

PROPOSALS FROM PSM FOR HLPE REPORTS in 2018 and 2019

HLPE reports

All countries have set ambitious goals for the SDGs. It is important CFS uses its resources to further these goals and targets. With this in mind, the Private Sector Mechanism is proposing one HLPE report in each of 2018 and 2019 on areas in the SDGs that are under-explored in the food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture area.

1) Food Safety

The SDGs incorporate food safety into the targets yet the role of food safety has received startlingly little attention in the debates on food security, nutrition and health outcomes. Food safety has a tremendous impact on all three. CFS has the capacity to lend expertise and coherence to help reduce the harmful human and economic impacts of unsafe food. Nutrition-specific interventions, policies and programs throughout food systems - from production to consumption - cannot be achieved if food safety is compromised. Equally, overall food production is not sufficient if the food is not safe to eat.

This is based on SDG target:

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

CFS has helped to advance the discussion of food systems, expanding the understanding that food production and nutrition are linked. Food safety is cited in the SDGs but has received relatively little attention compared to total caloric food security and to nutrition. Studies on the impact of food safety have been conducted, as well as standard setting, and measures to treat food borne diseases. CFS can assist by reviewing interventions that can help to improve food safety with positive consequences on social, economic and environmental impact.

Relevance and global impact

An estimated 600 million – almost 1 in 10 people in the world – fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420 000 die every year, resulting in the loss of 33 million healthy life years (DALYs). Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food borne disease burden, with 125 000 deaths every year. (source: WHO) Farmers who have product rejected due to food safety issues face loss of income and unsafe food creates a waste stream with environmental consequences.

No duplication

Addressing the nexus of food safety, nutrition and health has not been addressed. While food safety standards are discussed at a global level, a discussion of the ways to improve food safety through interventions in production, storage, handling and consumption are not.

2) Resilient Agricultural Practices in the context of Disasters

The SDGs speak specifically to the challenges of climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. CFS prepared the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. Yet, there has been little effort to co-ordinate focus on resilient agricultural practices to address agricultural needs in the wake of immediate crises such as droughts and floods. Food aid systems are vital at such times, however methods to resume farming, sustain livelihoods of smallholders, and reinvigorate food production systems are under explored.

This is based on SDG target:

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

The UN system has a capable, robust system to respond to humanitarian food crises. The World Food Program and the rest of the UN system are continuously resourcing, improving and refining the response on an ongoing basis. Even in the face of growing demand and strains on resources. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises provides global guidance to respond to long term disruptions. It framed some of the most important measures to address the resilience and livelihoods of farmers and food systems in this context. In between these two contexts lies the response to building resilient agricultural systems in the face of disasters. The immediate needs of farmers, foresters, and fishers to replant, repopulate, and rebuild is acknowledged but is under-addressed in UN fora. The SDGs as the overarching framework, specifically call out the need to address adaptation in the face of disasters and would be a meaningful contribution towards the SDGs.

Relevance and global impact

The El Nino effect has been yet another stark reminder of the impacts of extreme weather, drought, flooding and the long term implications of climate change on farming.

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/411003/>

A broad array of countries have been affected this year, with a huge impact on livelihoods, food security, and the need for humanitarian assistance. These recent impacts bely a longer term trend toward more extreme weather and the need for more attention, coherence and analysis on these issues.

No duplication

While disaster response has received important and vital attention in UN fora such as Sendai, there has been very little focus specifically on the goals of including practices that increase capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. This would be a unique place where CFS could add value, drawing attention to the long term importance of resilience.

Subsequent HLPE reports should be geared to specific areas identified in the SDGs that are under-addressed and meet the MYPOW criteria.