



CFS Policy Recommendations on AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

January 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at its 48th plenary session in June 2021.

They provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The Policy Recommendations underline that there is no single approach for achieving food security and nutrition. They emphasize the importance of adopting context-appropriate transition pathways towards food systems that are resilient, equitable, diversified, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, provide healthy diets accessible for all, and respect human rights – for current and future generations.

WHY PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES INTO CURRENT POLICY FRAMEWORKS?

Agriculture and food systems are deeply intertwined with economies, cultures, societies, health, food security and nutrition, climate, biodiversity and the environment, hence are uniquely placed to impact and contribute to all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At a time when SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) targets are unlikely to be achieved

in many parts of the world and the COVID-19 pandemic further threatens the food security and nutrition of millions of people globally, challenges associated with agriculture and food systems require urgent attention.

The most affected are the poorest and people in vulnerable situations, particularly women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities. This underlines the importance of inclusiveness, as well as the availability, affordability of, and access to, adequate, sufficient, safe and nutritious foods that constitute a healthy diet for present and future generations.

Holistic and innovative approaches to address food systems' challenges have gained momentum over recent years, especially since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches are timely. COVID-19 reminded us of the importance of resilience and diversification, and of the need to integrate economic, social and environmental sustainability throughout our agri-food systems.

FOCUS AREAS

The Policy Recommendations are structured around five focus areas aimed at helping decision-makers take concrete actions that support appropriate transition pathways towards sustainable food systems.

1 Lay or strengthen, as appropriate, the policy foundations for agroecological and other innovative approaches to contribute to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

A set of 14 specific recommendations underline the need for joint actions as well as for context-specific measures. They stress the importance for policies and plans to make agroecological and other innovative approaches affordable and accessible, to contribute to equity, as well as to respond to local employment needs, in particular of people in vulnerable situations.



2 Establish, improve and apply comprehensive performance measurement and monitoring frameworks to encourage the adoption of agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

Recommendations in this focus area recognize the need to apply and further develop scientifically grounded and comprehensive performance metrics of agriculture and food systems - based on SDG indicators and supplemented by complementary frameworks. They call for assessments that adequately consider the environmental, social and economic impact of food systems.

3 Foster the transition to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches

This set of recommendations stresses the need to move towards diversified production systems that integrate livestock, aquaculture, cropping and agroforestry to enhance resilient livelihoods and promote sustainable production for healthy diets. They address a variety of key issues, such as: promoting responsible investment in support of agroecological and other innovative approaches; adopting a One Health Approach that fosters cooperation between human, animal and plant health; mitigating antimicrobial resistance; seeking alternatives to chemical pesticides and the integration of biodiversity for food and agriculture; promoting human rights; promoting an enabling environment for young people to remain in, or move to, rural areas; promoting local, national, regional and global markets, and linkages between urban communities and food producers; and harnessing the potential of digitalization for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

4 Strengthen research, innovation, training, and education and foster knowledge co-creation, knowledge sharing and co-learning, on agroecological and other innovative approaches

These recommendations recognize the role played by multi-disciplinary and participatory approaches, such as transdisciplinary science, research and innovation, dissemination and education, and the interactions between the three dimensions of sustainable development for improving sustainable agriculture and food systems. The recommendations further recognize the need to foster investment in research, dissemination/extension and education/capacity building towards agroecological and other innovative approaches.

5 Strengthen institutions for stakeholders engagement, create an enabling environment for empowering people most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and people in vulnerable situations, and address power inequalities in agriculture and food systems

This area focuses on the importance of the active participation of all stakeholders, including communities, for a greater contribution to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. This section also recognizes the need to advocate for, promote, and strive towards gender equality in the framework of agroecological and other innovative approaches.



HOW WILL THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BE IMPLEMENTED AND BY WHOM?

All CFS stakeholders and all sectors of society are encouraged to promote the use and application of these Policy Recommendations in developing coordinated and multi-sectoral food security and nutrition policies, laws, programmes and investment plans - at the national, regional and global levels - for sustainable food systems that deliver healthy diets and improved nutrition.

FIND OUT MORE:



Website: www.fao.org/cfs



Follow CFS on **Twitter**: @UN_CFS



CFS on **Facebook**: UNCF5



Email us at cfs@fao.org