Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

Based on the summary of the report, please find below written inputs from WFO working groups on climate change and food security:

- Para 1-2, p. 2: Can agroecology be defined as a science or a science-based approach?

- Para 16, p. 4: it is not in the interest of the farmers to create distinctions between sustainable intensification and agroecology. On the opposite, agro-ecology and sustainable intensification should be integrated in a vision of an efficient, smart and sustainable agriculture that can provide solutions to the many challenges we are facing including, food security, climate change, biodiversity loss, in the transition to SFS. More priority could therefore be placed on commonalities, so that the benefits of both approaches could be applied in unison.

- Recommendation 1, para b: performance metrics should be devised in close consultation with farmers, to ensure that these metrics are relevant to both regional conditions and specific commodities. This relevance is critical to measuring the capacity of communities to define food systems and nutritional outcomes. Successful measurement of this capacity would help instil “agency” as a fifth pillar of FSN.

- Recommendation 2, para a iii: Intellectual property rights must also be designated to stimulate research and development of innovative new products. The incorporation of intellectual property rights, including patent protection in trade agreements, must respect the interest of farmers including the adequate protection of farmer-saved seed.

- Recommendation 2, para a iv: It is critical that any strengthening of regulations be done in a science-based manor; one that examines the best patterns of use and chemical formulations needed to protect human health and the environment. A ban or restriction of such products based more on political decisions instead of scientific evidence, would not be helpful. In fact, in order to produce healthy and affordable food, farmers should always rely on the broadest possible toolbox, where multiple alternatives are offered to them prior to any product cancellation.

- Recommendation 2, para a v: Ecosystem services are critical to modern economies and human quality of life. There is a need to provide a market mechanism to value the EG&S that farmers have been providing to ensure the maintenance now and for future generations of these public benefits on private land. Programs and policies that economically support the land stewardship practices of farmers by recognising the market value of the resulting goods should be a priority outcome of building the desired social capital and public bodies.

- Recommendation 3: As a form of successful form of private and public R&D investment, it is important to mention the excellent example of model or demonstrative farms. These farms can serve as venues to partner government, universities, private industry and farmers in the development of best management practices.

- Recommendation 3, para f: Bridging this gap should potentially aim to rectify power imbalances by providing the scientific sector new avenues to transmit knowledge through digital tools (e.g. social media, streaming platforms). Stronger emphasis could potentially be placed on communicating the methods used to generate and validate knowledge about food production and processing.

- Recommendation 4, para b: International trade agreements and regulatory measures must be designed to complement and maximize the benefits agriculture provides to environmental sustainability. Environmental measures directly impacting trade should fully comply with all WTO agreements and other bilateral and regional trade agreements and be subject to full WTO disciplines and/or dispute resolution mechanisms

- Recommendation 4, para f: a special focus should always be kept on creating a deeper relation between farmers and consumers is key to ensure the transition to SFS

- Recommendation 5, para a: It is important to reiterate that farmers have to be at the hearth of any decision, including the one related to performance metrics: those metrics should be devised in close collaboration with farmers, to ensure that they are relevant to both regional conditions and specific commodities

- Recommendation 5, para e: it Is important to reiterate that any assessment should be science based in order to be liable.