

Accelerating the Shift towards a Sustainable Food Future

Official Kick-off Event of the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme

Milan (Italy), 21-22 October 2015
Hotel NH Milano Fiera and EXPO Milano - Swiss Pavilion

Summary report

Summary of main outcomes and decisions:

- **The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme was formally constituted.**
- **The MAC elected Switzerland, South Africa and Hivos by acclamation into the leadership of the SFS Programme.**
- The 10YFP Secretariat will forward these decisions to the 10YFP Board for subsequent validation, in early November 2015.
- Through a prioritization exercise, the group produced an initial list of priority activities under each of the four work areas of the SFS Programme (see Table 1 on pages 3-4). Some of these may require further discussion.
- Several MAC members volunteered to continue the work on this initial list of activities through an electronic process. They are listed in Table 2 on page 5.
- **The MAC adopted the SFS programme document**, which will equally be forwarded to the 10YFP Board for formal validation.
- The Co-Leads plan on meeting in November 2015 to define how to organize the work and discuss next steps. They will get back to the MAC members regarding the upcoming work on items including the Terms of Reference for the MAC, a more elaborate work plan and a fund raising strategy.
- The Co-Leads will also invite MAC members to continue the work on the priority activities for the four work areas electronically, and may circulate a template to collect information on projects that fall under the four work areas of the SFS Programme.
- So far, four MAC meetings are foreseen for 2016 – three teleconferences and one in-person meeting. A first MAC teleconference could take place in February.

21 October 2015, Hotel NH Milano Fiera

1. Constituent Session

Welcome remarks

Mr. Adrian Aebi, *Assistant Director-General, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)* and Ms. Thembelihle Ndukwana, *Director: Agro-Processing, Department of Trade and Industry (South Africa)*, welcomed all participants to the Kick-off event. Presenting the agenda and reminding the group of the objectives of the meeting, Mr. Aebi highlighted the need to transform the Programme into concrete action as soon as possible. Referring to concerns related to food waste and food security issues in South Africa, Ms. Ndukwana underlined the need for sustainable and efficient food systems.

Introduction of participants¹

All participants briefly presented their organization's priorities as well as their motivation to be part of the SFS Programme, in the form of a tour de table. FAO and UNEP, as the institutions that led the process up to this point, started the round with FAO stressing that the SFS Programme should avoid duplications with other existing initiatives, and UNEP highlighting the need to maximize synergies of relevant on-going activities of all interested partners.

Formal constitution of the MAC

After the tour the table, Mr. Aebi declared the MAC as constituted and requested the 10YFP Secretariat to transmit the composition of the MAC membership to the 10YFP Board for formal validation. The MAC members are Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Honduras, the Netherlands, and the USA for the government agencies cluster; CIHEAM, FAO, UNEP, and the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition for the UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations cluster; Biovision, IISD, IFOAM, and WWF for the civil society organizations cluster; ENEA, German Development Institute, Hebrew University, and the UNESCO Chair on Food, Culture and Development at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya for the scientific and technical organizations cluster; Barilla G. & R F.Ili S.p.A, FoodDrinkEurope, Nestlé, and Smaackmakers for the private sector cluster.²

Confirmation of the SFS Programme leadership

Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, *Head of the 10YFP Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*, briefly introduced the Co-Lead nominees, inviting them to present their priorities and motivation to be part of the programme leadership. The three nominees were Switzerland, South Africa and Hivos.

In his presentation, Mr. Patrick Mink, *Policy Advisor at the Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, reminded the participants of Switzerland's long-standing commitment supporting the Agri-food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). He further explained that Switzerland is promoting various initiatives in areas such as incentives for ecosystem services, voluntary standards, resource-efficient diets, and food waste, both at national and international levels. In addition, he reiterated Switzerland's commitment to make the Programme fully operational and promote its implementation in an efficient way, and stressed that the recent adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development provided unique momentum for the Programme.

Ms. Thembelihle Ndukwana explained that SCP is a priority of South Africa's national policy on sustainable development, and that sustainable agriculture is critical within the issue of SCP. At national level, South Africa is piloting a programme for the prevention of food waste, with the support of UNEP,

¹ The full list of participants to the Kick-off event is contained in *Annex 1*.

² The full list of MAC members of the SFS Programme is contained in *Annex 2*.

targeting schools in the cities of Johannesburg and a fresh produce market in Tshwane. The different government agencies involved in the promotion of SCP in the area of food and agriculture, in particular the Department for Trade and Industry, the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, have synergized their work. In addition, Ms. Ndukwana stressed the need to have also the voice of developing countries included in the SFS Programme.

Ms. Carol Gribnau, *Program Director Green Society at Hivos*, presented her organization’s work related to sustainable food systems. She explained that Hivos has long-standing experience related to sustainable production, in particular regarding sustainability standards and linking small producers to markets. Promoting private sector engagement, including by pioneering small and medium enterprises across the food system, is one of Hivos’ priorities. She further highlighted the different challenges that sustainable food systems need to address, including in relation to poverty and hunger, natural resources and health. In addition, Ms. Gribnau mentioned that Hivos has entered a multi-year partnership with the Dutch Government to work on sustainable diets.

Following the presentations of the three Co-Lead nominees, the MAC elected Switzerland, South Africa and Hivos by acclamation into the leadership of the SFS Programme. The 10YFP Secretariat will forward this decision to the 10YFP Board for subsequent validation.

In addition, Mr. Arden-Clarke informed the MAC that WWF had also expressed interest in being part of the leadership of the SFS Programme and was among those recommended by the 10YFP Secretariat, however it was impossible to obtain an official reconfirmation prior to the Kick-off event. He suggested that the MAC could consider the role of the WWF as a Co-Lead of the Programme at a future meeting, if WWF will formally reconfirm its interest. Mr. Arnaud Gauffier, *Head, Agriculture and Food - Market Transformation Initiative at WWF*, assured that he will get back to the MAC on this issue in a timely manner, and presented WWF’s work and motivation to play an active role in the SFS Programme.

2. Preparatory Working Session

Introduction of the draft programme document

In his introduction of the SFS programme document, Mr. Mink stressed that the document was the result of a long and very broad consultation process that started in 2011 with the work of the joint FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and its Agri-food Task Force on SCP. He presented the main components of the document, focusing on the objectives and the work areas of the Programme, and he highlighted the need to focus discussions on the priority activities to be implemented under the work areas and sub-work areas of the Programme.

Participants were invited to identify priority activities, through a prioritization exercise, based on the list of possible activities contained in *Appendix 1* of the programme document. The results of this prioritization exercise are contained in Table 1 below. The numbers in brackets indicate the total of points allocated to the respective activities by the participants.

Table 1

<p>WA1: Raising awareness on the need to adopt SCP patterns in food systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable diets, consequently definition of monitoring tools and monitoring. (7) • Promote the development and uptake of simplified and harmonized sustainability information schemes for agri-food products, to enable consumers to make better informed choices. (6) • In-depth case studies of community-based innovations for sustainable production and 	<p>WA2: Building enabling environments for sustainable food systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing workshops/roundtables among government entities, food chain actors and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of exchanging information and good practices as well as enhancing the coherence of policies related to sustainable food systems. (11)
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<p>consumption, including analysis of factors that enable success, and widespread sharing of results (e.g. through traditional platforms, video documentation, social media, etc.). (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness at governments and non-profit organizations around the most impactful ways of making food systems more sustainable protein transition. (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building adaptive capacity among smallholder farmers most vulnerable to effects of changing climate. (6) • Identifying 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) (5) • Disseminating best practice examples of sustainable food production and consumption on global and national or regional level. (5)
<p>WA3: Increasing the access to and fostering the application of actionable knowledge, information and tools to mainstream SCP in food systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuating natural capital (use of ecosystems services) for all major commodities in the food sector. Identification of benchmarks. (9) • Identifying major drivers for sustainable consumption and develop key tools and indicators promoting sustainable diets. (7) 	<p>WA4: Strengthening collaboration among food system stakeholders to increase the sector's SCP performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting an inclusive approach to support governments, private sector, consumers, and other stakeholders to assess more sustainable food systems. (7) • Data availability (from farms or supply chains) and dissemination (to farms or supply chains); promoting/enabling collaborative approaches to making use of this information. (7)

