
Knowledge and Information for Sustainable Food Systems

A Workshop of the FAO/UNEP Programme on Sustainable Food Systems

Agenda

The FAO-UNEP programme on sustainable food systems, supported by the Agri-food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), is catalysing partnerships among United Nations agencies, other international agencies, governments, industry and civil society whose activities, together, can promote the necessary transition to sustainability. It has vocation to be integrated within the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP), adopted at the Rio+20 Conference. This multistakeholder mechanism will aim at building capacity for the uptake of more sustainable consumption and production practices across food systems bringing together existing initiatives and developing new partnerships to build synergies and cooperation towards mutual objectives.

In 2013 the FAO/UNEP programme organized a first workshop on “Voluntary Standards for Sustainable Food Systems: Challenges and Opportunities”.¹ The roles of public and private actors in the development, implementation, evaluation and promotion of voluntary standards were discussed. The conclusions noted that voluntary standards are key tools to share information with consumers in order to better enable them to drive production by their consumption choices. In turn it requires appropriate mechanisms to gather, transmit and share knowledge along food chains.

A second workshop on Knowledge and Information for Sustainable Food Systems will be organized on 10–11 September 2014, at FAO headquarters, Rome.

Improving knowledge collection and sharing is a key area of work to progress towards more sustainable food systems (SFS), taking into consideration the environmental, economic and social dimensions, and the need to ensure food security and nutrition for all without compromising these for future generations. The Task Force members have emphasized the need to better identify the requirements and perspectives of the various types of actors, in terms of data and means to access them, to identify and assess existing data and gaps, and to identify and assess existing knowledge-sharing tools and mechanisms. They also underlined the need for indicators to measure all impacts of food production and consumption, otherwise there is a risk of prioritizing the most easily measurable and

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3421e/i3421e.pdf>

perhaps least appropriate indicators. To be better integrated in decision-making, such indicators should link and integrate inputs and impacts with processes and outputs.

The workshop will contribute to provide perspectives on knowledge and knowledge needs for SFS, including information platforms, identification of gaps and needs, guidelines for comparing and gathering data, tools for consumer information and education, initiation of regional and national groups, and principles for credible standards, tools and incentives.

The workshop will aim to answer four crucial questions: 1) what are the knowledge needs; 2) what are the tools available; 3) what data are available; and 4) what do we need to do? The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to the finalization of the new 10YFP-SCP, which will be presented to the 10YFP Board for its approval.

Wednesday, 10 September 2014

- 09.30 – 9.45 Opening remarks
 FAO: Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
- 09.45 – 11.05 **SESSION 1: GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NEEDS**
 Chair: Patrick Mink, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland
- 09.45 – 10.00 Feeding Knowledge Programme – the International Scientific Network on Food Security (EXPO MILAN 2015) (Damiano Petruzzella, CIHEAM-Bari).
- 10.00 – 10.15 FAO’s common vision, principles and approach for the transition towards sustainable food and agriculture (Jean Marc Faurès, FAO, Land and Water Division)
- 10.15 – 10.30 Knowledge on systemic issues for multistakeholder processes: the experience of the High Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition (HLPE) (Vincent Gitz, Coordinator HLPE)
- 10.30 – 10.45 Academic partnerships for sustainable food systems (Kakoli Ghosh, FAO, Partnership Unit)
- 10.45 – 11.05 Discussion
- 11.05 – 11.20 Coffee break
- 11.20 – 12.40 **SESSION 2: KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTORS**
 Chair: Unati Speirs, Department of Trade and industry, South Africa
- 11.20 – 11.35 Sustainable solutions for tropical agriculture – Brazilian experiences (Sávio José B. Mendonça, Embrapa’s management team, Brazil)
- 11.35 – 11.50 Accounting for water in agriculture in the context of sustainable food production under growing water scarcity (Filiberto Altobelli, INEA -National Institute of Agricultural Economics)
- 11.50 – 12.05 Addressing nutrient management performance (Christian Pallière, International Fertilizer Industry Association - IFA)

