

## Private Sector Mechanism Newsletter on Issues Related to the UN Committee on World Food Security

January 2020

### Nutrition

The OEWG on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) on 29 January provided the first opportunity to discuss Draft 1 of VGFSyN and some of the key concerns from countries on the current draft. While some Member States were reticent to share views until they formally submit their input by the **5 February** deadline, others shared: concern over the definition of 'Sustainable and Healthy Diets'; the need to strengthen the economic and social dimension of the sustainability of food systems; the lack of evidence/scientific basis for the guidelines; and the need for greater references to the World Food Summit. Key points provided by the PSM included: the lack of evidence and scientific basis for some recommendations and concepts, the need for greater focus on Food Loss and Waste and Food Safety, and coherence with international agreements and policies. The PSM will be submitting its input by 5 February, along with the individual comments received from members.

The following are the key nutrition events in the coming months:

- **5 February:** Deadline to submit written comments on Draft 1
- **March/April (TBC):** A one day OEWG to share views on the revised Draft for negotiation
- **11-15 May:** CFS Negotiation on VGN (all day)
- **20-14 July:** CFS Negotiation on VGN (all day)

For more information, contact [rosemary@emergingag.com](mailto:rosemary@emergingag.com).

### Agroecology & Other Innovations

The CFS open meeting on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches took place on Monday, 27 January to set the stage for the preparation of the Zero Draft CFS *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative approaches* by discussing the policy relevant areas presented in the *Rapporteur's Note*. The PSM presented its positions based on the agreed comments of the PSM 2<sup>nd</sup> macro-committee. This was the only opportunity for face-to-face multi-stakeholder dialogue ahead of the formal negotiations to be held on 26-28 May, 2020 after which policy recommendations will be presented for endorsement by the Committee at its 47<sup>th</sup> Plenary session in October 2020. Following the discussions at the open meeting, the 'zero' draft will be available for review and comment on February 18<sup>th</sup> until March 18<sup>th</sup> and PSM members will be encouraged to make comments which will be the basis of the 'first' draft which will be available on 16 April and the basis for the negotiations in May.

For more information, contact [brian@emergingag.com](mailto:brian@emergingag.com).

### FAO Regional Consultations

The dates for the upcoming Regional Conferences in 2020 are:

- **February 16-20:** Asia Pacific Regional Conference (Bhutan)
- **March 1-5:** Near East Regional Conference (Oman)
- **March 23-27:** Africa Regional Conference (Zimbabwe)
- **April 6-10:** Informal North America Regional Conference (Canada)
- **April 27-30:** Latin America Regional Group (Nicaragua)
- **5-7 May:** European Regional Conference (Uzbekistan)

Please contact [rosemary@emergingag.com](mailto:rosemary@emergingag.com) if you are interested in attending.

### HLPE Report for CFS 47, October 2020

The High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) has launched an online consultation on the V0 draft of the report "[Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030](#)".

The results of this consultation will be used by the HLPE to further elaborate this report, which will then be submitted for external expert review before finalization and approval by the HLPE Steering Committee. To participate in a consultation, open until February 23d, you can post your comments online following registration. In alternative, you can send your comments to [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org).

The report is available [here](#).

### MYPoW

The CFS Multi Year Program of Work 2020/2023 is available to access [here](#)

### Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

CFS has launched a [survey](#) to collect experiences and best practices for the use of [CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises](#). Members are encouraged to leave their opinions until the closing date of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### International Year of Fruits and Vegetables

FAO has declared 2021 the [International Year of Fruits and Vegetables](#). This space is still developing but we hope the IAFN and PSM will have opportunities to participate and work closely with FAO in the development of this year.

### Bridging the Data Divide: Reaching Zero Hunger Requires Better Agricultural Statistics

On 10 February, 2020 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will be hosting an open symposium at FAO. The symposium will discuss the data gap in agriculture with a focus on measuring the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG2. The event will be introduced by CFS Secretary Chris Hegadorn and include presentations by Rodger Voorhies (BMGF), Maximo Torero (FAO), El Iza Mohamadeou (World Bank), Jenna Slotin (UN Foundation), Sesheeni Selvaratnam (ActionAid), and Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chairperson).

### Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity March 10-12

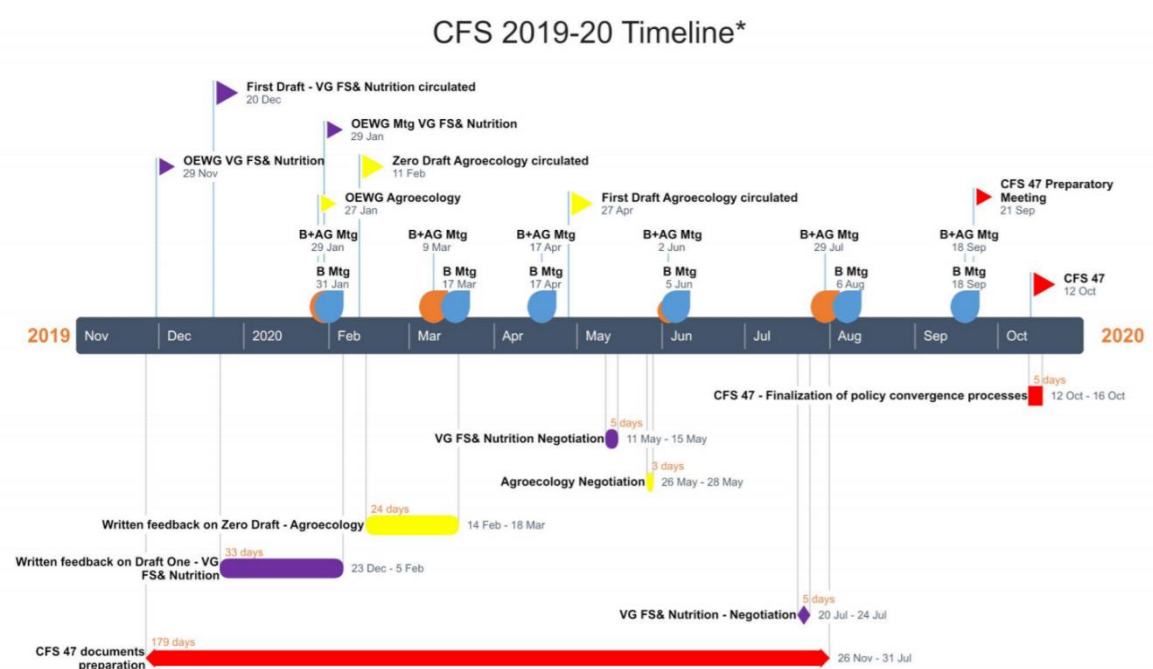
Following the FAO Council decision (December 2019) to approve the FAO Strategy for Mainstreaming Biodiversity, the FAO is organizing a Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity

(March 10-12, FAO Rome) which will include a Side Event/Policy Session for stakeholders, including private sector, to present their perspective on integrating soil biodiversity into their line of action/business. If you are interested in participating at the Symposium and/or being on the Panel for the side event, please contact Brian Baldwin, [brian@emergingag.com](mailto:brian@emergingag.com).

### Upcoming Events for 2020

- **January 27:** OEWG Agroecology, FAO, Rome
- **January 29:** OEWG Voluntary Guidelines Food Systems and Nutrition, FAO, Rome
- **March 10-12:** Global Symposium Soil Biodiversity, FAO, Rome
- **May 11-15:** CFS Negotiation on VG Food Systems and Nutrition, FAO, Rome
- **May 26-28:** FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform's Contribution to the Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework, FAO, Rome
- **May 26-28:** CFS Negotiation on Agroecology, FAO, Rome
- **June 3-5:** Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, FAO, Rome
- **June 17:** Launch of the HLPE Synthesis Report
- **June 29 – July 3:** 79th Session of the Codex Executive Committee, FAO, Rome
- **July 6-11:** Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Rome
- **July 20-24:** CFS Negotiation on VG Food Systems and Nutrition, FAO, Rome
- **Sept 28 – Oct 2:** FAO Committee on Agriculture, FAO, Rome
- **Oct 12-16:** UN Committee on Food Security (CFS), FAO, Rome

### CFS 2019/2020 Timeline



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