

One Planet Sustainable Food Systems Programme

12th MAC meeting (teleconference)

20 June 2019

Draft summary report

Summary of main discussion points, outcomes and decisions:

- The MAC **adopted eight new Programme Partners**, bringing their total number to 140.
- The MAC **confirmed Switzerland and WWF their role as Co-Leads** for another regular term.
- The MAC **confirmed INRA and Pinpoint Sustainability in their role as MAC members** for another regular term.
- A call for expressions of interest for further Co-Leads and MAC members will be issued in the end of June.
- The MAC **approved one additional affiliated projects**, bringing their total number to 46.
- The **Rome-based UN agencies are planning to organize a Food Systems Summit in 2021**. The preparatory process for that Summit presents an opportunity to foster alignment among relevant initiatives and actors dealing with food systems, including the SFS Programme and its workplan.
- SFS Programme workplan: for the next MAC meeting, **all task forces and core initiatives that have not yet done so, shall update and review their work plans**, including to bring them in line with the chapeau of the SFS Programme workplan.
- SFS Programme task forces: the **communications work track will from now on be managed with a more flexible approach**, convening specific Programme members on an *ad hoc* basis.
- Core initiatives: **it was decided to revert to the system of submitting workplan updates prior to MAC meetings**, in combination with the required 10YFP online reporting taking place once per year.
- SFS toolbox: the **Collaborative Framework for Food Systems Transformation was launched** just prior to the MAC teleconference.
- Cross-programme collaboration: there is an opportunity for the SFS Programme to influence the other Programmes' work and to use the other Programmes as multipliers.
- The MAC agreed on the usefulness to organize a **third global conference**. The **Co-Leads will develop a preliminary concept note for further discussion** at the next face-to-face MAC meeting.



1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome and adoption of agenda

Mr. Frank Mechielsen, *Senior Advocacy Officer Food, Hivos*, welcomed all participants to the 12th MAC meeting. He then summarized the outcomes of the 11th MAC meeting, which took place as a face-to-face meeting on 7-8 February 2019, and outlined the main objectives of this MAC meeting, which were to confirm those Co-Leads and 1st term MAC members that have formally expressed their commitment for a 2nd term; adopt the chapeau with overarching priorities for the SFS Programme 2020-2021 work plan; provide guidance to the task forces and core initiatives; and facilitate a strategic discussion on the SFS Programme's outreach efforts.

Finally, Mr. Mechielsen presented the draft agenda of the 12th 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 11th MAC meeting (teleconference)

Before going into the content of the 12th MAC meeting, Mr. Mechielsen presented the summary report of the 11th 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 New programme partners

Mr. Michaël Sapin, *Policy Advisor, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, informed the MAC members that since the last MAC meeting, several new partner applications were submitted to the Coordination Desk, which shared positively evaluated partner applications electronically with the MAC. As no written objections were received prior to the teleconference, eight organizations were adopted as new partners, bringing the total number of SFS Programme partners up to 148.

2.2 Renewal of Co-Leadership and MAC terms

Mr. Mechielsen reminded the MAC of the ongoing MAC and co-leadership renewal process and invited Ms. Gina Torregroza, *IOYFP Secretariat*, to present an overview of the Co-Leads and 1st term MAC members that have re-confirmed their commitment. Ms. Torregroza informed the MAC that Switzerland and WWF have re-confirmed their commitment to act for another term as Co-Leads, and INRA, Pinpoint Sustainability and Udyama have reconfirmed their commitment to act for another term as MAC members. After endorsement by the MAC, Mr. Mechielsen declared these two Co-Leads and three MAC members as confirmed for another regular term.¹

Mr. Mechielsen then invited Mr. Patrick Mink, *Senior Policy Officer, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, to remind the MAC of the next steps in the renewal process. Mr. Mink presented the main steps, namely that there will be a call for expressions of interest, starting before the end of June and lasting until early August, followed by an online vote in case of more applicants than vacant seats. Successful MAC applicants will be confirmed in early September, and be invited to the upcoming face-to-face MAC meeting. Possible new Co-Leads will have to be endorsed by the MAC at its next meeting.

¹ Udyama subsequently disqualified to serve another term in the MAC as per the SFS Programme's Terms of Reference, as they did not participate in three consecutive MAC meetings.

3. Issues related to programme implementation

3.1 Issues related to Programme management

3.1.1 New resources and affiliated projects

Mr. Sapin informed the MAC members that since the last MAC meeting, one new request to affiliate a project was submitted to the Coordination Desk, which shared their evaluation electronically with the MAC. As no written objections were received prior to the teleconference, this proposal is approved as an affiliated project of the SFS Programme, bringing the total number of affiliated projects up to 46.

3.1.2 Draft Chapeau for the SFS Programme workplan 2020-2021

Mr. Mechielsen reminded the MAC that the 10YFP Programmes were requested by the Secretariat to align their work plans with the 10YFP 5-year strategy, and invited Mr. Mink to present the draft chapeau for the SFS Programme workplan. Mr. Mink explained that the draft chapeau is composed of the priorities of the 10YFP 5-year strategy that were identified by the MAC on the one hand, and the priorities of the call for action of the 2nd global SFS Programmer conference on the other hand.

In the ensuing discussion, in the context of the priority “linking up with relevant processes”, Mr. Jamie Morrison, *FAO*, mentioned that initial discussions were taking place among the Rome-based UN agencies, for the organization of a Food Systems Summit in 2021. The preparatory process for that Summit presents an opportunity to foster alignment among relevant initiatives and actors dealing with food systems, including the SFS Programme and its workplan. Ms. Charlotte Pavageau, *Biovision*, raised the question whether the Programme may need to create new core initiatives and task forces in order to address the priorities articulated in the draft chapeau. Mr. Michael Mulet, *International Programme Officer, Food Systems, WWF*, suggested that it may be useful to develop an advocacy strategy for the SFS Programme. Regarding the priority “tool on assessing and implementing SFS”, members of task force 3 explained that rather than developing a new tool, they would envisage to focus on existing tools.

After the discussion, Mr. Mechielsen requested that in preparation of the next MAC meeting, all task forces and core initiatives that have not yet done so, shall update and review their work plans, including to bring them in line with the chapeau.

3.1.3 The SFS Programme task forces

Mr. Solly Molepo, *Deputy Director: Agro-processing, Department for Trade and Industry (South Africa)*, invited the four task force facilitators to provide a brief update on progress since the last MAC meeting.

TF1: Awareness raising and communication

Mr. Mulet suggested that the communications work track may benefit from a more flexible approach, convening specific Programme members on an *ad hoc* basis. The MAC agreed with this proposal, however it was highlighted that it may still be useful to have a core group to provide oversight.

TF2: Enabling environments and capacity building

Ms. Marina Bortoletti, *UN Environment*, presented an update on the ongoing discussions of merging task force 2 and the “Community of Practice on Food Systems Approach on the Ground”, highlighted the task force’s intention to link the SFS approach with the climate agenda, and informed the MAC about their plans to organize national SFS roundtables.

TF3: Information, knowledge and tools

Mr. Urs Schenker, *Nestlé*, informed the MAC that Ms. Allison Loconto, *INRA*, will be taking over the facilitator role of the task force. New developments include that workstream 1 would be reoriented towards a guidance document, that would help choosing suitable tools depending on the aspects to be analyzed. Furthermore, the group was discussing the possibility to organize a scientific conference during the next global SFS Programme conference.

TF4: Partnerships and synergies

Mr. Divine Njie, *FAO*, informed the MAC that the task force supported the 2nd World Conference for the revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet, and that it was present at the 10YFP Executive Meeting to identify opportunities for collaboration with other 10YFP Programmes. He indicated that *FAO* colleagues working on public procurement have expressed interest in that regard. Concerning next steps, the task force will support TF2 in the organization of the roundtables.

3.1.4 Core initiative implementation

Mr. Molepo reminded the MAC that at the last meeting, it was decided to change the process of how core initiatives report back to the MAC; rather than updating the SFS Programme work plan prior to each MAC meeting, they were now asked to report through the online reporting tool prior to each MAC meeting. However unfortunately, none of the eight core initiatives responded to the Coordination Desk's call to report on recent highlights for the current MAC teleconference.

A short discussion took place in which it was highlighted that the online reporting tool was rather time-intensive and cumbersome for core initiative leads compared to the previous system of periodically updating the workplan. It was therefore decided to revert to the previous system of workplan updates prior to MAC meetings, in combination with the required online reporting taking place once per year.

3.1.5 The SFS Toolbox

After reminding the MAC of the main components of the SFS toolbox, Mr. Mulet invited Ms. Bortoletti to provide an update on the Collaborative Framework for Food Systems Transformation². Ms. Bortoletti explained that the Collaborative framework was launched in a well-attended webinar just two days earlier, and that the next steps would focus on dissemination and implementation through workshops at national and city-level. Regarding the case studies component of the SFS toolbox, Mr. Mulet informed the MAC that the task team had developed a template and was working in finalizing the selection criteria. Furthermore, Farming First is proposing a collaboration to co-develop a campaign based on case studies from SFS Programme's network as well as their own partner base.

3.2 Strengthening synergies, partnerships and collaborations

3.2.1 Recent outreach efforts

Mr. Mulet informed the MAC that the Co-Leads and other partners have been very active in terms of outreach and advocacy in the first half of this year, efforts including:

² https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/un-e_collaborative_framework_for_food_systems_transformation_final.pdf



- 2nd global conference of the SFS Programme, with about 200 participants, leading to new collaborations as well as organizations joining the SFS Programme;
- UNEA-4, highlighting the need to promote sustainable food systems in its Ministerial Declaration³, and with a resolution on food loss and waste reduction referencing the SFS Programme⁴;
- OECD to carry out work on food systems and the challenge of coherent policies, including as a contribution to the SFS Programme;
- The Co-Leads liaising with WEF in order to enhance collaboration and ensure complementarity with the Food Action Coalition spearheaded by WEF/IFAD/Rabobank;
- A side event on the Sustainable and Healthy Gastronomy core initiative at the EAT Stockholm Food Forum.

3.2.2 *Upcoming outreach opportunities*

Ms. Torregroza informed the MAC about opportunities for collaboration with other 10YFP Programmes on food, according to discussions at the 10YFP Executive Meeting. All six 10YFP Programmes are implementing activities related to food. She highlighted that the Consumer Information Programme is looking to apply their Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information to the food sector, and that the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme has chosen food as a priority sector. According to the 10YFP Secretariat, there is a clear opportunity for the SFS Programme to influence the other Programmes' work and to use the other Programmes as multipliers.

Mr. Mink mentioned that Switzerland is planning to organize an event on food systems during the January 2020 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Mr. Mulet invited all MAC members to send information about their plans for side events at the October 2019 session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to the Coordination Desk, with the aim to have a more coordinated presence.

3.3 *Issues related to resource mobilization*

Mr. Nout van der Vaart, *Hivos*, provided an update on the four Trust Fund projects of the SFS Programme, and Mr Mulet mentioned a potential funding opportunity from IKI for a project looking at environmental criteria for food labelling.

4. **Next MAC meeting and any other business**

4.1 *Next MAC meeting*

Mr. Mink outlined the Co-Leads' two options for dates for the next meeting for the MAC's feedback: week of October 7th (Costa Rica); or week of November 4th (Switzerland). It was further proposed to have the meeting back-to-back with CFS. It was agreed that the Coordination Desk will share a doodle poll.

³ <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28463/K1901029.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y>: "We will promote sustainable food systems by encouraging the implementation of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, improving value generation, and significantly reducing waste and energy use along the food supply chain to help ensure food security and ecosystem functions and services."

⁴ <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28499/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>: "Requests the [...] United Nations Environment Programme, within [...] the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners, to: (a) Provide technical support to assist Member States in implementing the present resolution; [...]"

4.2 Next global conference

Mr. Mink reminded the MAC that at the last meeting, it was agreed that a brainstorming group should think about the format etc. of a next major event. While this has not happened so far, the Co-Leads feel it is important to initiate this discussion now. It is likely that a major UN Summit on Food Systems will take place in the second half of 2021; it would be necessary to have our event still sufficiently prior to that: at the earliest in late 2020 / at the latest in early 2021. Ideally, the SFS Programme event could be positioned strategically and produce input for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

In the discussion, Mr. Morrison highlighted the importance for the SFS Programme conference to take place still before the end of 2020, if the intention is for it to feed into the 2021 Summit.

The MAC agreed on the need to organize a third global conference. The Co-Leads will develop a preliminary concept note for further discussion at the next face-to-face MAC meeting.

4.3 Any other business

The participants expressed their appreciation of the productive call and thanked the Co-Leads and the Coordination Desk for the preparatory work and for facilitating the discussions.

Before closing the teleconference, Mr. Mink thanked all MAC members for their active participation.

Annex 1: List of participants

Organization / country	Participant	E-mail address
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