

## I Evolving CGIAR and CFS

CGIAR is the world's largest public agricultural research network comprising 15 international research centres working in close collaboration with hundreds of partners: government bodies, national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

- Dr Kalibata is familiar with CGIAR: mentioned CIP Board meeting event with her in Rwanda; with FAO DG, Dr Qu Dongyu, in his previous role as Vice Minister of Agriculture of China

**Since then**, CGIAR is undertaking an institutional innovation, towards a unified and integrated One CGIAR to adapt to a changing world, while making it more relevant and effective.

The process to One CGIAR includes, unified governance and management, and a unifying mission of "Ending hunger by 2030 – through science to transform food, land and water systems in a climate crisis", focused on five Impact Areas: nutrition, poverty, gender, climate, and environment in support of the SDGs.

- In view of the pivotal role of the UN RBAs, it is welcome news that Dr Kanayo Nwanze (the ex – President of IFAD, AGRA Board member, and member of the CGIAR oversight body), and Dr Kalibata have been in discussion last week on him being the **CGIAR Special Representative** to UNFSS.

## II Engagement with CFS, regarding UNFSS

**The dissemination of CFS policy products is a mechanism for the implementation of SDGs which is the major focus of UNFSS.** The CFS outcomes comprise policy products focusing on FSN and the SDGs. The CFS brief for today's dialogue notes that the world's current food systems are failing – for people, for the environment, and for our shared future; and that scientists have identified food systems and nutrition as one of the key entry points to accelerate the world-wide transition to a more sustainable trajectory. Two principal on-going CFS policy processes, which involve CGIAR in AG /technical task teams/WGs and authorship of HLPE papers, which are especially pertinent to UNFSS are the Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems, and the VG on FSN. These draw on many of the earlier CFS policy guidelines, and re-enforce several of the UN decade initiatives, such as UNDFP.

**The SDGs provide the overall strategic direction, and research priorities for the CGIAR Portfolio. The impact of CGIAR programmes in the policy sector is our link to CFS outcomes.**

A major channel of CGIAR impact derives from the contribution of its research results and outcomes to policies and investments at national and international levels. The current CGIAR Annual Performance Report noted that 105 such policies/strategies, legal instruments and investments were modified in their design or implementation, informed by CGIAR research. This involved 1,003 partnerships.

## III CGIAR's Contribution to CFS 46

1. Dr Kalibata facilitated an important side event on the first day: **Strengthening Smallholder Food Systems. Productive Alliances.** CGIAR participated in all plenary sessions. CGIAR provided convener/ co-organiser/ panellist roles in 9 of the 55 side events. I mention just one:

Partnering for impact: a research and development response to SDG2: CGIAR and FAO partnership in agricultural research and development for sustainable food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods. Participants included FAO senior staff and from CGIAR included Dr. J. L. Restrepo, DG. of the Alliance of CIAT and Bioversity.

**IV CFS meeting on COVID 19 Pandemic.** Most of us were at the virtual meeting on 19 March. The CGIAR input was from myself and Dr James Garrett, of the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, who is CGIAR representative on the CFS FSN work stream.

Dozens of developing countries have ordered lockdowns. We see in today's press the heavy impact in India and Nigeria. South Africa has deployed the army to help enforce such measures. Pakistan's Prime Minister said: "if we shut down the cities...we will save people from corona at one end, but they will die from hunger." The most fragile countries and most vulnerable people will pay the price: poverty will accelerate and hunger will follow.

CFS' Chair's COVID 19 statement noted: 'Never before has it been so important for all of us to focus our collective energy and efforts on promoting resilient, sustainable food systems'. The work CGIAR does is anchored on resilience: individual, community, environmental and economic. We will continue to provide the research and evidence base to improve livelihood and environmental resilience through agriculture innovations. CGIAR has made all research and analysis available to CFS and all partners on a dedicated Covid-19 page, and is working to pivot relevant programs to implement a coordinated response across the System.

## V Conclusion: **CGIAR and 5 commitments to the UNFSS**

1. **Increase the level of importance of sustainable and resilient food systems** – by mobilizing the world's largest public agricultural research network—close partnerships with national governments, farmers, civil society organizations, private enterprise, and the UN.
2. **Transition to One CGIAR** – heralding a unifying mission to end Hunger by 2030- through science to transform food, land and water systems In a climate crisis - will be in place ahead of and support UNFSS
3. **Mark CGIAR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021** – reviews of programmatic contributions to SDGs underway which should be useful support to UNFSS agenda
4. **Appoint a CGIAR Special Representative to UNFSS, Kanayo Nwanze** – (ex IFAD President, and currently member of the CGIAR oversight body) and to assist coordinating our planning with UN Special Envoy
5. **Elevate the role of science and evidence-based food system policy and innovations** – with CFS and RBAs including the 5 impact areas mentioned before and depicted here



Dr Rod Cooke

CFS Advisory Group member, representing the CGIAR System Organisation