

Zero Draft – 11 February 2022

CFS INPUTS TO THE 2022 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)
Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while
advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development

CFS Chairperson's Summary

I Proposed key messages for inclusion in the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration

☒ **COVID-19 has had severe and lasting impacts on food security and nutrition, on the ability to lead healthy lives and on the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, particularly of the most vulnerable.** There are as many as 161 million more people facing hunger in 2020 than in 2019; due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, adding up to 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred. (Source: CFS 49/Report, para 10 b)

☒ **The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated existing structural risks, fragilities inequalities, and injustices in our food systems,** as well as the continuous impact of conflicts, diseases, poverty, inequalities, economic downturns and climate change. The multidimensional and multilevel nature of the crisis and the possibility of recurrent pandemic point to the need for continued attention and multilateral coordination. (Source: CFS49/report para 12 f)

It has shown that agriculture and food systems are embedded in, and interact with, wider environmental and human-made systems (such as economies, ecosystems, and landscapes). (Source: CFS Policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, para 6)

☒ **To prevent and reduce negative impacts to food systems as a result of a crisis or pandemic, governments at local, subnational and national levels have a leading role in collaboration with private sector, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders** to support small and family farmers and small and medium enterprises, and to ensure food supply chains and food systems continue to function, the rights and health of all people with particular focus on food system workers are protected, the most vulnerable have access to social protection programmes, and that humanitarian assistance and food safety are prioritized. (Source: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, para 12)

▣ **Recovering from the pandemic offers an opportunity to advance the 2030 Agenda through more inclusive and sustainable of food systems, integrating sustainability in its three dimensions throughout agriculture and food systems.** This calls for a systemic and holistic approach to foster transition - in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities - to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture and food systems including through agroecological and other innovative approaches. (Source: CFS Policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, para 6)

▣ **This demands context-appropriate food system transformation. That demand is evidenced in the HLPE report “Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030”;** **SOFI, 2021; UNFSS outputs, and is a major element in the two CFS policy products (2021): VG FSyN , and policy recommendations on Agro-ecological approaches and other innovations. Today a unified global effort is needed to transform food systems to advance human and planetary health to their full potential. This demand is also articulated in the 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy¹ of the CGIAR which is to deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.**

~~This entails adopting context appropriate transition pathways towards food systems integrated in our 2030 Agenda strategies, that are resilient, equitable, diversified, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, provide healthy diets accessible for all, and respect human rights. (Various sources)~~

II - CFS assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic

(Source: CFS 49/Report, para 10 b) At its 49th session, under agenda item II on “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021, its policy implications and the role of CFS in the context of COVID-19”, the Committee expressed deep concern over:

- i. The estimated 720 to 811 million people facing hunger in 2020, as many as 161 million more than in 2019;
- ii. The 660 million people who may still be facing hunger in 2030, in part due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, adding up to 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred;
- iii. The nearly 2.37 billion people without access to adequate food in 2020, representing an increase of 320 million people in just one year;
- iv. The estimated 3 billion people unable to afford a healthy diet and the associated higher levels of moderate or severe food insecurity;
- v. The millions of children under 5 years of age who were affected by stunting (149.2 million), wasting (45.4 million) or overweight (38.9 million);
- vi. The increasing gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A comprehensive and in-depth review of the main trends affecting food systems that have resulted from COVID-19, as well as an analysis of the pandemic’s implications for the various dimensions of food security is provided in the Issues Paper prepared by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE) in March 2020. The latest version of the Issues Paper, updated in September 2021, is presented in Annex I as part of this Chairperson’s Summary, noting that its content was not negotiated by CFS members and stakeholders through a formal policy convergence process and, therefore, not considered a negotiated CFS text that represents the viewpoint of all CFS stakeholders.

1. CGIAR is designing its work with partners to realize transformative change across five SDG-focused Impact Areas: (i) Nutrition, health, and food security; (ii) Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs; (iii) Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion; (iv) Climate adaptation and mitigation; and (v) Environmental health and biodiversity. Three key areas of research include the transformation of entire, connected food systems, the development of greater resilience, and the potential of genetic innovation.

