

10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme

7th MAC meeting (teleconference)

9 November, 2017

Draft summary report

Summary of main discussion points, outcomes and decisions:

- The French National Institute for Agricultural Research **INRA, Pinpoint Sustainability, and UDYAMA have joined the MAC** for the next regular two-year term, replacing IISD, Barilla and the Universitat Operta de Catalunya.
- The MAC **adopted eight new organizations as Programme Partners**, bringing the total number to 116.
- The MAC discussed the priority tasks for the next biennium that were proposed by the four task forces, highlighting the need for coordination and information exchange among the different task forces.
- Two of the SFS Programme core initiatives were presented, following by a discussion that highlighted the potential to create synergies among the different core initiatives.
- The MAC **adopted the SFS Programme workplan 2018-2019**, which contains the core initiatives and the proposed activities of the four task forces, as well as an indicative timeline (in annex 1) and the list of affiliated projects (in annex 3).
- In addition, the MAC **agreed to develop an SFS Programme-owned knowledge tool / lighthouse product**, that would elaborate on the SFS Programme's holistic approach to promoting sustainable food systems. As a next step, the Co-Leads will elaborate a draft concept note and timeline for such a knowledge tool / lighthouse product.
- The MAC **approved four additional affiliated projects**, bringing the total number to 22.
- The MAC **approved the reporting requirements for core initiatives and affiliated projects**. As a next step, these requirements will be shared with all SFS Programme project leads, reminding them of the deadline of 15 January 2018 for the 10YFP annual reporting through the online reporting tool.
- The Co-Leads will **develop and maintain a joint calendar of upcoming events**, to enable the MAC members to share information on relevant events/conferences in a more coordinated way.
- MAC members were reminded to create their account on the SCP Clearinghouse, which will give them access to the shared SFS Programme folders, as well as to the 10YFP online reporting tool.
- The 10YFP Secretariat informed that they are currently working on a “narrative transition” which would involve a new potential “nickname for everyday reference” for the 10YFP.
- MAC members were informed about the Horizon 2020 call, and those who consider to apply to this call were invited to inform the Co-Leads/MAC for better coordination.
- The Co-Leads explained the functionalities of the resource mobilization platform and invited MAC members to actively share information on resource mobilization opportunities through the platform.
- The Trust Fund projects are scheduled to start implementation before the end of this year.
- Costa Rica informed that his Minister has agreed to host the **2nd Global SFS Programme Conference in February 2019**, building on the conclusions of the 1st conference and taking stock of progress and new challenges. MAC members who are willing to actively contribute to the organization of the conference, both in-kind and financially, are invited to express their interest to join the organizing committee that will be established following this meeting.
- The **next MAC teleconference will take place in the end of February or early March 2018**.

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome

Mr. Alwin Kopše, *Head, International Affairs, Sustainable Development and Food Systems Unit, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, welcomed all participants to the 7th MAC meeting, especially those representing the three new MAC members as well as several new representatives from initial MAC member organizations. After summarizing the most important outcomes and decisions of the 6th MAC meeting, which took place in South Africa on 20-21 June 2017, he explained that the main objectives for this meeting would be to initiate a process towards having more strategic discussions about the future direction of the SFS Programme, including in the context of communication, resource mobilization and partnerships; discuss and adopt the 2018-2019 work plan as well as the reporting requirements for core initiatives and affiliated projects; consider additional projects for adoption under the SFS Programme; and initiate a discussion on the 2nd Global Conference of the SFS Programme.

Subsequently, Mr. Kopše presented the draft agenda for the 7th MAC meeting. As there were no comments with regards to content, he declared the agenda as adopted.

1.2 Adoption of summary report of the 6th MAC meeting (face-to-face)

Before going into the content of the 7th MAC meeting, Mr. Kopše presented the summary report of the 6th MAC meeting. As there were no further comments by the MAC members, he declared the summary report as adopted.

2. Issues related to governance and membership

2.1 MAC renewal process and new MAC members

Mr. Kopše invited Mr. Patrick Mink, *Senior Policy Officer, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, to briefly present the process and outcomes of the MAC renewal process. Mr. Mink reminded the MAC that at their 6th meeting in June, they agreed on the process for the partial renewal of the MAC, including that “for this first MAC renewal round, all current MAC members who wish to do so may remain in the MAC for a further regular term, except those that have not attended at least one MAC meeting”.

