

**CFS OEWG on Nutrition**

**14 April, 2020, Rome**

**(submitted to CFS Secretariat on 16 April 2020).**

**Secretariat, Private Sector Mechanism**

Thank you Chair, Secretariat for the opportunity to weigh in on the guidelines again.

I will focus my intervention on our view that the Negotiation Draft still appears to limit the opportunities offered by Innovation and Technology to farmers and other players in the food system.

This can be seen by the lack of references to technology and innovation within the seven focus areas around which the policy recommendations are developed.

We urge the Secretariat to respect the freedom of choice of all stakeholders part of the AGRO FOOD CHAIN to innovate and adopt technologies best suited to address their specific challenges, and therefore identify the following improvements to consider:

- The guidelines should underline that Government policies should encourage and fund research and development in the agricultural and food sectors and establish an evidence and science-based regulatory framework for the introductions of innovations that enable more sustainable and productive agriculture and food systems.
- The role of technology to advance food systems is not recognized and neither is their positive impact.
- In the few references where technology is cited, it is portrayed as a risk rather than as an opportunity. We ask that more positive language be used to reflect the potential of technology and innovation more accurately.

- Furthermore, the positive potential for the use of technologies and innovations by private sector has not been included.
- A few examples of how the private sector supports innovation and uptake of new technologies at farm level include:
  - by allowing FARMERS to take data enabled decisions that improve soil health and SUPPORT the efficient use of inputs and of irrigation
  - OFFERING new feed formulations to livestock farmers that decrease emissions from livestock
- In addition, the use of wide arrays of technology in support of food safety, sustainability, livelihoods, greater access to information and food and food ingredient innovations are further technologies that touch upon multiple parts within the food value chain—from Farm to Fork.

In sum, the Voluntary guidelines should not limit the types of tools that farmers and other food chain partners have at their disposal to contribute to efficient and sustainable food value chain.