



FAO Regional Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region (APRC)

CONCEPT NOTE

Program Event: “Committee on World Food Security (CFS): Driving Food System Transformation Toward Sustainable, Healthy Diets”

Virtual, September 4th, 2020 (Bangkok 12.30 p.m., GMT+7)

Abstract: *Highlighting the CFS’s collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach toward global policy convergence, this event will highlight CFS and its partners’ ongoing work to develop Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – for expected adoption at CFS 47 in February 2021 – ahead of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2020, and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. Participants should come away with a clear understanding of the CFS, its major products, and the need for cross-sectoral, whole-of-government approaches to transform food systems toward diets that are healthy for both people and planet.*

Background

As recognized by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit 2019¹, there is an urgent need to accelerate action by all stakeholders at all levels to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda. According to the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report², 690 million people are hungry (8.9 percent of the world’s population – up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years). If recent trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030. Asia/Pacific is home to more than half of the total undernourished people in the world – an estimated 381 million people in 2019. Yet, the prevalence of undernutrition in the population for the region is 8.3 percent, below the world average (8.9 percent), and below half that of Africa. Asia/Pacific has progressed in reducing the number of hungry people recently (down 8 million since 2015). Nonetheless, Asia/Pacific must still deal with stunting, wasting, rising obesity rates, and diet-related non-communicable diseases that cost governments billions of dollars. The CFS Guidelines will address the complex links between under-nutrition, obesity, and environmental sustainability in our current food systems, and recommend policy convergence in the most important areas associated with food and health, including in pandemics. Partnering across borders, across sectors, and with the private sector and civil society is essential to such convergence and to effective outcomes.

¹ Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (A/HLPF/2019/L.1)

² SOFI 2020 Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/online/ca9692en.html>



Concept

During this 30-minute virtual event, the CFS Chairman (Thailand) will be joined by regional policy-makers and experts to address the ongoing work of the CFS. Specifically, they will address key aspects of the draft CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition with a specific focus on its relevance to regional governments, the importance of cross-sectoral policy coordination, and “uptake” of the Guidelines by regional leaders once adopted at CFS 47.

By attending this CFS-organized side event, participants will be able to:

- Identify the CFS, its roles, and its relevance of its products to the Asia/Pacific region;
- Understand how the CFS draft Voluntary Guidelines (VG’s) on Food Systems and Nutrition can contribute to regional, national, and local food security strategies;
- Recognize the urgency of collective action to effectively use CFS VG’s on Food Systems and Nutrition (and other major CFS products) to achieve SDG-2 targets.

Panelists:

- Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the Rome Agencies
- Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Mr Honourable Afioga Lopao Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries of Samoa
- Mr Makoto Osawa, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Japan
- Ms Erin Sweeney, Manager, Sustainable Business & Investment, Grow Asia
- Respondent: Ms Shalmali Guttal, Executive Director of Focus on the Global South and representative of the CFS Civil Society Mechanism
- Respondent: Mr Stuart Oda, Founder, Alesca Life and representative of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism

Run of Show

12:30am	CFS Secretary Chris Hegadorn, moderator, welcomes audience, outlines objectives and welcomes FAO DG to make brief remarks;
12:32am	Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO DG makes brief remarks on CFS and its food systems/nutrition Voluntary Guidelines;
12:36am	Moderator poses questions to panelists (panelist CV’s below);
12:38am	Panelists (starting with CFS Chair) address what CFS and others are doing to help transform food systems to deliver affordable healthy diets for all;
12:50am	“Respondents” from civil society and private sector give brief remarks on the CFS, its key products/role, and regional efforts to transform food systems;
12:56am	Panelists give summary remarks (1-minute each);
13:00pm	Session ends

SPEAKERS' BIO

Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Qu Dongyu took office on 1 August 2019 as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Born in 1963 to a rice-growing family in China's Hunan Province, Qu studied horticultural science at Hunan Agricultural University and then plant breeding and genetics at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He later added environmental science to his

knowledge portfolio while earning a PhD at Wageningen University, in the Netherlands. Before joining FAO, Qu served as China's Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, where one of his achievements was to promote inclusive and innovative development and make sure information and communication technologies (ICT) were available in rural areas so that more than 400 million farmers could use their smartphones as a new farming tool. His motto is "Simple life, but not simple work".

Mr. Honourable Afioga Lopao Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries of Samoa



Honourable Afioga Lopao is the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa. He holds a Certificate in Law from the University of the South Pacific (USP) and a Certificate in Advance Parliamentary Governance from McGill University in Canada. Lopao is a proud farmer with 35 years of experience in the Civil Construction Industry in Samoa and New Zealand, particularly in the transport, water and energy sectors. He is a member of the Pacific Water and Wastes Association (PWWA) and an Associate Member of the Institute of Professional Engineers in Samoa (IPES).

Makoto Osawa, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Japan



Mr. Makoto Osawa is currently Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan. His distinguished 36-year career has included positions in Japan's overseas missions, including the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva, as well as senior postings in various ministerial departments. A graduate of Tokyo University's Faculty of Law, Mr. Osawa became Vice-Minister for International Affairs in July of 2019.



Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, CFS Chairperson and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the Rome agencies



Mr. Thanawat Tiensin was elected as the Chairperson of CFS in 2019. He is the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN agencies in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP). He was a former acting Assistant Director General and Senior Expert in International Livestock and Veterinary Policies in charge of international trade and regulations on veterinary and SPS related issues at Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. He had worked as

Regional Project Coordinator on Smallholder Dairy Development Programme in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand. He also worked as an international consultant on disease surveillance and control, livestock emergency response, SPS/import risk analysis, capacity building and project management for FAO, IAEA, EU, OIE, and ADB projects in North Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, and Indonesia. Outside of work, his main interests are family, gardening, swimming, running, cycling, badminton, travelling, and outdoor activities.

Ms Erin Sweeney, Manager, Sustainable Business & Investment, Grow Asia



Erin is Manager, Sustainable Business and Investment at Grow Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that catalyzes action on inclusive agricultural development in South East Asia. Erin leads the implementation of the action plan for the ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI), as well as Grow Asia's gender mainstreaming initiatives. Erin is trained as an urban planner specializing in food systems policy, and has worked and lived in the United States, South America, South Asia and the Caribbean. Erin was

a Fulbright Scholar based in Singapore where she conducted research on urban food systems and consumer demand for locally-grown food.

Ms Shalmali Guttal, Executive Director of Focus on the Global South and representative of the CFS Civil Society Mechanism



Shalmali Guttal is the Executive Director of Focus on the Global South (Focus). She has been working on economic development, trade-investment, food and land rights, and ecological and social justice issues for over 25 years, with emphasis on community rights to resources, women's rights, and democratization of resource governance. Focus has been a member of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) since its establishment. Ms. Guttal has been actively engaged in several CFS processes, notably the VGGT, RAI, HLPE Report on Water and Nutrition, HLPE Report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, and is currently involved with the negotiations on CFS Guidelines on Food Security for Nutrition



Mr Stuart Oda, Founder, Alesca Life and representative of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism



Stuart is an investment banker turned urban farmer passionate about sustainability, innovation, and impact. He co-founded Alesca Life, an agricultural technology company developing solutions to improve food security, food safety, supply chain transparency and farming efficiency. His goal: democratize access to fresh and nutritious food by democratizing the means and knowledge of production. Stuart is an UCLA alumni and

previously worked in the investment banking division of Merrill Lynch Japan Securities in Tokyo and the emerging market business strategy team at Dell China in Beijing.