

Private Sector Mechanism 2016 Activity Report

In 2016 the PSM continued to break past records for participation at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and to deepen its engagement with all aspects of the Committee. There was very positive feedback for its contributions and professionalism, from the CFS secretariat, member countries and UN agencies alike, as the PSM continues to offer opportunities for companies to be directly involved in global discussions of food security and agricultural development. A selection of the year's highlights is included below.

2016 by the numbers:

- 170 person delegation of business leaders gathered in Rome for CFS plenary in October (for comparison, there was a 1 person delegation in 2010; 37 in 2011; 62 in 2012; 59 in 2013; 87 in 2014; 116 in 2015)
- 190 participants at the High Level Dinner (October, report available [here](#))
- 280 total attendees at the three partnership forums hosted by the PSM.
- 121 representatives of countries and international organizations held bilateral meetings with the PSM
- 12 newsletters for members
- 8 PSM work groups resourced: forestry, livestock, nutrition, connecting smallholders to markets, RAI, women's empowerment, and urbanization and rural transformation
- 3 Partnership Forums held with 3 country co-hosts
- 2 UN documents negotiated
 - CFS Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets
 - CFS Recommendations on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock
- 1 meeting with the Director General of the FAO, José Graziano da Silva.
- 1 annual meeting (April), in person, in Rome with 40 PSM representatives

PSM Annual General Meeting, April 25-27

Once again our AGM proved to be a great success, bringing together 40 business leaders from throughout the agri-food value chain and across the globe. Despite an extremely full agenda, our delegates were able to meet with 90 Member State representatives from 55 countries.

Opportunities for exchanges of views and deepening of relationships included 6 bilateral meetings with FAO Regional Groups, a cocktail reception hosted by the PSM, CFS Open Ending Working Groups, and a Partnership Forum on the topic of nutrition (more information below). Many member states expressed their pleasure at witnessing such a high degree of private sector engagement.

Key achievements:

- Representatives of 55 countries and UN agencies met with the private sector over the course of two days in bilateral and regional meetings
- Two new position papers on the topics of “nutrition” and “livestock” were approved
- PSM members were briefed on the intersessional activities of the CFS, and given the opportunity to influence the PSM’s engagement in them as well as to participate in the decision-making process for initial preparations of the CFS plenary in October
- PSM selected side-event proposals for CFS 43

Partnership Forums

Given that the role of the private sector and partnerships have been rapidly gaining recognition in the context of development strategies and international policy-making, the PSM decided this year to host a series of innovative events designed to showcase successful development partnership initiatives and help forge new ones. These events featured a dynamic format with a series of rapid-fire presentations followed by periods of interaction between audience members and presenters. All together, these events involved well over 200 representatives of CFS member countries, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Nutrition, April 26, IFAD

The first of these events was held in the margins of the Annual General Meeting in April. Given that the CFS selected nutrition as one of its key workstreams for 2016-2018, and that it will have a major role in shaping nutrition debates in the context of the SDGs and ICN2 outcomes, the PSM and **the Government of Germany** decided to co-host a Partnership Forum on nutrition. The event was sponsored by Mead Johnson Nutrition. This event highlighted examples of collaborations between the public and private sectors, and civil society that contributed to public health, sanitary measures and creating sustainable and nutrition-enhancing food systems to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, while supporting and promoting healthy diets. It included 22 speakers with a large diversity of backgrounds, and 87 attendees, among which were representatives of 20 different countries, as well as three ambassadors. ([Final report](#)).

Livestock, June 30, IFAD

Ahead of the launch of the High Level Panel of Experts' report on the role of livestock for sustainable agriculture, the PSM and **the Government of Argentina** co-hosted a Partnership Forum on livestock. The event was sponsored by the Global Dairy Platform and the International Dairy Federation. It contributed to share significant information about collaborative projects relating to the livestock sector that are taking place around the world, improving the sustainability of the sector, and helping to achieve the Zero Hunger Challenge and SDG Goal 2. It included 23 speakers and 65 attendees, among which were representatives of 23 different countries, as well as two ambassadors. ([Final report](#)).

