

## International Agri-Food Network Perspectives Paper

### Future FAO Priorities Highlights

#### 1. Private sector

- SDGs mandate private sector partnership.
- FAO does not have a regularized policy to include private sector in its fora or meetings.
- New process should create maximum engagement and discourse with private sector actors of all sizes.

#### 2. Science advice

- FAO helps develop global agricultural standards; it needs to be revitalized to ensure evidence-based rather than opinion-based reports are developed.
- FAO's scientific capability of discipline experts should be expanded.
- The functions of FAO in these areas need to be adequately funded, particularly the provision of independent scientific advice.

#### 3. Innovation

- Equal FAO attention should be paid to innovations such as biotechnology, agroecology, GIAHS, and climate smart agriculture.
- Technologies such as digital agriculture, remote sensing, recycling systems, grain storage, and loss and waste prevention vitally need a scale-up of resources.
- Better funding and focus on these projects are needed; the scale of private sector investment in innovation, along with knowledge and expertise can play a vital role in assisting FAO in this area.

#### 4. Codex

- Codex Alimentarius plays a crucial role in protecting the health of the consumers while enabling trade in agricultural products.
- Codex activity benefits both farmers and consumers.
- Delays in the establishment of MRLs and the resulting lack of national / international harmonization have important consequences for market access, productivity, and farmer livelihoods, contributing to a poorer and hungrier world.

#### 5. Respect for farmers

- The world's farmers are on the front lines of climate change, rural development, and hunger.
- FAO should play a leadership role in fostering respect for all farmers globally, educating the UN system on the vital role they play, and furthering their engagement in decision-making.
- Farming of all scales and locations should be empowered to make decisions that reflect their unique situations.