Subsequently, all initial MAC members confirmed their commitment to remain in the MAC for another regular two-year term, except for IISD, Barilla and the Universitat Operta de Catalunya. A total of 19 applications were received from SFS Programme Partners to fill these three empty seats. After an initial evaluation by the Coordination Desk, the following three organizations were elected through an online vote, by the Programme Partners of their respective stakeholder clusters:

- French National Institute for Agricultural Research INRA (Scientific and technical organizations cluster)
- Pinpoint Sustainability (Private sector cluster, based in South Africa)
- UDYAMA (Civil society organizations cluster, based in India)

Mr. Kopše welcome these new MAC members and invited them to briefly introduce themselves and their motivation to be in the SFS Programme MAC. Mr. Pierre Gasselin, *INRA*, stated that the focus themes of the SFS Programme are among INRA’s five priority topics, and that they look forward to engaging with other key partners in promoting and shaping the SFS Programme agenda. Ms. Nicola Jenkins, *Pinpoint Sustainability*, thanked for the opportunity to form part of the MAC and highlighted that they are managing a project of the 10YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE) Programme which has links to food systems, and they could thus contribute to strengthen synergies with the SLE Programme. Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra, *UDYAMA*, informed that they are a civil society organization working with smallholder farmers in India, and he stressed the importance of water, energy, biodiversity and landscapes to food systems.

2.2 Consideration of new Programme Partners

Mr. Kopše invited Ms. Nomahlubi Nkume, *Programme Coordinator, Department of Trade and Industry (South Africa)*, to provide an update on the current status of Programme Partners. Ms. Nkume reminded the MAC that the SFS Programme currently has 108 Programme Partners and that the Coordination Desk is receiving and evaluating new partner applications on an ongoing basis. Since the last adoption round, 8 organizations from four different stakeholder clusters have been positively evaluated by the Coordination Desk. As there were no objections from the MAC, these organizations were adopted, bringing the total number of SFS Programme Partners to 116.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Kopše expressed his satisfaction with this round of partner adoptions, stressing that the joining of organizations of the caliber of IFAD and Bioversity International is a very positive development for the SFS Programme.

3. Issues related to programme implementation

3.1 Issues related to Programme management

3.1.1 The SFS Programme Task Forces

Mr. Kopše reminded the MAC that at their last meeting, they decided to establish four task forces in line with the SFS Programme work areas. In certain ways, the task forces succeed the Work area groups, which were temporarily set up at the beginning of the first MAC term and were instrumental to the process of defining the SFS Programme's five focus themes. However, the MAC created the new task forces with the purpose to focus on specific key tasks in support of the implementation of the SFS Programme work plan, meaning that they are meant to remain at least for the second MAC term. For this MAC teleconference, each task force was asked to agree on an initial draft list of priority tasks to be addressed over the upcoming biennium, and to start working on at least one of these tasks.

Mr. Kopše then invited the four facilitators to present the conclusions of their respective task force, followed by a discussion with the MAC on strategic priority tasks for the next biennium:

- TF1: Awareness raising and communication (Michael Mulet, WWF)
- TF2: Enabling environments and capacity building (Marina Bortoletti, UN Environment)
- TF3: Information, knowledge and tools (Michael Mulet, standing in for Urs Schenker, Nestlé)
- TF4: Partnerships and synergies (Sandro Dernini, FAO)

Next steps for TF1 will be to finalize a repository of key messages, and to extract key slogans from there to be included in different communication materials. In the ensuing discussion, with regard to the planned activities of TF2 it was clarified that the 10YFP National Focal Points would be used as main entry points, however that they would be expected to engage also other relevant actors at national level from different stakeholder groups. In addition, other specific key stakeholders could also be involved in a targeted way. In the context of TF3 there was a discussion around the understanding of the term "tools". While it was proposed to understand the term in a very broad sense, including anything that contains science-based, technical knowledge or information, it was also highlighted that there would be a need to focus the scope of TF3. One proposal was to focus the tools around the focus themes of the SFS Programme. Another proposal put forward was to try to link the tools to the core initiatives, i.e. focus on tools that could be readily used and/or bring added value to the SFS Programme core initiatives. In the context of the discussions regarding TF4 it was highlighted that there may be a need to clarify the difference in scope of the webinars proposed under TF4 vs. those foreseen under TF2, and that it may be a bit ambitious to aim at *monthly* webinars. In addition, the discussion highlighted the need for coordination and information exchange among the different task forces.

Mr. Kopše reminded that the SCP Clearinghouse will be a useful tool for the task forces in allowing them to share documents more conveniently, and suggested that the four task force facilitators establish a channel of communication among themselves in between MAC meetings, in order to avoid that the task forces work in silos.

As a general suggestion, Mr. Kopše called on the individual task forces to be realistic about what can be delivered with their available resources, and before concluding he informed potential changes as per the discussions will be taken on board by the task forces.