Sustainable Development Goals, October 20, FAO

During the week of CFS plenary, **the Government of Norway, the UN Global Compact** and the PSM hosted the final Partnership Forum for 2016 on the topic of “partnering to achieve the SDGs”. The event was sponsored by Emery Oleochemicals. Through their rapid fire presentations, participants were able to demonstrate that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture cut across all 17 SDGs, to share information about concrete steps taken by the private sector to achieve Goal 2, and to highlight the value of partnerships between UN agencies, national governments, regional bodies and non-state actors. 23 speakers were present, along with 60 attendees, among which were representatives of 20 different countries, as well as 1 ambassador. ([Final report](#)).

HLPE Livestock Report Launch, July 1

A PSM delegation was present in Rome for the launch of the High Level Panel of Experts report “Sustainable Agriculture Development for Food Security and Nutrition, Including the Role of Livestock” on July 1st. The PSM made two interventions from the floor, highlighting the importance of development of effective recommendations on the topics of animal health and welfare and antimicrobial resistance. In the margins of this event, the PSM was able to hold bilaterals with several member countries on issues relating to the livestock sector, allowing them to share perspectives on the contributions that the CFS can make through the policy convergence process, and find common ground in order to move forward on this issue. Finally, a partnership forum on the topic of livestock was hosted the day before the report launch.

CFS Plenary, October 17-21

CFS43 saw the participation of the largest private sector delegation to date, with over 170 PSM members taking part. This delegation was also the most active, making 23 interventions during plenary sessions over the course of the week, as well as meeting

representatives from more than 60 member states and all regional groups, in order to lay the foundations for effective engagement and negotiation at the CFS. In addition to this, the IAFN and PSM were able to hold a bilateral meeting with FAO Director General Jose Graziano da Silva, who praised the engagement of the private sector, while suggesting that private sector participation at regional FAO meetings should be encouraged.

Plenary sessions this year saw the adoption of balanced and useful recommendations on the role of livestock for sustainable agriculture, and on connecting smallholders to market. There were also sessions discussing climate change, sustainable value chains, nutrition, engagement with the 2030 Agenda, and urbanization and rural transformation. The final report published by the CFS secretariat can be found [here](#).

The PSM was able to organize 4 side events this year, on the subjects of orphan crops, urbanization and food security, investment to advance the SDGs, and the role of dairy in achieving the SDGs. Collectively these events reached over 231 attendees, allowing the private sector to share their experiences and raise awareness of pressing issues related to the mandate of the CFS. More information on side events can be found [here](#).

Finally, this year's High Level Dinner was the most successful yet, bringing together 190 ambassadors, representatives of CFS member states, UN agencies, NGOs, and companies, as well as the chair of the CFS, Her Excellency Ambassador Amira Gornass. The theme of the dinner was "innovation to achieve the SDGs", which led to many lively and productive discussions (full [report](#)).

Policy impact of the PSM

Livestock

After the publication of a report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock on July 1, an arduous negotiation process took place from July to October (including 3 full days of negotiation sessions). The decision box was finally endorsed by the CFS plenary in October. The PSM was active during the negotiation with great involvement from members of the PSM Working Group on Livestock. The recommendations have proved to be a balanced and useful set of policy tools, in large part thanks to the efforts of PSM negotiators. The PSM was able to soften language on "intensive production systems", and remove references to "extreme confinement" and "industrial production". Important references to the role of research, livestock insurance, and the importance of animal nutrition, including dairy, to diets were included with support from the PSM. The recommendations can be found in CFS final report [here](#).

Nutrition

As nutrition is set to be one of the most important workstreams of the CFS in the coming months, the PSM this year has ramped up its engagement on the topic. The PSM Working Group on Nutrition has over 80 participants. The PSM hosted the Partnership Forum on Nutrition in April. A delegation of Members participated in the event hosted by the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition on Trade and Nutrition. The PSM also made substantial outreach efforts to countries and other CFS stakeholders in order to identify areas in which the CFS can add value on nutrition, and in order to build consensus on these topics. Collectively, the group provided input on the draft High Level Panel of Experts report on Nutrition and Food Systems, which will be launched in 2017, and helping to shape the manner in which the CFS will participate in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, as well as the follow-up to the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition. The first position paper on strengthening food systems for improved nutrition outcomes was developed in 2016. It can be found [here](#). Two additional position papers (on Trade and Nutrition and on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture) have been developed and are under review by the PSM.

