

CFS42 PSM Key Messages

Talent Development

There is a need to recruit new talent, particularly youth, into agriculture. Human capital is a critical driver of growth, sustainability and security across the entire food chain. We are thus calling for development actors to:

- Create an **enabling environment and incentives** for private sector engagement in talent development to improve linkages between supply and demand of knowledge and skills;
- Promote **demand-driven and innovative agriculture education**, training, and skills development programmes geared towards transformation and maintaining high performance culture at all levels;
- **Recruit and retain youth and women** in agriculture through incentives and the promotion of conducive environments for equitable access to secure land tenure, inputs, financial services, knowledge, and markets;
- **Develop national agricultural plans and resource mobilisation strategies** to enhance talent development in agriculture, food, and natural resources while including women and youth in the process;
- Develop monitoring, learning, evaluation, and knowledge management systems for talent development.

Connecting Smallholders to Markets

- **Investment** is urgently needed to enhance skills and training, and to increase availability of supporting services, such as insurance, commodity exchanges, and information systems.
- More attention is needed on **women farmers**, who are essential 'gatekeepers' for household nutrition and welfare.
- Farmers should be encouraged and enabled to **organize themselves** via farmer organizations and cooperatives.
- Positive **market engagement** will rely on enhanced infrastructure, including transport, logistics (such as refrigerated storage), as well as information access.
- **Government policies** are decisive in the creation of well-functioning markets. Stability is required in policy and legal infrastructure to create a predictable and fair business environment.

Water for Food Security and Nutrition

- **Improving water productivity and efficiency:** In a context of increasingly scarce water resources, the only option to feed a growing global population sustainably is to increase the 'water productivity' of agricultural production. This challenge has been clearly recognized as an imperative in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This concept of 'more crop per drop' needs to be translated into effective actions to help stimulate adoption of best practices, technologies and innovation to increase water productivity.
- **The opportunities provided by water re-use:** Achieving the agricultural component of SDG 6 will require not only increasing water use efficiency but also wastewater reuse in agriculture. Wastewater reuse presents important opportunities to limit withdrawals and increase sustainability of production.

- **The role of the private sector:** The private sector is important in providing solutions to improve water management, improve water use efficiency in production processes, and an essential source of innovation and investment in research and development.
- **Research, innovation and technology:** The role of technology, best practices, innovation, and alternative methods of agriculture are fundamental in improving water management. Existing solutions such as irrigation including drip irrigation, drought-tolerant crops, hydroponics, aquaponics, recycling and reuse, vertical farming, desalination of seawater, and grey water use all provide effective options for water stewardship. It is important that adequate policies encourage investment in agricultural technologies that are provide for more efficient and sustainable water use.
- **“Right to water” or “human right to water”:** the human right that was recognised in international law in 2010 is not a generic "*human right to water*" but a very specific "*human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*" (HRSDWS) that has no direct linkage with water for agriculture. Water resources should not be confused with safe drinking water.

Nutrition

- Agriculture - including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry - is the source of all food and nutrition security and must be integrated into global nutrition discussions within and beyond ICN2.
- Increasing livelihoods of agriculturalists is a key way to address hunger.
- Furthering nutritional goals relies on production and access issues, particularly to address the needs of women, children and the most vulnerable.
- Good nutrition promotes broad-based, diverse diets and provides consumer choice.
- Food safety and quality is an essential underpinning of all nutritional activities.
- The private sector is an operational force in furthering global nutrition. Multi-stakeholder approaches are widely recognised to be an efficient approach to increase the scope of financial and human resources in order to tackle nutritional challenges on a large scale.
- Open, transparent platforms for private sector and interested stakeholders' participation should be among the priorities for the implementation of ICN2 and other international platforms working on nutritional policies.

Responsible Agricultural Investment

- Business and investors are already the biggest engine of poverty reduction and economic growth in the developing world. On average, business provides 60% of GDP, 80% of capital flows and 90% of jobs in developing countries. It is the major source of the US\$1 trillion a year needed to finance development.
- The RAI Principles should be used as a means to enhance and attract investment, both foreign and domestic.
- Governments must prioritize creating stable, predictable and transparent regulatory frameworks and legal systems to attract sustainable investments in agriculture.
- Investments should help foster choices among consumers and producers.
- Business can operationalize these principles through existing mechanisms to improve economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Implementation

- The CFS secretariat should have a mandate to **promote** the RAI outcomes.
- **Pilot projects** should be considered to be set up in collaboration with UN agencies (UNCTAD, IFAD, FAO), the World Bank and others working directly with investors.

