

Rome, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013

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

### **Project Team on**

### **The Role of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition**

The CFS, at its 39th session in October 2012 the CFS has requested its High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to undertake a study on The Role of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition (cf CFS 39 final report, paragraphs 21-a, available at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/en/>).

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).

**Christophe Béné (Team Leader, France)**  
**Moenieba Isaacs (South Africa)**  
**Vijay Gupta Modadugu (India)**  
**Meryl Williams (Australia)**  
**Ningsheng Yang (China)**

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*

**Christophe Béné (Project Team Leader)**



Christophe Béné is a Research Fellow in the Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction team at the Institute of Development Studies in UK. He is a socio-economist with field experience in more than 20 developing countries in the Caribbean, South and South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Pacific region. Before joining IDS, he worked 3 years as Research Fellow in the Center for Economic and Management of Aquatic Resources at the University of Portsmouth (UK) and then 7 years as Scientist and then Senior Advisor for the WorldFish Center – one of the 15 centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). He has been involved in many international expert consultations with FAO, the World Bank, UK-DFID and the Challenge Programme on Food and Water. He has a PhD in fisheries sciences from the University of Paris, a post-graduate Diploma in Development Economics from the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia (UK), and a Master and a BSc degree both in Marine Environmental Sciences, from the University of Marseille (France). He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, and several book chapters.

**Moenieba Isaacs**



Moenieba Isaacs is an Associate Professor with the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of Western Cape. Her research focus is on understanding the social and political processes of fisheries reform in South Africa, mainly through the lenses of small-scale fisheries policy processes and implementation. She is the regional coordinator and engages in participatory action research, and is collaborating with Masifundise (local NGO) in a Global Partnership for the future of Small-Scale Fisheries funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council in Canada, 2012 -2018. Her research in South Africa and the region aims to enhance the understanding and real contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security, nutrition, sustaining livelihoods, poverty alleviation, wealth generation and trade, as well as the impacts and implications of global change processes such as urbanization, globalization, migration, and climate change on small-scale fisheries. She co-chairs the Human Dimension Working Group on Integrated Marine Bio-geo-chemistry Ecosystem Research (IMBER).

**Vijay Gupta Modadugu**



Vijay Gupta Modadugu is the former Assistant Director General of the WorldFish Center, holding a Ph.D degree in fisheries from University of Calcutta, India. He worked with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the UN-ESCAP, FAO and the WorldFish Center for over 50 years in different countries of Asia on the benefits of small-scale aquaculture to the rural poor, especially women. As a research coordinator of the International Network on Genetic in Aquaculture, he coordinated genetics research projects in Asia, Africa and the Pacific for 9 years. He has been a consultant to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, FAO, DANIDA, USAID, FAO, UNDP, Commonwealth Secretariat, and many others and assisted in project identification, formulation, monitoring and impact assessment. He is also chair of research advisory committees of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He received many awards and honorary doctoral degrees, and is recipient of the World Food Prize in 2005.

## Meryl Williams



**Meryl J. Williams** is recognized for her achievements in science, research management and outreach in fisheries and aquaculture for food security, gender equality and social welfare, and environmental conservation. She is currently engaged in a number of non-executive leadership positions, including Chair of the Seafood Services Australia Common Language Custodian Group, member of the Governing Board of the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation and is an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Sea Research* and on the Editorial Board of the *Asian Fisheries Science* journal. She has established *Genderaquafish.org*, a key global website on gender in aquaculture and fisheries. She also leads the Asian Fisheries Society project to develop an online information system for Asia-Pacific fisheries and aquaculture, called *AsiaPacific-FishWatch*. She was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Technology and Engineering in 1993 and awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2004, the

Asian Fisheries Society elected her as an honorary Life Member. In 2010, she was named an 'Outstanding Alumnus' of James Cook University, Australia.

## Ningsheng Yang



**Ningsheng Yang** is a professor and senior scientist of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Scientists (CAFS). His research background is on fishery information analysis and economics. He is also chair of Information and Economy Section of the Chinese Society of Fisheries, vice chair of Information Section of China's Society of Agriculture, the Chinese representative of the FishBase Consortium and member of Section on Human Dimensions of Marine Systems, The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES). He has also been a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Network of Aquaculture Center in Asia and Pacific (2002-2008).

## 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 thrives 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** 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**. Thus, the internal process and its results guarantee 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](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe)