Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

Public Consultation

Towards the Development of the Programme on Sustainable Food Systems (SFSP) of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)

DRAFT

Background

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Heads of State and Government strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP).[1] Responding to the call of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, they reaffirmed that SCP is a prerequisite for, and one of the three objectives of sustainable development.[2]

The 10YFP is a global framework of action that aims at enhancing international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns, in both developed and developing countries.[3] The A/CONF.216/5 document, referred to in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, provides the vision, goals and common values of the 10YFP as well as its functions, organizational structure, means of implementation, criteria for programme design and an initial non-exhaustive list of five programmes.[4]

The FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme was established in 2011 with the support of the Government of Switzerland to prepare - with the Agri-food Taskforce on SCP (AFTF-SCP) - for its recognition as part of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).[5]

The AFTF-SCP - bringing together a broad coalition of concerned stakeholders including national Governments, the European Commission, UN Agencies and Programmes, civil society and private sector representatives - was established to promote the development and implementation of the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme, and – as an expert group of the agri-food sector – has played an essential role so far in the development process of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10YFP (10YFP-SFSP).

[1] "*The Future we Want*" Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012. (Paragraph 226).
[2] "*The Future we Want*" Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012. (Paragraph 4).
[3] http://www.unep.org/10yfp/.
[4] Document A/CONF.216/5 is available at www.unep.fr/scp.
[5] http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/sustainable-food-consumption-and-production/en/

In 2011, the AFTF-SCP proposed the following four work streams under the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme: i) re-focus and re-orient more effectively existing information platforms on sustainable agriculture and agri-food products; ii) deliver meaningful and reliable communication about agri-food products to create markets and incentives to foster sustainable consumption and production patterns; iii) create enabling conditions in developing countries for the uptake of SCP in Agri-food; and iv) promote productivity enhancing and resource efficient production methods through market-based approaches.

In 2013, the AFTF-SCP agreed to work towards the development and inclusion of a Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10YFP, based on the experience and work of the FAO-UNEP Programme.

In March 2014, FAO and UNEP submitted a preliminary proposal for a 10YFP-SFSP,[6] built on the existing work of the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and of the AFTF-SCP to the 10YFP Board, supported by letters from Costa Rica, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA. The 10YFP Board approved the preliminary proposal, suggesting that the Programme further elaborates its focus on consumption issues, food losses and waste.

From June to July 2014, an online survey was carried out to feed into the development of the 10YFP-SFSP with 212 participants from 70 countries.[7] In September 2014, building on the previous work under the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and taking into account the preliminary findings of the online survey the AFTF-SCP agreed on the proposed vision, goal, objectives and work areas of the 10YFP-SFSP.

Introduction

Today, more than 800 million people are hungry. Another billion are malnourished, lacking essential micronutrients. Globally, the levels of obesity-related health conditions are increasing rapidly, in both developing and developed countries. At the same time, around 30% of the food produced worldwide – about 1.3 billion tons - is lost or wasted every year.

Sustainable food systems are key to ensuring sustainable development. They have to ensure food security and nutrition and satisfy a growing demand, for quantity, quality and diversity. At the same time current food production and consumption already exert a considerable impact on the environment. Food systems valorise resources which are becoming ever more fragile and scarce. Therefore, they have to become more efficient in their use of resources, at every stage, from primary production to transformation, distribution and consumption. Population and income increase as well as urbanization are driving increased and changing food and feed demand. Food systems are very diverse. Their impacts are also very diverse, from environmental, economic and social perspectives.

Therefore the proposed 10YFP-SFSP should be adapted to various local and regional specificities and take into account different levels of development.

[6] http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ags/docs/SFCP/Activities/Preliminary_proposal_for_the_10YFP_on_Sustainable_Food_Systems_Programme.pdf

[7] The full results of the survey are available at: http://www.unep.org/10yfp/Programmes/ProgrammeConsultationandCurrentStatus/SustainableFoodSystems/tabid/1036781/Default.aspx

Definition of Sustainable Food Systems

In July 2014 the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), established in 2010 as the science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), provided the following definitions:

"*A sustainable food system (SFS) is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised*".[8]

A food system being defined as:

"*A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes*".[9]

These definitions have been used in the development of the proposed 10YFP-SFSP.

Proposed vision, goal, objectives and work areas of the 10YFP-SFSP

The SFSP will contribute to the 10YFP vision, objectives and goals by supporting regional and national initiatives in order to accelerate the shift towards sustainable food consumption and production systems for achieving global sustainable development, while improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. The 10YFP-SFSP will also support sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth, poverty eradication and shared prosperity and will be consistent with international obligations. Within the 10YFP, through a transparent and inclusive process, the SFSP will boost a broader participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular regards to developing countries.

The following are the proposed vision, goal and objectives of the 10YFP-SFSP:

The Vision:

All food systems are sustainable, delivering food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

The Goal:

To promote, enhance and facilitate the shift towards more sustainable food systems.

[8] HLPE, 2014, *Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems*, Report of the HLPE, Rome: HLPE "available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3901e.pdf

[9] HLPE, 2014, *ibid.*

In order to pursue this goal, the 10YFP-SFSP must aim its activities towards protecting natural resources and promoting a more efficient use of natural resources, products and recovered materials. This has to be done based on a solid scientific and policy knowledge base, by improving resource efficiency and reducing the pollution intensity of food systems, all along food chains, from production to consumption, while improving food and nutrition security. The central role of sustainable food systems in achieving global sustainable development will thereby be enhanced.

