a two-way communication to all nutrition and food safety staff and WHO Advisors and Programme Managers in the six World Regions. This group was regularly updated on the development of the CFS VGFSyN.

- WHO actively supported the dissemination and use of the CFS VGFSyN with a focus on the package of seven actions for improving the nutritional quality of food along the food supply chain and food environments, that have been summarized in an [information brief](#). The same package has been advocated for as WHO key inputs into the CFS process for the development of the CFS VGFSyN.

The VGFSyN dissemination was supported by:

- Updating the WHO Regional Advisors and Programme Managers, at their annual meeting (April 2021) about the CFS VGFSyN, and starting a process of analyzing how best to advance wider country level adaptation and implementation of these WHO focus areas.
- Disseminating the VGFSyN through a WHO dedicated webpage and
- Creating a Q&A on the VGFSyN on WHO website.
- Moreover, WHO offered its platform to the CFS Secretariat during the WHO Food Systems Health talks week for a partner event on the ‘CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) – Promoting healthy diets through sustainable food systems’, where also WHO Director NFS contributed and outlined how the VGFSyN recommendations connect to the new WHO global narrative Food Systems Delivering Better Health (June 2021).
- Continuously advancing the evidence base for selected recommendations of the VGFSyN for informed decisions, such as on the topic of digital marketing, and contributing to the FAO online platform of supporting evidence for the CFS VGFSyN with specific information on WHO guidelines, guidance and tools related to the 105 recommendations in the CFS VGFSyN.
- Preparing for informing the WHO Executive Board members about the CFS endorsed VGFSyN through a forthcoming report by the WHO Director General to the 150th session of the EB
- Participating in meetings and contributing WHO inputs into UN Nutrition’s engagement in the CFS Informal Coordination Group which has the purpose to share and keep track of relevant information on what individual agencies are doing to promote and utilize the VGFSyN.
- The joint WHO/FAO Secretariat of the Nutrition Decade reflected CFS nutrition related activities and plenary decisions in the third progress report that has been delivered to the CFS49 on the Implementation of the ICN2 commitments and the Nutrition Decade, informing the wider CFS membership about the current status of country level implementation of selected recommendations in the VGFSyN.

3. Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and the Advisory Group constituencies

- The WHO, in its Global Programme of Work 13, has embedded multi sectoral action and food system transformation in its Strategic priority promoting healthier populations with the goal that 1 billion more people are enjoying better health and well-being. Implementing evidence-based actions to create supportive environments is one key element in the agenda for improving health and preventing disease including hunger, malnutrition in all its forms, noncommunicable diseases and premature mortality. This

includes actions across sectors that simultaneously address the health of people, the environment and animals in a ONE Health approach.

- WHO Deputy Director General and here team were very pleased to welcome the CFS Chair at Geneva Headquarters, discussing to strengthen policy coherence between the agriculture and health constituencies, in line with CFS MYPOW and forthcoming CFS policy products. To this end, it was proposed to convene technical dialogues between Geneva Missions and Rome Permanent Representatives under the umbrella of the CFS. Moreover, the WHO Assistant Director-General for UHC/Healthier Populations Division and Director for Nutrition and Food Safety had a dialogue with the CFS Chair in the spirit of strengthening future cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels.
- This reporting period 2021 is marked by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is threatening the food security, nutrition, health and livelihoods of many people around the world. In collaboration with the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism to CFS (CSM) and other Advisory Group members, WHO co-organized the intersessional event 'Adopting Globally Coordinated Policy Guidance regarding Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. An Urgent and Necessary Action by the International Community'.
- The 3rd progress report on the ICN2 including the Nutrition Decade, offered an opportunity to CFS Advisory Group members and constituencies to contribute into the report with their achievements over the past two years to advance the nutrition agenda towards the global targets, with the CSM, the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) to CFS and UN Nutrition members, among others, reporting on their progress made.
- CFS has an important role to boost momentum, by providing a platform for learning, sharing experiences and catalysing the implementation and needed investments by countries and their partners to transform to sustainable food systems - for the health of both people and planet. This role is vital within the context of the follow up of the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, the uptake of the VGFSyN and should be in alignment with CFS engagement in the Nutrition Decade.
- To fully reflect CFS mandate, it is important to continuously pro-actively mainstream nutrition in all CFS workstreams including by strengthening policy coherence and working across sectorial boundaries to truly reflect the spirit and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- WHO stands ready to continue serving as member of the CFS Advisory Group and working closely with the CFS Secretariat and CFS members contributing its expertise and competencies in Nutrition and Health to CFS work on food security and nutrition, and relevant workstreams.

4. Success stories

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UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

1. CONTRIBUTION TO CFS ACTIVITIES

Describe the work your organization or constituency has carried out in support of various CFS intersessional and plenary activities (meetings, Technical Task Teams, Open-Ended Working Groups, Bureau/Advisory Group meetings, etc), including coordination activities and the exchange of information and consolidation of inputs between your constituency and CFS;

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, took part in the 2021 AG Bureau meetings, and OEWG negotiations on the VGFSyN as well as the recommendations on Agroecology and other innovations. He contributed to the debates related to the CFS and UNFSS that took place in the AG Bureau from April to November 2021 in an effort to contribute valuing the CFS work in relation to food systems and human rights. Being involved in the UNFSS lever of change and the UNFSS integrating team he did advocate for a meaningful inclusion of the CFS and the CFS products in shaping the pre- summit and the UNFSS. The SR also brought public attention to Covid 19 and its impacts on the Right to Food, encouraging a coordinated response to the rising levels of poverty and hunger and he highlighted the potential for the CFS to play a policy coordination role. He took part to two meetings in 2021 organized by CFS members in order to promote a shared understanding of the issues at stake and the impact of Covid 19 on the most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

He intervened in the CFS plenary on the agenda item related to the UNFSS and the CFS's role.

He took part to the Friends of the Chair's meeting on the UNFSS and implications for the CFS role also providing written remarks.

The SR contributed with written inputs to the Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment "0 draft" guidelines. He sent written inputs on the elements to be included in the Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems "0 draft".

2. USE, APPLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CFS OUTCOMES

The SR on the Right to Food contributed to bringing public attention to raising hunger as a political-institutional failure and stressed the importance of the understanding of food as a driver of an economy of care. He promoted CFS products, as well as the HLPE reports outcomes in his reports to the General Assembly and to the Council. He contributed to the dissemination of CFS recommendations and Guidelines in the lead up to the UNFSS and in his op-ed and interviews.

3. STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY GROUP CONSTITUENCIES

Each CFS member country, and particularly the Bureau members, should report regularly on their outreach at country and regional level. The role of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism is strategic in promoting the interaction with small scale food producers and local actors on the ground in different countries and regional contexts. The FAO could increase its role of promotion and implementation of the CFS products, as well as the role of coordination with other CFS UN agencies at this purpose. The role that the FAO has played with the Tenure Guidelines, in terms of training, sensitization and outreach has been huge and resulted *the facto* in an enormous uptake of the Guidelines by different donors, stakeholders, regional and national governments. On a smaller scale the same has been done with the policy recommendations on

“Connecting Smallholders to Markets”, which have been up taken in many regional, national events and quoted in many technical or academic papers and reports. The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food could contribute to strengthen these linkages in his/her field and country visits, where relevant, promoting seminars and working meetings at this purpose. It is also very important to solicit contribution in the monitoring of the implementation phase, which should take place in a more substantive manner, to share experiences, promote mutual learning and strengthening the use and implementation of the CFS products by all the CFS stakeholders. The PSM and the philanthropic foundations could also play a role, particularly engaging in funding outreach and training meetings at country level.

