

FOOD POLICY UPDATE

FROM ROME

ISSUE I
JANUARY 2011

For more info on CFS:

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/en/>
(to login: cfs, cfs)
<http://foodnutgov.ning.com/>
<http://cso4cfs.org/>

Food Policy Updates from Rome aims to provide an up-to-date information on the global food governance system and strategic activities of ActionAid International.

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This project is
funded by the EU

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The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** was established in 1974 as an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security. During 2009, the CFS went through a reform process and it now aims to become the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for ensuring food security and nutrition for all. For the first time, civil society organizations (CSO) have a formal seat and voice at the table, being one of the participants in the new CFS along with states, UN bodies, CGIAR, IFIs, WTO, private sector, and philanthropic foundations.

One of the key objectives of the Right to Food Team is to monitor and influence the CFS so that it becomes the key political arena for discussing global food governance issues

Strategic Activities of AAI and CPs with regards to CFS

- Promote the inclusion of voices from affected communities in the Global South
- Engage in the development of the CFS Global Strategic Framework
- Advocate for stronger linkages between the CFS and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) of the World Bank
- Network with other CSOs, especially farmers organizations, INGOs and social movements
- Engage as both AAI and the International Food Security Network (IFSN) on CSO consultations, which are to be launched by CFS in 2011

I. Governance

Upon the reform of the CFS in November 2009 and of the final report of the first Plenary of the reformed CFS in October 2010, the Bureau, the Advisory Group and the HLPE approved their 2011 work plans along with goals and timetable to achieve them.

The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) has launched the process in which the 40 members of the Coordination Committee (CC)¹ will be selected, representing constituencies and sub-regions. For the NGO constituency, **Chris Leather** from Oxfam and **Natalia Landivar** from FIAN Ecuador have been appointed respectively as Northern and Southern NGO representatives, for a 10-month interim period until the next CFS session in October next year.

Action Point:

- AA food rights staff to build relations with members of the CC
- Explore opportunities for organising meetings and forums to present CFS regionally

At regional level, the CFS will organize consultations on the following selected areas of work, and it is recommended that AAI closely engage in these areas:

Action Point:

Determine who is interested in participating in the survey.

For more info on the proposed process for the working group, follow this [link](#)

Action Point:

Determine who is interested in engaging and taking lead in these three consultations, and with whom AAI Food Policy Officer can coordinate from Rome and Brussels.

Action Point:

Link up IFSN networks with lead agencies in selected countries to facilitate mapping

2. Global Strategic Framework

The Bureau Working Group on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), chaired by Brazil, has launched an electronic consultation to promote a broad, inclusive consultation on the first step of the development of the GSF. It is an electronic survey in Word format, which needs to be completed and returned to the CFS Secretariat by 31 January.

3. Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Land Tenure and other Natural Resources (VG)

The CFS agreed that in May 2011, a zero draft of the VG will be submitted electronically to be reviewed by Member countries and the VG Advisory Group, and that it will be available for one month in a dedicated website. In June 2011, the first draft will be submitted in all languages to an open-ended working group of the CFS, led by the USA.

With regard to CSO, a consultation has been launched by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) on drafting **CSO Land Guidelines**, the second draft of which will be available late December and the document will feed into the VG process.

4. Global Food Price Volatility

The main objective of the HLPE study on food price volatility will be to present policy options that reduce risk and build resilience at all levels. The approach will include **circulating a draft document for open, electronic discussion over a two-week period at the end of January 2011** to provide an opportunity to receive important contributions by a wide range of interested actors, including experts in the HLPE Roster.

FAO and OECD are coordinating the efforts of several international organizations such as IFAD, IMF, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank and WTO to develop options for G20 consideration on how to better mitigate the risks associated with the price volatility of food and other commodities. **The first draft of this document will be sent to the HLPE to provide comments that will be subsequently discussed during a workshop near the end of February or early March.**

5. Mapping Nutrition and Food Security Actions at Country Levels

The CFS aims to support national governments and other stakeholders to map policies, programmes, projects and resource flows at country level in order to improve national plans and the coordination of investments.

1 The CC will be composed of one focal person from each of the following constituencies listed in the *Proposal for an International food security and nutrition Civil society mechanism for relations with CFS—smallholder family farmers, artisanal fisherfolk, herders/pastoralists, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs*. It will also include sub-regional focal points: four focal points from smallholder family farmer organizations, and one focal point from each sub-region (suggested breakdown: North America, Central America and Caribbean, Andean Region, Southern Cone, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia, Oceania and Pacific, Southern Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, North Africa).

