

## **Written Remarks by IFAD**

**CFS 51 Plenary Session | 24 October 2023**

### **Agenda Item VI: Leveraging the Use of Data for Driving Food Security and Nutrition Policy: Endorsement and Uptake of the Policy Recommendations on Strengthening collection and use of FSN Data Collection and related Analysis Tools.**

Chair, the CFS Policy Recommendations on strengthening collection and use of FSN data have come at a critical moment when global food security is in a precarious condition. The global community has to take the right decisions and actions to mitigate this crisis. Such decisions have to be informed by credible evidence that is based on high-quality data and sound methodologies of data analysis.

Without doubt vast amounts of data are generated and collected, thanks to investments in national statistics and improved technologies such as use of geospatial data and application-based data collection processes that have significantly reduced the cost of data collection. Despite this, some types of data essential to inform FSN policies such as those on food supply chains, food loss and food waste, micronutrient intake, indigenous food systems and the role of women in food systems are still lacking in quantity and quality. Even where data are available, there is a lack of awareness and skills to effectively use them. There are still many countries that do not systematically collect agricultural data. There is a need to address these inequalities in data availability, access and use. We support the CFS recommendations on the need for increased investments in capacity strengthening, data infrastructure and technology and this is a significant step in the right direction. As we seek the endorsement of the recommendations, we recognise the great responsibility that comes with it, in terms of collecting, sharing, analysing, and using data ethically and securely, respecting the privacy and rights of the people behind the numbers. Thus, emphasis is needed on advocating for best practices on data governance of FSN data.

IFAD is proud to be part of the global efforts for better FSN data and particularly its use for policy decision making. As such, IFAD is investing in the area of data use for policy and is part of the 50x2030 Initiative - a joint initiative together with FAO and the World Bank, that aims to strengthen country capacity to produce and use agricultural and food security data in 50 L/LMICs by 2030. The Initiative works closely with country-stakeholders to strengthen country data systems. Rather than create parallel data systems, it builds on the existing foundations. It provides support to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to enhance the availability and quality of agricultural and FSN data. It promotes innovations that facilitate swift and cost-effective data collection and analysis. Within the Initiative, IFAD leads the component on promoting data use for decision-making in countries. It uses a framework that advocates seven specific factors that need to be addressed and in place to support data use in countries impactfully - Availability, Access, Awareness, Demand, Expertise, Utility and Trust. Accordingly, data use activities are country-led with the use of a participatory process to prioritise the type of support needed from the Initiative. Significant achievements have thus far been made by the 50x2030 Initiative in the production and use of data and the Initiative continues to scale up and intensify its activities. In addition to IFAD involvement with the 50x2030 Initiative, IFAD contributes to data availability by collecting data on small producers engaged with projects financed by international organizations to produce data for decision-making.

To conclude, IFAD is ready to play its part in the efforts to implement the CFS Policy Recommendations.