The World Bank

Question 1

The World Bank's twin goals, to end extreme poverty and to boost shared prosperity, includes a strong focus of the role that agriculture and food play to help raise incomes and improve food security. The Bank's Agriculture and Food (AGF) Global Practice (GP) is the natural partner of the CFS. The AGF GP is notably positioned to enable the mainstreaming of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) in its operational work. In 2021, the Bank's AGF GP led and/or supported the following CFS activities:

- June 2021- Webinar on '*CFS VGFSyN- Translating Ambition to Action*': Hosted jointly by the AGF GP and the Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) GP of the World Bank. Speakers included Martien van Nieuwkoop (Global Director for AGF GP), Meera Shekhar, Gayatri Acharya, and Diego Arias (World Bank); and Chris Hegadorn (CFS), Jessica Fanzo (JHU), Maximo Torero (FAO), Gerda Verburg (SUN).
- October 2021- CFS 49 Plenary Session Keynote for Agenda Item III 'Forum on Uptake of the CFS VGFSyN': Keynote from Martien van Nieuwkoop (pre-recorded). Other speakers included HE Thanawat Tiensit (former Chairperson, CFS), Marylaure Crettaz (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Maxim Torero (FAO), and HE Mariam Al Mehairi (Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE).
- October 2021- CFS 49 Side Event: 'Healthy diets at the nexus of food systems, biodiversity, climate, and nutrition: Global summits, local transformation, and the CFS VGFSyN': Co-organized by the World Bank with UN Nutrition, FAO, and the WFP. Speakers included Julian Lampietti (World Bank), Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition), Saskia de Pee (WFP), Mandefro Nigussie (Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia), Kavita Gandhi (SWISSAID India), Reinhold Muschler (CATIE), and Nancy Aburto (FAO).
- December 2021- Visit of CFS Chairperson to Washington DC: The World Bank supported in the coordination of the visit to Washington DC of the CFS' new Chairperson, HE Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero. The visit included a courtesy call with Juergen Voegelé (Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank), and a discussion with Martien van Nieuwkoop and Geeta Sethi (Global Lead for Healthy and Sustainable Diets and Program Manager for Food Systems 2030, World Bank). The CFS Chairperson was accompanied by Jocelyn Brown, Director of FAOLOW.

The World Bank forms part of the informal core group of the CFS VGFSyN and further supports the VG on Gender and the RAI. The World Bank is represented in the Technical Task Team (TTT) for the VG on Gender, where the engagement includes following members' discussions with the drafts, and a critical role around negotiations to safeguard the technical perspective. The World Bank is supporting the preparation of a Global Thematic Event (GTE) at the CFS 50 plenary in October 2022. Through participation in a TTT, the World Bank is informing the GTE design and associated summary report on the use of the Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI) Principles. The World Bank disseminated a call for examples on how the principles are being used, and the Bank looks forward to advising on the summary report content and GTE panel discussion. The World Bank participates in Bureau and Advisory Group meetings whenever possible.

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is also strongly engaged with CFS and its stakeholders. GAFSP is a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for which the World Bank serves as host and Trustee. GAFSP was launched by the G20 in response to the 2007-08 food price crisis and its mandate mirrors the CFS vision of bringing together partners through its multi-stakeholder structure to support country-led processes towards fighting hunger and improving food security. GAFSP's Steering Committee consists of donors,

governments, civil society, and major development partners, including the Rome-based agencies. GAFSP funds projects in support of public and private sector investments to fight hunger, malnutrition, and poverty in over 45 low-income countries, by investing in resilient and sustainable agriculture that benefits and empowers smallholder farmers. GAFSP was mentioned as a virtuous example in the CFS guidelines on Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the framework of the 2030 agenda following CFS 46:

- In Spring 2021, GAFSP launched a new Call for Proposals, operationalizing GAFSP’s revised operational model –GAFSP 2.0. In this context GAFSP’s guidelines to country applicants encouraged the application of CFS policy products.
- In July 2021 the GAFSP and CFS co-hosted a Twitter chat on the VGFSyN and with a focus on gender equality as a key tool to fight food insecurity.
- In October 2021, during the CFS49, Kathryn Hollifield, as Program Manager of GAFSP delivered a statement during a session on the CFS policy recommendations on Climate Change and Water.
- In October 2021, at the margins of the CFS49, GAFSP co-hosted a side event with the SGD2hub, titled Prioritizing Climate Resilience: Building a New Policy Consensus with Smallholder Farmers.

Question 2

The World Bank is the largest financier of agriculture and food in the developing world, with US\$6.7 billion in new financing commitments in 2021 alone, helping 9.9 million farmers with agricultural assets and services and 1.3 million farmers with improved agricultural technology. The Bank implements about 150 projects with a portfolio of close to US\$22 billion in commitments. We help countries rethink and transform their food systems from farm to fork, delivering improved livelihoods and affordable, and nutritious diets for all, and progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals of zero poverty and hunger by 2030 and the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

The CFS VGFSyN lays the foundations for food systems transformation. These guidelines are built around the underlying connections between food systems and nutrition. They are aimed at the imperative of delivering healthy diets through sustainable food systems. The Guidelines are well-grounded on scientific evidence through the work of the CFS’ High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. In addition to this, the strength of these Guidelines comes out of a broad and careful multi-stakeholder consultation and negotiation process.

The Bank is continuing to explore ways to promote the uptake of these important guidelines, not the least of which to influence how the Bank’s investments can be catalyzed for a food systems transformation. The Bank currently reviews its agri-food pipeline projects against the VGFSyN to ensure that project design is geared towards holistic food systems transformation. This review involves identifying project activities and approaches which may be better aligned with the Guidelines, as well as documenting those activities and approaches which can be considered best practices. The Guidelines put us on the right path to transform global food systems. It is an important departure, but it will take wholesale systems change to deliver the transformation that is needed.

Recognizing the importance of the VGFSyN, the World Bank has put forward its ‘Commitment Goal 3’ at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021. This commitment includes —

“Contribute to achieving the WHA global nutrition targets and SDGs through WBG’s Agriculture and Food and

Nutrition Security portfolio at global and country levels through a series of policy commitments, including: Mainstreaming nutrition in agri-food portfolio: Review all agri-food pipeline projects against the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, to identify opportunities to mainstream nutrition over the next five years;...”

To achieve key development goals including ending poverty and hunger, boosting shared prosperity through more and better jobs, and better stewarding the world’s natural resources, the World Bank has been implementing the Maximizing Finance for Development (MFD) approach to crowd-in private investments and optimize the use of scarce public resources. To operationalize the MFD approach in the agriculture and food sector, the World Bank continues to promote principles and guidelines on RAI including CFS-RAI as key guiding principles.

Question 3

The AGF GP of the World Bank remains committed to engage with CFS on substance and dissemination. Our ability to participate in CFS meetings is limited, and partially depends on the possibility to remotely connect at reasonable times of the day.

