

PSM Plenary Session
**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: BUILDING A GLOBAL
NARRATIVE TOWARDS 2030**

8th February 2021, Rome

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Thank you Chair for the opportunity to provide some comments and reflections from PSM members on the HLPE Report. The Report has been prepared in challenging times and we acknowledge the effort and commitment made. The Report comes at an important time, as we prepare the UN Food Systems Summit, and the PSM is pleased to have been invited to join in the work of all the Action Tracks where PSM members are now actively engaged.

Moving towards the Food Systems Summit, the Report notes correctly where more work is needed. Firstly, the Report notes that “more research is needed” on the different models of sustainable agriculture and we welcome that. However, we do recognize that a great deal of this research and analysis already exists and needs to be better captured such as climate smart agriculture, precision agriculture, agroecology, regenerative agriculture and other innovative models. The Report includes “potential” opportunities but not the opportunities being implemented now. This also includes the need to examine and recognize that ‘no one size fits all’, and that there are trade-offs between the many approaches. The HLPE 14 Report was originally tasked to do this.

Secondly, the Report also highlights that “more research is needed on declining public investment” for Food Security and Nutrition. Again, we

would suggest there is much existing research and evidence from the UN, OECD, World Bank, IFPRI and other research institutions and this follows up on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing sustainable development. We had highlighted this relevant research as requested at the time of the electronic consultation and believe it remains a valid input, and one that will benefit the discussions at the Food Systems Summit.

Mr. Chairman as a Kenyan woman farmer who has grown into a role aggregating crops, I can assure you that those of us on the ground that the Recommendations to “improve public investment” and “encourage investment” are not enough to say. We have all been saying this for years. What we lack are enough concrete recommendations on how to actually get finance into the hands of family farmers and SMEs. Priorities also include the shocking gap of infrastructure including bandwidth in rural areas.

We are concerned that the Potential Policy Directions and Recommendation do not foresee any role for private sector. In this regard, the ‘Bonding Science and Policy to Accelerate Food Systems Transformation’ conference last week, and we thank the Government of France for their support, provided several ideas for the way forward. The discussion on international scientific cooperation and alliances highlighted the need to build combinations of all the best science, including the private sector, noting the progress made in addressing the Covid pandemic by cooperating in such alliances.

This narrative is not yet a narrative that will help us achieve the SDGs. Mr. Chairman, we on the ground need more clear and concrete steps to

address the shortfalls we face in access to finance, technology, infrastructure and means of production. 2030 is not far away so it is time – nine harvests as the Director General of FAO said - to be concrete.

Thank you.