22 October 2015, EXPO Milano – Swiss Pavilion

3. Opening Session: Setting the stage for sustainable food systems

Ms. Claudia Sorlini, *Chair of the Scientific Committee for Expo 2015 of the City of Milan*, opened the session by welcoming all participants to Milan, and highlighted the link between the SFS Programme and the theme of the Milan Expo, which was “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

Summary of the discussions of the previous day

Mr. Aebi reminded the participants that the MAC was now constituted and the programme leadership defined. Mr. Mink briefly presented the results of the prioritization exercise.

Keynote speeches

In her keynote speech, Ms. Ligia Noronha, *Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP*, highlighted that sustainable food systems represent the energy, water, food nexus. Emphasizing the importance of food waste reduction, she mentioned that sustainable food systems are key to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Further, Ms. Noronha affirmed that the SFS Programme is a top priority for UNEP. Stating that the strength of this MAC lies in its diversity, she encouraged participants to take ownership of the Programme and to increase synergies and reach out to their partners on the ground.

Mr. Divine Njie, *Officer in Charge, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, recalled the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the role of the SFS Programme for their implementation. He highlighted the need for the SFS Programme to help ensure that the economic, social and environmental bases for achieving food security are not threatened. In addition, Mr. Njie assured that FAO stands ready to support the Programme leadership as well as to promote activities under the work areas.

A short discussion followed on the role of scientific research and the need to have food losses and waste covered by the SFS Programme.

4. Working Session 1: The Programme Document - main priorities to address food system challenges

Confirmation of priority activities for work areas

Ms. Gribnau explained that the objective of this Working Session was to seek agreement on a set of initial priorities, as a starting point for the Programme members to focus their efforts. Participants were divided into four breakout groups, one for each work area of the Programme. Ms. Gribnau then invited the four groups to discuss the results of the prioritization exercise, with the following guiding questions:

- Does the group agree with the priority activities that resulted from the prioritization exercise?
- Are some MAC members already working on some of these priorities, and if yes, which ones?
- Are there some important activities that may be missing from the list?

After the group discussions, the individual breakout groups reported back to plenary. Generally, there was basic agreement with the priority activities in most groups, with a number of new elements proposed and some diverging views remaining. A brief summary of the discussions is contained in *Annex 3*.

Ms. Gribnau then invited participants to express their interest to continue the work on the priority activities for the four work areas electronically, based on Table 1 above and the group discussions. Table 2 below shows the institutions / countries that expressed their interest to engage in that task.

Table 2

Work Area 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CIHEAM- FAO- Hebrew University- Nestlé- Smaackmaakers- UNEP- WWF	Work Area 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Biovision- Hivos- IFOAM- Smaackmaakers- UNEP- FAO
Work Area 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Costa Rica- ENEA- Hebrew University- IISD- Nestlé	Work Area 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Biovision- IFOAM- Nestlé

Adoption of programme document

Mr. Arden-Clarke explained that to formally launch the SFS Programme and start implementing activities, it was necessary for the MAC to agree on the programme document. He underlined, however, that the programme document remains a living document, even after its adoption.

Upon the invitation by Ms. Ndukwana, the MAC then adopted the SFS programme document, which will equally be forwarded to the 10YFP Board for formal validation.

5. Working Session 2: Implementation of the SFS Programme and the way ahead

The experience of other 10YFP Programmes

In his presentation, Mr. Arden-Clarke provided an overview of the respective roles and responsibilities of the Co-Leads, the Coordination Desk, the MAC members as well as the other partners of the SFS Programme. In particular, he informed that the SFS programme document will be submitted to the 10YFP

Board for formal validation in early November 2015, and reminded the meeting participants of the need for the Co-Leads and MAC members to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the MAC.