Question 4

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Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

- CGIAR is a member of the CFS Advisory Group, and is represented by the System Organization of the CGIAR (Dr. RD Cooke and Mr A Zandstra). CGIAR comprises 15 international research centres working in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. CGIAR has a local presence in 108 countries with a deep knowledge of customs, values and market operations in developing countries.
- The 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy places CGIAR in the evolving global context, which demands a systems transformation approach for food, land, and water systems. That demand for transformation is evidenced in our HLPE report “Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030”; SOFI, 2021; UNFSS outputs, and is an important element in the two CFS policy products of 2021: VGFSyN , and policy recommendations on Agro-ecological approaches and other innovations. This CGIAR Strategy provides an overview of how CGIAR will develop and deploy its capacities, assets, and skills to address priority global and regional challenges with partners over the decade. And importantly, it builds on CGIAR’s track record of collaborating with partners to deliver impacts for more than 50 years, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of hunger and poverty and supporting low-income producers and consumers.
- The Mission of this CGIAR Strategy is to deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. The new research portfolio of initiatives was presented to CGIAR Stakeholders in December 2021, and is a major step forward in the transition to One CGIAR. One CGIAR is the integration of CGIAR’s capabilities, knowledge, assets, people, and global presence for a new era of interconnected and partnership-driven research. One CGIAR enables operation as a cohesive organization with a single mission, leveraging all capabilities and assets to deliver benefits to people and our planet. Through integrated systems research, One CGIAR and country partners are striving for impact to create sustainable and resilient food, land, and water systems, and to meet SDG targets.
- Participation in the Bureau/Advisory Group meetings focused on preparation for and participation in the three global CFS meetings: CFS 47, 48 and 49 and related events and inputs. These actions accompanied the regular agendas of the Bureau/Advisory Group meetings. Principal support actions follow:
 1. **CFS 47 (February)**
 - CGIAR intervened/ participated in several side events and plenaries. CGIAR intervention in the first plenary session followed past CFS Chair Gerda Verburg who stated that there had been too much of a food production emphasis and that a Value Chain approach should be adopted, involving all stakeholders from farmers to all post -harvest and user/consumer stages. CGIAR 20 years ago had the same criticism. The CGIAR reforms in recent years converted that commodity/production approach to an agri-food systems approach. This strategy was noted in the first CFS 47 Side Event, titled ‘Transforming Agricultural Innovation for People, Nature and Climate – evidence insights for COP26 and the UN Food Systems Summit’. That event involved speakers and panellists from Thailand, FAO, IFAD, WWF, CGIAR and the UK.

- CGIAR intervened in the second session on the critical importance of evidence-based policy processes – a topic central to the CGIAR’s support to the CFS. Day 2 focused on COVID-19 and its impacts on Global FSN; that drew on the CGIAR’s International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and a presentation on 'Coping strategies, lessons learned and building resilience to prevent future pandemics'. Earlier contributions to the HLPE COVID papers included a CGIAR paper ‘ Responding to COVID-19: CGIAR’s contribution to global response, recovery and resilience. One element of that is the “CGIAR COVID-19 knowledge Hub”: a mechanism for coordinating CGIAR’s research response to COVID-19. That hub (hosted by CGIAR Centre, IFPRI) also includes IFPRI’s COVID -19 Policy Response (CPR) portal.
- Additional side events and CGIAR interventions were: Side Event 4: Listen Up: Engaging Farmers in the Process of Repurposing Agricultural Policy; Side Event 7: Implementing the UN Decade of family farming (UNDF) to face COVID 19 and achieve resilient and sustainable food systems; Side Event 11: Agricultural Solutions: Forging Consensus Against Linked Food Security, Nutrition, Health and Climate Challenges.
- Associated CGIAR actions in Q1 concerned the contribution to the CFS inputs to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF); the continuing work on the Policy Convergence Process on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches; follow-up on the CFS Gender work-stream: involvement of CGIAR staff: Lynn Brown (Harvest Plus/ IFPRI) as technical specialist and Nicoline de Haan, Director of the CGIAR Gender platform. Two members of CGIAR continue to participate in the Gender OEWG/TTT: Nicoline de Haan, and Steven Cole, a Senior Scientist (Gender Specialist) for IITA, based in Tanzania.

2. CFS 48 (June) The CGIAR was co –organiser of 4 of the 10 Side -Events. Summaries are on the CFS web site:

- 1. SE 3: Scaling-up agricultural innovation: Opportunities to deliver for people, nature and climate at COP 26. Organizers: United Kingdom (Lord Goldsmith and Ambassador Terri Sarch); FAO (Maria Helena Semedo - DDG, FAO) ; CGIAR (CCAFS, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (ABC): Dhanush Dinesh - Head of Partnerships and Outreach, CCAFS). 2. SE 4 Implementing CFS Guidelines for people and planet: The role of the private sector. Organizers: World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA), CGIAR (moderated by Lindiwe Sibanda of the CG System Board, and involving ABC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). 3. SE 5: Addressing knowledge and implementation gaps on agro-ecological transitions: a way forward for research and development through the Transformative Partnership Platform. Organisers : France, Switzerland, Senegal, Sri Lanka , EU Directorate-General International Partnerships, CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (Fergus Sinclair of ICRAF/CIFOR as lead on ‘ Transformative Partnership Platform', Biovision, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD - the DG, Elisabeth Claverie de Saint), FAO (Chief Scientist, Ismahane Elouafi), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 4. SE 10: From commitments to action: How UNFSS and CFS policy recommendations on agroecology can complement and reinforce each other. Organizers: WWF, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (ABC, CGIAR) - Juan Lucas Restrepo and Marcelo Quintero, FAO (DDG Semedo), International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Biovision.

- Associated CGIAR actions in Q2: Exchanges on the CFS Data work stream -ABC and IFPRI involvement in 1 July opening 3 hour zoom meeting “Closing data gaps and promoting evidence-informed decision making for food security and nutrition”; this leading to CGIAR involvement (Brian King of ABC) in the data collection and analysis work-stream from 2022 ; Call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition.

3. CFS 49 (October)

- Monitoring Event: CFS Policy Recommendations on Climate Change and Water. IWMI and CCAFS had collated CGIAR input into the background document.
- The Rio Conventions event: this addressed the issues critical to the world’s food security and nutrition, as a follow up to the Ministerial Round Table held at the UNFSS Pre-Summit, where links between the Conventions were highlighted as they relate to food security. Rob Vos (IFPRI) discussed the role of research in supporting the Rio Conventions, and noted that a lot of today’s challenges are a result of under-investment in research, especially research focused on environmental challenges. Noting that governments currently spend more than USD 700 billion annually to support farmers and food production, he said less than 3% of this goes towards agricultural innovation, and called for incentives to induce a change.
- CGIAR organized and participated in: SE 1, 6, 10 and 13. Summaries and further details are on the CFS web site: S.E 1, Transforming food, land and water systems for sustainable healthy diets (included World Fish and ILRI; a lead speaker was Shakuntala Thilsted, Global Lead of Nutrition and Public Health at WorldFish, and 2021 World Food Prize Laureate). SE6 “Healthy diets at the nexus of food systems, biodiversity, climate and nutrition: Global summits, local transformation and the CFS VGFSYN”. SE 10 Bridging Agroecology and Biodiversity Action: Coalitions, Evidence, Policy Frameworks (co-organised with ABC, CGIAR). Fergus Sinclair (of ICRAF-CIFOR) was a lead speaker and emphasized the opportunity to move from business-as-usual agriculture through inclusive, coherent partnerships based on the thirteen HLPE principles of agroecology, including biodiversity, economic diversification and responsible governance of natural resources. SE 13 October 14: Innovation as a force for good in the fight against climate change and malnutrition The side event was organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UK Government’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and Italy’s Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITE).
- Associated CGIAR actions in Q4: Selection of CGIAR member of RIA task force, TTT (Dr. Abdoulaye); UNFSS pre-summit 26-28 July (3 days), UNFSS 23 September; Friends of the Chair meetings on follow-up to UNFSS (November and December)

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- The use and dissemination of CFS policy products is a mechanism for the implementation of SDGs. SDGs and FSN provide the overall strategic direction, research priorities and results framework for the CGIAR Portfolio. The uptake and impact of CGIAR programmes in the policy sector is the link to CFS outcomes, and the way of promoting appropriate CFS products.

