

Food and Nutrition Security through Sustainable Agriculture and Food System

**Major Group and Civil Society Food and Agriculture Cluster's
draft priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals and
the post-2015 development agenda**

A thematic position paper

Suggested length 4 pages

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Introduction (draft)

This short position paper details the Major Group and Civil Society Food and Agriculture Cluster's vision and priorities - including themes, goals, targets and indicators – for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the wider post-2015 development agenda and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). It provides an opportunity for the Major Group and Civil Society Food and Agriculture Cluster to communicate and consult on its position as a basis for ongoing stakeholder engagement, capacity building and advocacy. We hope that it will lead to increased engagement and coordinated advocacy around these themes and objectives.

Summary

This position paper considers the following priority themes and issues:

- Food security and nutrition / sustainable agriculture

Other issues that are made reference to are: Macroeconomic policy questions; Means of implementation; Sustainable cities and human settlements; Sustainable consumption and production; Climate change; Forests and biodiversity; Water and sanitation; Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women.

Our position

In a world where we already produce enough food to feed the 9 billion projected for 2050, 870 million people worldwide – one child in five – still go hungry. Food security and nutrition for all through sustainable agriculture and food systems must therefore be set as one of the fundamental goals of global development. A holistic, integrated and inclusive approach that promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems with positive economic, environmental, and social impacts is necessary: Nourish our people, nurture our planet!

This goal should aim to achieve food security for all through the sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources, regenerative soil management, zero land degradation, responsible land tenure, increased resource use efficiency, minimized emissions and use of non-renewable inputs, high biodiversity and farm animal welfare, strengthened urban-rural linkages, access to markets and locally produced food of high nutritional quality, sustainable diets and consumption patterns, reduced waste and other unsustainable practices throughout the food chain, improved public health, empowerment of rural women, safeguarding the rights of agriculture and food systems workers, system resilience, social safety nets and disaster preparedness.

Smallholder farmers must be given priority if we want to arrive at an effective set of Post-2015 Goals. Agricultural subsidies and trade policies must be reformed and adapted to take into account the needs of small-scale farmers. Sustainable and humane livestock systems should be included as key to sustainable agriculture and diets. Livestock plays a central role in food security, providing nutrition and essential services such as draft power, employment and income security, whilst industrial livestock production has detrimental impacts on the environment, biodiversity and small-holders' livelihoods. Women play a major role all along the food chain from the field to the plate. Their knowledge and needs must be taken into account at all levels of decision making that impact agriculture and food systems. In addition, food waste is a significant challenge: a third of what is produced worldwide goes to waste.

Goals and Targets

Goal: Achieve food and nutrition security through sustainable agriculture and food systems

Global Targets:

- End malnutrition and hunger in each of their forms, so that all people enjoy the right to adequate food at all times.

-> Possible indicators: Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age; Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption; Food Insecurity Experience Scale.

> Related concepts and initiatives: Right to Food, Zero Hunger Challenge.

- Ensure the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and other rural communities, in particular women and disadvantaged groups, through access to productive resources and assets, including the protection of agricultural assets (including livestock) against disasters.
 -> *Possible indicators: Poverty headcount ratio at rural poverty line (% of rural population) / Rural Gini / Rural – urban decomposition of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, Percent of productive and household assets loss decreased^{1,2}.*
 -> *Related concepts and initiatives: Right to Food, Zero Hunger Challenge, decent employment.*
- Achieve the transformation to sustainable, diverse and resilient agriculture and food systems that conserve natural resources and ecosystems, and realize a land-degradation neutral world.
 -> *Possible indicators: Percent of farmland under agro-ecological standards; Carbon footprint; Fertilizer use efficiency; Total factor productivity.*
 -> *Related concepts and initiatives: safe operating spaces, Land-degradation neutral world, desertification, Water, pollution, biodiversity, climate change, Empowerment of women and small-scale farmers.*
- Minimize post-harvest and other food losses and waste.
 -> *Possible indicators: Proportion of cereals / oil crops used for animal feed³; Relative proportion of harvest / livestock that is not consumed as food⁴.*
 -> *Related concepts and initiatives: Zero Hunger Challenge, A target addressing this challenge had already been endorsed at the Rio+20 conference (para. 110).*
- Adopt multi-level inclusive and transparent governance mechanisms to link urban-rural planning and implementation, integrate food and non-food ecosystem services, empowering fair and inclusive trade for city-region food systems and expanding employment opportunities in the food chain from farm-to-table, for markets of all kinds⁵.
 -> *Possible indicators: Percent of city regions establishing some form of multi-level governance / degree of integration of ecosystem services in planning processes / policy support for access to small farmers to urban markets / degree of food system related job creation.*
- Ensure an equitable multilateral trade system that promotes rural development and food security, including by eliminating dumping and other forms of asymmetric trade practices, as well as mitigating excessive food price volatility.
 -> *Possible indicators: Effects of trade agreements on the domestic agricultural sector and on food security in vulnerable countries, estimated through ex ante evaluation systems; Domestic food price volatility in staple crops; Diffusion of the AMIS system.*
 -> *Related concepts and initiatives: Macroeconomic policy questions, Means of implementation, Poverty, infrastructure, sustainable consumption, Biodiversity, soils, water, climate change.*
- Establish inclusive, transparent, and equitable decision-making processes at all levels on food, nutrition and agriculture to accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition for all

¹ UN Habitat (2013). State of the world's cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of cities. pp. 11.

² Sustainable Development Commission (2009). Prosperity without growth? Retrieved from http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/data/files/publications/prosperity_without_growth_report.pdf pp. 23.

³ Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on natural resources, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2013, Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3347e/i3347e.pdf>

⁴ Biofuels and the sustainability challenge, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2013, Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3126e/i3126e.pdf>

⁵ From Rural Linkages including Food Security and Ecosystem Resources, available at http://www.comunitascoalition.org/pdf/Zero_Draft_Linkages_Rural_Deve_Forster.pdf

-> Possible indicators: Right to food included in country legislation. Data source: FAO Legislative Database on the Right to Food.

-> Related concepts and initiatives: Good governance and participation, Data systems, monitoring & evaluation, Human rights, global governance.

- Research and technology transfer support the transformation to sustainable food system activities

-> Possible indicators: Amount of investment into research on different farming systems and food system activities.

-> Related concepts and initiatives: Education.

Where necessary, these global targets and indicators have to be adapted to national levels.

Framework

Cross-cutting Issues

Food and nutrition security through sustainable agriculture is a cross-cutting issue. It is linked to many priority issues including : water, energy, health, employment, gender equality, climate change, biodiversity, poverty eradication, trade, cities, and SCP.

Placing the Position

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Monitoring and Evaluation

To develop fair and inclusive Post-2015 Goals, a multi-stakeholder approach which includes Farmers' Organizations, Civil Society must be pursued.

With a view to foster country-level implementation, the UN should provide support, upon request, in the assessment of national or regional agriculture and food systems in order to identify actions to attain the Post-2015 Goals and allocate resources efficiently and effectively.

Progress on the Post-2015 Goals needs to be measured and monitored at all levels by independent bodies with the relevant knowledge, competence and capabilities. In the field of food security and sustainable agriculture, the Committee on World Food Security in Rome, as the foremost participatory body in this realm, in cooperation with relevant UN bodies, might be best suited to provide a platform and stewardship for this purpose.

Based on the lessons learned from the MDGs, progress assessments should be prepared by the relevant UN bodies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, HLPE of the CFS) or multi-stakeholder expert groups in a transparent process with input from all relevant stakeholders – especially small-scale farmers, women, and marginalized groups.

Next Steps

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Conclusion

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