

Dear CFS secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the joint proposal by Italy and CSM to monitor the use and application of other CFS policy recommendations at CFS 46.

We believe that collating and sharing examples of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices around the implementation of the CFS products is essential to the process of understanding the effectiveness of CFS products more broadly. Monitoring actions and results associated will allow us to establish a key platform for improvement and iteration.

All CFS policy products are important, but it should be recognized that clustering three policy product versus focusing exclusively on one stand-alone product may lead to a diluted effort and further hinder our collective ability to take stock on the effectiveness of CFS products. We share the concern and interest shared in recent months, in the context of the CFS evaluation Implementation Report, of the importance of monitoring CFS products and believe a focussed review of one policy product would develop the needed approach and format.

With the number of hungry people in the world currently on the rise, it is especially critical to take every opportunity to gain insights into the **effectiveness of investing in smallholder agriculture** which aligns with the 5-year review cycle originally agreed under monitoring. The exclusive focus will give more time to prepare for the event, allowing interaction with stakeholders at national and regional levels leading to more specific feedback on sensitive issues, constraints and obstacles that need to be addressed.

In the context of the draft proposal, while we recognise the importance of the International Year of Family Farming and the relevance to the proposal but we would not combine the terms smallholders and family farmers as the Rationale suggests. Family Farms offers a different perspective of farming stakeholders and not just one group and the International Year is intended to address all Family Farmers and not just smallholders. So the event would need to be clearer as to whether it was addressing smallholders (in line with the policy document), or the broader group of Family Farmers.

The private sector pledges to continue to use its expertise to support programmes and build partnerships that contribute to the goals of the various CFS policy products.

Sincerely,
Sid



Sid Mehta
Executive Vice President