An indicative timeline for the first year of implementation

Mr. Mink informed the participants that the Co-Leads plan on meeting in November to define how to organize the work. Among the first tasks to be addressed are the ToR for the MAC, as well as a more elaborate work plan and a fund raising strategy. So far, four MAC meetings are foreseen for 2016 – three teleconferences and one in-person meeting. A first MAC teleconference could take place in February, and an in-person meeting possibly in May/June. Other tasks to be addressed in 2016 are the development and implementation of project concepts; a 10YFP Trust Fund call for proposals; and flagship projects.

Mr. Aebi reiterated the need to start implementing concrete projects soon. He expressed that the Co-Leads are interested in collecting MAC members' ideas regarding on-going and new activities and projects that fall under the four work areas, and mentioned that a template to collect information on such projects may be circulated to that end.

Closing Session

In closing, Ms. Gribnau reiterated her satisfaction with the richness of the membership of the MAC, and invited everybody to make a brief statement about their commitment to the SFS Programme. In this context, Ms. Ndukwana expressed her intention to host the next in-person MAC meeting in South Africa. Mr. Aebi thanked everyone for making the meeting a success and wished all participants safe travels.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Participant	Organization / country	E-mail address	Role of organization / country
Adrian Aebi	Switzerland	adrian.aebi@blw.admin.ch	Co-Lead
Charles Arden-Clarke	10YFP Secretariat (UNEP)	charles.arden-clarke@unep.org	<i>Head, 10YFP Secretariat</i>
Roberto Azofoifa	Costa Rica	razof@mag.go.cr	MAC member
Michael Bergöö	Biovision	m.bergoo@biovision.ch	MAC member
Elliot Berry	Hebrew University	elliottb@ekmd.huji.ac.il	MAC member
Livia Bizikova	IISD	lbizikova@iisd.ca	MAC member
Roberto Capone	CIHEAM	capone@iamb.it	MAC member
Sandro Dernini	FAO	sandro.dernini@fao.org	MAC member
Danny Dos Santos	Smaackmakers		MAC member
Gábor Figezky	IFOAM	g.figezky@ifoam.bio	MAC member
Arnaud Gauffier	WWF	agauffier@wwf.fr	MAC member
Elise Golan	USA	egolan@oce.usda.gov	MAC member
Carol Gribnau	Hivos	cgribnau@hivos.org	Co-Lead
Kerstin Huck	German Development Institute	kerstin.huck@die-gdi.de	MAC member
Natascha Kooiman	Smaackmakers	natascha@smaackmakers.nl	MAC member
James Lomax	UNEP	james.lomax@unep.org	MAC member
Lina Mahy	UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition	mahyl@who.int	MAC member
Patrick Mink	Switzerland	patrick.mink@blw.admin.ch	Co-Lead
Byron Xavier Moncada	Honduras	bmxc19@yahoo.com	MAC member
Cristhiam Josue Moncada	Honduras	cristhiammoncadacubas238@gmail.com	MAC member
Thembelihle Ndukwana	South Africa	tndukwana@thedti.gov.za	Co-Lead
Ligia Noronha	UNEP	ligia.noronha@unep.org	MAC member
François Pythoud	Switzerland	francois.pythoud@eda.admin.ch	Co-Lead
Anne Roulin	Nestlé	anne.roulin@nestle.com	MAC member
Florence Scarsi	France	florence.scarsi@developpement-durable.gouv.fr	MAC member
Karl Schebesta	UNIDO	k.schebesta@unido.org	<i>Observer</i>
Urs Schenker	Nestlé	urswalter.schenker@rdls.nestle.com	MAC member
Terek Soliman	Expo project / FF3		<i>Observer</i>
Andrea Sonnino	ENEA	andrea.sonnino@enea.it	MAC member
Claudia Sorlini	Chair of the Scientific Committee for Expo 2015 of the City of Milan	claudia.sorlini@unimi.it	<i>Chair of Opening Session</i>
Jeanine Volken	Switzerland	jeanine.volken@blw.admin.ch	Co-Lead
Divine Njie	FAO	divine.njie@fao.org	MAC member
Dominique Wolf	Switzerland	dominique.wolf@blw.admin.ch	Co-Lead

Annex 2: Full list of MAC members of the SFS Programme

Following the online vote that took place in September 2015, and taking into account the that Switzerland, South Africa and Hivos were elected by acclamation into in the leadership of the Programme, below is the list of initial MAC members of the SFS Programme.

