



**Zero Draft of CFS inputs to the 2022 HLPF
Comments by the World Farmers' Organisation**

The World Farmers' Organisation takes this opportunity to appreciate the efforts made by the CFS Secretariat, the Technical Task Team, the CFS Chair and the Rapporteur to put together the zero draft.

Here below are some comments on the document:

Proposed key messages:

- With regards to the second proposed key message, when reference is made to the pandemic that “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)”, we agree although we think it would be worth mentioning how it has shown the centrality of agriculture itself within food systems.
The crisis has highlighted how food is a basic necessity, no matter what, with a strong impact on health and economy. It has shown how the farming sector is a central and strategic sector for many economies and within the food value chain, how production is linked to and vital for supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, among others. It has shown the centrality of agriculture and farmers in providing solutions, in taking care of local communities during lockdowns, with many initiatives for example related to food distribution for vulnerable communities and to reduce food loss and waste. It has shown how responsible investments are needed for the agricultural sector to increase its resilience to shocks and disruptions, and how the gap should be bridged between production and consumption, between farmers and consumers. We think this could be stressed more in the document.
 - With regards to the third proposed key message, we think that farmers, including small scale and family farmers, should be engaged not only as beneficiaries of projects and programs, but also as active partners in their designing and implementation. Effective transformations can only happen when farmers are actively engaged, when they receive the support they need to carry on their activities and increase their livelihoods, taking into consideration that farming is an economic activity for every farmer, regardless its scale, and that every farmer deserves to be seen as an actor within the food value chain.
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Concrete recommendations from CFS on areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of SDGs 4,5,14,15,17:

- As a general comment, we think that a farmer driven approach should always be applied when referring to agriculture and measures to be adopted to increase the sustainability of the farming sector, according to the different SDGs.
 - With regards to SDG 15, we would suggest adding a specific reference to the importance of soil health. This is as an entry point to multiple benefits including improved biodiversity, food quality, sustainable water management, climate mitigation and adaptation among others, and farmers and agriculture play a huge role in increasing soil health thus contributing to more sustainable food systems.
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