

Sustainable Food Systems Programme Newsletter, March 23rd 2016

Dear MAC members and Partners of the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme,

We are excited to present the first edition of the SFS Programme Newsletter. We plan to use this to keep you up to date about everything that is happening around the Sustainable Food System Programme: governance issues, changes in the programme structure, and importantly the launch and progress of specific projects and activities under the SFS Programme. We plan to distribute a newsletter approximately every two months. Of course we always welcome your feedback and input for future editions.

Official launch of the Programme

The 'Kick-off' event of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme took place in Milan on October 21st and 22nd 2015. Highlights of this were the constitution of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC), the election of South Africa, Switzerland and Hivos into the leadership of the Programme and the adoption of the SFS programme document by the MAC. The UN General Assembly welcomed the launch of the SFS Programme in its [resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition](#).

The second MAC meeting took place on March 1st 2016. This Newsletter is designed to update you on the main outcomes of this meeting, as well as the overall progress of the SFS Programme.

Definition of priority activities of the SFS Programme

As described in the Sustainable Food Systems programme document, activities are developed and implemented under the four Work areas of the Programme. During the first MAC meeting in Milan we discussed initial priority activities within the Work areas. In the interim, work groups have continued this discussion and proposed a first set of priority activities that could be agreed on during the second MAC meeting.

The next step is to map key activities of MAC members and Programme Partners that relate to priority activities in the four Work areas of the SFS Programme, which are:

- 1. Raising awareness on the need to adopt SCP patterns in food systems;*
- 2. Building enabling environments for sustainable food systems;*
- 3. Increasing the access to and fostering the application of actionable knowledge, information and tools to mainstream SCP in food systems;*
- 4. Strengthening collaboration among food system stakeholders to increase the sector's SCP performance.*

The mapping will be managed by the Work area coordinators. This analysis will underpin the 2016-2017 work plan, including specific projects to be implemented under the SFS Programme.

WWF joins the Programme leadership

After the meeting in Milan at which they were elected as a MAC member, WWF formally confirmed its willingness to act as Co-Lead for the SFS Programme in February. WWF was then welcomed as an additional Co-Lead of the SFS Programme during the second MAC meeting on March 1st.

As a result of WWF becoming a Co-Lead, a vacancy exists in the civil society cluster of the MAC. A call for expressions of interest for the vacant seat will be launched among the Programme Partners in the civil society cluster soon. The new MAC member will then be elected by the members of this cluster.

Admission of Programme Partners

Among the first tasks of the Programme's Co-Leads was the evaluation of all expressions of interest from organizations that had applied to become Partners of the SFS Programme. In a first step, 40 organizations were able to become Programme Partners, and a further group of organizations is expected to follow soon.

Adoption of Terms of Reference (ToR)

Prior to the second MAC meeting the Co-Leads of the SFS Programme prepared Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Programme. These ToR were adopted by the MAC on March 1st as an important element of the Programme governance.

Upcoming Webinar – ‘The Global Food System: an analysis’.

WWF commissioned Metabolic, a systems research organization, to prepare a study of the Global Food System. The Co-Leads are offering the MAC members and Partners of the SFS Programme the opportunity to attend a webinar with the study authors in the coming weeks. The date, time and log-in details will be sent separately. The report can already be downloaded from: <http://www.metabolic.nl/publications/global-food-system-analysis/>

Future highlights

The next face-to-face MAC meeting will take place in Rome on June 7th and 8th, back to back with an FAO workshop on sustainable value chains on June 8th and 9th that is open to all Programme Partners of the SFS Programme as well.

Documents on the Sustainable Food Systems Programme are available on request.

Contact: Coordination Desk of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, sfsprogramme@blw.admin.ch