The pilots should be established in partnership with businesses to test the implementation of the principles “on the ground”. The PSM has already found companies willing to volunteer for this.

- The PSM notes with concern the continued proliferation of processes and guidelines on responsible agricultural investment. **The CFS chair should convene groups working on parallel processes to increase coherence and avoid multiplication of efforts and competing guidelines.**
- Businesses already report on their Corporate Social Responsibility through various initiatives, including the Global Reporting Initiative. **The PSM recommends integrating RAI guidelines into existing reporting systems** to avoid the creation of a new reporting standard that would not be feasible for private operators.

Farmers' role in CFS

- All farmers are important and produce the world's food. The development needs of smallholders, women and youth in particular need to be addressed with specific programming.
- The CFS and Rome based agencies should recognize the diversity of situations farmers are in around the world.
- Language that recognizes the many size and types of farming around the world would be more inclusive than the current dichotomy between smallholders and all other sized producers.

Advisory Group Composition

- The principle of equity with the CSM is sought, including in the CFS Advisory Group and the selection of the HLPE steering committee.
- The PSM also calls for the inclusion of two farmer seats on the Advisory Group to recognize the unique role of farmers in food security discussions. Any change in seats on the Advisory Group should be inclusive though not unmanageable.
- More seats at CFS for the private sector would give PSM the opportunity to bring forward an increased diversity of actors. This year over 130 private sector delegates registered to attend CFS from across the value chain.
- The PSM supports a diversity of actors at CFS. The PSM believes in the principle of self-organising and we emphasise the importance of encouraging all Advisory Group representatives to have modalities to enable larger participation in a transparent manner.

Private Sector Strategy of FAO

- The PSM appreciates the support of member-states in encouraging the adoption of a broader definition of partnerships that goes beyond solely fundraising.
- Improved modalities are needed to facilitate private sector engagement at FAO, from building access to side events.
- Supporting and maintaining the principle of self-organization is important – private sector will work together to provide input into UN issues.

CFS Reform

- In the fifth year since the reform, there is great value in the multi-stakeholder dialogue and further opportunities exist to improve the effectiveness of CFS.
- The CFS should use its convening power to enhance partnerships and uptake of its products.
- For major outcomes such as VGGT and RAI, an Implementation Work Group should be considered in which businesses or other target audiences can review the outcomes of negotiations. It would consult with those operationalizing the goals. For instance, with the objective to check that they will work on the ground. Formal technical reports from the Implementation Work Group could be drafted between the negotiation process and final approval at the CFS plenary in October, assessing the potential for operationalization and suggesting approaches to implementation. The changes should be technical in nature and not resume the negotiations and be limited to the precise wording of the document.

CFS Reform - Increasing the efficiency of CFS negotiations

- To increase the consistency of CFS plenary and other processes, convene a briefing prior to the meeting with the rapporteurs and leaders of Friends of the Chair, as well as with the scribes and CFS Secretariat. This would be an opportunity to increase efficiency and best practices to avoid circular discussions and re-introductions of the same text.
- The process of seeking written inputs into major workstreams is beneficial and allows coordinating constituencies to consult.
- Establish a finite number of times when non-state actors can intervene on a given issue and provide a guidance on this for all constituencies.
- During negotiations, provide a timeline or cut-off whereby new issues can no longer be introduced to a given document. The purpose of negotiations would be to refine and finalize a text.

CFS Reform - Convening and Mobilizing

- Maintain a time-controlled environment so that CFS can be an efficient and relevant decision maker.
- Ensure CFS uses precious resources of time and funds in the most cost-effective, focused manner possible.
- Address the length and accessibility of documents for a diversity of stakeholders. Encourage shorter documents with links to case-studies and decisions.
- The CFS Plenary is an important global event of cross-cutting relevance to other global processes. Workstream outcomes can include convening moments that call for greater engagement and focus on coordination and uptake. The capacity for announcements should also be explored.
- The CFS Secretariat and Chair should have a mandate to promote major outcome documents through speaking engagements, communication tools and outreach efforts.