

## Back to office report

### Traveller:

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### Date

17 Oct – 21 Oct 2016

### Destination

*CFS 43, Rome, Italy*

### Purpose and expectations

- **The purpose of the travel was to introduce the new coordinator of the secretariat to members and partners present at the CFS43. Furthermore the secretariat organised several meetings in support of the implementation of the Workplan of the Global Working Group on Land. The secretariat members visited several side events on the topics of nutrition, finance and private sector engagement in the implementation process of Agenda2030 and contribution to food security and nutrition.**

### Mailing list

BMZ-Annelene Bremer, Ellen Funch, co-chairs, G500 and 03b

### Persons met/participants

Ammad Bahalim (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

### Content

#### **CFS discussion Forum on CFS engagement in advancing the Agenda 2030**

As a first topic on the agenda, the proposal developed by the open ended working group on the engagement of CFS in advancing the Agenda 2030 was submitted to the quorum for decision and agreed upon without objections. Furthermore the delegates also discussed the 2017 review of the high level political forum on sustainable development outcomes and the further cooperation with of CFS with the forum.

The forum has committed to continue the analysis of relevant SDGs and support country led efforts to advance Agenda 2030. The main functions of the Committee of policy convergence, lessons sharing and monitoring were reaffirmed during this session. Next year's theme of eradicating poverty and promotion of prosperity in a changing world is directly related to the mission of CFS to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The participants agreed on the need to regular contribution from CFS to the review progress in the HLPF. The CFS open ended working group on the topic will create guidelines for the contribution and identify what is important from the perspective of agriculture. The participants in the group will work on establishing the link of food security and nutrition to all other goals, overcoming the silo-bound thinking.

Civil society stressed that in 2017 CFS should work to meet the commitment of ensuring convergence, coordination and coherence. SDG2 and other goals are linked to food security in many ways, one of them the inclusion of small-scale farmers. Civil society made the proposal to strengthen the role of CFS in this issue, while representing the idea of good governance and democracy. The committee's strategy should look into the national strategies and support the full inclusion on every level, while supporting the national governments in their efforts to evaluate and monitor the



implementation of the SDGs. The European Union urged the committee to strengthen its positioning through the RBAs representation in the UN Headquarters in New York. The EU also sees and welcomes the higher level of engagement of CFS in shaping the implementation process of Agenda 2030, especially because of its multistakeholder format. The European countries expressed their hope for more focus on cross cutting issues such as gender and sustainable agriculture in the reporting process on food security and nutrition. Private sector reiterated the key role nutrition and eradication of hunger will play in the overall implementation of Agenda 2030. Private sector mechanisms mentioned several alliances and campaigns that proved how essential the CFS forum and the collaboration between private sector, governments and civil society is to confront the challenges of the SDGs.

Some other participants paid attention to the climate change impact on food security and food production in their interventions, but also to the ongoing process of rural transformation, which according to David Nabarro is at the core of poverty and hunger eradication and sustainable development. In summary the participants agreed that FAO and CFS can contribute to the consolidation of inputs to the HLPF and help promote a holistic approach to SDGs in a global strategic framework, while looking at social, political, economic and environmental factors and their impact on food and nutrition security and agriculture. Furthermore, the delegates urged the CFS Secretariat to work on promotion of CFS products and their inclusion in national policies.

### **Policies for Effective Rural Transformation, Agricultural and Food System Transition**

The World Bank, FAO, IFAD and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development invited to a side-event at the CFS named “Policies for Effective Rural Transformation, Agricultural and Food System Transition”. The participants discussed the changing structure of food systems and the possible ways to measure and analyse the performance of the agricultural sector. David Neven from FAO stressed in his opening remarks the growing importance of agriculture and its linking role through every other economic sector. But he also stressed that major global trends affect directly agriculture and the overall food systems. The same factors also define the speed of rural development and the direction of the process of rural transformation.

Rui Benfica presented the outcomes of the Rural Development Report of IFAD. This years’ report focuses not only on rural poverty, as previous reports did, but rather on the whole process of rural transformation. The report reflects on the relevance of emerging economies and the new dynamics that define rural development. The SDGs are identified as an additional development challenge and as a pathway. Henri-Bernard Solignac, from OECD, presented the recently published “New development paradigm” and the joint initiative of OECD, FAO, UNCDF on territorial approaches for food and nutrition security. Both publications agree that rural areas are not going anywhere. In fact the number of people living in rural areas will continue to grow and this will put an additional pressure on policy makers to create opportunities for the youth, agriculture on its own will probably not be enough. Preeti Ahuja from the World Bank focused her presentation on the need to create jobs in the new context, but the challenge is and will remain immense. Future projects will have to take several factors into account – climate-smart agriculture, supporting prosperous livelihoods and creating jobs, investing in inclusive agribusiness, while aiming at food and nutrition security – all cross-cutting issues through all SDGs.

