

## 2<sup>nd</sup> HLPE Inquiry on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition

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### Notice on the Questionnaire

In October 2013, the CFS requested the HLPE to produce a *Note on critical and/or emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition*. This request came in the context of the CFS's own ongoing discussion on the selection and prioritization of its activities.<sup>1</sup> This first note was released in August 2014.<sup>2</sup>

In October 2015, at its 42nd Plenary Session, the CFS decided that this HLPE note shall be updated at least every four years, depending on funding availability and the HLPE workload, and released in due time to be used at the starting point for the process of elaboration of the following CFS multi-year programme of work (MYPoW).

In this perspective, at its meeting on July 8th, 2016, the CFS Bureau requested the HLPE to produce a second "*Note on critical or emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition*" (hereunder referred to as the C&EI note), no later than the end of 2017.

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 consultation**, 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 consultation proceedings. Results will inform the work on the HLPE: more information on the related HLPE process is available on the HLPE website at [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe).

*Please fill a separate form for each issue (instructions below).*

Replies to the questionnaire are expected by **6 October 2016** by e-mail at **[cfs-hlpe@fao.org](mailto:cfs-hlpe@fao.org)**.

*The HLPE thanks in advance all participants for their contributions.*

<sup>1</sup> In the CFS context, a clear distinction needs to be made between (i) issues of relevance to food security and nutrition, which are the object of the present knowledge-based exercise by the HLPE, and (ii) CFS activities, which are not the object of the present exercise as they are discussed and decided upon at the level of the CFS, by its own, distinct processes.

<sup>2</sup> See: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/hlpe/hlpe\\_documents/Critical\\_Emerging\\_Issues/HLPE\\_Note-to-CFS\\_Critical-and-Emerging-Issues\\_6-August-2014.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/Critical_Emerging_Issues/HLPE_Note-to-CFS_Critical-and-Emerging-Issues_6-August-2014.pdf)

## **How to fill the questionnaire?**

The HLPE is seeking **evidence-based, rationally inducted and documented inputs on critical and emerging issues for food security and nutrition through the form of a questionnaire (attached), primarily directed to the scientific community as well as to the diversity of knowledge networks and knowledge holders: institutions, organizations, knowledge networks and individuals.** Unless requested otherwise by the respondent, each reply will be made available to the public as part of the inquiry proceedings. The results will inform the work of the HLPE StC. This questionnaire will be used in two ways:

- The HLPE will formally seek inputs from some major institutions, organizations, of global and regional knowledge networks in the area of food security and nutrition.
- As commonly practiced by the HLPE with other work streams, contributions from a wide range of knowledge holders will be sought through a public online electronic consultation.

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

Respondents are invited to fill a separate form for each critical and/or emerging issue they identify.

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.

**In section 1**, respondents are invited to first describe the issue in just a few lines, as well as the underlying methodology and approach used for its identification.

**In section 2**, respondents are invited to categorize the issues according to the following broad typology:

- is the issue an external or internal driver to food systems?
- what is the primary dimension of the issue itself?
- what is the primary dimension of the impact on food security and nutrition?

For the last two questions, respondents are invited to identify the main category according to the 3 classic dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. They are also invited to stress whether the issue is mainly related to governance (including institutions and rights) or to specify any other dimension of sustainability impacted by the issue.

**In section 3**, 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, national, 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?

**In section 4**, 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)?

**In section 5**, the respondents are invited to provide an estimation of the degree of confidence on the above assessment, i.e. 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.

**In section 6**, the respondents are invited to indicate how the issue is integrated in the overall framework of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and to identify the most relevant sustainable development goal(s) relevant to this issue and, if relevant, the existing links with other Agenda 2030 SDGs or targets.

**In section 7**, they are invited, the case being, to indicate the existing relations with any other critical and emerging issue for food security and nutrition

Finally **in section 8**, respondents can provide additional supporting information, such as further evidence and references or indication of knowledge gaps.

*The HLPE Steering Committee, 6 August 2016*