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Additional, targeted activities and actions aimed at collecting evidence and drawing lessons from the pandemic among CFS stakeholders included:

[placeholder for bullet points to be provided by CFS stakeholders]

[CFS discussions \(CFS 47, February 2021\) drew on the CGIAR's International Livestock Research Institute \(ILRI\), and a presentation on 'Coping strategies, lessons learned and building resilience to prevent future pandemics'. ILRI, is working on the 'One health issue' to integrate human, animal, and environmental health sciences. Earlier contributions to the HLPE COVID papers included a CGIAR paper 'Responding to COVID-19: CGIAR's contribution to global response, recovery and resilience. One element of that is the "CGIAR COVID-19 knowledge Hub": a mechanism for coordinating CGIAR's research response to COVID-19. That hub \(hosted by CGIAR Centre, IFPRI\) also includes IFPRI's COVID -19 Policy Response \(CPR\) portal.](#)

III – CFS deliberations on recovering from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path” while seeking to “realize the human rights of all”. Agriculture² and food systems are deeply intertwined with economies, cultures, societies, health, food security and nutrition, climate, biodiversity and the environment, and hence both impact and are uniquely placed to contribute to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2021, as a significant contribution toward the implementation of the 2030 agenda, CFS developed and endorsed Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches (Annex II). They provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The Policy Recommendations underline that there is no single approach for achieving food security and nutrition. They emphasize the importance of adopting context-appropriate transition pathways towards food systems that are resilient, equitable, diversified, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, provide healthy diets accessible for all, and respect human rights – for current and future generations. (Source:

Additional deliberations on recovering from the pandemic were also made by CFS at its 49th session in October 2021, where the Committee: (Source: *CFS 49/Report, paras 11 and 12*):

- took note that the SOFI report underlines that food system transformation is required to address the problem of millions of people that are unable to afford healthy diets;
- called for a systemic and holistic approach to food systems transformation and encouraged that it be done in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with, and dependent on, national context and capacities;
- Took note of the following comments by Members and Participants:
 - a) The call for global solidarity, multilateralism and cooperation as the world's greatest assets to set it back on track to achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2);
 - b) The need to build on the momentum created by the UN Food Systems Summit to bolster efforts towards ending food insecurity and malnutrition; 4

² Throughout this document, agriculture refers to crop and livestock production, aquaculture, fisheries and

forestry.

c) The need to focus on the nexus between integrated food systems, food security and nutrition, poverty, inequalities, trade, climate change, water, sustainable agriculture and on the role of women, youth, and data to maximize the impact of actions across all 17 SDGs; This focus drew also on the CFS48 (June 2021) discussions, including the side-events on ‘Scaling-up agricultural innovation: Opportunities to deliver for people, nature and climate at COP 26’; ‘Addressing knowledge and implementation gaps on agro-ecological transitions: a way forward for research and development through the Transformative Partnership Platform’; ‘From commitments to action: How UNFSS and CFS policy recommendations on agroecology can complement and reinforce each other’ (summaries on the CFS 48 site, <https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs-48>).

- d) The consistent support to CFS as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to identify common pathways to exit the food crisis and to ensure food security and nutrition for all;
- e) The relevance of the six recommended pathways² from the SOFI report, as appropriate, for the transformation of food systems and achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;

IV - Concrete recommendations from CFS on areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of SDGs 4,5,14,15,17

The HLPF is encouraged to consider the urgent need for governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to implement the CFS evidence-based policy guidelines and recommendations, which, in addition to contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, support the achievement of various SDGs in an integrated way.

With reference to SDG4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

- 1) Strengthen agricultural knowledge, information and innovation systems by enabling that research, extension/ dissemination and education/ capacity building to be integrated in an inclusive, participatory, bottom-up and problem-oriented manner in order to find holistic solutions to food system challenges based on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches, while not discouraging research and adoption of existing technologies and practices that contribute positively to sustainable development; (*Source: Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4a*)
- 2) Encourage explicit coverage of achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems in curricula of educational institutions at all levels, and integrate hands-on, experiential learning; (*Source: Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4i*)
- 3) Promote nutrition education including through the implementation of agro-ecological and other innovative approaches as part of a range of activities to support healthy diets, in line with recommendation 3.5.1.h of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; (*Source: Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4i*)
- 4) Implement comprehensive school and pre-school food and nutrition policies, review education curricula to incorporate nutrition and sustainability principles and sustainable practices, involve

^{3,4} Depending on context, there are six pathways to follow towards food systems transformation: integrating humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies in conflict-affected areas; scaling up climate resilience across food systems; strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity; intervening along the food supply chains to lower the cost of nutritious foods; tackling poverty and structural inequalities, ensuring interventions are pro-poor and inclusive; and strengthening food environments and changing consumer behaviour to promote dietary patterns with positive impacts on human health and the environment

communities, especially local communities including, where possible, small-scale food producers and workers and their organizations, in promoting and creating healthy food environments and healthy diets through sustainable food systems in schools, kindergartens and other childcare facilities, and support school health and nutrition services; (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 353.c*)

5) Support the education of all food system actors to prioritize the reduction of food loss and waste. Actions could include awareness campaigns at national, regional and global levels, food date labelling, and monitoring of food loss and waste;(Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.1.i*)