Following a discussion that has taken place in the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, there are several types of donors that can be identified based on their response to Agenda 2030 and the process of rural transformation. There are donors that are stepping up in their engagement, donors that focus on investment in private sector and a third type that focuses on trade. The third



group brought about a shift in thinking – from working with development countries to working with economic partners. A fourth group of donors is putting vision into action, as the US did, by passing the food security bill. Despite the institutional responses, the economy development in rural areas remains rather unsustainable and unhealthy. Consumers are mostly left out of the development system thinking, their education will be of great value, like the targeted support of private sector, civil society and finance organisations. With the food and beverage sector being worth 65 billion, makes the food systems importance for development undeniable. This places nutrition at the center of rural transformation, economic development and SDGs implementation.

### **Ensuring nutritious diets in a climate constrained world**

Michel Mordasini from UNSCN presented the new focus of the strategic plan 2016-2020 on investment for health and food systems to support nutrition and economic and sustainable value chains. UNSCN recognises the growing threat of climate change and sees the need to make investments and any way of engagement in food security and nutrition smarter in the way they support production and consumption. Climate change and agricultural production are interconnected. Agriculture is a driver of climate change, but it is also the sector that is directly affected, but agriculture can also be part of the solution.

Liv Elin Torheim, a professor of Public Health Nutrition in Oslo, welcomed the remarks by Michel Mordasini. She agreed that saving the planet will entail a change in the way food is produced and consumed. Action is required and the best intervention point is by changing the diets. Ultimately the food that people consume is what connects food production to health. FAO and WHO developed global evidence-based food dietary guidelines on what people should eat. Many countries followed by developing own national guidelines. Most of them focus on health and sustainability is not always directly addressed. These guidelines are used to inform policy, but should also give a food vision for countries across sectors. Costa Rica is one of the examples, where food and social protection policies are put in place. The government has also developed a strategy that ensures the contribution of public-private-partnerships to food security and sustainability. Costa Rica's FSN policy plan for the 2011-2022 sets a system of public certification for qualitative agricultural practices through PPPs involvement. The policy is cross-ministerial and entails partnerships with research and academia, but also with the industrial sector. Brazil has also put FSN policies in practice, confirming the existing political priority and leadership. Based on the policies, a legal and institutional framework, an interministerial chamber on FSN was established. The law and the newly created institutions support the work on promotion of adequate and healthy nourishment, which is also a right, ensured in the Brazilian constitution. They seek to advance healthy diets, while preserving the cultural diversity and keeping the sustainability of food production and consumption at highest levels.

The participants in the meeting agreed that there are certain conditions that need to be met in order to trigger innovation and start nutrition focused initiatives. First and foremost, the characteristics of the implementing country need to be taken into account since culture is of great importance and influences greatly diets. Second, new technology and research bring innovation. Academia starts to develop a sense of how to adapt the technology and the production to the complexities and uncertainties of climate change and cultural diversity. In Costa Rica the governments opened the discussions about the new FSN policies to the civil society. Brazil and Denmark look into strengthening the involvement of private sector into food production. Third, the broader engagement of the national community brings advertisement and education to a broader audience and ensures a common understanding that it is always better to use local produced family farmer food. In conclusion, the presenters stressed once again that ultimately the promotion and support of small-scale farmers ensures healthy diets and contributes to the implementation of the SDG2.



## **Evaluating the impact of land governance projects**

Strengthening land governance and tenure security is rising on policy agendas. Governments all over the world, as well development agencies, financial institutions and others are investing significant resources in this area – an outlook on the Land Governance Programme Map shows donors' investments in more than 120 countries worth over USD 4 billion. In order to justify all these investments and learn from available experiences to improve the design of programmes, policy makers and development partners are increasingly requesting rigorous evidence not only of outputs and outcomes at the project level, but also impacts such as on tenure security, incomes, gender equality etc. But what has been the capacity of these groups to deliver such information? What have been the greatest challenges to improve monitoring and evaluation systems? And even when available, is the evidence accessible to all and effectively used by policy makers?

Discussions showed that, while several organisations funding and implementing land governance projects have monitoring systems in place, these systems do not always provide answers at the impact level – as they were not designed to do so in the first place. So, whether a project that allowed farmers to obtain land titles or certificates is also directly improving farmers' access to food is still an open question.

But the meeting also showed a wealth of ideas to address this knowledge gap – though participants were quite aware of yet a long road ahead. They agreed that a lot more work is needed on the evaluation side, starting with better collaboration amongst development agencies commissioning surveys and gathering information, so the methodologies and data can be shared.

This would provide global comparative land data, which in turn will help to generally monitor the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), endorsed by countries, civil society and private sector representations at the Committee on World Food Security in 2012. One concrete suggestion is to incorporate evaluation documents in the Land Governance Programme Map, a database of over 600 land projects, and continue to hold meetings where monitoring and evaluation experts can exchange experiences and improve their systems.