- A major channel of CGIAR impact derives from the contribution of its research results and outcomes to policies and investments at national and international levels. In 2020, CGIAR reported a total of 128 policies, legal instruments, investments or curricula informed by CGIAR research. Seventy-three percent (93) showed evidence of research findings being taken up by next users and 23% (30) involved a policy being passed or a law enacted. Four percent (5) demonstrated evidence of impact for the first time in 2020. Policies in 2020 were linked to 13 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Significantly, 53% (68) related to SDG17 (partnerships for the goals), 48% (61) to SDG13 (climate action), and 42% (54) to SDG2 (zero hunger). In 2020, 80% (102) of achievements under this indicator were policies and strategies, 9% (12) were budgets and investments, 6% (8) were curricula, and 5% (6) were legal instruments.
- Partnerships are at the core of CGIAR's work. In 2020, CGIAR reported partnerships involving a wide range of partners, from policymakers in governments and international agencies, to research collaborators in research and academic institutions around the world, as well as public- and private-sector companies and non-profit institutions involved in the development and scaling of innovations.
- CGIAR highlighted in its Annual Performance Report 2020, 334 partnerships; 39% (207) of these partnerships were focused on research, 22% (114) on capacity development, 22% (113) on delivery and 14% (75) on policy.
- In 2020, a total of 1,180,222 people were trained by CGIAR. This represents a 48% increase from 2019 (796,273 people trained).. 2020 marks the first time more women than men were trained (53% [619,904] women; 47% [560,318] men) since 2017. A total of 591 PhD students were incorporated in CGIAR research initiatives in 2020, 38% (224) of them women.
- A complete list of these outcomes and policy products is given in this CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2020 (published in 2021, available on cgiar.org).

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

- The CGIAR has increased its representation in Rome through the establishment of a "hub" for the CGIAR System Organization. This enhanced CGIAR System presence in Rome, would operate both as a resource and active contributor to CFS meetings, dialogues and related events. The reform to become 'One CGIAR' with an integrated leadership to support more coherent global and country responses (referred to above) will enhance the effectiveness of CGIAR's interaction with the CFS.

4. Success stories

- Indicative examples related to FSN are given below. These are drawn from the CGIAR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020 'Growing resilience for a better future' (published late 2021). A fuller series of success stories is given there.

1. Wheat breeding research delivers genetic gains to NARS across the globe

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center [CIMMYT] and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas [ICARDA]) have delivered significant genetic gains to National Agricultural Research System (NARS) partners by developing high-yielding, climate-resilient, and disease-resistant wheat germplasm.

Genetic gains in grain yield impact an estimated 61 million hectares of the 215 million hectares of the global wheat area. Using a set of previous studies, the performance of bread wheat breeding germplasm developed by the Global Wheat Program (GWP) at CIMMYT was assessed through the extensive analysis of international data sets in 2020. The results indicated that genetic gains range from 0.5% to 1% per annum, which, on average, represents 46.6 kilograms per hectare per year (kg/ha/year).

In a long-term, on-station experiment, a set of historical varieties representing 50 years of wheat breeding was evaluated under optimally irrigated and drought environments. The estimated genetic gains ranged between 24.7 to 35.3 kg/ha/year and 18.1 to 25.6 kg/ha/year, respectively, demonstrating that WHEAT/CIMMYT's bread wheat breeding program continues to deliver superior germplasm to target environments. In 2020, these efforts led directly to the release of 39 varieties in 10 countries by national partners (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, and Turkey).

The wheat- breeding program is testing faster advancement and recycling approaches to further reduce the time per breeding cycle time from the current 5 to 6 years to 3 to 4 years, thereby accelerating genetic gains. A field-based Rapid Bulk Generation Advancement Scheme has been designed for faster advance and recycling.

2. Affordable insurance for smallholder farmers and herders

Millions of smallholder farmers and herders around the world lack access to affordable, high-quality insurance, and their farms are often too small and too remote for insurers to visit fields and economically verify damage. CGIAR researchers, working with the private sector and the international development community, have searched for alternative types of insurance that do not require insurance companies to verify damage through in-person visits to smallholders' fields. The growing use of technology in developing countries has offered potentially efficient solutions:

- i) The Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) program for pastoralists, led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Pastoralism is the main source of livelihood for about 260 million people who are extremely vulnerable to climate-related shocks. Currently, more than 15,000 livestock owners have purchased IBLI insurance products in Ethiopia and Kenya, with women accounting for more than 45% of buyers. IBLI has since been adopted by the Kenyan government as a social safety net for extremely vulnerable pastoralists, part of the Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme (KLIP). It currently insures 90,000 cattle valued at more than \$30 million annually, and has paid out about \$10 million in claims.
- ii) The International Water Management Institute's (IWMI) Index-Based Flood Insurance (IBFI) combines satellite imagery with mathematical modeling. IBFI uses NASA's MODIS and ESA Sentinel-1 and field water-level data to calculate flood damage and verify claims, avoiding the need for costly field visits and thus keeping premiums affordable. Currently, IBFI has 3,050 subscriber households and has made more than \$50,000 in payouts. Through targeting women and more marginalized groups, by 2019 it succeeded in increasing the proportion of payouts to women from 22% to 43%.
- iii) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is testing whether a smartphone

camera can help make insurance products more attractive for smallholder farmers. The Picture-Based Insurance (PBI) project has expanded to cover a wide range of crops in India, Kenya, and Ethiopia. A current focus of the project is to ensure that the products are inclusive and equitable in their benefits, and to integrate information from ground images with satellite imagery for rapid claims settlement at scale.

3. Economic impacts of climate-resilient maize in S. Asia and Africa

A 2020 study on the impacts of CGIAR maize improvements analysed the adoption and impacts of CGIAR-related maize varieties in 18 major maize-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa for 1995-2015, including drought-tolerant, pest- and disease-resistant, and more nutritious (Vitamin A and Quality Protein Maize) varieties. Of 1,345 maize varieties released in the study countries, approximately 60% had a known or reported CGIAR parentage. In 2015, about 34% of total maize area in those countries (9.5 million hectares) was cultivated with CGIAR-related maize varieties released between 1995-2015. Another 13% of the total maize area was cultivated with CGIAR-related maize varieties released before 1995.

In 2015, aggregate yearly economic benefits of using newer CGIAR-related maize varieties (released after 1994) were estimated to be between US\$0.66 to US\$1.05 billion, while global investment in CGIAR maize improvement was modest — about US\$30 million per annum. The additional potential economic impacts of CGIAR investment on risk reduction (for example, losses avoided) and nutritional enhancement in maize are not accounted for in these benefit calculations.

4. Communities engage in participatory rangeland management across East and Southern Africa

The practice of participatory rangeland management (PRM), developed by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is expanding across East and Southern Africa. It is giving a voice to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities — historically some of the most marginalized people in the world — and including them in land-use decision-making processes.

