HLPE
The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

Science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Where science and policy meet

17 May 2021

Martin Cole
HLPE Chairperson
The CFS

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974 and reformed in 2009 as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

**CFS is INCLUSIVE (advisory group) and EVIDENCE-BASED (HLPE)**

The **CFS reports to the United Nations General Assembly** via the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
HLPE functions as per CFS rules

i. Assess and analyze the **current state** of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.

ii. Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific **policy-relevant issues**, utilizing existing high-quality research, data and technical studies.

iii. Identify **emerging issues**, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.
Key attributes of the HLPE

• **Created, appointed, mandated** by the CFS but working independently

• The HLPE addresses the *multidisciplinary complexity of food security and nutrition*.

• **Demand-driven**, tight agenda, present status of knowledge

• **Works in a transparent and open way**, in particular openness to various forms of knowledge.
“The emergence of a coalition of the concerned with reference to the elimination of hunger”

MS Swaminathan, Inaugural Chair HLPE, 2010
HLPE reports allow to develop:

- a common understanding of complex FSN-related issues
- mutual understanding among stakeholders

“One of the key roles of the reports is to help members and participants in CFS to understand why they disagree”

M.S. Swaminathan, 1st HLPE Chair
The HLPE’s role & project cycle
Congratulations! Shakuntala World Food Prize Winner

Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted is the first woman of Asian descent to win a $250,000 award dubbed the ‘Nobel prize of food’

By Sarah Newey, GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CORRESPONDENT
11 May 2021 - 2:01pm
FSN and sustainable development: an HLPE global narrative towards 2030

Environment

- 2.1 Urban/Rural transformation
- 2.5 Agroecology
- 2.6 Agrobiodiversity

Social

- 2.2 Conflicts and migrations
- 2.7 Food safety

Economic

- 2.3 Inequalities
- 2.4 Trade
- 2.8 Technology
- 2.9 Governance
Key CFS policy products based on HLPE reports

1. Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems ("RAI Principles" | 2014)

2. Voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition ("VGFSyN" | 2021)

3. Policy recommendations on price volatility, climate change, biofuels, fisheries, aquaculture, gender, water, forestry, livestock, etc.

4. Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches (ongoing negotiation)
The “Global Narrative” report (2020): Framing the FSN agenda towards 2030

Provides a comprehensive conceptual framework to identify:

• Some of the most promising policy directions to move beyond the challenges and achieve FSN targets towards 2030

• How the shifts in FSN thinking in recent years can guide us on how best to meet SDG 2 targets
A sustainable food system (SFS) framework

**Qualities of SFS:**

- **Productive & prosperous** (availability)
- **Equitable & inclusive** (access)
- **Healthy & nutritious** (utilization)
- **Resilient** (stability)
- **Empowering & respectful** (agency)
- **Regenerative** (sustainability)

Modified from HLPE 12, 2017
Critical policy shifts necessary for more sustainable food systems

CRITICAL SHIFTS IN POLICY APPROACHES ADVOCATED BY THE HLPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shift</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusive focus on increasing agricultural supply in a context of population growth</td>
<td>Working toward a radical transformation of food systems as a whole to improve FSN and achieve Agenda 2030</td>
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<td>Viewing FSN as a sectoral issue</td>
<td>Viewing FSN as a system interconnected with other systems and sectors</td>
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<td>Exclusive focus on reducing hunger and undernutrition</td>
<td>Focus on hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, in their complex relation to one another</td>
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<td>Focus on finding globally applicable FSN solutions</td>
<td>Understanding that FSN is context-specific, requiring diverse solutions</td>
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Adapted from HLPE 2017
Theory of change

**Critical Policy Elements**
- Recognize need for radical transformation of food systems
- View FSN as a system interconnected with other systems and sectors
- Focus on hunger and malnutrition in all its forms
- Recognize FSN is context specific and requires diverse solutions
- Enabling Conditions: Governance and Research

**Sustainable Food Systems that Support the Six Interconnected Dimensions of Food Security**
- Access (equitable)
- Utilization (healthy & nutritious)
- Stability (diverse & resilient)
- Availability (productive & prosperous)
- Sustainability (regenerative)
- Agency (empowering)

**Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG2 - Zero Hunger**

ZERO HUNGER

![Image of a bowl of soup with a number 2 zero hunger symbol]
The COVID-19 Issues paper: a fast mobilization for a burning issue

17 March 2020  First request by CFS Chair
19 March 2020  First draft presented to the CFS Bureau
September 2020  First update of the issues paper
4 June 2021    Side-event at CFS 48 for inputs from countries and regions
September 2021  Second update of the issues paper
HLPE’s busy roadmap in the coming years

1. Youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems
2. Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition
   – Led by Prof Carlo Cafiero, FAO
   – 1 July CFS intersessional event to provide valuable inputs
   – Link with monitoring, forecasting and modelling
3. COVID-19 issues paper update
4. Report on **Data collection and analysis tools for Food Security and Nutrition** (mid-2022)
5. Report on **Inequalities in food systems** (mid-2023)
Types of Innovation to transform agri-food systems

- Technological: digital, biotechnological, renewable energy, etc.
- Agroecology and other sustainable agricultural approaches
- Supply chains
- Policy
- Institutional
- Social
- Financial

(Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist FAO)
The Food Systems Summit must build on the existing global science body for Food Security and Nutrition

**The HLPE’s assets**

1. Ability to provide independent scientific expertise that serves policymakers' needs.
2. Legitimacy derived from the 2009 reform of the CFS
3. Effectiveness
4. Transparency

**Addressing new challenges:**

Report #17 will focus on improving data collection and analysis for monitoring, forecasting and modelling