The added value of this exercise is to help governments that lack capacity to provide information on how public and donor money is allocated in food security programmes. However, what needs to be done first hand is to map existing tools, select the most appropriate of them, help governments to use it, and report to the CFS Plenary in October 2011.

Action Point:

Provide names, contacts, and CVs of experts that we want to nominate

6. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Roster

We can nominate experts to the HLPE Roster, from which the Steering Committee of the HLPE will organise Project Teams. We are currently monitoring the candidature of Suman Sahai submitted by AAI last January.

For new candidatures, names, contact details and CVs are required.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations working with rural people in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security. IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions, which can involve increasing rural poor peoples' access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources. IFAD will host the Secretariat of the Land Portal, of which ActionAid is one of the main promoters and partners.

For more info on IFAD:
<http://www.ifad.org/>

1. Land Portal (LP)

The LP is a web space coming from the joint partnership of landtenure.info and International Land Coalition. The partnership is currently composed of approximately 150 land-concerned practitioners from almost 40 organizations. The Land Portal Partnership is currently represented by an interim Steering Committee composed by 9 organizations, of which AA is one.

Three active working groups have been established, including the following AA members:

- **Gender:** Catherine Gatundu, Esther Mariaselvam, Beatrice Costa
- **Commercial Pressure on Land (CPL):** Nicola Borrello
- **Food Security and Land:** Amar Nayak, Amade Suca, Shahidur Rahman

Action Point:

Consider the approval/disapproval of the proposal

For the letter working group, a funding proposal has been presented to IFSN, aimed at identifying and disseminating experiences in selected countries on the links between *access to and control over land and the promotion of food security*. The objective is to stress and address those links properly within the FAO Voluntary Guideline on Land and Natural Resources (VG) and Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) discussions, making information available on the Land Portal database, as well as raising public awareness in order to influence the international agenda.

2. Rural Poverty Report

The new Rural Poverty report was launched by IFAD in December 2010. It represents highly comprehensive document containing wide-ranging data and analysis. Summary and full report are available in several languages: <http://www.ifad.org/rpr2011/index.htm>

CONCORD European Food Security Group (EFSG), Brussels

For more info on CONCORD:
<http://www.concordeurope.org>

CONCORD is the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. Its 18 international networks and 25 national associations from the European Member States represent more than 1600 European NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions. The **Concord European Food Security Group (EFSG)** acts as a reference group in promoting a structured and regular dialogue between NGOs, European Institutions and relevant international stakeholders on food security issues. The group is especially important for IFSN in networking, elaborating and lobbying for policies at the EU level.

Action Point:
 Feed the CFS agenda into Concord EFSG work

1. Working with CFS

CONCORD EFSG proposed Stineke Oenema, Food Security Policy Officer from the Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), and chair of the EFSG as Western Europe representatives in CC of the CSM. The group is willing to discuss the CFS agenda items (i.e. Global Strategic Framework, Price Volatility, Voluntary Guidelines, and Mapping nutrition and food security actions) in order to influence the position of the European Commission (EC) on these issues.

Action Point:
 Alberta to seek input from Denmark/MS

2. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform

CONCORD EFSG is preparing a CAP position paper, which focuses on policy coherence and the impact of CAP on developing countries. The position paper should be finalised by the time the EC public consultation closes on 25 January. EC's second communication on CAP will be released in July.

Action Point:

- National-based members to liaise with respective agriculture and rural development contacts in their Ministries
- Alberta via IFSN to feed back on the implementation plan

3. Monitoring of the EU Policy Framework for Food Security and the EC Implementation Plan

The EC is currently working on a second draft of the implementation plan to operationalise its Policy Framework for Food Security.

It seems that the member states are keen to see the implementation plan as a tool for fostering coordination and harmonisation of practices, rather than an activity-oriented "action plan".

The EU Policy Framework touches on many points that are of AAI's interest—including Aquila pledges, CAADP process, agricultural research, participation of civil society and farmers organisations in policy making and research programmes, CFS, land regulation (AU guidelines, FAO VG, RAI), research and innovation for small farmers that includes adaptation to climate change, etc.

Upcoming Events

31 January and 4 February 2011 - 29th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

For more info:
<http://www.fao.org/cofi/cofi2011/en/>

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the FAO currently represents the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined.



This project is funded by the EU