Government agencies cluster (7 seats)

- **Argentina** (Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable)
- **Brazil** (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply)
- **Costa Rica** (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería)
- **France** (Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy)
- **Honduras** (Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible)
- **Netherlands** (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment)
- **USA** (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations cluster (4 seats)

- **CIHEAM** - Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
- **FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- **UNEP** - United Nations Environment Programme
- **UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition**

Civil society organizations cluster (4 seats)

- **Biovision**
- **IISD**
- **IFOAM**
- **WWF**

Scientific and technical organizations cluster (4 seats)

- **ENEA**
- **German Development Institute**
- **Hebrew University**
- **UNESCO Chair**

Private sector cluster (4 seats)

- **Barilla G. & R F.lli S.p.A**
- **FoodDrinkEurope**
- **Nestlé**
- **Smaackmakers**

Annex 3: Brief Summary of Breakout Group Discussions

The following are some of the main points that were discussed in relation to the priority activities:

Work Area 1

- More or less consensus on priority activity regarding sustainability information schemes
- Variety of food systems -> importance of case studies of sustainable food systems
- Need to further work on consensus on the remaining priority activities
- A possible approach to begin with: make consumers aware of different types of production
- Scope for collaboration between work area 1 and work area 2, on fostering actionable knowledge
- Need to cover sustainable and balanced diets; food losses and waste; and raising awareness on the food systems approach.
- Maybe not necessary to use the word “promote” in relation to sustainable diets, but mention sustainable diets as key to sustainable food systems.
- Food losses and waste = part of sustainable food systems, but maybe not necessary to be mentioned specifically
- Food losses and waste could be part of sustainability information schemes

Work Area 2

- Consensus around priority activities regarding workshops/roundtables, market mechanisms and best practices
- Priority activity on adaptive capacity could rather fit in work area 4; plus it should not only focus on smallholder farmers, but also other groups (e.g. women)
- Importance of finance; MAC holds experience, e.g. True Price Project in Holland; could be transversal across all work areas
- Prices/costs vary depending on where in the world you are
- Honduras has experiences with roundtables -> Better Life (“Vida Mejor”) plan in Honduras
- Focus of roundtables should be on policy
- Large actors like IFAD already work on adaptive capacity of smallholders, so maybe no added value of SFSP

Work Area 3

- Many tools already exist and are being implemented (LCA, assessment of products, diets, food systems)
- LCA indicators are not well developed – they need to be complemented by information from standards (e.g. on valuing natural capital)
- Make databases more widely known and share them
- Need for tools to assess economic dimension of sustainability
- Identification of benchmarks, e.g. on nutrition, economic benefits, natural capital; can be done quickly
- Need to identify drivers that can change the behavior of consumers; role for policy?
- Benchmarks, indicators and drivers for both consumers and producers
- Example of Blue Number Initiative -> traceability through bar codes
- Discussion regarding inventories: a full inventory would be very costly and hard to maintain; rather focus on what the MAC does, to see where we can link up and where there are gaps

Work Area 4

- Agreement on both priority activities
- In addition: food waste as a priority
- LCA: need more data for precise assessment of products and food systems (not only carbon issues)
- Need to partner with IT companies
- Need to work on climate change resilience within food systems
- Not only “stakeholders” -> include specific references to researchers and women
- Build on existing initiatives -> inventory of MAC members’ and partners’ activities
- Identify where the SFS Programme can add value
- Work with finance and insurance industry (e.g. “impact investments”); identify possible investors