PRM was upscaled by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project, Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion, to cover more than 1 million hectares. In 2018, PRM was included in an Ethiopian federal government manual on woreda (district) land-use planning. Drawing lessons from the experience of PRM in Ethiopia, in 2018, the European Union invested 1.5 million euros in the piloting of the PRM project for four areas in Baringo County, Kenya, and in six shared grazing lands in Tanzania, covering around 246,773 hectares of grazing lands and involving over 22,000 pastoralists. The grazing lands in Tanzania were secured through a process of joint village land-use planning and land certification with support from the Sustainable Rangeland Management Project, led by ILRI, the Tanzania Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and the National Land Use Planning Commission. An estimated 450,000 pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are projected to benefit from the outcomes of the project.

In 2020, a new USAID-funded project invested US\$24 million to upscale the PRM approach in Afar, Oromia and Somali regions, Ethiopia, benefiting 178,000 households, with interventions to be led by CARE Ethiopia between 2020 and 2025.

5. Yield and economic benefits of iron toxicity-tolerant rice in Africa

Iron toxicity is one of the most important constraints limiting rice production in lowland sub-Saharan Africa. To improve rice productivity in the affected areas in the context of climate change, new rice varieties with genetic resistance to iron toxicity were developed and released. A 2020 RICE study used a randomized controlled trial to assess the effect of an iron toxicity-tolerant variety, ARICA6, on the rice production and income of smallholder farmers. Results showed that the use of the ARICA6 variety

increased rice yield by 330 kilograms per hectare, and net income by US\$120 per hectare. Average technical efficiency increased by 7%. The large-scale dissemination of ARICA6 could be a policy option to revive rice production and reduce food insecurity for rice producers, but additional measures, such as reducing the constraints due to unpredictable rainfall through improved water management, are needed to further increase the benefits.

6. Farmer Business Schools create livelihood opportunities in Asia and beyond

Farmer Business Schools (FBSs), developed by the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB), have been implemented across Southeast and South Asia, starting in Indonesia, and expanding to Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Latin America. Developed in the late 2000s by the International Potato Center (CIP), FBSs build on the Participatory Market Chain Approach (PMCA) and on Farmer Field Schools. The FBS approach has been adopted by national development programs, supported by investments from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in four Asian countries: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

After the success of FBSs in Indonesia, IFAD invested in CIP's FoodSTART project to promote FBSs elsewhere in Asia to strengthen farmers' entrepreneurial capacity as the farmers seek to participate in dynamic agricultural value chains. As a commodity-neutral approach, the FBS curriculum can be applied to any commodity. For example, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Philippines has used FBSs to not only develop sweetpotato and cassava chips, jams, and other root and tuber value-added products, but also bottled mussels, fish crackers, seaweed noodles, dried fish, and much more. In the second phase of FoodSTART (funded by IFAD and the European Union), the FBS approach was incorporated into IFAD-funded projects throughout the region: in the Philippines; India; Vietnam; and Indonesia. The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) has adapted and replicated the approach in Vietnam with funding from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

As of 2020, 3,874 farmers (76% of whom are women) have attended an FBS throughout Southeast and South Asia. These graduates, working in groups, have created over 140 small enterprises. This methodology in Peru and Bolivia has recently been introduced with funding from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) Foundation. In these countries, a total of 10 FBS have been implemented, directly benefiting 206 farmers.

7. Increased planting of Urochloa hybrids

Livestock productivity depends on forage availability and quality. The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture's, CIAT (ABC) have promoted Urochloa hybrids. These are important forage for livestock, and have been scaled on approximately 100,000 additional hectares in 2020, reaching a total of at least 1,100,000 hectares in more than 30 countries. The largest areas planted were in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela), Asia (China, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam), and Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda).

8. Low-emission technologies transform Vietnam's rice sector

Rice farming technologies developed by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), have contributed to a reduction in CO₂ emissions connected to rice production in Vietnam. In 2020, Vietnam increased its Nationally Determined Contribution target for the agriculture sector for 2030 by 16MtCO₂-eq. One hundred per cent of the unconditional target will come from rice production, mainly as a result from a shift in irrigation water management.

In rice cultivation, alternate wetting and drying (AWD) is a key technology to reduce water consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In 2020, this methodology was further developed and a digital tool, MapAWD, was built to map areas suitable for AWD. This climate-smart rice production has been introduced to 75,800 farmers, 60% of whom are female. Key contributions include the out-scaling of AWD in the Mekong River Delta through the An Giang province extension service as well as the World Bank Program “Vietnam – Sustainable Agricultural Transformation (VnSAT)”, which in 2020 resulted in an additional 1.5MtCO₂-eq/yr saved compared to 2019. Through this project, over 900,000 farmers in the Mekong River Delta enhanced knowledge on low-emission technologies (LETs) in rice production. The application of climate-smart technologies doubled from 82,000 hectares in December 2019 to 163,000 hectares in November 2020. Farmers participating in the project also reported an increase in net income of 28% per hectare compared to that of non-project farmers.

9. Common bean improvement reduces poverty in Ethiopia

Research by CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC) partner, the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (ABC), has positively impacted Ethiopia’s bean sector, including breeding, seed systems, varieties grown, and farmer welfare.

GLDC research has contributed to the release of more than 60 improved bean varieties in Ethiopia since 1970, including a bio-fortified variety released in 2019. Thirty-six of these high-yielding, resilient varieties are either lines or crosses with CIAT materials. Adoption of improved varieties has benefited close to 2.5 million farming families, covering up to 65% of the total national bean area, enabling them to enjoy extra consumption spending on food and non-food items worth US\$119 purchasing power parity (PPP) per person per year, and US\$217 PPP for those families that combined varieties with fertilizers.

Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

1. Contribution to CFS activities

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism participated and contributed to all CFS processes, negotiations, Plenaries and events through its Working Groups and delegates:

- **Plenary CFS 47:** According to CFS 47 Final Report, 103 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations under the umbrella of CSM participated to the Plenary. The 12 Statements delivered by CSM delegates (8 women and 4 men from 8 different constituencies and all regions) on behalf of the different CSM Working Groups to the different topics of the CFS Plenary 47 can be found here: <https://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-plenary-statements-cfs-47/> During the Plenary, a Side event on *"Developing effective Policy Responses to COVID-19. What is needed and what is the role of the CFS?"* was jointly organized by CSM, IPES-Food, Spain, Cabo Verde and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
- **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition:** The CSM Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition intensively participated and substantially contributed to the CFS negotiations in 2020 as well as the last round of negotiations in January 2021. The CSM delegation to the January negotiations consisted of 25 participants (15 women, 10 men) from 7 constituencies (Smallholder Farmers, Urban and food insecure, Consumers, Pastoralist, Indigenous peoples, Women and NGOs) and all regions. The CSM provided trilingual interpretation (English, French and Spanish) during all the Friends of the Chair meetings. A final assessment of the VGFSyN process and its outcomes was shared after internal consultations at a Public Briefing: <https://www.csm4cfs.org/civil-society-indigenous-peoples-new-cfs-voluntary-guidelines-food-systems-nutrition-fail-pave-way-profound-transformation/> In this context, the CSM published its Vision for Food Systems and Nutrition, a consistently transformational approach towards healthy, sustainable and just food systems.
- **Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches and Plenary CFS 48:** The CSM Working Group on Agroecology intensively participated and substantially contributed to the CFS negotiations in 2021. Before the beginning of the negotiations, the CSM WG held a Public Briefing on its Priorities and Key Messages for the convergence process. 41 CSM members (22 women, 19 men) participated in these policy negotiations and FoC meetings. The most represented constituency in the CSM delegation was the one of smallholder farmers with 14 members. In addition, 20 CSM participants from 8 constituencies joined the CSM internal preparation and briefing calls. A preliminary CSM statement on the difficult process was presented at the CFS 48 Plenary, which was attended by 68 civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations under the umbrella of CSM. A final assessment of this process and its outcomes was shared after internal consultations at a Public Briefing: <https://www.csm4cfs.org/civil-society-groups-and-indigenous-peoples-demand-more-ambitious-cfs-policies-on-agroecology/>
- **Process towards Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** The CSM Women's Working Group participated and contributed to the respective discussion on the adoption of

