

Rome, 9 January 2012

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) appoints the Project Team on Social Protection and Food Security

In October 2010, the CFS requested the HLPE to conduct a study on social protection and food security, and more specifically on *“ways to lessen vulnerability through social and productive safety nets programs and policies with respect to food and nutritional security, taking into consideration differing conditions across countries and regions. This should include a review of the impact of existing policies for the improvement of living conditions and resilience of vulnerable populations, especially small scale rural producers, urban and rural poor as well as women and children. It should also take into account benefits for improving local production and livelihoods and promoting better nutrition.”*

Final findings are to feed the CFS in view of its plenary session of October 2012.

As per the HLPE procedures, the preparation of the report will be undertaken by an HLPE Project Team, under the responsibility of a Team Leader and under the oversight of the HLPE Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee of the HLPE is pleased to announce that it has appointed the following Project Team for its study on Social Protection:

Stephen Devereux (South Africa, Team Leader)

Wenche Barth Eide (Norway)

John Hoddinott (Canada)

Nora Lustig (Argentina)

Kalanidhi Subbarao (India)

Next steps

The HLPE Steering Committee will now finalize the scope of the study based on the results of the electronic consultation and in consultation with the Project Team Leader. The Project Team will elaborate a first version (V0) of the report, expected for March 2012, which will be submitted to further expert input through an open electronic consultation. The HLPE will use the FSN forum to channel that consultation. The Project Team will then produce a draft report (V1) that will be submitted by end of April 2012 to anonymous external scientific peer review, before being finalized. According to the provisions of the Rules and Procedures for the work of the HLPE (article 32), prior to their publication, the final reports are to be approved by the HLPE Steering Committee. This is scheduled to take place in June 2012 at the 5th meeting of the HLPE Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the HLPE, the HLPE Secretariat.

Stephen Devereux (Project Team Leader)



Stephen Devereux (D.Phil Economics, Oxford) is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK. He has over 25 years experience, working almost exclusively on issues of food security and social protection, at global level and in over 12 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. His expertise includes conceptual work, empirical research, policy advice, and teaching and training. He has published seven books and numerous journal articles, research reports, conference presentations and commissioned papers on food security and social protection. He is an Associate Editor of the journal 'Food Security', and a founding Director of the Centre for Social Protection.

Wenche Barth Eide



Wenche Barth Eide is a professor (emer.) at the Department of Nutrition, University of Oslo. Her interest and work has particularly been with public nutrition issues and the food security aspects of nutrition as public concern and responsibility. She has for three decades worked with linking food and nutrition security to the international human rights institutional framework. A co-editor with Uwe Kracht of a two volume book "Food and Human Rights in Development" (Intersentia 2005, 2007) she has also published widely on the issue in other forms and is active in teaching the global dimensions of nutrition including human rights, being also the academic coordinator of a collaborative master programme between Norway and universities in Africa on "Nutrition, Human Rights and Governance". She has served as the first Technical Advisor in Nutrition to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has been on the Board of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and is currently member of the Board of the International Foundation for Science (IFS).

John Hoddinott



John Hoddinott, D.Phil (Oxford), is Deputy Director of the Poverty Health and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute. Dr Hoddinott has extensive experience, designing and implementing the evaluation of social welfare and rural development programs, including conditional cash transfer programs and public works in countries as diverse as Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Mexico, and South Africa. He is the co-author of a widely cited book on the pro-poor targeting of interventions in developing countries.

Nora Lustig



Nora Lustig is Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics at Tulane University and a nonresident fellow at the Center for Global Development and the Inter-American Dialogue. She was co-director of the World Bank's World Development Report 2000/1, *Attacking Poverty*, and she is currently the director of the Commitment to Equity Project and editor of the *Journal of Economic Inequality's* Forum. A sample of her recent publications includes: *Declining Inequality in Latin America. A Decade of Progress?*; *Thought for Food: the Challenges of Coping with Soaring Food Prices*; *The Microeconomics of Income Distribution Dynamics*; *Shielding the Poor: Social Protection in the Developing World*. Dr. Lustig received her doctorate in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Her current research focuses on assessing the impact of fiscal policy on inequality and poverty in Latin America.

Kalanidhi Subbarao



Kalanidhi Subbarao was until recently a lead economist in the Africa Region of the World Bank, responsible for research and operations in social protection, poverty and vulnerability. He is currently a consultant on safety nets and social protection in the Human Development Network Anchor on Social Protection. Prior to joining the Bank, he was a professor of economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and a visiting research fellow at the University of California at Berkeley. At the Bank, Dr. Subbarao's analytical and policy work was mainly in the domain of safety nets. He published extensively on the subject, is the lead author of the Bank's publications *Safety Net Programs and Poverty Reduction: Lessons from Cross Country Experience*, and *Reaching Out to Africa's Orphans: A Framework for Public Action*. His current research interests include ageing and poverty in Africa and the role of social pensions, understanding risk and vulnerability in rural Kenya, food aid and food security policies in Asia and Africa. His past India work was focused on agricultural price policy and income distribution, equity and efficiency of farm price and input subsidies, distributional implications and cost-efficiency of India's public distribution system and other anti-poverty programs.

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, participate in the Committee a wider range of organizations working with 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 organisations 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 scientific and knowledge-based pillar of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

The **HLPE** aims to help **CFS** to better understand the diversity of issues and rationales when dealing with food and nutrition insecurity. To do so, it will thrive to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. This will among others build upon the diversity of disciplines, backgrounds and regional origins of the Steering Committee members and of Project Teams.

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