



CFS41 – UNSCN Interventions in Plenary

Monday 13th October - Round Tables: Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems (IV)

Food losses and waste are a consequence of how our food systems function. The UN Standing Committee on Nutrition would like to underscore two points in this discussion:

First - environmental sustainability:

- The challenges of the 21st century are increasingly connected. The challenge of achieving good nutrition through food systems that are environmentally sustainable needs to receive serious attention in the policy agenda.
- The way humans acquire food, through agriculture and food systems, is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss and pollution of the ecosystems.
Human nutrition, in turn, is highly dependent on these ecosystems, e.g. nutrient diversity and water quality.
- As we move forward into the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, nutrition and environmental sustainability should be considered intrinsically linked also to the reduction of food losses and waste.
- Therefore, a change at scale in how people interact with their environment to achieve food security and good nutrition is required to reduce food losses and waste.
- The UNSCN fully supports the recommendations of the presented report and decision box.

Second – connection to the ICN2:

- Part of the solution is coordination. We like to underscore the connection with other international processes that are addressing this issue. Yesterday, in this same building, The OEWG of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) finalised the draft outcome documents of the ICN2 that will take place next month.
- The ICN2, jointly organized by FAO and WHO, aims to bring nutrition and food systems and health together in one platform.
- Its draft policy and programme options for improving nutrition include a set of recommended actions for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets. And these recommendations include actions that promote sustainable production patterns, as well as creating incentives for sustainable consumption patterns. Both, of which are essential steps to reduce food losses and waste.

Finally, Member States finalised the preparations of the ICN2 documents and we would like to encourage that Member States will continue to take leadership in this process.

Thank you for your attention.



Tuesday 14 October - Coordination and Linkages with CFS - Global

Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Framework

The UN Standing Committee on Nutrition welcomes the discussion. The UNSCN would like to underscore that malnutrition impairs individual productivity and reduces macroeconomic and social growth.

We should not lose sight of what really matters. People are at the core of sustainable development. Individual wellbeing is essential to sustaining the inter-generational gains in health, productivity and social engagement that underpin the sustainable development agenda.

Nutrition must be understood as both, an input to, and an outcome of, the SDGs as a whole. The choices that individuals are able and willing to make regarding foods to produce and market, the diet their families consume, and the care and nurture of nutritionally vulnerable people, particularly mothers and infants, all have a direct bearing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Especially with regard to the proposed SDG 2, we need to keep in mind that agriculture and food systems relationship with nutrition are bi-directional. It is important to recognize that there is this two-way causal relationship. And to allow nutrition to support SDG 2, targeted nutrition actions that address immediate needs and ensure that lives are sustained are needed.

In addition, Monitoring and accountability indicators are important. There is robust evidence that reducing 'stunting' in children under five years of age leads to lifetime of ongoing benefits. Furthermore, we support what Per Pinstrup Anderson just said with regard to including the problem of obesity in the agenda.

Our questions to the panellists are:

What will be the procedures of elaborating the monitoring and indicator framework for the SDGs ?

How will the process build on already existing processes in countries regarding multi-stakeholder partnerships?



Wednesday 15 October - Agenda Point VI: CFS WORKSTREAM UPDATES

Programme of Work and Priorities and Emerging Issues

The Committee will be updated on the status of the selection process of the activities to be carried out in the biennium 2016-2017. The Committee will also be asked to make a decision on the theme of the HLPE report for 2016.

UNSCN Intervention

- The UNSCN is in support of the CFS Programme of Works. We would like to draw the attention to important tasks that lie ahead of us:
- The political commitments of Member States expected at the ICN2 will have a bearing on the work of the CFS. The CFS will certainly play a role in the implementation of the expected commitments. Therefore we would like to propose the integration of this task into the Programme of Works for the biennium 2016 and 2017.
- Furthermore, next year we will have a new development agenda post-2015 with new goals and targets for a world free from hunger and malnutrition. Also this needs to be taken into consideration in the Programme of work. And, in fact both these processes are interlinked with regard to nutrition and sustainable food systems.
- With this in mind we advocate for the periodic updating of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) for Food Security and Nutrition.
- This should already now be incorporated in the Multi Year Programme of Work, so that the revision may be done in 2016.
- We are aware that this is subject to available resources.



