

Comments of the EU Delegation on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems – Zero Draft.

1. The Zero Draft is a refreshingly succinct document and has the potential to be very useable and accessible provided that the future consultations continue to prioritise this.
2. The tone of the 'Rationale' section needs to be precise that engagement with youth must be genuine and in the first instance focussed on the best interests of youth. Benefits for the food system should be a by-product of that.
3. Listening to youth must be the touchstone of our work. (The EU Commission has consulted with its 'Youth Sounding Board' and has very much valued their input).
4. Draft One should be guided again by the HLPE report and as much as possible continue to use the structure which was developed there as well as the nomenclature.
5. Para 1(d) should mention explicitly the barriers to youth participation in governance mechanisms and decision-making fora.
6. Para 2(h) should also consider that many youth have already inherited indigenous knowledge and that this should be appreciated and incorporated into the development of tailor made agro-ecological approaches without exploiting or diminishing that knowledge.
7. Para 3 (a) should reference urban youth as well as rural youth as both are involved in the food system.
8. Para 3(b) should mention the particular difficulties facing young women with regard to the inter-generational transfer of natural resources.
9. Section 4 should explicitly reference the particular barrier that financing is for education and the importance of the provision of funding to address this.
10. The emphasis on digital solutions is appreciated in Section 5. However 'innovation' is addressed only at 'social innovation'. More consideration may be given to other innovative technologies and techniques for sustainable agriculture.