3.1.2 Core initiatives

Mr. Michael Mulet, *International Program Officer Food & Agriculture, WWF France*, after informing that in this round no new proposals for core initiatives have been submitted, invited two of the endorsed core initiatives to present a brief overview of their status of implementation.

- Core initiative 2 “Sustainable and healthy gastronomy as a key driver for sustainable food systems”, presented by Natascha Kooiman, *Smaackmakers*, and Juan Pablo Solis, *Hivos*.
- Core initiative 3 “Sustainability along all value chains: identifying and promoting local initiatives linking small-scale producers and consumers”, presented by Emilie Vandecandelaere, *FAO*.

The ensuing discussions highlighted the potential to create synergies among the different core initiatives. Ms. Vandecandelaere stated that FAO will start doing so among the core initiatives that they are co-leading. Potential synergies between core initiative 3 and core initiative 2 were also identified.

3.1.3 SFS Programme workplan 2018-2019

Mr. Mulet reminded the MAC that at their last meeting in June, they adopted the 2016-2017 work plan of the SFS Programme, which in its essence added the core initiative’s deliverables and timelines to the work plan outline that was initially discussed in February 2016. He then invited Mr. Mink to present the draft SFS Programme workplan 2018-2019.

Mr. Mink explained that the 2018-2019 work plan is in large part a continuation of the previous work plan, highlighting that the work plan is a living document in the sense that it will be updated prior to each MAC meeting. With regard to the previous work plan, the current document contains updated information on the implementation status of the core initiatives, and the indicative timeline in its annex 1 as well as the list of affiliated projects in annex 3 have also been updated. One major additional element of the 2018-2019 work plan are the proposed activities of the four task forces that were discussed under agenda item 3.1.1.

Mr. Mulet opened the discussion on potential gaps / missing elements in the work plan, by stating that the Co-Leads see a need for the MAC to develop an SFS Programme-owned knowledge tool / lighthouse product, that would elaborate on the SFS Programme’s holistic approach to promoting sustainable food systems, thereby further fostering common understanding of central notions and concepts such as ‘sustainable food systems’, ‘food systems approach’, etc. Such a product would help foster Programme-internal collaboration, while at the same time strengthen the coherence of our external communication, as well as being a useful tool in support of resource mobilization efforts. It could possibly be elaborated under the lead of one of the task forces, e.g. TF3, and with relevant inputs from all core initiatives as well as task forces. *UN Environment* seconded the proposal for such a Programme-owned tool / product, stressing that this was very much needed. To conclude the discussion, Mr. Mulet proposed that as a next step, the Co-Leads will elaborate a draft concept note and timeline for such a knowledge tool / lighthouse product.

Before closing the session, the Mr. Mulet declared the SFS Programme workplan 2018-2019 as adopted, with some minor adjustments as per the discussions under 3.1.1 and 3.1.3.

3.1.4 New proposals for affiliated projects

Mr. Mulet informed the MAC that since the last MAC meeting, several new proposals for affiliated projects have been received, and he invited Ms. Nkume to provide a brief overview. Ms. Nkume reminded the MAC members that the SFS Programme currently has 18 affiliated projects and informed that six additional proposals have been submitted since the last MAC meeting, four of which have been positively evaluated by the Coordination Desk and are recommended for approval. Ms. Nkume then presented a brief overview of the four recommended proposals.

After Ms. Nkume's presentation, Mr. Mulet asked whether any of the MAC members had any well-founded objections regarding these proposed affiliated projects. One MAC member expressed his satisfaction to see that the new affiliated projects also include activities in the area of aquaculture. As there were no additional comments by the MAC members, Mr. Mulet declared that these four proposals are approved as affiliated projects under the SFS Programme.

3.1.5 Draft reporting requirements for core initiatives and affiliated projects

Mr. Mulet reminded the MAC members that during their last meeting in June, the Co-Leads announced that they would elaborate further guidance on the reporting requirements for core initiatives and affiliated projects, and invited Mr. Mink to introduce the proposed reporting requirements.

At the outset of his introduction, Mr. Mink highlighted that these requirements do not constitute any additional reporting burden, but they are a concretization of what is already contained in the project template for project submission, namely the obligation to report on an annual basis to the SFS Programme Co-Leads and MAC. Furthermore, the requirements link the reporting on SFS Programme core initiatives and affiliated projects with the broader 10YFP annual reporting. In addition, core initiatives will have to provide brief status updates in the SFS Programme work plan prior to each MAC meeting, and they will be asked to present highlights and recent developments once per year during the regular MAC meetings. Mr. Mink explained that as a general principle, a project that fails to fulfil the reporting requirements will lose the status of SFS Programme core initiative or affiliated project, and that the same applies to projects that have not achieved any significant progress – the rationale for this being to ensure to keep the SFS Programme work plan and project portfolio up-to-date, especially as the project portfolio keeps growing.