6) Use science and evidence-based as well as cultural, traditional and ancestral knowledge resources to promote and support education and knowledge of healthy diets, sustainable food systems, nutrition, physical activity, diversified production systems, food loss and waste prevention, intrahousehold food distribution, food safety, optimal breastfeeding and, where needed, complementary feeding, taking into consideration cultural and social norms and adapting to different audiences and contexts, including those of indigenous peoples with their voluntary consent on the sharing of their own knowledge as well as participating in broader knowledge and education. Safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest should be put in place;(Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.2.a*)

7) Protect and promote the knowledge that indigenous peoples and local communities have with regard to local traditions, ancestral customs and methods of sustainably producing food, preparing, and preserving local and traditional food that has nutritional and environmental benefits, promotes food safety, and improves livelihoods and enhances social conditions; (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 352.c*)

8) Support the horizontal sharing of knowledge and experiences building on existing producers' organizations and networks, including processes designed specifically by and for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 4h*)

9) Institute nutrition education curricula for students on the areas of food studies including food technology, health and agriculture during their training. (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.5.3.a*)

With reference to SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

10) Strengthen policies, programmes and actions that eliminate structural barriers to address root causes of gender inequality, in particular by considering that laws and policies to support inter alia equal access to natural resources, finance and public services, respecting and protecting women's knowledge, as well as eliminating all forms of violence, including gender based violence and discrimination against women, and promoting women's empowerment; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 1m*)

11) Promote the empowerment of women, particularly small-scale food producers and family farmers, and their organizations, by supporting collective action, negotiation and leadership skills, to increase access to and equity in the control over land and natural resources, according

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to national legislation. Increase access to, inter alia, education, appropriate extension and financial services, methodologies and technologies that are adequate for women, youth and elders, and full participation in related policy processes; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 5e*)

12) Ensure equal opportunities and promote equal participation between women and men in policy decision-making, supporting women especially in rural context, and ensuring gender equality in leadership roles in decision making bodies – parliaments, ministries and local authorities at district and community levels; foster strategies to engage with men and boys to support women and girls in nutrition as a joint responsibility; (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.6.1.a*)

13) Promote gender equality and create the necessary conditions for women to fully realize their potential, in line with national legislation and universally agreed human rights instruments. Measures to achieve this should support the optimal combination and reconciliation of family and work life, including through economic empowerment of women, social protection programmes, including among others child and family support payments, and parental leave, establishment of minimum wages, reduction of the gender pay gap, and quality job and pensions as well as redistribution of unpaid care work. (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.6.2.a*)

[The CFS gender work-stream's policy convergence process is leading to voluntary guidelines for CFS 50, 2022. \(First Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition https://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/gender\)](https://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/gender)

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With reference to SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

1) Encourage and promote responsible agricultural investment, and support food producers in the adoption of sustainable production practices and in the production of diverse food that contributes to healthy diets, while ensuring a decent income, livelihoods and resilience for fishers, farmers, particularly smallholders and/or family farms, and farm workers. This should include supporting and encouraging sustainable crop production practices, livestock, agroforestry, animal and fishery systems (including artisanal fisheries and aquaculture). (Source: *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition 3.2.3.b*)

2) Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and management and design climate change adaptation strategies for food security and nutrition by: (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition – Section B*)

3) Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into fisheries and aquaculture related policies and programmes (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition – Section H*)

With reference to SDG15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), the following policy recommendations/guidelines are highlighted as relevant:

1) Strengthen policy instruments and coherence for the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and support the important past, present and future contributions of producers and researchers for the development,

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conservation and improvement of biodiversity, taking into account, as appropriate, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the recommendations of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (for those states which have ratified those Treaties); (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3d*)

2) Promote, based on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches, alternatives to chemical pesticides and the greater integration of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Promote the removal of highly hazardous pesticides, in line with recommendation 7.5 of the WHO/FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and depending on specific context and national capacities; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3i*)

3) Govern territories and landscapes at appropriate levels and in an inclusive way, with particular attention to people in vulnerable situations, so as to respond to local needs. This includes enhancing the provision of ecosystem services and managing trade-offs between them, protecting biodiversity rich habitats, and responding to the local impacts of global emergencies; in particular by supporting social innovation and strengthening inclusive public bodies, such as local food policy councils and multi-stakeholder landscape and watershed management platforms; (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches Rec 3m, and the CFS-Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI)*.)

4) Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems. (Source: *Policy Recommendations on Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition - introduction*)

With reference to SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), the report by the CFS HLPE on *Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda* is highlighted as a valuable input to this year's High Level Political Forum.

Annex I: HLPE Issues Paper (3rd edition) Impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition: developing effective policy responses to address the hunger and malnutrition pandemic

Annex II: CFS Policy Recommendations on Agro-ecological and Other Innovative Approaches