**Call for experiences in the use and application of three sets of CFS policy recommendations on smallholder agriculture in the context of food security and nutrition**

**Template for submissions**

**Please use this**[submission form](http://bit.ly/2nAitb1)**to share your experience in the use and application of three interconnected sets of CFS policy recommendations on smallholder agriculture in the context of food security and nutrition.   
  
For the necessary background and guidance, please refer to the topic note:** <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/CFS-smallholders-fsn>**.**  
**You can upload the completed form to the** FSN Forum **(**[www.fao.org/fsnforum](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum)) **or send it via email to** [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org)**.**

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| **Title of your submission\*** |  |
| **Geographical coverage**  *Indicate if your submission covers several levels, e.g. national level and regional level* | *(e.g. national, regional if several countries of the same region or/ and global if several countries in more than one region)*  *Global* |
| **Country(ies)/ Region(s) covered by your submission** | *(e.g. Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi)* |
| **Contact person** | Name: Ruchi Tripathi  Email address: Ruchi.Tripathi@actionaid.org |
| **Affiliation (indicate your affiliation)** | Government  UN organization  ♦ Civil Society / NGO  Private Sector  Academia  Donor  Other ………………………………………………………… |

*\*Please choose a title for your submission, referring e.g. to your organization or/ and geographical coverage*

**If the information provided in your submission results from a multistakeholder consultation, please also fill the table in annex.**