As there were no additional comments by the MAC members, Mr. Mulet declared the reporting requirements as approved. In addition, he informed the MAC that as a next step, the Coordination Desk will share the requirements with all SFS Programme project leads, reminding them of the deadline of 15 January 2018 for the 10YFP annual reporting through the online reporting tool.

3.2 Issues related to communication

3.2.1 Implementation of the communication strategy

Mr. Frank Mechielsen, *Senior Advocacy Officer Food, Hivos*, reminded the MAC that at their last meeting in June, they approved the communication action plan, and invited Mr. Mulet to provide an update on recent developments regarding the implementation of the communication strategy, including the communication action plan.

Mr. Mulet recalled that the implementation of the communication action plan will be driven by TF1 and much of it was already discussed under 3.1.1. However, as part of that work, Mr. Mulet proposed that the MAC adopt a more systematic approach in communicating events/conferences that they will be participating in, and to share relevant events where they think the SFS Programme should be represented. In addition, Mr. Mulet invited MAC members to contribute to the upcoming call for SFS Programme newsletter stories.

MAC members are invited to share their suggestions for communication opportunities as well as ways to further improve the communication of the work of the SFS Programme electronically with the Coordination Desk. As next steps, the Co-Leads will i) send a call for newsletter stories and ii) develop and maintain a joint calendar of upcoming events, to which MAC members are encouraged to contribute on a regular basis.

3.2.2 Communication updates related to the 10YFP and the SCP Clearinghouse

Mr. Mechielsen invited Mr. Mulet to present communication updates about the 10YFP and new developments in the SCP Clearinghouse.

After reminding the MAC that at their last meeting in June, the Coordination Desk was requested to look into ways to showcase relevant publications that are not part of the official resource portfolio of the SFS

Programme website on the SCP Clearinghouse, Mr. Mulet clarified that the general Clearinghouse can be readily used as a platform to display such SFS-related publications. In this context, he also reminded the MAC members to create their account on the SCP Clearinghouse, which will give them access to the shared folders that were created to share documents within the MAC, as well as to the 10YFP online reporting tool.

Mr. Mechielsen thanked Michael and handed over the floor to the 10YFP Secretariat for a brief communication update related to the 10YFP. Ms. Sofie Clausen, *UN Environment*, informed that the 10YFP Secretariat is currently working on a “narrative transition” which would involve a new potential “nickname for everyday reference” for the 10YFP. In the ensuing questions and answer session, Mr. Mink – seconded by Mr. Mechielsen – expressed possible concerns with regard to the envisaged change of name and requested that the 10YFP Secretariat share more information with the Co-Leads and MAC.

3.3 Issues related to resource mobilization

3.3.1 Implementation of the resource mobilization strategy

Mr. Mechielsen invited Mr. Nout van der Vaart, *Advocacy Officer Sustainable Food, Hivos*, to provide an update on recent developments regarding the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy.

Mr. Van der Vaart highlighted some examples of joint resource mobilization efforts in the spirit of the cooperative approach of the SFS Programme resource mobilization strategy, including the FAO-UNEP interagency umbrella programme that was announced at the 1st Global Conference in South Africa, as well as a successful Hivos-WWF project submission to the recent Switch Asia call. In addition, he informed that the Co-Leads are undertaking efforts aiming to promote the SFS Programme as one of the central mechanisms in the context of the GEF-7 impact programme on food systems – and invite all MAC members involved in GEF negotiations to support this effort. Furthermore, Mr. Van der Vaart made MAC members aware on the Horizon 2020 call, and invited those who consider to apply with their core initiatives to this call, to inform the Co-Leads/MAC about their application for better coordination, as there are greater chances to succeed in a collaborative way.

Mr. Mechielsen thanked Nout for this update and announced that following this teleconference, the Co-Leads will forward the information on the Horizon 2020 call to the MAC members.

3.3.2 Resource mobilization platform

After reminding the MAC that at their 3rd meeting in June 2016, it was agreed to develop a “platform for enhanced fundraising collaboration” to share information on opportunities for resource mobilization in a more systematic way, Mr. Mechielsen invited Mr. Van der Vaart to provide an update on recent developments regarding the resource mobilization platform and its functionalities. Mr. Van der Vaart explained how the platform can be accessed through the SCP Clearinghouse, and how the Co-Leads and MAC members can fill it with information relevant resource mobilization opportunities, inviting everyone to contribute actively.

