

Sixth Meeting of the FSS Scientific Group

15 March 2021, 14.00-16.00 (CET)

Meeting Notes

Agenda of the Meeting (detailed agenda of the meeting was shared with the participants before the meeting).

1. 14:00 Updates on the FSS processes
2. 14:15 Evaluation of Concept Note for Proposed Actions
 - a. Discussion on the Concept Paper shared with the participants before the meeting.
3. 14:30 Scientific Group Agenda Paper (review, discussion)
 - a. Discussion on the outline shared with the participants before the meeting.
4. 15:00 Conferencing by Scientific Group (review, discussion)
 - a. Scientific Group Workshop April 20-22, 2021
 - b. Science Days July 8-9, 2021
5. 15:45 Any other business
6. 16:00 end of meeting

Agenda 1. Updates on the FSS processes

The Chairperson of the FSS Scientific Group (ScG), Joachim Von Braun opened the meeting. The Chair updated the participants on the progress of summit related activities. In this update he noted that, **Papers prepared by the ScG** have now been peer-reviewed and are being revised by members of the ScG. Three out of the seven paper have been received after the revisions and are on the web at www.sc-fss2021.org and others are in the revision process.

Information sharing: Chair and members have expedited **engagement with relevant actors and stakeholders on FSS**. In this regard,

- A meeting was held with representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) attended by ScG members Marta Hugas and Lynette Neufeld and Joachim von Braun.
- Joachim von Braun and ScG member Maximo Terrero met with Ambassadors for the FSS <https://sc-fss2021.org/2021/03/18/cost-of-ending-hunger-and-true-costs-of-food/>
- A meeting of Joachim von Braun with the Indigenous Communities is planned for March 31st. ScG members who would like to join can contact Joachim von Braun.
- A meeting of members of the ScG on Livestock related issues is planned.
- The website of the ScG has been expanded to include information on the upcoming National Dialogues.
- A bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate the work of the ScG is planned. The newsletter is expected to be shared by members of the ScG with their peers in their respective

institutions and academic peers. The newsletter will also be shared on Social Media including Twitter.

- Chairperson and the Vice Chairpersons will participate in and brief the Advisory Committee chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed with the Director Generals of UN Agencies and the Special Envoy on March 19th, 2021.
- Ousmane Badiane has organized a workshop in collaboration with four African think-tanks and five universities in Africa on FSS related issues. The workshop will be held on March 31, 2021.
- The meeting of the **Integrating Team** of the FSS will be held on March 17, 2021. The meeting will be attended by the Chairpersons of the Action Tracks, the Chairperson of the ScG and UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit Agnes Kalibata.

The Vice Chairs of the FSS ScG, Loïse Fresco, Koasar Afsana and Mohamed Hassan gave comments: Mohamed Hassan remarked that the participation of youth and young scientist in the FSS processes must be ensured. Members of the ScG have engaged with the Global Young Academy to ensure this. A memo on this engagement will be sent by Mohamed Hassan to the Chairperson. Louise Fresco noted that the FSS has received criticism from media outlets for its lack of inclusion. She emphasized on the need for the FSS processes to be transparent and inclusive. Kaosar Afsana reiterated the points raised by two Vice Chairs and noted that ScG may engage with National Dialogues to communicate its work with governments and policy makers world over. She further noted that the voices of women among small farmers and their organizations should be included.

Agenda 2: Evaluation of the Concept Note for Proposed Actions

The Chairperson summarized the proposed criteria for the evaluation of the propositions of the Action Tracks. The ScG will evaluate these propositions as partners in collegial and transparent style, and provide recommendations. The Chairperson requested the members of the ScG to share with him their comments and suggestions on the proposed criteria via email. A revised version shall be shared next week, after also giving Actions Tracks opportunity to comment. In the open discussion on the evaluation criteria, the following points were raised by the participants.

- In evaluating the proposed actions, the evidence of its impact must be explicated along with the obstacles to replication and scaling up.
- The target group of the proposed actions must be identified, and the proposals be tailored for their understanding.
- Clear technical definition of game-changers/game-changing solutions should be provided.
- The proposed game-changers must be backed by a good narrative and robust scientific evidence.
- Environmental and social sustainability of the solutions and its replicability in diverse local realities may be explicitly considered.

- Keeping the diversity of contexts, a matrix of game changers may be more appropriate.
- The processes and cost of the game-changers need to be recognized and explicated.
- The proposals should be flexible and adaptive to diverse contexts.

Agenda 3: Scientific Group Agenda Paper

A detailed outline of the proposed agenda paper was shared with the members of the ScG before the meeting. The Chairperson informed the ScG that zero draft of the paper is expected by the end of April 2021. The paper will draw on the Action Tracks, FSS Briefs and the deliberations of Dialogues. In the open discussion on the Agenda Paper, the following key points were made by the participants.

- Case studies on successful practices may be highlighted.
- Indigenous knowledge on agricultural practices should be included, as planned.
- Diversity of literature along with the uncertainties should be taken into account.
- The position of the ScG on areas that need to be prioritized must be clarified based on criteria.
- The institutional change/institutions necessary for the successful implementation of the game-changers should be highlighted along with the institutional obstacles to positive change.
- Opportunities for FSS transformation for the achievement of the SDGs may be highlighted.
- ScG's position on controversial subjects such as agro-ecology, biotech, new protein sources may be expressed.

Agenda 4: Conferencing by Scientific Group

- A Workshop of the Scientific Group hosted by the Pontifical Academy of Science will take place on April 20-22, 2021. The Workshop will include Round Table discussions on Food System Transformation among other related themes. Members of the ScG will also discuss the Agenda Paper of the ScG and Evaluation/Assessment process of the Action Tracks' propositions.
- Science Days. July 8-9, 2021. organized by the ScG in collaboration with FAO. The two-day event will focus on science and innovation on the Food Systems.

Agenda 5: Other business

- The expectations from the ScG vis a viz its engagements with other FSS processes shall be clarified further.
- A list of state-of-the-art scientific research on FSS related themes is being prepared and will be published on the ScG website. The members are requested to provide their input to the list.

The meeting closed at 15:45 h CET.