the Terms of Reference at CFS 47; the OEWG meetings for the development of the Zero Draft; the CFS Regional Consultations on the Zero Draft; the OEWG meeting in preparation of the First Draft and presented a substantial submission with key messages and inputs from all regions at the end of November 2021. The WG managed to ensure participation to all six regional consultations, with women coming from all 11 constituencies (smallholder farmers, fisherfolks, agricultural and food workers, indigenous peoples, urban and food insecure, consumers, pastoralists, youth, landless, women and NGOs), from 31 countries across continents.

- **Process Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems:** the CSM Youth Working Group participated to the Launch of the HLPE report in early July 2021, presented a first assessment at the Plenary debate in October 2021. At CFS 49, the CSM Youth held a Side-Event entitled *Food for Our Future: Youth Leading Radical Transformations Towards Economies of Wellbeing*, where UN Special Rapporteur in the Right to Food, a representative from the Mexican government and Youth speakers shared their views on the four pillars of the HLPE report (rights, equity, agency and recognition). The Youth WG reached out to the Rapporteur of the CFS Youth Process, Ambassador Pio Wennubst, regarding the process and an exchange with him. The CSM Youth WG also participated to the OEWG and the thematic discussions in November and December and submitted their substantial contribution towards the first draft of the policy recommendations.
- **Plenary CFS 49:** The CSM Forum 2021, held virtually on 6-7 October, brought together the experiences and analysis of the Working Groups from different policy processes. On 8 October, a Public Briefing was held to share CSM's Key Messages for CFS 49 on Covid-19, Youth, and Global Food Governance. According to the CFS 49 Plenary Report, 119 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations participated to the virtual Plenary under the umbrella of the CSM. All 11 Statements delivered by CSM delegates (8 women and 3 men, from 7 constituencies and all regions) on behalf of different Working Groups can be found here: <https://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-plenary-statements-at-cfs49/>
- **AG - Bureau Meetings:** CSM Advisory Group members participated to all 9 Joint Meetings of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group in 2021. A total of 28 CSM participants (19 women and 9 men) from 10 constituencies participated to the preparation calls of the CSM Advisory Group, to share views and discuss the different key messages to be delivered to the Joint Meetings.
- **HLPE-electronic consultation on Data:** the CSM Working Group on Data delivered a comment on the scope of the HLPE report in March 2021.

2. Use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- During CFS 47, the CSM presented its 56-page Report on the Use and Application of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. It provides a broad overview about what has been done and what needs to be done to enhance its impact.
- CSM shared at CFS 47 and during other CFS discussions during the year that CFS Policy instruments have been used, and should be more systematically applied, in the context of policy responses to Covid-19 consequences. The high relevance of CFS policy Recommendations on Smallholder to Markets in the

pandemic context to keep local, farmers' and territorial markets open was repeatedly underlined, as well as the essential role of social protection policies for food security and nutrition during the pandemic 49.

- Overall, the CFS Narrative of the past 10 years to fully recognize the role of and strengthen public support to small-scale food producers for enhanced food security and nutrition, has gained great attention in many low-income food-importing countries during the Covid-19 pandemic: domestic food security is back on the political agenda, and with it the essential role of local food producers and food systems.
- In the context of the CFS 49 Monitoring Event, the important contribution of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Water for the Development on other normative achievements in the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly was acknowledged, in this case for the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People living in Rural Areas. This achievement was possible through a collaboration of Member States, UN agencies and small-scale food producer organizations.
- The CSM Facilitation Guide, published in March 2021, points to the Rome-Home Nexus: the experience of civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations is that those UN instruments which effectively take up the priority concerns and proposals from the communities and territories within a participatory negotiation process, have the best chances to be seen as useful by them after their adoption. If this Nexus is not made, it is unlikely that a UN instrument is afterwards used by civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations in their territories.

3. Strengthening the linkages between CFS and the Advisory Group constituencies

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism, as essential and autonomous part of the reformed CFS, has successfully enlarged and strengthened the interlinkages with constituencies inside and outside the Mechanism in 2021, increasing their knowledge about and involvement in CFS.

- The example to be provided here refers to the work around the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on food security and nutrition. The activities of CSM in 2020 in gathering experiences with the impact of, and responses to the food crises exacerbated by the Pandemic, had led to an increased collaboration with organizations that had not been involved in CSM before. A large, internal webinar held by the CSM with participation of most of its constituencies on 31 May 2021 about "Turning Lessons from Covid-19 into Transformative Policies", reaffirmed the collective perception of participants from all regions that this global emergency must be kept high on the CSM and CFS Agenda.
- The growing collaboration among concerned Member States, UN bodies, scientific community and CSM led to a Public Webinar organized jointly by Mali, WHO, ILO, OHCHR, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, IPES-Food, and CSM held on 30 September to discuss the need and feasibility of a Globally Coordinated Policy Response to COVID-19 from a Food Security and Nutrition perspective, with an essential role played by CFS.
- The SOFI Report 2021 and the HLPE Issue Paper on Covid-19 confirmed the severity of the impact of the pandemic on growing hunger and malnutrition. Unfortunately, the CFS Plenary 49 did not take up this initiative, due to the effective blockade of some Member States. However, the global emergency continues, in conjunction with other multiple crises. In responding to this unprecedented crisis, the CFS

could definitively strengthen its interlinkages with the realities in countries and communities most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

4. Success stories

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Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)

I. Contribution to CFS Activities

a. Participation in CFS Plenary Sessions

- During plenary sessions for all three events PSM members were able to make interventions, posed questions, and provide links and resources based on the topic being discussed. PSM members also took part in all side events through the three Plenary events.
- PSM coordinated in the following delegations at each plenary:
 - CFS47 (February): 60 delegates from 29 countries
 - CFS48(June) 39 delegates from 17 countries
 - CFS49 (October) 70 delegates from 24 countries
- At CFS47 PSM members, led by Solutions from the Land, Global Dairy Platform, and Global Farmer Network organized a Side Event with the participation of 131 people Agricultural Solutions: Forging Consensus Linked Food Security, Nutrition, Health, and Climate Challenges’, in partnership with Argentina, Australia, Netherlands, and USA.
- Mr. Hem Mulders of Rabobank and Mr. Andrew Rzepa of GALLUP represented the private sector at the events on Ensuring the human right to adequate food for sustainable food systems and Data for Food Security, respectively.
- At CFS48 PSM co-sponsored a side event entitled “By the Numbers – Capturing the Private Sector Contribution to the SDGs.” The event had over 200 participants.

b. Bureau and Advisory Group Meetings:

- Participated in bimonthly (6) Advisory Group meetings.

c. PSM Coordination:

- 4 PSM Quarterly Meetings in addition to an Annual General Meeting.
- 10 newsletters distributed to members throughout the year.
- 6 newsletters distributed to Member States throughout the year, including a special video message newsletter.
- PSM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held 8 June 2021. IAFN was re-elected to be focal point for PSM for a two-year term.

d. PSM’s CFS Workstream Engagement

1. Nutrition

- PSM members attended Friends of the Chair sessions in the beginning of 2021, providing full input and suggestions for improvements to the negotiated text of the VGFSyN, which led to their endorsement in 2021.
- PSM continued its engagement with the WHO and UN Standing Committee on Nutrition by submitting its members’ contribution to the Decade’s CFS progress report. Its contribution highlighted key examples Private Sector projects, practices and investments in activities in promotion of the goals and outputs of the UN Decade on Nutrition.