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| 1. Awareness of CFS policy recommendations | * How have you heard of these policy recommendations (e.g. CFS meeting or event, internet, colleagues, government, civil society organization)?   **We have been active in the CFS and some of the recommendations have emerged from our work to empower women smallholder farmers. In ActionAid we have an international platform and workstream related to agroecology where the information from CFS is shared.**  **ActionAid’s Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture approach is people-centred and aimed to empower women smallholder farmers. This approach includes the following which are all recognized in the recommendations**   * **Gender equity and women rights** * **Soil conservation** * **Sustainable water management** * **Agro-biodiversity preservation** * **Livelihood diversity** * **Processing and market access** * **Supporting Farmer Organisations** * Have you taken any actions to make these policy recommendations known to colleagues or other CFS stakeholders (Please tick the answer below)?   No  Yes  If yes, please explain:  **The recommendations are specifically incorporated in our work and are used by smallholder women farmers to influence government towards more favourable policies and practices. A policy position paper that incorporates the recommendations has been developed and is used in our advocacy work** [**https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/agroecology\_def\_web.pdf**](https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/agroecology_def_web.pdf)   * What would you recommend to CFS member states, Rome-based Agencies or/ and other stakeholders to make CFS policy products more widely known? Please explain:   **There could be webinars, the use of infographics, video and other forms of communication that are suitable for social media. Advice from young women and men on the best forms of communication for them would be useful.**  **There could also be the local usage of community communication channels to ensure the usage of local means of disseminating information** |
| 1. Use of the three sets of policy recommendations | * Which set(s) of policy recommendations have been used at sub-national, national, regional or/ and global level to support smallholder agriculture (please tick the answer below)?   *[If these policy recommendations have not been used, please go directly to question (xi)]*   * For each set that has been used, please indicate for which main purpose(s) it has been used   (*e.g training; awareness raising; capacity development; development/ assessment of projects, national strategies, plans of action, legislative or policy framework; investments by national governments or international financial institutions in favour of smallholders; development of finance proposals that are more favourable to small-scale producers; formulation and implementation of specific national strategies in favour of smallholder agriculture; other*)  Set 1: [Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition](http://www.fao.org/3/a-av034e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):  training; awareness raising; capacity development; development/ assessment of projects, national strategies, plans of action, legislative or policy framework.  The principles informed the development of a nutrition policy paper and projects that determine the level of investment in agriculture and agroecology. They have informed of our advocacy work around trade agreements.  Set 2: [Connecting Smallholders to Markets](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq853e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):  *training; awareness raising; capacity development; development/ assessment of projects, national strategies, plans of action, legislative or policy framework*  Partly informed the development of a gender sensitive access to markets handbook which is being used in 6-8 countries. https://actionaid.org/publications/2018/gender-sensitive-access-markets  ☐ Set 3: [Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq854e.pdf)  Main purpose(s):  *training; awareness raising; capacity development; development/ assessment of projects, national strategies, plans of action, legislative or policy framework*   * Which policy recommendations were found particularly useful to support smallholders and their food and nutrition security? Please explain:   **Public investment in smallholder farming, market access though territorial markets**  Policy Recommendation III, V and XI: Foster gender equality and women empowerment, Protect the environment and promote the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources respectively; through our work, women have been supported to own livestock in Ghana, Rwanda, Malawi, Bangladesh and Pakistan. This challenges gender inequalities in those countries where the ownership of livestock is traditionally reserved for women. This has also diversified their livelihoods and builds their resilience against crop loss arising from the impacts of climate change. They have also been supported to acquire knowledge and skills in effective management of livestock as a productive resource. Our work has also supported them to integrate livestock with crop farming by preparing organic manure using droppings from the animals and feeding the animals from crop residues as well as support for the adoption of agroecology and natural resources management. |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for smallholders   *Indicate the results obtained/ expected in the short term and in the medium-to-long term, with quantitative indications where feasible (i.e. estimate of the number of smallholders that have been or are expected to be affected)* | How have smallholders benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from the use of these policy recommendations for food security and nutrition in the short and medium to long-term? How have they contributed to the progressive realization of the right to food? *(please answer in the two boxes below)* |
| Results in the short term (qualitative and quantitative):  *(In addition to providing a qualitative assessment, please indicate where feasible the number of smallholders that have been directly involved in activities, e.g. six training involving a total of 250 people)*  **Work to raise awareness on policies and practices around women smallholder farmers in over 20 countries. Facilitating their engagement with Government over 20 countries. Engagement in 2 Trade agreements (TPP and PACER plus, to ensure more favourable engagements with smallholder farmers).**  **Over 24000 women in Ghana, Rwanda, Malawi, Bangladesh and Pakistan has received trainings in agroecology, livestock management and integration with crop farming, with many of them owning and making livelihoods from livestock rearing. They are also mobilized into movements for engaging their governments locally, nationally and internationally to influence policies that support the livelihoods and economies of smallholder farmers including agroecology. This is resulting in some governments beginning to recognize the need to adopt policies that support smallholder livelihoods and economies.**  **Informed ActionAid research in the local, national and international policy frameworks around women smallholder farming. Used to analyse these frameworks.**  **Recognition of agroecology in law and policy in Senegal** |
| Results in the medium to long term (qualitative and quantitative):  (*In addition to providing a qualitative assessment, please indicate where feasible the number of smallholders that have been or are expected to be indirectly affected by activities, e.g. training leading to development of local plan of action expected to affect 1,000 smallholders*)  **Charter of demands developed in 3 countries,**  **Implementation of agroecology in law and policy in Senegal**. |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for female smallholders | * Have any specific actions been taken (in line with these policy recommendations) topromote the realization of women’s empowerment, women’s rights and gender equality in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain:   **Yes women farmers are empowered to lead negotiations with governments at local, national and regional levels**. **Their** **inputs** **also feed into global level advocacy. (African) Rural women farmers forum which is a continental women farmers network has been working towards analyzing government agricultural budgets, demanding for their land rights and engaging at supra-national levels through the regional economic communities and African union.**   * How have female smallholders benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from these actions in terms of food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to food? Please explain:   **They will be able to claim their land rights including through continued rolling out of Tenure guidelines and mobilization of women through the Kilimanjaro initiative in Africa (and protect them in law), receive resources to adapt to climate change, sustainably manage natural resources, protect their rights as women rights defenders, obtain recognition and be valued as traditional knowledge holders, make decisions on income themselves and have their unpaid work recognized and redistributed. They are also able to negotiate gender responsive services and economic independence means that they can leave violent relationships more easily (although other forms of violence can emerge), thousands of women have gained access to productive resources including the ownership of livestock and have also realized land rights and have increased resilience against the impacts of climate change through the practice of agroecology.** |
