



Call for Inputs - CFS Policy Convergence workstream on Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems

SWITZERLAND: Priority issues to be addressed during the CFS policy convergence process

1. Process

Previous CFS Work on Urbanization: The CFS MYPoW 2016-2017 included urbanisation, rural transformation and food security and nutrition impacts as a priority theme. In 2018, two intersessional events were planned to further explore inputs on rural-urban linkages and continuum, one on 'The food security and nutrition implications of urbanization and rural transformation for lower income groups' and the other on 'Promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum'. The outcomes of these intersessional sessions were presented during CFS46 in October 2019. The CFS policy recommendation should build on and take into account these outcomes.

Include Local Governments and Municipal Authorities in elaboration of the CFS Policy Recommendations: As most of the food consumption takes place in urban areas, decisions made by city authorities on procurement, urban food environments and regulation offer significant opportunities for systemic change. We therefore emphasise the importance of multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-actor governance and urge the involvement of local governments and city authorities in the development of policy recommendations. A specific event with different city authorities could be organised. In addition, city authorities should be specifically invited to comment on the various drafts of the policy recommendations. Delegations should also be encouraged to involve urban authorities at the national level in the process of formulating their country's position.

Stakeholders addressed: All recommendations should clearly mention to whom they are addressed, in accordance with the different roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders.

2. Resources and concepts

HLPE-Report: The CFS policy convergence process should build on the action-oriented recommendations of the HLPE report. The report is well balanced and multiscale, and as such provides an excellent basis for developing CFS policy recommendations to strengthen urban and peri-urban food systems.

Rural-Urban Continuum and SOFI Report 2023: Urbanization is increasing in many countries and is changing agri-food systems in ways that can no longer be understood in terms of a simple rural-urban divide. The changing pattern of population agglomerations along the rural-urban continuum and its interface as a place of exchange and socio-economic interaction is reshaping and being reshaped by agri-food systems, with implications for the availability and affordability of healthy diets and, in turn, for food security and nutrition. The Policy



recommendations should consider the full spectrum of the rural-urban continuum and not just focus on urban areas. The State of Food and Nutrition in the World 2023 (SOFI) focused on urbanization and food system transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum. The report should be used as a basis for developing the CFS policy recommendations.

Six Dimensions of food security: The six food security dimensions include availability, access, utilization, stability, agency, and sustainability. The six dimensions of food security provide an expanded and evolved understanding of this complex socio-economic issue and should be applied to the CFS policy recommendations.

Right based approach: A rights-based approach is key for the recommendations.

Sustainability and Resilience: All activities, linked to sustainable transformation of urban food systems should be always in line with a larger resilience perspective (e.g., climate and pandemic resilience, infrastructure, water, sanitation, supporting sectors (education, housing, health)) and food systems diversity.

3. Content

Multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-actor governance: to ensure policy coherence and build sustainable, resilient, healthy, regenerative and inclusive food systems, leaving no one behind.

Decent Work: Rapid urbanisation is leading to an increasing number of unskilled workers in cities, who consequently have to work under poor conditions and sometimes even unpaid (e.g., food delivery). The CFS Policy Recommendation need to address the importance of decent work in peri-urban and urban food systems.

Access to reliable and affordable energy to enable healthy diets: The HLPE Report highlights in chapter 4 that factors shaping food choices within urban and peri-urban food environments extend beyond food systems issues, and therefore, require a broader suite of interventions. One important aspect in this regard is reliable and affordable energy. A case study from Colombo, Sri Lanka (see page 91) shows that although people in urban areas have access to a diverse range of foods, they are unable to prepare them due to high and sometimes increased energy prices, and thus continue to eat poorly. For instance, households are less likely to cook chickpeas, not only because they are expensive, but because they require a long cooking time, and the families cannot afford the amount of cooking fuel required to prepare them. Access to reliable and affordable energy to enable healthy diets is an important aspect to be covered.

Role of financing: The role of financing urban and peri-urban food systems transformation and resilience, including financial inclusion of small-scale and informal sector actors, is an important aspect to be covered in the recommendations. How can investments in urban food



systems best be incentivized? What kind of enabling environment leads to private sector investment and public-private partnerships supporting a sustainable transformation?

Ensuring quality and safety in short value chains: Sustainable transformation of urban food systems will be driven, among others, by short value chains, ensuring a better connection between producers and consumers and where quality and safety aspects can easier be managed and/or communicated. Quality aspects could build on a common understanding of principles related to true cost accounting, healthy diets and fair prices. The CFS Policy Recommendations should address this important issue and come up with specific recommendations.

Circular economy: Circular economy should be considered as a pathway to strengthen food system actors and thereby sustainable development of urban - and peri urban food systems. This should also include policies and practices that strengthen collection of municipal organic waste and its further processing into soil amendments.

Furthermore, the policy recommendations should address topics such as; food safety, access availability and affordability of healthy and sustainable food, behavior change through education and awareness raising, the important role of informal food sector actors and consumers, social protection, public procurement, spatial planning and land rights, gender equality and gender-transformative approaches, and leaving no one behind.