2. Data

- The PSM Data Macro committee was established to begin work on the Data Collection & Analysis workstream, starting with the drafting of the PSM position paper, attending the CFS TTT, and CFS Data event on 1 July: Closing Data Gaps and Promoting Evidence-informed decision making for Food Security and Nutrition. An informal consultation on 6 May was held with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to provide Private Sector feedback for their Report: DATA FOR FOOD SECURITY: How can the international community drive transformative change? These activities have laid the groundwork for the start of the Data committee activities required for this workstream.

3. Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

- Following extensive and lengthy negotiations during March, April, and May, with the consistent engagement of a PSM (virtual) delegation, the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative approaches were endorsed at a Special Session of the 48th Plenary of CFS on Friday, 4 June 2021.

4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- The PSM is represented in the Technical Task Team (TTT) and attended meetings in preparation for the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, and in preparation for the regional consultations.
- PSM provided written inputs into the various versions of the Zero Draft and the online consultations.
- PSM members participated in the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting in July and the six regional consultations held between September and November with a complete slate of candidates in all regions. It is noteworthy that more PSM delegates wished to participate in the African regional group but could not be included due to CFS space constraints.

5. Youth

In addition to participating in the HLPE launch of the Youth report and meeting with the Rapporteur Ambassador Wennubst, PSM participated in the following:

- Open-ended working group meeting on 19 November
- Launch of Call for written inputs by 22 November
- Thematic discussion on 10 December—Defining Youth and Human Rights

e. HLPE

PSM members attended the launch at the CFS49 of the High-Level Panel of Experts Report: Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems which kickstarted the workstream. PSM provides insights to each HLPE zero draft.

II Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

After the long-awaited endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition in February,

PSM turned to the promotion of the uptake of the guidelines by providing three business training sessions across regions with interpretation on the main tenets with over 200 members attending from the business community. The training sessions also included participation from FAO Independent Chair Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen and the CFS Chair Mr. Thanawat Tiensin and Mr. Gabriel Ferrero, respectively.

- o 8 October for Asia
- o 4 November for the Americas
- o 24 November for Africa and Europe

The training sessions counted on the global food companies representing approximately 30% of the global food market^[1] some of the largest agricultural inputs providers, governments and national associations representing almost 40% of the global population,^[2] IOs, foundations, research entities, trade and producer associations.

PSM refers to and calls for the use of CFS products in PSM speeches and presentations, this has particularly been the case during the Pre-Summit in Rome, the UN Food Systems Summit in New York, and throughout the CFS special events.

- [1] Source [Food Engineering 2021](#)
- [2] Source [Worldometer](#)

III Strengthening the linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies PSM suggestions to enhance interaction and increase knowledge of CFS work at country and global level include:

- PSM encourages more opportunities both for constituency engagement and CFS events through the biannual FAO Regional Conferences.
- Side Events are widely acknowledged as good examples of CFS membership interaction. As collective Zoom proficiency increases there is scope to develop further types of side event activities. These could be, with CFS member leadership, at regional/sub-regional level and encourage panellists and topics that reflect context specific issues. This would both allow all CFS members, mechanisms and participants to share local knowledge, ideas and the opportunities for CFS product application, as well as discuss the constraints.
- PSM involvement in CFS Special Events in collaboration with other Fora such as WTO, HLPF, and others continue to provide valuable opportunities to highlight the importance of CFS outputs outside of the CFS environment.

Success Stories (Optional)

A series of three High Level Dialogues on Finance, Innovation and Gender were held to complement the discussions and support the activities of CFS ahead of the Food Systems Summit. Each event covered a cross cutting issue to the Food Systems Summit action tracks and relevant to CFS.

- The first dialogue dedicated to Finance was held on 26 January and focused on analysing how to improve financial services and trade to advance equitable livelihoods and gathered 148 attendees.
- A total of 151 guests participated in the second dialogue on Innovation held on 10 March aimed to promote partnerships for technology, research, and innovation.

- During the third and last dialogue on Gender held on 13 May a total of 112 participants discussed how to address inequalities and amplify the voices of women all along the value chain.

Participation in several coalitions including decent incomes, gender, and soils was made possible, among others.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

1. Contribution to CFS activities

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is a member of the CFS Advisory Group, and for the fourth year the Foundation has participated in all B&AG meetings through both a dedicated Rome based consultant and Seattle based staff.

Foundation experts participated in the:

- Relevant OEWDs and provided inputs and contributions, related to Data, Gender and Nutrition.
- Meetings of the Friends of the Chair(s)
- All the key inter-sessional activities and the High-Level Special Events.

In 2021, the Foundation started a new way of engagement with CFS AG: in the past months, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Agroecology Fund (AEF) and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GA) have worked together on a proposal to establish a Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM), with the purpose of coordinating the participation of philanthropic organizations in the work of the CFS.

Furthermore, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was co-sponsor of the event “How can data and digital technology support small-holder farmers and enable more equitable, inclusive and sustainable food systems”, which took place in the last Plenary in October 2021; co-sponsors of this event were the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the US Department of Agriculture, the FAO, and the Digital Agriculture Association. This side-event addressed the risks and opportunities of using data and digital agricultural technologies for food system transformation with panelists representing the governments of the Philippines and Cabo Verde, the FAO, the African Woman Agribusiness Network, USAID, Trimble Ag Business Solutions, and University College Dublin.

Considering the key role played by statistics and data in the agricultural space, in recent years we have focused our engagement with country partners, Missions in Rome, the RBAs and our CFS colleagues from the different constituencies, in this area of work. We have developed numerous relationships and grants to elevate the role of the CFS in this context.

2. Use, application, and dissemination of CFS outcomes

- Reports and highlights of CFS outcomes documents are prepared and shared internally at BMGF and with other like-minded philanthropies;
- CFS products and news on CFS activities were disseminated through BMGF partners such as 50x2030, Alliance to End Hunger, Ceres2030, SDG2 Advocacy Hub;
- CFS events and outcome documents are an occasion for foundation supported donor conversations, such as the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group of GDRD.

3. The linkages between the Committee and Advisory Group constituencies

Taking into consideration all the Covid19 pandemic challenges, the CFS annual plenary is a premier opportunity to meet with a wide cross section of organizations and individuals working on food and nutrition security. For the kind of work that we do at the Gates foundation, this is an invaluable event. One way to increase interaction between country and global work would be to incentivize participation of developing country decision makers in the annual plenary which would allow for a better flow of ideas from the Global South. We really hope that we will have the opportunity to return to an in person Plenary in 2022, public health guidance permitting.

