



Launch of the HLPE Report

Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?

1 July 2016

Amira Gornass
CFS Chairperson

Opening statement

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee, Dr. Patrick Caron,

Dear Project Team Leader, Mr. Wilfrid Legg,

Dear FAO, WFP and IFAD colleagues,

Ladies and gentleman,

Good morning.

I'm really pleased to welcome you all for the launch of the 10th CFS High Level Panel of Experts Report on *Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?*

As you know, CFS independent High Level Panel of Experts is an essential element of the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, in 2009. Its role is very important in bridging the gap between science and policy and in helping us understand and depoliticize issues to support the Committee on World Food Security in reaching agreement on controversial issues. The solid evidence base the High Level Panel of Experts provides is instrumental in deciding what policy changes are needed to achieve food security and nutrition.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the High Level Panel of Experts' Steering Committee and Project Team, for having this year again, delivered the report on time for our debates.

HLPE reports aim to provide a comprehensive analysis, strongly based on science, scientific evidence; clarify contradictory information and knowledge; explain the backgrounds and rationales and identify emerging issues. These reports are elaborated through an inclusive process, built on diverse disciplines, backgrounds, knowledge systems, and different Steering Committee members and Project Teams.

The HLPE reports are widely used as reference documents, not only as a solid basis for our political discussions within the CFS, but also in the UN System, the scientific community as well as by political decision-makers and stakeholders, at international, regional and national levels.

I'm sure that, as the previous ones, this 10th report, through its comprehensive analysis, will help us understand how we can reconcile livestock farming with sustainable agricultural development and what the contribution of livestock to food security and sustainable development is.

I had a chance, before this meeting, to go through the Summary and Recommendations released last week and I'm happy to see that the set of Recommendations looks concise, clear, concrete and closely linked to the main findings of the report as presented in the Summary. I'm convinced that it will provide a sound basis to elaborate operational CFS policy recommendations.

I would like to congratulate the High Level Panel of Experts for having adequately covered in this report the three dimensions of sustainability which relate not only environment but also economics and social aspects that are so often neglected.

Knowing the theme of the report, and having had the chance to read the Summary and Recommendations, I expect this content may generate a lot of discussions among us in the coming weeks. But I am confident that, with the help of the Rapporteur, Dr. Yaya Olaniran, the report will serve once again its purpose and will help the Committee reach consensus, agree on key issues and, in October, endorse the right policy recommendations to promote sustainable livestock and sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition.

The topic of "Sustainable agricultural development: What roles for livestock?" is highly relevant to our discussions in CFS as sustainable agriculture, including livestock, is the heart of "sustainable food systems". The HLPE defined as "food systems that ensure food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised".

It is also relevant to the Agenda 2030, in particular to SDG 2 (*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*), and can contribute to CFS general reflection on the SDGs.

It also relates to the implementation of the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and to the achievement of the United Nations' commitment to the Right to Food.

Before passing the floor to you, Dr. Caron, I would like to underline the importance of this meeting for our following discussions in CFS, and for the preparation of our next Plenary Session in October, and to express once again my thanks to you and the whole HLPE Steering Committee and Project Team, Dr. Wilfrid Legg, for your dedication and hard work in delivering this report. I believe the discussion we will have today is an important milestone in the process of developing convergence of policies to achieve food security and nutrition through sustainable agriculture.

I wish you a rich and a fruitful interaction and discussion after the presentation.

Thank you!