

## THEME OF THE HLPE REPORT FOR 2024 – WITH DRAFT DECISION

### Note for Bureau and Advisory Group members.

The below draft decision has been agreed at the last round of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings held on 29 July and it is currently posted as part of the CFS 50 official documents. On 27 September, after consulting with the Advisory Group, the Bureau is expected to agree on a proposal for the theme of the 2024 HLPE report and related workstream to be submitted to CFS 50. At the Bureau meeting on 29 July, a strong convergence emerged around the theme of urban food systems and rural transformation, including its potential relevance and links to CFS's draft Policy Recommendations on youth employment and engagement. The theme originally proposed by the HLPE-FSN as part of its Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition has been further elaborated by the CFS Secretariat to align its content with the "thematic workstreams" format normally included in the strategic section of CFS Multi-Year Programmes of Work.

### **MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### 1. The Committee:

- a) Considers document "CFS 2022/50/8 "Theme of the HLPE Report 2024 – with Draft Decisions", as presented by CFS Chairperson Gabriel Ferrero;
- b) Requests the CFS HLPE-FSN to undertake the following study [Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation] to be prepared and presented by the CFS HLPE-FSN in 2024;
- c) Requests that the theme of the 2028 CFS HLPE-FSN report be included in the next MYPow (2024-2027).

### **Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation**

#### Rationale

Growing urbanization, combined with the reorientation of urban and peri-urban agricultural lands to more profitable uses, have been gradually leading to a "geographical decoupling" of urban areas from sources of food supply, posing higher risks for food security and nutrition. In the absence of specific food systems planning across the rural-urban continuum, the sale and consumption of highly processed foods is growing in most urban centers, while local commerce that delivers healthy, fresh food at affordable prices is neglected, with negative impacts on food security and nutrition.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture is an important option with potential positive impacts on dietary diversity, quality of city spaces and community action and empowerment. Yet, in most cities, there is little state support for it. Instead, current regulations in urban areas and the market value of land limit the opportunities for local production.

With almost sixty percent of the global population currently living in urban areas, it is imperative to address the challenges of urbanization in relation to rural transformation to “build back better” in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic as well as in relation to the impact of climate change and conflicts. The current multi-layered global food crisis points to the potential of the territorial dimension of food systems – addressing poverty and inequality, building resilience and social inclusion and fostering sustainable livelihoods.

### Objectives and expected outcomes

The objective of the workstream is to create a set of policy recommendations on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation as a key means of achieving the CFS vision, SDG2, and an array of other SDGs, including SDGs 1, 10 and 11.

The CFS policy recommendations on urban and peri-urban food systems are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented document that will encourage coordinated policies for food security and nutrition across rural, urban and peri-urban areas, taking into account the specific needs of, and synergies between, diverse rural and urban contexts.

The workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of a HLPE report on the topic. The report will examine the following key questions:

1. How can urban and peri-urban food systems be made more equitable and accessible both for food system actors and in terms of food security and nutrition outcomes?
2. How can urban food supply chains, formal and informal, local and global, be made more resilient to ensure food security and nutrition within urban settings, in particular for food system workers in the informal economy?
3. What changes are needed in urban planning to better support all dimensions of food security, including support for human rights and agency as well as sustainability, especially for the most vulnerable and those in informal settlements?
4. How can national and municipal governments strengthen the potential for low-carbon, inclusive, relatively self-sufficient and resilient cities and towns to drive improved food security and nutrition in the wake of climate change and crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic?
5. What are the most appropriate policies along the rural-urban continuum to address issues of land tenure, urban expansion into previous farmland, migration to urban areas and the growing competition for natural resources?



6. What are the potential benefits and challenges of territorial markets for strengthening food security and nutrition for urban populations?
7. In what ways can the incorporation of climate-smart agriculture and circular economy practices in urban and peri-urban agriculture provide climate co-benefits for all and enhance climate resilience?
8. How can citizens be engaged and empowered to drive inclusive, transparent, participatory processes for urban transformations and how can complementarity between top-down and bottom-up approaches be ensured?