Communication is a key-activity for expanding knowledge of the CFS's global work and products at country level. This is particularly important in times of crisis, such as the pandemic, when most engagement has been virtualized. As the body considers new technologies in a virtual world, social media usage could be further explored by CFS. This would help spur engagement of youth, as well as traditional audiences.

As we have underlined in past reporting exercises, an important structural challenge for the achievement of food and nutrition security is adequate access to resources and the lack of coordination amongst regional and global actors supporting their delivery. The CFS could consider additional emphasis on this investment gap in its future work. More tactically, this could be supported by a clearer rationale on why countries should take up the recommendations of the CFS – the inclusive nature of its structure is one component of such a rationale but the CFS could improve its own understanding of the incentives for policy change.

World Farmers' Organization

Question 1

Since 2012 WFO has been advocating for the establishment of an official mechanism of farmers' representation within the CFS Advisory Group. Despite the fact that this official recognition has not been approved as of today. In 2021, WFO seized the opportunity provided by the CFS of contributing with farmers' inputs to the discussions in the OEWGs meetings, as well as in the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, when invited by the Chair.

The contributions provided by WFO, both oral and written, (i.e. comments to the CFS Policy Convergence Process on Promoting Youth Engagement, comments to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, FSN Forum online consultations on CFS policy products) were always the result of a democratic and open consultation with the farmers' organisations, in light of a bottom-up and farmers driven approach. WFO inputs always aimed at showing the key role farmers play within our food systems, as well as the central role of the agricultural sector in the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition among others.

Furthermore, as per the past years, WFO actively engaged in the CFS 47 that was held from 9 to 11 February 2021, facilitating the participation of farmers as well as attending official sessions and side events. On this occasion, WFO also co-organised, together with the World Bank, and Just Rural Transition, the following side event:

- *"Listen Up: Engaging Farmers in the Process of Repurposing Agriculture Policy"* on 9 February. More information is available on the WFO website at this link: https://www.wfo-oma.org/wfo_news/wfo-at-cfs-47/

Also, WFO actively participated in the CFS 48 on 4 June 2021. In this framework, WFO facilitated farmers' representation as well as participated in the following side events:

- -Dick Nuwamanya Kamuganga, President, Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE, WFO member), represented WFO at the event "Scaling-up agricultural innovation: Opportunities to deliver for people, nature and climate at COP 26", organized by FAO, CGIAR and the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- -Nono Sekhoto from the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA, WFO member), representative of the WFO Women Committee, spoke at the event "Implementing CFS Guidelines for people and planet: The role of the private sector", co-hosted by World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA), CGIAR and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Further information is available at the following link https://www.wfo-oma.org/wfo_news/the-world-farmers-organisation-at-cfs-48/

Moreover, during CFS 49 that was held from 11 to 14 October 2021, WFO was actively engaged participating in the official sessions as well as in the following side events:

- - Julie Bissonnette, who is a dairy farmer, president of the Fédération de la Relève Agricole du Québec and member of the WFO Gymnasium capacity building program for young farmers, represented the youth voice in the event “Transforming Food, Land and Water Systems for Sustainable Healthy Diets”, organised by Stanford University, WorldFish, Environmental Defence Fund, UN Nutrition, CGIAR, ILRI.
- - Khoushbou Singh Sewraj, farmer and vice-president of Falcon Association Mauritius and member of the WFO Gymnasium program, participated as panelist in the event “Youth Leadership for a Better Food Future: The World Food Forum (WFF) as a Movement by Youth and for Youth to Transform Agri-food Systems”, hosted by World Food Forum (WFF), FAO, FAO Youth Committee, Major Group for Children and Youth, Youth Alliance of Zero Hunger (of which WFO is a member of the Executive Committee).
- - Arianna Giuliadori, WFO Secretary General, represented the farmers’ voice into the side event “Rethink > Repurpose > Reform: Why and how we Need to Overhaul Agricultural Support for Better Food Security and Nutrition” Hosted by FAO, UNDP and UNEP to discuss the state of global agricultural support and how to redirect it to help shift towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Further details on WFO participation in the CFS 49 is available at the following link: https://www.wfo-oma.org/wfo_news/wfo-at-the-49th-session-of-the-committee-on-world-food-security/

Question 2

In order to spread the CFS work and outcomes within the farmers’ constituency, WFO engaged in the following activities:

- consulting its member organizations from all over the world to collect experiences about their knowledge and use of CFS policy products;
- sharing background documents prior to CFS meetings in order to get feedback from the farmers to be shared during the meetings or in response to call for written contributions;
- sharing outcomes of the meetings with the WFO membership;
- using a mailing list of more than 300 addresses to keep the WFO members constantly updated on the works of the CFS as well as requesting inputs to CFS policy documents and workstreams;
- sharing a newsletter with information on CFS activities and products;
- updating social media and website with news on the activities of the CFS and on the participation of WFO;
- mentioning and promoting the work of the CFS and its policy products during interventions in other international processes (UNFSS, UNFCCC COPs, UNDRR, HLPF, UNDRR).

Question 3

WFO takes this opportunity to express its gratitude for its involvement as ad hoc participant in the CFS OEWG meetings, Friends of the Chair meetings organised on specific topics (e.i. UNFSS implementation) as well as the official CFS sessions that took place in 2021.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that CFS representatives, including the CFS Secretary, were invited to the Global Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue of Farmers' Organizations co-organised by WFO, AFA and PAFO on 8-9 July 2021, ahead of the Pre UNFSS, as well as to other FSS dialogues organised by FOs in

preparation for the UNFSS. This provided the CFS representatives an occasion to meet farmers and listen to them directly.

However, WFO would like to reiterate that, taking into account the mandate of the Committee, official recognition should be given to the global farmers' constituency through a specific farmers' representation as official Advisory Group members, beyond their participation as ad hoc members, panelists, experts, or special guests during the various events and plenaries through the existing mechanisms. In addition, linkages between the Committee and its AG Constituencies could be improved by strengthening the link between the Permanent Representations in Rome and their Country level offices, with a stronger involvement also of the RBAs at national level. In fact, sometimes there might be a gap between the Representations' offices in Rome and the Capitals, and this may cause slowdowns in the effective spread and application of CFS products. In this regard, WFO would be happy to help facilitating contacts between governments and FOs so to bridge this gap.

Furthermore, there should be more awareness raising for communities on the ground about the existence of the Committee and the impact that its policy products could have in the policy-making process at the national level. This could be achieved for example by organising awareness raising activities (workshops, seminars, webinars, information campaigns) at the country level with the support of the RBAs through their Country offices as well as the national governments, involving also all the other CFS stakeholders through their local/national networks. This would also serve as a kind of soft monitoring mechanism for the Committee to evaluate the concrete impact of its work on the ground.

Finally, WFO would be available to organise online consultations through webinars with farmers to better understand if and how farmers receive and embrace CFS policy products. We think this could help creating a stronger link between CFS and FOs, and WFO would be happy to facilitate this activity.

Question 4

Please find below the link to the contribution shared by WFO after consulting its member organisations on the occasion of the following call for collection of inputs:

- Call for experiences in the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations on climate change and water in the context of food security and nutrition:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/comment/10519>

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/comment/10520>

- Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition - HLPE e-consultation on the Report's scope:

<https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/comment/4501>