

# Gender, Food and Nutrition Security

## Decision Box

1. CFS should serve as global forum for sharing best practices, identifying gaps, and supporting country-led processes relating to gender, food and nutrition security. CFS should develop specific indicators to monitor progresses of Governments in improving the gender component of their policies and programmes
2. CFS should develop a mechanism to monitor progress in the implementation of the gender dimension of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests which are expected to be adopted during the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS. Monitoring should be carried out with an understanding towards alignment with state obligations towards the realization of international human rights legal instruments and related standards, including CEDAW, BPoA, CESC and UNDRIP (particularly FPIC). A progress report should be presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the CFS.
3. CFS should recommend Government to facilitate representation and participation of rural women's organizations, Indigenous women organizations and community groups within decision processes in relation to all matters of agriculture and rural development, policies regarding food, health and land distribution and reform
4. Given that women living in diverse rural communities are systematically marginalized within government policies and investment commitments, and that very few donors and Governments have specific policies to promote women farmers within their agricultural aid support, CFS should urge Governments to increase the share of their agricultural assistance that supports women farmers, pastoralists, fisher folk and Indigenous Peoples, and improves the impact of their food security policies and spending for marginalized populations, particularly the women amongst them, through the use of tools such as gender budgeting, gender and social impact assessments and collection, and monitoring of sex-disaggregated data

## I. Introduction

Definition of Food and Nutrition Security (Food Summit)

Four key pillars – food availability (production)  
Access to food (poverty, income)  
Utilization (diet diversity, child care, health, water)  
Stability – risk reduction, social protection

## II. Key Issues/Analysis of Food security challenges:

In this section we would like to include the following aspects:

- the document should look at structural causes of women inequality and into the overall context of the trends in agriculture and of how women in particular are being impacted by the multiple crises. We need to reference the big picture challenges relating to the food crisis and global governance to link women in agriculture and the rural economy with the food crisis, including the lack of access to land and need for genuine land reform that redistributes land to serve the needs for food security, health and well-being of rural populations, including women. The draft should make mention of how women are faring in the current context of price volatility, shortages in food supply, corporate investment in agriculture (that denies food security and self-sufficiency due to the emphasis on profits for foreign corporations). (EX: In the midst of this food crisis, characterized by market volatility and an increase of the world's hungry by 44 million since June 2010, women and children living in rural areas are struggling disproportionately despite the huge contribution they make to agriculture.)

- look at impact of private investments on women, especially with regard to land. Foreign land acquisition deals that are initiated to establish large-scale plantations are threatening the customary and communal land systems upon which communities depend for livelihood, worsening women's already tenuous land holding rights and the food security of both them and their families. As a result, governments and international institutions must pay particular attention to measures which promote equitable land reform and re-distribution to those who actually cultivate the land, with a specific focus on ensuring women are able to secure access to land.

--include understanding the ways that GBV must be addressed at all levels and the need for de-militarization of communities for women to be able to cultivate land, collect water for their household, and avail of services as well as take care of other household, community and personal needs free of fear reference women's access to land/land tenure, and property rights as lack of access and control greatly hinders their food security and livelihoods. Any recommendations coming from the task force on gender, food security and nutrition need to be linked with those on land tenure, investment and property rights, and, in particular, those relating to gender.

- language needs to be inserted on the lack of rural women's leadership and voice in decisions relating to agriculture- food production and food provision.

-the document should address where patriarchal structure rooted in societies tends to constrain women in agriculture

- Food security interventions often start with and stop at increasing food production at community level and/or improving food security at the household level. Even when targeted towards women producers they fail to recognise intra-household gender dynamics. Without a clear recognition of women's multiple roles including their productive and reproductive roles; programmes may not build on any synergies and address any tradeoffs involved. Taking a gendered approach to addressing food security will make the interventions more sustainable, will address the root cause of discrimination and help empower women through instilling greater degree of self-esteem.

- It's crucial to appropriately acknowledge the importance of investing in women's agricultural production capacity as a means for women's empowerment and for advancing their human rights

The document should refer to the constraints to increasing women's agricultural production – access to land (including use, management and conservation), appropriate technology, finance, markets and knowledge (Local and traditional women's knowledge) and skills and training

How women spend income under their control.