- 12.05 – 12.20 Sustainable food systems: the social dimension and gender implications (Ilaria Sisto, and Gina Seilern, FAO, Social Protection Division)
- 12.20 – 12.40 Discussion
- 12.40 – 13.40 Lunch
- 13.40 – 14.45 **SESSION 3: INCENTIVE TOOLS AND INFORMATION NEEDS**
Chair: Imke Haenen, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Netherlands
- 13.40 – 13.55 Overview of the development of voluntary standards in USA (Elise Golan, Office of the Chief Economist, US Department of Agriculture).
- 13.55 – 14.10 National Plan of Sustainable and Healthy Gastronomy, Costa Rica (Roberto Azofeifa, Ministry of Agriculture, Costa Rica)
- 14.10 – 14.25 Knowledge and information for sustainable food systems – incentives for ecosystem services (IES) in agriculture (Bernardete Neves, FAO, Land and Water Division)
- 14.25 – 14.45 Discussion
- 14.45 – 15.50 **SESSION 4: LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS**
Chair: James Lomax, United Nations Environment Programme
- 14.45 – 15.00 LCA in the agri-food sector (Paolo Masoni, SETAC/ENEA).
- 15.00 – 15.15 Towards a framework for sustainability life cycle analysis: a case of the livestock sector (Carolyn Opio, FAO, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)
- 15.15 – 15.30 The ENVIFOOD Protocol: facilitating consumer choice for greener products (Herbert Aichinger, Food SCP Round Table/European Commission)
- 15.30 – 15.50 Discussion
- 15.50 – 16.05 Coffee break
- 16.05 – 17.10 **SESSION 5: FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE**
Chair: Florence Agyei, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
- 16.05 – 16.20 Food losses and wastage: scenario of India (Krishna Kumar Singh, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India)
- 16.20 – 16.35 Food recovery and redistribution: identification and monitoring of (i) societal needs, (ii) institutional frameworks, and (iii) options for operational implementation (Camelia Bucatariu, FAO, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division)
- 16.35 – 16.50 Food losses: a methodology for appraisal (Robert VanOtterdijk, FAO, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division)
- 16.50 – 17.10 Discussion

- 17.10 – 18.00 **SESSION 6: FOOD CHAIN APPROACHES**
 Chair: Roberto Azofeifa, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock,
 Costa Rica
- 17.10 – 17.25 Knowledge management for sustainable food value chain development
 (David Neven, FAO, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries
 Division)
- 17.25 – 17.40 Implementing ecodesign in the R&D organization at Nestlé (Urs
 Schenker, Nestlé)
- 17.40 – 18.00 Discussion

Thursday, 11 September 2014

- 09.30 – 10.20 **SESSION 7: GLOBAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS**
 Chair: Elise Golan, US Department of Agriculture, USA
- 09.30 – 9.45 SAFA - The SAFA Database and SAFA Small APP for sharing
 knowledge, benchmarking performance and facilitating capacity-
 building (Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, FAO, Climate, Energy and Tenure
 Division)
- 09.45 – 10.00 Connecting the dots: incentives and challenges to use food safety and
 sustainability information on farm level in the entire supply chain –
 learnings from GLOBALG.A.P. (Kristian Moeller, GlobalG.A.P.)
- 10.00 – 10.15 How to assess the sustainability of diets. The example of the
 Mediterranean diet (Sandro Dernini, FAO, Sustainable Food Systems
 Programme)
- 10.15 – 10.35 Discussion
- 10.35 – 10.50 Coffee break
- 10.50 – 13.00 **SESSION 8: WAY FORWARD**
 Chair: Emalene Marcus-Burnett, Permanent Mission of Barbados,
 Switzerland
- 10.50 – 11.05 Using national dialogue for understanding knowledge and data gaps for
 transitioning to more sustainable food systems – an African perspective
 (James Lomax, UNEP & Unati Speirs, Agro-Processing, Department of
 Trade & Industry, South Africa)
- 11.05 – 11.20 The role of knowledge in transitions to sustainable food systems
 (Allison Loconto, FAO, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries
 Division)
- 11.20 – 13.00 Wrap up and Conclusions