

CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work

WRITTEN FEEDBACK/SUBMISSION ON THE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL #31

For submission to the CFS Secretariat (cfs@fao.org) by 20 March, 2023

[Kind Attention: CFS Secretariat Focal Points: Chiara Cirulli, Emilio Colonnelli and Giorgia Paratore]

<p>Title of the Proposal</p>	<p>31. “To standardize and promote evidence-based decision making in <i>in situ</i> on farm conservation promotion for food security and nutrition and descriptor-based germplasm management and use therefore”</p>
<p>“Topic” under which Listed for First Open Meeting</p>	<p>“Others”</p>
<p>Other listed “Topic” which may have some overlapping/ somewhat similar deliverables</p>	<p>“Building resilient and sustainable food systems/supply chains” Details in Feedback section</p>
<p>Does the Proposal, as stand-alone, also merit a HIGH PRIORITY in the next Phase of shortlisting and presentation?</p>	<p>YES Details in separate submission/justification section</p>

1. FEEDBACK

- We are thankful to the Chair, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and the CFS Secretariat for listing/considering our preliminary proposal, at #31, for presentation in the first open meeting held on March 3, 2023. **We are encouraged with the kind words expressed by the Chair upon its brief on-line presentation.**
- We believe that **the proposal**, which was initially shortlisted under the Topic “Others”, **merits a higher prioritization order, in phase 2 of the CFS workplan preparation process**, and for its presentation in second open meeting in mid-April 2023.
- It focuses on the CFS Thematic Workstreams associated with **both Strategic Outputs 1.1 (inclusive discussions) and 2.1 (global policy guidance).**

- It has the **potential to discuss, develop, and deliver a CFS Knowledge Product** covering an important work area of **‘holistic and pragmatic *in situ* on farm conservation and use models’** vis-a-vis **‘monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) capacities of countries and regions.’**
- It will also address an HLPE-FSN advocated need to **‘build-up meaningful interface of diverse knowledge systems, technologies and practices’** in the envisaged holistic models. Such models would involve- **resilient *in situ* on farm agroecosystems, genetic resources, cropping systems and food systems, and a logical progression towards FSN value/supply chains** to develop and describe global use policy of conserved crop diversity.
- The proposal intends to build-up **a clear and meaningful interface among;**
 - (i) the **informal** or the **indigenous** traditional knowledge-based systems,
 - (ii) the **conventional science** based knowledge systems, and
 - (iii) the **disruptive innovation** based knowledge systems.

Such meaningful interface **will assist in dealing with development and description of *in situ* on farm conservation models** as well as preparation of crop-based descriptors ver 2.0 to account for their agronomic, genomic and food-system (culinary/ table purpose) potentials, which will eventually provide input for **CFS global policy guidance, and decision support tools for food systems/supply chains.**

- It would lay emphasis on identification and prioritization of **premium value commodities, scaling up** their production **and linking to FSN value/supply chains**, and making additions to their available **food technological descriptions** so that interested countries and regions may like **to explore newer/continental, demand driven food processing possibilities from such commodities.**
- It is likely to generate knowledge products and decision support tools that may benefit the CFS agenda of developing and disseminating voluntary policy guidance for countries and regions in **building resilient and sustainable food systems and supply chains.**
- Thus, this written feedback/submission gives us further opportunity to suggest the CFS Secretariat for considering **a possible re-grouping of proposal 31** under the already prioritized Topic, **“Building resilient and sustainable food systems/supply chains”**. Implicitly, quite a few of the activities proposed to be covered/coverable in this proposal, as also explained in the abovementioned feedback details, would be similar to those coverable under other proposals grouped under abovementioned priority Topic, at #s 9, 11, 13, 24, 29, and 35.

- To re-emphasise, furthermore, a **dominant part of a pragmatic *in situ* conservation model would be to build resilience, sustainability, FSN description, and competitive market reach** while also addressing other related knowledge gaps so that the project output model vis-a-vis CFS policy guidance tool is acceptable as a **globally convincing holistic approach**.

2. Further Submission

This section lays emphasis of giving Justification for a stand-alone High Priority for the Proposal.