- As women peasants, agricultural workers, indigenous women, fisherfolk (with varying levels of income and control of such)
- incorporating the importance of biodiversity within farms that provides nutrition to the family, esp women

The linkages between income and nutritional change. Impact of food prices/economic crises on diet diversity. The need for direct intervention in nutrition – we cannot wait for poverty reduction.

Women's critical roles in securing good nutritional outcomes for their children and their families. Key factors include women's time use, nutrition knowledge, life cycle of girls/women and nutrition, intergenerational transmission of malnutrition as well as long lasting intergenerational affects of toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

The need for stability in food security and access to risk reduction mechanisms – social protection for agricultural production, income and nutrition. Women's creative and resourceful responses to crisis. Nutritional safety nets for women to ensure their nutrition for good pregnancy outcomes, for girls through the life cycle.

### III. Policy Recommendations:

How to ensure food security:

Empowerment of women – local and national government, community leadership

Improvement of women's nutritional status – a healthy nutritious diet from conception, access to health services

Eradication of the Gender gap in agriculture – access to assets, services and knowledge

Providing importance and protection to biodiversity-based ecological agriculture that encourages diversity of agricultural crops and marine resources, reduced use of chemicals/pesticides, that ensures food security, sustainability of resources, provides nutritious diet for women and families, safe and healthy environment and being for the women and communities.

Member States:

At policy level

- ensure that laws and policies guarantee equal rights for men and women to control assets such as land, and to receive services such as health, education, extension and credit. **And women should be prioritised to access and control appropriate technology and training and markets.**
  - include the improvement of women's, adolescent girls' and children's nutritional status among the main goals and expected outcomes of agriculture, food and nutrition security related programmes, strategies and policies
  - build the human capital of women and girls through scaling up direct nutrition interventions, targeting educational efforts and building their vocational skills thereby broadening women's choices, and strengthening their influence within their households and communities
  - develop strategies aimed at increasing the number of women and their positioning at decision-making and policy influencing levels in the agriculture sector (**women having meaningful participation**)
  - invest in strengthening basic infrastructure for essential public services and rural institutions, and make these gender-sensitive. This will liberate women from time intensive tasks, and will enable them to look for more rewarding and productive work
  - enhance efforts to include sex-disaggregated data in food security and agriculture information systems, that allow for a gender-focused data analysis and for the better understanding of gender related constraints and more gender-aware policy decisions
  - conduct nutritional impact assessments in food security and agricultural programming at the early planning stages, to assure they are "gender sensitive", help improve nutrition, and mitigate potential adverse effects
  - ensure that interventions that aim at removing the gender gap in agriculture and food and nutrition security are appropriately bundled and sequenced, and take account of their broader social contexts, including men, in the process
  - ensure that the impact of threats such as climate change, and the food and economic crisis, on the food and nutrition security of women and girls, is considered.
- **Recognize Women's contribution, skills and knowledge in biodiversity-based ecological agriculture should be recognised and protected thru gender-responsive policies on land and natural resources.**
  - **Promote various methods of ecological farming systems and community-managed (or women-led) land and natural resource conservation (that includes reduction of**

the use of pesticides) that contributes to food security, improved health and nutrition of women.

- Recognise women are farmers and support interventions which *specifically* focus on their unique circumstances. These should include: public credit and financial services; guaranteeing secure access, use and control over good quality agricultural land and other productive resources, including appropriate seeds; and targeting women smallholders through agricultural research and extension services, and proactive implementation of progressive land re-distribution to overcome current levels of inequitable land concentration. In order for policies and programmes to succeed, they need to incorporate an understanding of women's multiple roles in food provisioning as well as help address gender constraints at the household and community level through empowering women smallholders
- Set specific and measurable targets for actions on women farmers into policies and spending plans. Gender-targeted budgeting in support of policies which aim to address women's needs must be allocated according to explicit goals if gender is to be more than a buzzword in budget documents. This must be supported by an increasing share of public budgets and agricultural aid that supports women farmers. Ensuring this spending is addressing and reaching the needs of women will also require the use of tools such as gender data collection, and monitoring of sex-disaggregated data
- Introduce legal and institutional changes to advance women's rights, and to promote their participation in agricultural and food security policies, strategies and programs
- Governments should firstly understand and then address gender inequality in rural area to address gender inequality
- Recognize women as actors in their own right, and ensure steps are in place for genuine inclusive consultation at the local, provincial/state and national levels through organizations that represent the full diversities of women populations a
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