

Rome, 24th February 2014

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

Project Team for the report on Water and Food Security

The CFS, in its 40th session, requested the HLPE to prepare a report on Water and Food Security for its 42nd session in 2015, as follows:

“In the follow-up of major international events such as Rio+20 and the World Water Forum, the HLPE will further explore the “water and food security” issue. Water has an important role in food security through its multiple impacts on: health and nutrition (drinking water, cooking water, sanitary aspect/diseases), on agricultural production (access to water, water management, improvement of irrigation and dryland agriculture) and on food processing (water management, quality of water...). This topic should be seen in the wider context of the nexus between water, soil, energy and food security which is recognized as a pillar of inclusive growth and sustainable development. The HLPE report could put together information on how countries and regions are addressing the management of this important resource.

Through a food security lens, the HLPE will focus its analysis on water for agricultural production and food processing, taking also into account gender-related aspects. More specifically, the HLPE could, from a food security perspective, assess the impacts of water management practices on food security, including water usage for agricultural production, food processing and other ways of consumption. It should also consider in particular issues related to the sustainability of irrigation systems, the salinization of agricultural land and the reduction of the quality of the ground water. On this basis, it will give appropriate recommendations so as to improve water and food security policies, as well as coordination among the different fields and actors at all levels, with a long-term perspective.”

Following the open electronic consultations on the scope of the study and the open call for experts (115 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):

Lyla Mehta (Team Leader, Austria)
Oscar Cordeiro-Netto (Brazil)
Theib Oweis (Jordan)
Claudia Ringler (Germany)
Barbara Schreiner (South Africa)
Shiney Varghese (India)

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.

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

Lyla Mehta (Project Team Leader)



Lyla Mehta is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies and a Visiting Professor at Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences. She trained as a sociologist (University of Vienna) and has a Ph.d. in Development Studies (University of Sussex). Her work focuses conceptually and empirically on the multifaceted nature of water and scarcity and how they are shaped by politics, culture, gender and power relations, rights and access. She has extensive field experience in India and different parts of sub Saharan Africa where she has examined water and sanitation dynamics as well as water management in a range of ecological contexts (dryland and irrigated agriculture, urban/peri-urban areas). Recently, she worked on linkages between land and water governance in the context of large scale land and other resource acquisitions, to inform relevant national and global debates and policy, with research focusing on the perspectives and experiences of poor and marginalized women. She has authored and co-authored numerous publications, including *The Politics and Poetics of Water* and *The Limits to Scarcity*.

Oscar Cordeiro-Netto



Oscar De Moraes Cordeiro-Netto is Professor at University of Brasilia (UnB), Brazil, head of the Graduate Program on Environmental Technology and Water Resources. He has a BSc in Civil Engineering and a DEA and PhD in Environmental Science and Technology at ENPC (École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées), Paris, France. He is also President of the Brazilian Water Master Plan Commission (CTPNRH) and member of Technical Committee of GWP – Global Water Partnership. He started his career in 1978 as an engineer in CAESB - The Sewage and Water Company of Brasilia. In 1982, he started working at the Brazilian Water and Electric Federal Agency. Between 1988 and 1994, in France, he worked on projects involving microeconomic analysis of benefits of dams, evaluation of environmental public policies and development of project evaluation methodology for dams. Once back in Brazil, in 1995, he started as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brasilia in 1995 and since then he has taught graduate and undergraduate courses, directed students and led research projects. Between 2004 and 2008, he was Director of ANA – National Water Agency, the federal agency with the mandate to enforce the Brazilian Policy on Water Resources.

Theib Oweis



Theib Y. Oweis is currently the Director of the Integrated Water and Land Management Program at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA, a CGIAR center based in Amman, Jordan). He joined ICARDA in 1991 and worked in several capacities as scientist, principal scientist, team leader and manager. Earlier he worked with the University of Jordan in Amman, as an assistant professor in irrigation and drainage engineering and in the 70's worked for Dar Al Handash Consultants (Shaer and Partners) on spate irrigation in Yemen. He holds a MSc and PhD in Agricultural and Irrigation Engineering from Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA in 1978-1983. Has over 40 years of experience in international research and education, development and human capacity building and in the management of water for agriculture especially in the dry environments. He built and managed a water and land program at ICARDA with over 50 projects implemented by research teams in over 35 developing countries in the dry area. He is author of over 200 refereed journal publications, books/book chapters and conference proceedings in the areas of improving agricultural water use efficiency, supplemental irrigation, water harvesting, agricultural water productivity, deficit irrigation, salinity and the management of scarce water resources. He contributed to promoting at the global level of the concepts of water productivity and water savings practices in agriculture.