Multi-Year Programme of Work

The CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-19 will be finalized in 2017, but over the course of 2016 the PSM has consistently advocated for the inclusion of topics on which the work of the CFS can add value, and in which the private sector plays a critical role in improved food security and nutrition outcomes. The PSM has also advocated for structural reforms to the MYPOW and its drafting process that would streamline the work of the CFS and ensure that its future products are useful and consistently high-quality. The PSM developed individual submissions for the themes that it has been advocating for, which include

- Food safety
- Resilience in the context of disasters
- Stunting
- Innovation in agriculture
- Recruiting, retaining, and engaging youth in agriculture

The Secretariat has encouraged member states to take part in the voting process and is promoting these proposals.

Connecting Smallholders to Markets

The PSM took a leading role in the negotiation of the CFS recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets. Negotiations proved contentious, with several lengthy sessions held. There was a concerted effort to include undefined language on “territorial concepts”, but in the end this was omitted, in part due to the efforts of the PSM. The PSM also worked to ensure that references to the importance of international markets, technology, innovation, infrastructure, business knowledge and

entrepreneurship, were reflected in the text. The final recommendations can be found in the CFS report [here](#).

Urbanization and Rural Transformation

The PSM took part in two full day workshops designed to guide the CFS's work on urbanization and rural transformation, and develop a baseline of common understanding for the forum that was held during CFS. The PSM also helped to craft the background document underpinning the forum, and made several interventions from the floor during the event. This helped to ensure that the importance of infrastructure provision, innovation, and retaining youth in farming were highlighted in CFS publications around the forum, as well as in the final decision endorsed by the CFS.

Our team

The members of the IAFN provide the focal point and co-ordination including:

- Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA)
- CropLife International (CLI)
- the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC)
- the Global Dairy Platform (GDP)
- the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA)
- Health for Animals
- the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)
- the Himalayan Apple Growers Society (HAGS)
- the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)
- the International Seed Federation (ISF)
- the US Sustainability Alliance (USSA)
- the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC).

Our sponsors and contributors were generous with both their time and financial support:

- Arla Foods
- Abbot Laboratories
- Bayer CropScience AG
- Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA)
- Cargill
- Coca-Cola
- CropLife International (CLI)
- Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
- Danone

- DSM
- Duxton Asset Management
- Emery Oleochemicals
- ePure
- Export Trading Group
- Global Dairy Platform (GDP)
- Global Pulse Confederation (GPC)
- Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA)
- Health for Animals
- Himalayan Apple Growers Society (HAGS)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- International Dairy Federation
- International Fertilizer Association (IFA)
- International Seed Federation (ISF)
- Monsanto
- Malawi Mangoes
- Mars Inc.
- Mead Johnson Nutrition
- Sight & Life Foundation
- Syngenta
- Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
- Tetra Laval
- US Council for International Business
- U.S Soybean Export Council (USSEC)
- U.S Sustainability Alliance (USSA)
- Yara International

Emerging Ag Inc, which resources the IAFN and the PSM through its role as the focal point, was pleased to provide the secretariat with the team of Robynne Anderson, Paulette Bethel, Paulina Ceballos, Isabelle Coche, Benjamin Robinson, Morgane Danielou, Brian Baldwin, Hapsa Dia, Tanja Riedel, Tracey Foster, Anna Zailer, Stefanie Hyde, Maria Diaz, Jessica McKinnon, and Tilly McCrae. They were present in Rome at key moments to help roll out the IAFN's work plan and provide friendly faces to our operations.

The IAFN has a virtual Secretariat that maintains its website (www.agrifood.net), and Twitter Account (@AgriFoodNet now with over 2400 followers), which provide monthly updates on CFS activities, build relationships, co-ordinate the IAFN committees and liaise with FAO and other multilateral bodies. Many members find them a useful place to learn about policies that may concern their membership.