- We further believe that as an alternative to clubbing it with a previously prioritized Topic, this Proposal merits to be identified on a **High Priority** even as a **stand-alone Topic** of larger demand and high impact.
- **We would first rely upon the CFS MYPoW Strategic Objective 3 to justify this argument.** The objective states, “Uptake: Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS Products at all levels.” Our proposal too considers, albeit in corollary, that ‘fostering is vital’ at all levels.
 - **The act of “Fostering” is, *ipso facto*, vital to bringing growth and development of all kinds and at all levels.** In corollary, our proposal implies that, building resilient and sustainable food systems/supply chains would essentially involve some back-end evolutionary fostering processes in agricultural biological diversity so that there is a continued supply of the requisite, finished crop varieties for their production and supply chains, and their building blocks. Also, capacity and decision support tools for apt description of these varieties and their building blocks across different knowledge systems are considered necessary for policy guidance on building resilient and sustainable food systems/supply chains. **A proposal (like #31), which envisages to meet these fostering objectives to catalyse sustainable development of food systems/supply chains, should merit a high priority consideration in phase 2 of the CFS workplan preparation process.**
- **We further rely on CFS main comparative advantage #3** (as listed in the ‘call for preliminary proposals’ document) stating, “Access to technical expertise from RBAs and UN bodies dealing with FSN” to re-emphasise on getting a high CFS priority consideration of the proposal 31 in the next phase of their workplan preparation process.
 - The main proponent of proposal 31 is India Office, Asia Region, of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, having its Headquarters at Rome. Further, this Rome-based Agency (**RBA**) is a part of the GGIAR (or Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) – well known for its global contributions towards FSN and genetic resources for food and agriculture, and long engagement with CFS for inclusive and enabling actions on global policy environment for food system sustainability and transformation.

- The proposal 31 thus deems to be a regional/satellite activity of the above well-known RBAs; proposed by the Alliance Regional/Country Representative, and involving three national agricultural research systems/institutes (Bangladesh, India, Nepal), and as many local NGO initiatives (KnowNet-Grin - India, BAIF - India, and Li-Bird - Nepal); aimed at developing *in situ* on line conservation models in the South Asia sub-region. The proposed Project Coordination Unit at India Office has an added advantage of; (i) availing need-based liaison/partnership, through the Alliance Partner CIAT (International Agricultural Research Centre for the Tropics), with another region (Latin America), and (ii) seeking International Expertise their Rome based Parent Organization; for developing a sustainable and inclusive global CFS policy product from this proposal. The three each, national research programmes and local NGO initiatives are regularly in touch with the main proponent, and need identification for the proposal has been ascertained from the two national level symposium/conference held in New Delhi in 2022.
- **We trust and believe that the core activities proposed in this Workstream/ Topic/ Proposal are equally important to other regions and countries, and an elaborate CFS global techno-policy guidance coming from it from across the board would be of much help to all, and at all levels. This would essentially require a High Priority accorded to this proposal (#31) under the same, existing Topic, “Others”, and the CFS Workplan Preparation Process could further explore the widening of its scope by involving all/other interested RBAs and UN bodies dealing with FSN located in Rome. In case of affirmative, CGIAR-Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome may consider leading this as a long term international research, extension, training and policy activity on *in situ* conservation models, enhancement of food systems/supply chains, and new crop descriptors ver 2.0.** (Kind Attention: CFS Secretariat Focal Points)
- **WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE CHAIR FOR BRINGING, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS ROUND, THE IMMINENT ISSUE OF ADVANCE PLANNING FOR REVISION OF THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BEYOND THE TARGET YEAR 2030. We also agree/understand that many of the FSN systems’ fostering activities and policy guidance tools would, no doubt, be required to be in place for use beyond the target year, on closing of the year 2030 itself, and many ongoing activities like those mentioned in proposal 31 will require continuation without break, as well.**
- **In this context, and based on the understanding developed from the CFS workplan preparation process so far, including the First Open Meeting held on March 3, 2023 in hybrid mode, we also request the CFS Secretariat/ Focal Points to invite interests from other RBAs, FAO and other UN bodies dealing with FSN and located in Rome, to join hands/strengthen and prioritize this proposal on a high priority.**