| 1. Present and expected benefits for the youth | * Have any specific actions been taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the involvement of youth in agriculture and related activities in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain:   **This is a work in progress in ActionAid but there have been pilots to gain more resources for young women and men and also to use digital technologies to improve farming (GPS mapping, market information. Young people in particular have been engaged with the climate justice campaign.**   * How have youth benefitted (or are expected to benefit) from these actions in terms of food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right to food of youth? Please explain:   **Young women and men when empowered to engage in farming are able to continue to live locally and create vibrant rural communities. They are better able to control their food systems and consume more nutritious foods.** |
| 1. Contribution of the use of these policy recommendations to SDGs | * How has the use of these policy recommendations contributed (or is expected to contribute) to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 1 & 2 and some of the SDGs targeted in the 2019 review, and to fostering policy coherence? (please tick the answer):   SDG 1 (no poverty)  Please explain: **The policy recommendations should improve the capacity of smallholders to be able to gain income and make investments to grow their businesses. In addition, the recommendations will enable these rural communities to claim their rights which ActionAid links strongly to poverty. There should also be some arrest to urbanization where farmers have had to shift to cities to make more income, but it is often not decent work. As women are recognized as farmers there should also be less poverty for them and within families but this also requires work to minimize negative social norms.**  SDG 2 (zero hunger)  Please explain: **The recommendations will allow women and men to control their own food systems which empowers them to make more healthy and nutritious choices around their food including seed varieties under their control. As women are recognized as farmers that will also empower them to make decisions around food and make more nutritious choices. We need to work with gender departments and women organisations to reduce negative social norms including violence against women to ensure that they can also claim their full rights to food. Trade agreements that are people-centred rather than corporate controlled will allow women farmers to keep their own seed and use their own varieties which will improve their resilience to crises.**  SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)  Please explain: **Smallholder farmers will have more decent work and better returns to their labour. There could be more recommendations to ensure the recognition and redistribution of unpaid work. In addition, there could be more consideration of landless rural communities and informal workers particularly women so that they have more decent work.**  SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)  Please explain: **The promotion of smallholder agriculture ahead of corporate driven industrial agriculture will result in more vibrant and wealthier communities. The recognition of women farmers and less discriminatory policies and laws will also reduce inequality**  ☐ SDG 13 (climate action)  Please explain: **The capacity to adapt to climate change is mentioned in the recommendations but this needs to be adequately resourced as smallholder women farmers who are most affected by climate change yet they are the lowest contributors to it. In addition real solutions to climate change like agroecology need to be promoted.** |
| 1. Relevance and expected benefits of the use of these policy recommendations to the [UN Decade of Family Farming](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1479766/files/A_RES_72_239-EN.pdf) and the [UN Decade of Action on Nutrition](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259) | * How could these policy recommendations contribute to the UN Decade of Family Farming or (further) contribute to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders? Please explain:   **The recommendations obviously focus on smallholder family farming and the recognition and valuing of women farmers and will contribute significantly to those. It will be good to keep monitoring and evaluating their uptake by national governments and globally.**  **They could be used to analyse and influence trade agreements so that they become people and women centred.**  **There could be more presentations at G20, G8, G77, BRICS, Davos for those with visible power to recognize people’s rights.**  **Submissions could be made to the UN treaty that will bind corporates to uphold people’s rights. They could be used to inform and advocate for the UN agreement on peasant rights.**  **They could be presented at the counterpart event to Davos so that more people are aware of them.**  **They can be presented at side events at CoP and also woven into the refugee narrative** |
| 1. Catalysts and constraints | * What were the key catalysts that influenced positively the use of these policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders? * **Engagement of civil society including social movements in shaping the recommendations and feeding back on them** * What were the main constraints and challenges in using these CFS policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition smallholders?   **We may need to have an improved communication strategy and engage young people more strongly.**  **We need to be able to examine and analyse the ways in which they intersect with other policy frameworks particularly for women.**  **The focus on localization particularly women’s organisations and their importance is sustaining women’ s rights could have been stronger so we can engage more forcefully with governments to provide more long-term support.**  **The focus on people-centred agroecology as a real alternative for climate change adaptation and mitigation could have been emphasized more so we can challenge false solutions including climate smart agriculture.**  **The corporatization of agriculture could have been analysed more so that we can challenge hidden forms of power.** |
| 1. Good practices | * What good practices would you recommend for successful use of these policy recommendations?   **Engage civil society and social movements in shaping them and also in monitoring their uptake.** |
| 1. Lessons learned | * Do you have any suggestions to make to CFS in order to enhance the use of these policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders? * **Recognise that women smallholder groups, alliances and networks are important to these recommendations being adopted so that they can seek sustained support.** * **Engage young people and their movements in monitoring them** * **Engage more in climate justice and just transition advocacy** * **Explore intersections with other policy frameworks including extractives** |
| 1. Potential use of the policy recommendations for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders | * If these policy recommendations have not been used (or not sufficiently used), how could they be (further) used in the future for improving the food security and nutrition of smallholders, advancing the progressive realization of the right to food, achieving SDGs or/ and fostering policy coherence? Please explain: * **Focus on them more in ActionAid platform meetings.** * **Recognise where they appear in our M&E system so we can better monitor their uptake across our programmes/projects.** * **More engagement with BRICS, G20, G8, CHOGM, AU, ASEAN, Pacific forum, SDG high level political forums, trade agreements**. * **Use them to challenge corporate power** * What actions could be taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the realization of women’s empowerment, women’s rights and gender equality in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain: * **More recognition of smallholder women farmer organisations, networks and alliances.** * **Analysis of the ways in which they intersect with other policy frameworks for example women, peace, security and justice particularly around land rights and natural resource use.** * What actions could be taken (in line with these policy recommendations) to promote the involvement of youth in agriculture and related activities in the context of smallholder agriculture? Please explain: * **More engagement with young people’s movements.** * **Communicate them in ways that engage young people.** |
| 1. Link to additional information |  |

**Annex: to be filled if the information provided results from a multi-stakeholder consultation**

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| **Date of the multistakeholder event** |  |
| **Location of the event** |  |
| **Which groups of stakeholders participated in the event?** | Government  UN organization  Civil Society / NGO  Private Sector  Academia  Donor  Other ………………………………………………………………… |
| **Who organized the event?** | Government  UN organization  Civil Society / NGO  Private Sector  Academia  Donor  Other ………………………………………………………………… |