The 10YFP-SFSP will achieve its goal by involving governments, farmers, fisherfolk and fish farmers, small-holders, agro-food industries, retailers and consumers in its activities. The Programme will also take into account the specific needs of indigenous people and women. By improving the sustainability of food systems the proposed 10YFP-SFSP aims to support the implementation of global sustainable development commitments, in particular the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It will also support the implementation of targets and goals agreed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and enhance the ability to meet the needs of future generations, while conserving, protecting and restoring the health and integrity of the ecosystems.

The goal will be achieved at national, regional and global level by pursuing the following objectives:

Objectives:

- ***Objective 1:*** ***Raise awareness*** *on the need to shift to sustainable food systems and applying a systems approach to addressing food security and nutrition.*
- ***Objective 2:*** ***Build capacity and enabling conditions*** *for the uptakes of sustainable practices across food systems and facilitate access to financial and technical assistance.*
- ***Objective 3:*** ***Take stock of, categorize and disseminate*** *– and if needed develop – accessible and actionable information tools and methodologies to support governments, the private sector, consumers and other relevant stakeholders to act towards more sustainable food systems.*
- ***Objective 4:*** ***Bring together initiatives and develop partnerships to build synergies and cooperation*** *to leverage resources towards mutual goal of promoting, enhancing and facilitating the shift towards more sustainable food systems.*

Proposed work areas at global, regional and national levels

The structure of the 10YFP Programmes foresees that activities towards the achievement of the objectives and goals are developed and implemented under a set of work areas. For the 10YFP-SFSP, the following work areas are proposed:

Work Area 1: Increase the availability, accessibility and sharing of actionable knowledge, information and tools for SCP.

This work area could include encompass a range of activities, including:
efforts to re-focus and re-orient more effectively existing information platforms on sustainable agriculture and agri-food products to be shared more widely, with producers and consumers by:
a) the provision and dissemination of information to increase the efficacy of extension services in order to support the uptake of sustainable practices and
b) the development of global partnerships to compile open-source inventory of life-cycle data.
Together these could encourage the development of a common protocol for data collection to support design of sustainable food chains/systems, explore and develop the business case for the shift towards SCP in the sector and fulfil the demand for data on carbon, water, nitrogen, footprints etc. for eco-labelling and eco-certification of food products and food systems.

Work Area 2: Encourage, facilitate and support inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue to help inform interconnected policymaking towards sustainable food systems at local, national, regional and international levels.

Activities under this work area could encompass a range of activities including:
creating enabling conditions in developing countries for the uptake of SCP in Agri-food through:
a) capacity building provision to governments and policy makers to facilitate:
(i) the sustainable management of natural biological processes to increase efficiencies for sustainable intensification;
(ii) the uptake of new technologies for production, processing, and for the mitigation of negative externalities;
(iii) assessment of policy options, including cost-effectiveness and welfare analysis; and
(iv) the building of capacity for regulation, enforcement, and EIA (environmental and social impact assessment) processes; and
(v) regional cooperation to promote sustainable resource management and expand markets for sustainable products; as well as
b) promoting the building of Public Private Partnerships to, for example, expand access to finance for agri-food stakeholders developing sustainable products, demonstrate and replicate sustainable supply chains programs and to develop and deliver targeted information to education programs on SCP to both the producer and consumer.
Activities will seek to utilize existing institutions as platforms, in order to build their capacity to address these challenges and deliver support at national and regional levels to test new approaches and techniques.

Work Area 3: Facilitate the use and enhance opportunities for market-based and/or voluntary approaches throughout supply chain towards sustainable food systems.
This work area could include encompass a range of activities, including:
promoting productivity enhancing and resource efficient production methods through market-based approaches, by:
a) scaling up the use of proven tools including effective and reliable certification and standards;

b) strengthening and developing links along the supply chain between producers and consumers for more sustainable products in particular between developing countries and interested regional and developing country markets (match-making, consider capacity building, financing, etc.); and
c) identification, and piloting the viability of innovative market mechanisms for environmental services in the agri-food supply chain, and scale-up (e.g. the role of Payments for Ecosystem Services); as well as delivering meaningful and reliable communication about agri-food products to create markets and incentives to foster sustainable consumption and production patterns, by:
a) the design and provision of a set of broad principles that can guide the development and assessment of sustainability "claims"; and
b) the identification of leverage points within supply chains to direct the choices and behavior of consumers towards more sustainable food systems.

Partnerships will be a key mechanism to support implementation of the programme, both from the public and private sectors to help promote the shift to sustainable food consumption and production patterns. The 10YFP-SFSP will bring together existing initiatives and partnerships working in related areas, highlighting good practices and success stories, building synergies and cooperation among stakeholders to leverage resources towards mutual objectives and minimize duplication of ongoing efforts. It will help to prioritize policies and support development and/or dissemination of tools and methodologies for governments, private sector and civil society action, consumer choice and investments which make significant contributions to poverty eradication, food and nutrition security and overall sustainable development by promoting SCP.

Expected Outcomes

The 10YFP-SFSP will propose a mix of policy, regulatory and voluntary instruments and sustainability indicators, to be implemented on a voluntary basis to accelerate the uptake of SCP practice across food systems. Outcomes will be evaluated through success metrics with progress on enhanced data collection, policy, regulatory and voluntary instruments measured, as well as on sustainability indicators provided and the number of active partnerships and projects developed as a result of the 10YFP-SFSP, with particular regards to developing countries.

Linkages to other 10YFP Programmes

The Programme will link as appropriate with other Programmes of the 10YFP, to help facilitate the shift to sustainable consumption and production.