

European Commission – DG INTPA / F.3 input to CFS Workstream on Uptake of CFS Policy Products

The draft outline of the action plan for increasing the impact, dissemination, ownership, use, and usefulness of the CFS policy outcomes is the result of a combined effort towards achieving CFS goals globally and is well-structured and comprehensive. Overall, the action plan demonstrates inclusivity and collaboration, taking into account also the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders in the process.

In order to further strengthen the effectiveness of this draft outline and ensure its successful implementation, certain challenges should be addressed so as to inform the preparation of the zero draft:

1. **Definition of Terms:** In order to avoid ambiguity and to ensure consistency in interpretation, it would be useful to define each term used in the action plan, especially terms like “uptake”, “use” or “usefulness”. Additionally, the terms “products” and “agreements” are used interchangeably. Clarifications like these can facilitate a shared understanding among stakeholders and enhance effectiveness.
2. **State of the Art Analysis:** It would be useful within the context of the action plan to outline the current situation with regard to each of the CFS policy products, including the degree as well as the extent of “uptake”. Additionally, analyze instances of successful cases, identifying potential factors contributing to their success. This analysis could inform future strategies for promoting the dissemination and utilization of CFS policy products.
3. **National Development Priorities:** Emphasis can be given to some kind of comprehensive assessment to identify specific areas, where the various CFS policy products can have the greatest impact. Engagement with national governments or relevant stakeholders can serve as a way to understand development agendas as well as challenges.
4. **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** In addition to promoting awareness and dissemination, the action plan could also prioritize capacity-building efforts to enhance understanding of CFS policy agreements. Technical assistance and training as well as knowledge-sharing can be envisaged in cooperation also with other entities or stakeholders, particularly in resource-constrained settings.
5. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Within the monitoring and evaluation strategy, a progress measuring mechanism can be envisaged used to inform future interventions, maximizing impact over time. Progress reports on the “uptake” of CFS policy agreements could also be incorporated into the agendas of the Bureau meetings or the CFS plenary meetings, with a focus on milestones at the 5-year and 10-year marks.

Below, some indicative suggestions to the various segments of the draft action plan. These suggestions aim at complementing the items outlined in the draft action plan and provide additional ways to expand

and enhance the impact, and effectiveness of CFS policy agreements across various sectors and stakeholders.

1. Committee on World Food Security (CFS):

- i. Along with targeted communication materials, outreach campaigns can also be developed so as to raise awareness about the benefits and implications of CFS policy agreements among key stakeholders.
- ii. Strengthen collaboration with national and regional media outlets to amplify the dissemination of CFS policy agreements and increase visibility among relevant audiences.
- iii. Explore innovative approaches, such as mobile applications and/or online platforms, to facilitate effective and immediate access to CFS policy agreements thus promoting dissemination.
- iv. Under monitoring and evaluation of the “uptake” of CFS policy agreements, the use of digital and participatory tools can be envisaged for the dissemination and communication of the findings.

2. CFS Members in their National Capacity:

- i. Promote peer exchange among CFS members to share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, in the context of peer learning, and knowledge sharing, in promoting the use of CFS policy agreements at the national level.
- ii. Instead of *establishing* national multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral structures to support the “use” of CFS policy agreements, it would be more efficient to *build upon existing* national multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral structures. To that end, national food security and nutrition committees, national sustainable development councils, or national human rights institutions can be considered for the role.

3. UN Agencies and Other International Organizations:

- i. Explore opportunities for joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy agreements leveraging the comparative advantages and expertise of different agencies.
- ii. Useful to conduct gap analysis and needs assessment to identify the opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming the CFS policy agreements in the strategies, programs and technical activities of the RBAs and also other relevant UN bodies and institutions.

4. Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations:

- i. Facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms for civil society organizations to strengthen their advocacy efforts at the national and local levels.

5. Private Sector and Philanthropic Foundations:

- i. Encourage private sector companies and philanthropic foundations to integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy agreements into their corporate social responsibility and philanthropic investments.
- ii. Enable dialogue and partnership-building between private sector and smallholder farmers, as well as producer organizations and their cooperatives, to promote inclusive business models and sustainable agri-food systems practices aligned with CFS policy agreements.