

An HLPE Inquiry on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition

Notice on the Questionnaire

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), at its plenary session in October 2013, requested the HLPE to produce a ***Note on critical and/or emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition.***

As for other HLPE studies, a central element of the work consists of documented inputs by the scientific community and a wide range of knowledge networks and knowledge holders.

This will be collected through a public inquiry, by means of the attached questionnaire.

Through this questionnaire, the HLPE is not inviting opinions or advocacy on issues but specifically requesting documented evidence in support of the issues brought forward.

Unless requested otherwise by the respondent, each reply will be made available to the public as part of the inquiry proceedings. Results will inform the work on the HLPE. More information on the related specific HLPE process is available at www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe.

Please fill a separate form for each issue.

Replies to the questionnaire are expected by 15 March 2014 by e-mail at cfs-hlpe@fao.org .
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The HLPE thanks in advance all participants for their contributions.

How to fill the questionnaire?

Section 1: Overview of the issue

Respondents are requested describe the issue in just a few lines, as well as the underlying methodology and approach used for its identification. Further evidence and references are also important and can be added in a specific field at the end of the questionnaire (in section 6).

The issues brought forward in the questionnaire might be either “challenges” or “opportunities”, or both, simultaneously, depending on the specific context, for example depending on the region or kind of impact studied. Whether the issue is a challenge and/or an opportunity, the questionnaire allows the respondent to propose one or more “solutions” which in the respondent’s view would lead to overcoming the challenge or taking the opportunity.

Section 2: Broad typology of the issue

Respondents are invited to categorize the issues according to the following broad typology: (i) is the issue an external driver or internal to food systems; (ii) what is the primary dimension of the issue itself, and (iii) what is the primary dimension of the impact on food security and nutrition. For these two questions, respondents are invited to precise the main category according to the classic dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, governance (including institutions and rights) or environmental dimensions, or to specify one other main dimension.

Section 3: Attributes of the Issue

Respondents are invited to detail how, and to which degree, the issue affects different aspects of food security and nutrition. This section helps to characterize the issue: first, by indicating whether and how much the issue affects one or several of the four “classical” dimensions of food security, and second, by giving information on additional attributes:

- Whether the issue affects food and nutrition systems as a whole or specific, critical parts?
- The breadth of the issue — how many people are affected
- The scale of the issue: local, regional and/or global
- The effects of the issue on already marginalized and vulnerable peoples or groups
- Whether there are gender specific effects, any specific effects on mothers, on children?

Section 4: Time-scale

The questionnaire asks about the time scale of both the issue raised and the actions needed to address it (short, medium and/or long term)?

Section 5: Degree of Confidence

The respondents are invited to provide an estimation of the degree of confidence on the above assessment: this is an evaluation of the quality of the understanding of the issue presented and its impact on food security and nutrition, in terms of the currently available evidence.

Section 6: Additional Supporting Information

Respondent can provide additional supporting information, references, indication of knowledge gaps, or other piece of evidence to support the replies.

The HLPE Steering Committee, 9 January 2014.