Mr. Mechielsen thanked Nout for this update and invited the MAC members to contribute actively to populate the resource mobilization platform and share information on upcoming opportunities for resource mobilization.

3.3.3 Implementation of 10YFP Trust Fund projects

After reminding the MAC that at the 1st Global Conference in South Africa, the first three selected 10YFP Trust Fund projects of the SFS Programme were officially announced, Mr. Mechielsen invited Mr. Van der Vaart to provide an update on recent developments regarding the implementation of the 10YFP Trust Fund projects. Mr. Van der Vaart informed that the project agreements with the 10YFP Secretariat have all been signed and the Trust Fund projects are scheduled to start implementation before the end of this year. More information on the Trust Fund projects will soon be included on the SCP Clearinghouse.

3.4 Strengthening synergies, partnerships and collaboration

3.4.1 Discussion on potential next partner conference

Mr. Mulet informed the MAC that after the successful 1st conference in June in South Africa, which contributed a great deal towards creating new collaborations and attracting donor organizations and new high profile partners such as the GEF, IFAD and IPES-Food, as well as raising the profile of the SFS Programme in South Africa, the Co-Leads would like to propose to organize a 2nd Global Conference, building on the conclusions of the 1st conference but with a different regional focus. Mr. Mulet then invited Mr. Roberto Azofeifa, *Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rica*, to present the preliminary concept note for the 2nd Conference of the 10YFP SFS Programme.

Mr. Azofeifa informed the MAC that his Minister has in principle agreed to host the 2nd Global SFS Programme Conference in Costa Rica, and other national actors including INbio and Cacore are already on board. The proposed date for the conference is February 2019. The basic idea is that the 2nd conference should build on the objectives and conclusions of the 1st conference, including taking stock of progress and new challenges, especially in the Latin American region. While the exact title of the conference will still have to be defined, it is proposed to frame the conference around the interactions between natural resources, health and nutrition, and poverty. This theme cluster covers all three sustainability dimensions and is in line with Latin American food system priorities, and it also allows to fit all five focus themes of the SFS Programme. In the Costa Rican context, issues around climate change are also very high on the agenda. Initial ideas for possible conference sub-titles currently include: Integral actions for better life; Catalyzing collective action for food system transition; Fixing food systems through the SDGs. In concluding, Mr. Azofeifa underlined that this concept note is still at a very preliminary stage, and that he hopes to be able to further frame it both with the feedback from the MAC as well as with inputs from key stakeholders from Latin America.

Mr. Mulet thanked Roberto for Costa Rica's generous offer to host the 2nd Global Conference of the SFS Programme, and for presenting the main elements of the preliminary concept note, and invited the MAC members to provide feedback and input, in particular regarding proposed objectives and thematic focus of the conference. MAC members were in general supportive of the preliminary concept note and the proposed themes, and it was in particular appreciated that the conference would be more action-oriented and allow to facilitate South-South cooperation. Several MAC members highlighted the need to involve the right people and organizations, including private sector, research institutions (e.g. CIAT), cooperatives and farmer-based organizations, and also donors. One suggestion was to think about the possibility to organize panels of investors as part of the conference. Jamie Morrison, *FAO*, confirmed FAO's interest to be actively involved in the organization of this conference. James Lomax, *UN Environment*, also confirmed their interest and stressed that the issue around food systems and climate change is gaining momentum, including among donor agencies.

Before concluding the session, Mr. Mulet informed the MAC that following this meeting, an organizing committee will be established to take forward the organization of the 2nd Global Conference. MAC members who are willing to actively contribute to the organization of the conference, both in-kind and financially, are welcome to join this committee.

3.4.2 Discussion towards more strategic partnership development

Under this agenda item, a brief discussion took place on other key actors and initiatives outside of the SFS Programme, and how the Programme could develop partnerships with those actors, in particular in light of the next SFS Programme conference. Relevant institutions and meetings that were mentioned during the discussion included the EAT Forum, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Committee on World Food Security and the elections of the European Parliament. Mr. Mulet invited the MAC members to send in further suggestions electronically.

4. Other business

No additional issues related to the SFS Programme and of interest to the MAC were proposed for discussion.

Ms. Thembelihle Ndukwana, *Director Agro-Processing, Department of Trade and Industry (South Africa,*) informed that the next MAC teleconference will take place in the end of February or early March 2018 – the Coordination Desk will send around a doodle poll to fix the exact date, in due course.

Ms. Ndukwana thanked all MAC members for their active participation in this fruitful meeting and wished everyone a very nice evening.

Appendix 1: List of participants

Organization / country	Participant	E-mail address
<i>Government agencies</i>		
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