Wednesday 15 October - Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI)

The Committee will be asked to endorse the RAI Principles (CFS-RAI), which reflect the outcome of an inclusive consultative process both at global and regional levels.

UNSCN Intervention

We acknowledge and appreciate the excellent work of the committee on the RAI Principles and welcome their adoption. The challenge now relies in the application of the principles in national level policy.

We would like to reflect on the potential impact that the principles, and in particular principle 1 and 10, have on global nutrition.

The 1st principle highlights the need that agricultural investments contribute to food security and nutrition. Having nutritious and diverse food will serve also the urgent need to have food that allows a healthy diet. There is unfortunately still a misalignment between the food produced, processed and distributed and the nutritious needs of populations, with insufficient supply of unsaturated fat, fruit and vegetables or foods rich in vitamins and minerals and an excessive supply and low cost of unsaturated fat and foods rich in sugar and salt. This can be corrected by changing the structure of the investments, whether public or private.

The 10th principle calls for the need to assess the impact of investment. We strongly call for the need to have diet and nutrition indicators to monitor and measure impact, including nutrient intakes of different population groups.

The ICN2 Framework For Action (FFA) proposes a set of policy option that refer to investments. Success in fighting malnutrition in all its forms requires public and private investments in support of established nutrition targets.



Friday 17 October - Agenda Point VI: CFS WORKSTREAM UPDATES (continuation...)

The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

The Committee will be asked to endorse the third version of the “Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition” that incorporates the policy recommendations on Biofuels and Food Security and Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition as adopted at CFS40 in 2013.

UNSCN Intervention

The UN Standing Committee on Nutrition supports the Global Strategic Framework.

- The GSF is reflecting more and more the incorporation of nutrition in CFS work, and it is laying out what it needs to ensure a diverse food basket instead of concentrating on energy sufficiency.
- Nutrition does deserve focus and be dealt with in equal terms as food security in all work of the CFS. The ICN2 with its attention on sustainable food systems is the opportunity to strengthen the bridge between agriculture and health. The ICN2 is also the opportunity to encourage stakeholders and all sectors to make use of the Global Strategic Framework.
- The UNSCN supports the adoption of the third version of the GSF. We would like to look further. The political commitments of Member States expected at the ICN2 will have a bearing on the work of the CFS and its GSF.
- With this in mind we advocate for the revision of the GSF with new emerging issues like the connections with the increase in obesity and diet related noncommunicable diseases.

Thank you for your attention



Friday 17 October - Agenda Point VI: CFS WORKSTREAM UPDATES (continuation...)

Agenda for Action For Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (A4A)

The UNSCN congratulates the OEWG for the advancement in the development of this important and timely Agenda for Action.

- The impact of protracted crisis on food security and nutrition is not a small problem. The combined population of affected countries is estimated at 450 million people (Daniel Maxwell et al, 2012).
- Food insecurity and malnutrition are the most serious and common manifestations in these complex crisis situations.
- One third (9 out of 36) of the so called high burden stunting countries are in a protracted crisis situation.

We would like to emphasize four points in this discussion:

- **Chronic malnutrition needs equal attention:** It is not only the acute forms of malnutrition that are prominent, but also chronic malnutrition, what we call stunting. This is a tragedy that is often overlooked. Women and young children are particularly vulnerable to this. These children have elevated risk of death, lower performance in school and do not develop to their full potential.
- **Equal focus needs to be given to nutrition actions that directly** affected malnutrition, as well as to actions that address the **indirect** causes of malnutrition and food insecurity.
- Protracted crisis are rarely defined by national boundaries. Therefore **adequate incorporation of all population groups in this agenda is essential.**
- **Bridging the gap between humanitarian aid and long-term development assistance** is essential to help people build resilience and get back on the path to self-reliance and dignity.

How relevant this Agenda for Action is shows the recent consultation of UN Agencies in Nairobi where they addressed Emergency food security and nutrition preparedness and response in the Horn of Africa.

The objective of that meeting was to arrive at a common understanding of the food security and nutrition situation in the wider Horn of Africa for all affected populations (including IDPs and refugees); review and outline elements of a joint regional support plan and to support planned country level action.

The UNSCN fully supports the continuation of this work and its completion, so that the Agenda for Action can be presented at the CFS42.