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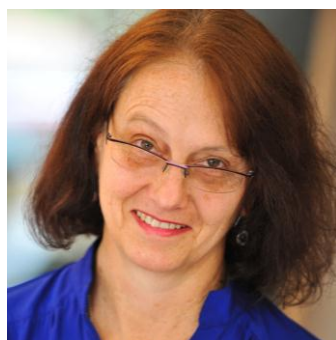
Claudia Ringler



synergies of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Claudia Ringler is Deputy Division Director of the Environment and Production Technology Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute. She received a MA Degree in International Development Economics from Yale in the US and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Center for Development Research at University of Bonn, Germany. At IFPRI, Claudia co-leads the Institute's water research program and is also a theme leader of the Strategic Research Portfolio on Basins of the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems. She is currently also a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Water Systems Project and a member of the Global Water Partnership Water Security Taskforce. Claudia's research interests are water resources management – in particular, river basin management – and agricultural and natural resource policies for developing countries. Over the last several years she has also undertaken research on the impacts of climate change for developing country agriculture and on appropriate adaptation and mitigation options. She has more than 80 publications in the areas of water management, global food and water security, natural resource constraints to global food production, and the

Barbara Schreiner



Management in South Africa – Designing and Implementing a New Policy Framework. She has worked in a number of SADC countries, on projects that span Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, with the SADC water sector, and in Asia. She was member of the international Global Water Partnership Steering Committee for several years and a Board member of the international CGIAR Water for Food Challenge Programme. She is currently on the Board of the International Water Management Institute, the Programme Oversight Panel of the Aquatic Agricultural Systems research programme of the CGIAR, and Chairperson of the Water Research Commission of South Africa.

Barbara Schreiner is Executive Director of the Pegasys Institute, a not-for-profit think tank on water management and development in Africa. She has 20 years of experience in the water and environmental sector – experience that includes 12 years in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa, first as special advisor to Minister Kader Asmal, and finally as Deputy Director General: Policy and Regulation. She has a Masters in Environmental Science, awarded with distinction from Cape Town University. She is an experienced senior manager with considerable expertise in issues of implementation of policy, monitoring and evaluation, integrated water resources management, trans-boundary water management, and gender, poverty and development. She has written extensively on issues of water resources management in developing countries, and recently co-edited a book on Transforming Water

Shiney Varghese



Shiney Varghese is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Minneapolis based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. She works on global initiatives on water governance, focusing on the water and climate crises, their impact on food security of small holder producers, especially women, and possible local solutions that emphasize equity, environmental justice and sustainability. From 2001, Shiney has been leading IATP's work on right to water. She worked as co-chair of the Fresh water caucus at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. She is particularly interested in looking at the intersection of climate, energy, water, and food crises; and analyses proposed solutions for their implications for right to water and right to food. Prior to this, she worked in India on social and environmental issues for more than a decade with indigenous groups, civil society organizations and international groups such as Oxfam. Shiney has presented and published extensively on right to water, agro-ecological indicators, gender issues, and on global water policy initiatives. She currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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**, with 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 thrives to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. The **HLPE** organizes a scientific dialogue, built 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** draws 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 combine scientific knowledge with experiences from the ground, in a same rigorous process. The **HLPE** translates 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 (2009)

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** is directly linked to the foremost international policy platform for food security and nutrition, the **CFS**. This ensures the legitimacy and relevance of the studies undertaken, and their insertion in a concrete political agenda at international level.

The **HLPE** produces its recommendations and advice independently from governmental positions, in order to enrich discussions and debates at **CFS**. The internal process is crafted to guarantee the scientific inclusiveness and the independence of the **HLPE**.

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