Rome, 3rd September 2013

High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

Project Team for the report on

Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems


Following the open electronic consultations on the scope of the study and the open call for candidatures, as per the HLPE Rules and Procedures, the Steering Committee of the HLPE has constituted the following Project Team for this study (short bios are attached).

Vishweswaraiah Prakash (Team Leader, India)
Jane Ambuko (Kenya)
Walter Belik (Brazil)
Jikun Huang (China)
Toine Timmermans (the Netherlands)

The Project Team will work in the preparation of this report under the Steering Committee’s guidance and oversight.

Next steps

Based on the results of the electronic consultation on the proposed scope of the study, and under the HLPE Steering Committee oversight and guidance, a first version (V0) of the report will be elaborated and submitted to further expert input and feedback through open electronic consultations. This is expected to take place starting in November 2013.

The HLPE will then further elaborate the report according to the results of the V0 electronic consultation, submit the draft to scientific external peer review, prior to its finalization and ultimate approval by the HLPE Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the HLPE, the HLPE Secretariat
Vishweshwaraiah Prakash (Project Team Leader)

Dr V. Prakash is currently working as distinguished scientist CSIR-INDIA in the prime areas of food science, food technology, food safety, food and nutrition security, nutraceuticals and biotechnology. Dr Prakash had his early education at Bangalore and obtained his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Mysore. He has more than 200 research papers in national, international peer reviewed journals and more than 500 presentations in national and international seminars, symposia and conferences. He is the author of 4 books and 20 review chapters in books and journals in addition to more than 55 patents to his credit including Patents in US and Europe. Dr Prakash is the current President of the International Society of Nutraceuticals And Nutrionals (ISNAN), of the Indian Academy of Nutraceuticals and Nutrionals (IANAN), and of the Nutrition Society of India (NSI). He is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (I), National Academy of Sciences, Indian National Academy of Engineering and International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST). Dr Prakash is recipient of prestigious awards including the Padma Shri by the Honorable President of India in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation in the field of Science and Engineering.

Jane Ambuko

Jane Ambuko is a lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection and head of the Horticulture unit. Her area of specialization is postharvest science and technology. Her research focus is postharvest loss management in horticultural commodities, especially among small holder farmers. She is currently working in several multi-institutional research projects focused on increasing productivity and profitability of horticultural and related enterprises. She has authored several journal articles and conference papers in Postharvest Science and related disciplines. Dr. Ambuko holds a BS in Agriculture and MS in Horticulture from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and PhD in Agricultural Sciences (Postharvest Science Major) from Tsukuba University, Japan, receiving additional training from the Postharvest Technology Center and University of California Davis, USA. She has also received extensive training in Phytosanitary Standards and Regulations through various initiatives including FAO, KEPHIS and USDA. Dr. Ambuko is a 2012-2013 fellow of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) program. She is also a 2013 beneficiary of the Norman Borlaug Fellowship through which she undertook professional scientific collaboration (in Postharvest Science) with Michigan State University, USA.

Walter Belik

Walter Belik is Full Professor of Economics at UNICAMP - University of Campinas in São Paulo, Brazil. He is Ph.D. and M.S. in Agriculture Economics, B.A. in Business Administration, developing studies on agroprocessing for food and bioenergy. Prof. Belik was Visiting Fellow in ILAS, University College, London, in 1993, and in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley, in 2003. He was Coordinator of Center for Studies and Research on Food (NEPA) at UNICAMP, Brazil, for five years. During this period, NEPA developed the first official national food nutritional composition table of Brazil. He was one of the coordinators of Zero Hunger Project, a wide academic research that turned into public policy in Brazil from 2003. During the period 2003-07 he was member of the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition. Also, Zero Hunger was the inspiration for the Initiative Latin America and Caribbean without Hunger, project based on FAO regional office, which was coordinated by him from 2007. In the academic field, Prof. Belik has published more than 200 national and international articles, books, chapters and short texts. As voluntary, he was Director of the NGO “Apoio Fome Zero” and is still member of the council of “Prato Cheio” Food Bank.
Jikun Huang

Jikun Huang is the Founder and Director of Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor at Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research. He is vice-president of Chinese Association of Agricultural Economics and Board member of several international organizations. Previously he held research positions at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He received his Ph.D in agricultural economics from the University of the Philippines at Los Banos in 1990. His research focuses on agricultural policy and rural development. He received Award for China’s top ten outstanding youth scientists in 2002, Outstanding Achievement Award for Overseas Returning Chinese in 2003, Outstanding Contribution Award on Management Science in 2008, the UPLB Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008, and 2010 IRRI’s Outstanding Alumni Award. He has published more than 380 journal papers, of which about 190 papers published in the international journals. He is co-author of 18 books.

Toine Timmermans

Toine Timmermans is program manager Sustainable Food Chains at Food & Biobased Research, part of Wageningen UR. He obtained his MSc in Agricultural Engineering from the Wageningen University and a post-doc in Business Strategy at the University of Groningen. He is Theme Director at TI Food & Nutrition for Food Chain Sustainability & Dynamics. With the ambition to achieve radical innovations to increase resource efficiency in the food supply chain, by added value creation & reducing food loss, improved valorization of resources and develop closed loop supply chains. He is coordinator of the EU FP7 research project FUSIONS: Food Use for Social Innovation by Optimising waste prevention Strategies. The first pan-European multi-stakeholder project to tackle food losses and reduce food waste. Toine is active in coordinating and executing of research related to the reduction of food wastage since 2002. An example of a recent initiative is the design of a global network of Excellence Post harvest losses in developing and emerging countries.
The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the central international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, where policies can be designed, interventions can be coordinated, options can be shared and decisions at different levels can be prepared.

The new CFS is inclusive. In addition to member countries, the Committee includes a wider range of organizations working on food security and nutrition, from UN agencies like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and other UN bodies. It also includes civil society and non-governmental organizations, particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people.

The High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) was created in October 2009 as an essential element of the reform of CFS, and as the science-policy interface of the CFS, HLPE reports, analysis and advice serving as a comprehensive, shared, multi-faceted evidence-based starting point for policy debates at CFS.

The HLPE aims to help CFS to better understand the diversity of issues and rationales when dealing with food and nutrition insecurity. It strives to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. The HLPE organizes a scientific dialogue, build upon the diversity of disciplines, backgrounds, knowledge systems, diversity of its Steering Committee and Project Teams, and open e-consultations.

The HLPE is not mandated to conduct new research. The HLPE will draw its studies based on existing research and knowledge already conducted by various expertise-providing institutions (universities, research institutes, international organizations etc), and adding value by global, multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary analysis.

HLPE recommendations and studies will combine scientific knowledge with experiences from the ground, in a same rigorous process. The HLPE will translate the richness and variety of forms of expert knowledge from many actors (knowledge of local implementation, knowledge based on global research and knowledge of “best practice”) that draw on both local and global sources, into policy-related forms of knowledge.

Key functions of the HLPE, as stated in the CFS reform document

As directed by the CFS Plenary and Bureau, the HLPE will:
1. Assess and analyze the current state of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
2. Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific policy-relevant issues, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
3. Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.

The HLPE has a two-tier structure:
- A Steering Committee composed of 15 internationally recognized experts in a variety of food security and nutrition related fields.
- Project Teams acting on a project specific basis, selected and managed by the StC to analyze/report on specific issues.

More information about the HLPE can be found on its website: www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe