

**The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE),  
Science-policy interface of the  
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

***Food Security and Nutrition  
in the context of the 2030 Agenda:  
Science and Knowledge for Action.***

**Patrick Caron, HLPE Chairperson**  
CFS-HLPE and University of Hohenheim  
International Colloquium – 27 September 2016

# I) Presentation of CFS and HLPE

# Why the need for an HLPE ?



- Where does it come from?
- What is it?
- How does it work?
- What does it produce?
- For what.....?

## “Hunger riots” 2007-2008, price volatility (2009):

- “Wake-up calls”
- Why is international governance of food security recurrently failing?

Institutional earthquake...

...role of International organizations, FAO included?

The foremost international and intergovernmental platform to deal with FSN and all related issues

# 2 key points to revitalize CFS



1. Openness to civil society... **Inclusiveness**

2. Independent scientific /**evidence-based** to fuel policy debate and understand why stakeholders disagree/controversies:  
HLPE s science-policy interface

## Taken from the Reform document CFS

*“This effort should help create synergies between world class academic/scientific knowledge, field experience, knowledge from social actors and practical application in various settings.”*

## A quick calendar for a reform within UN

- October 2009: CFS Reform, creation of the HLPE
- July 2010: HLPE Steering Committee nominated (rules, international nomination call)
- July 2011: First two HLPE reports published

# A new type of science- policy interface (HLPE, IPCC, IpBES, GSDR,...)



- Plethora of analysis, need for synthesis
- Complexity, systemic approach, interdisciplinarity
- Evidence : navigating between certainties and doubts-sellers
  - Change in knowledge production function (address question... highlight uncertain)
  - Link expertise / science
  - Number and evidence dictatorship?
- Renewing of science-policy interface: instruction of policy making and negotiation (ex IPCC)
- Controversies: fertile for science and policy making (CEI)

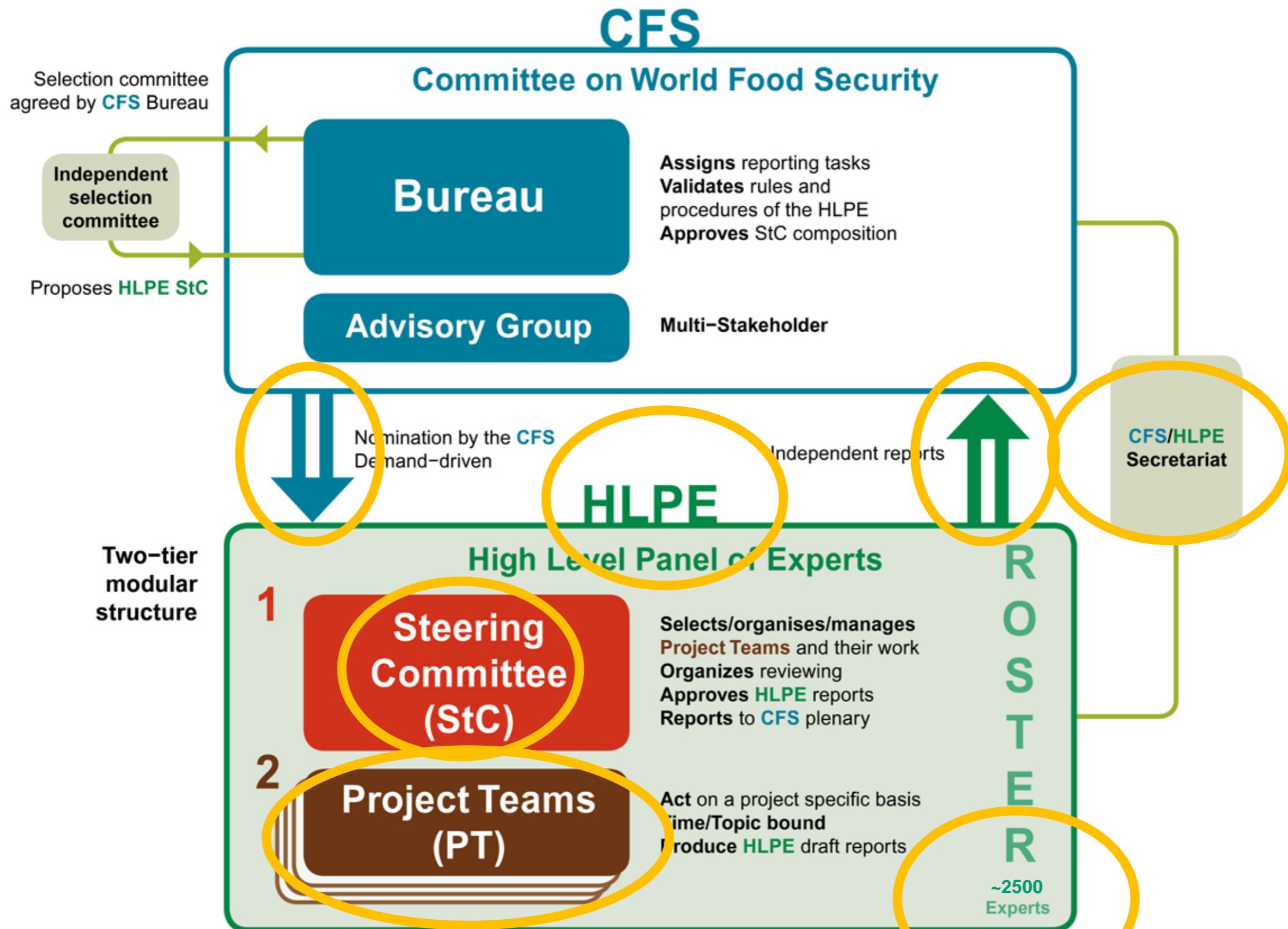
# HLPE Roles (as per CFS rules)



- (i) Assess and analyze the **current state** of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
- (ii) Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific **policy-relevant issues**, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
- (iii) Identify **emerging issues**, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.



# The HLPE and the CFS







# Key attributes of the HLPE



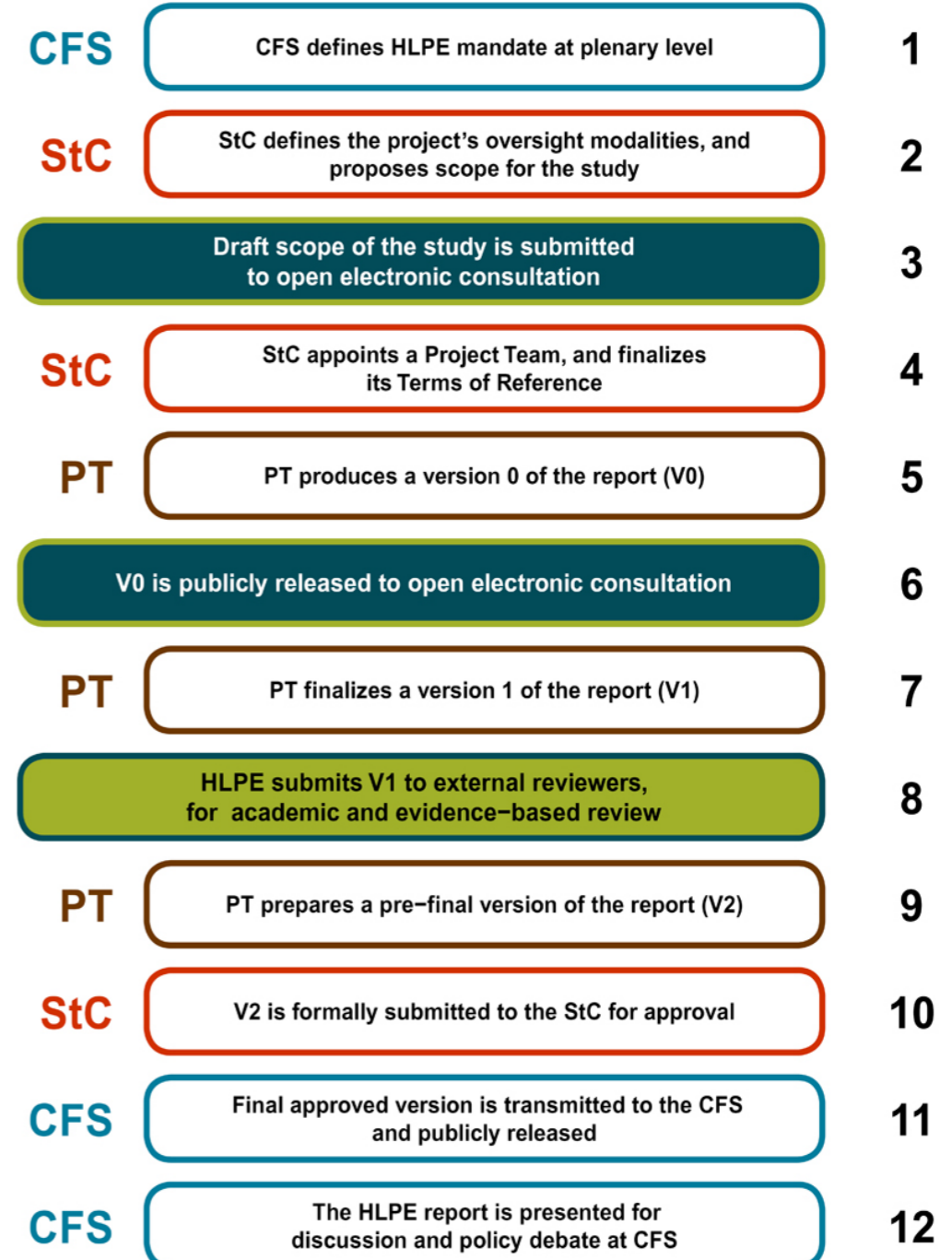
- Created, appointed, mandated by the CFS... but working independently
- Address the complexity of food security and nutrition through multidisciplinary
- Works in a transparent and open way, in particular openness to various forms of knowledge

*“One of the key roles of the reports is to help members and participants in CFS to understand why they disagree” (MS Swaminathan, 1<sup>st</sup> HLPE Chair)*



# Elaboration of the HLPE reports:

An **inclusive**,  
**collective**, and  
**evidence-based** process



# What does makes an HLPE report different?



## From scientific reports

- Demand driven
- Addressing a political question... burning
- State of knowledge (and not “need more research on...”)
- Design and provide recommendations
- Starting point for policy negotiation

## From international organizations' documents

- Does not shy off controversies: difficult topics from an independent scientific perspective
- No direct stake in negotiation

## From advocacy documents

- Analysis and confronting diverse streams of thought



# HLPE Reports 2011-2015

## 2011

**HLPE REPORT 1**

**Price volatility and food security**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

July 2011

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 2**

**Land tenure and international investments in agriculture**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

July 2011

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

## 2012

**HLPE REPORT 3**

**Food security and climate change**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2012

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 4**

**Social protection for food security**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2012

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

## 2013

**HLPE REPORT 5**

**Biofuels and food security**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2013

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 6**

**Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2013

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

## 2014 - 2015

**HLPE REPORT 7**

**Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2014

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 8**

**Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

June 2014

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 9**

**Water for food security and nutrition**

A report by  
The High Level Panel of Experts  
on Food Security and Nutrition

May 2015

CFS HLPE High Level Panel of Experts

**HLPE REPORT 9**

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# What does the HLPE produce?

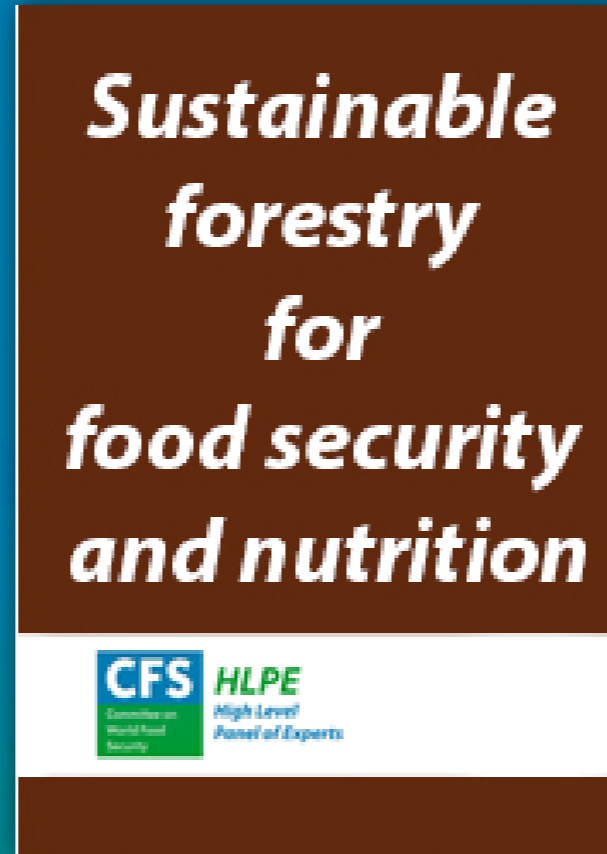


- Reports (uses and outreach)
- Policy debate for decision making
  - Level playing & common language
  - Starting point
- Agenda and mind setting (ex: climate change)
- Exchanges with and among panels (IPCC, IpBES) and think tanks (perspective Agenda 2030)

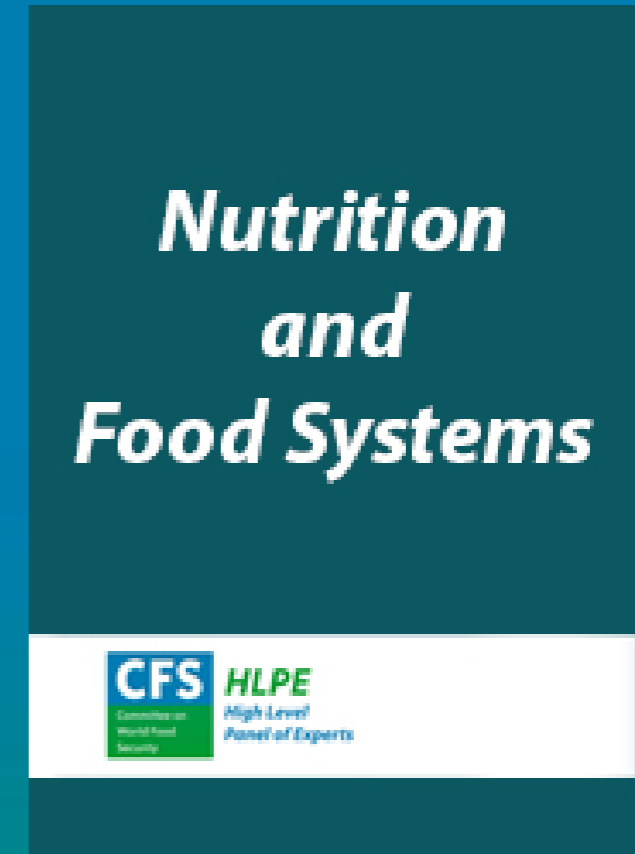
# Ongoing reports 2016-2017



**Negotiation  
CFS 2016**



**Negotiation  
CFS 2017**



**Negotiation  
CFS 2017**



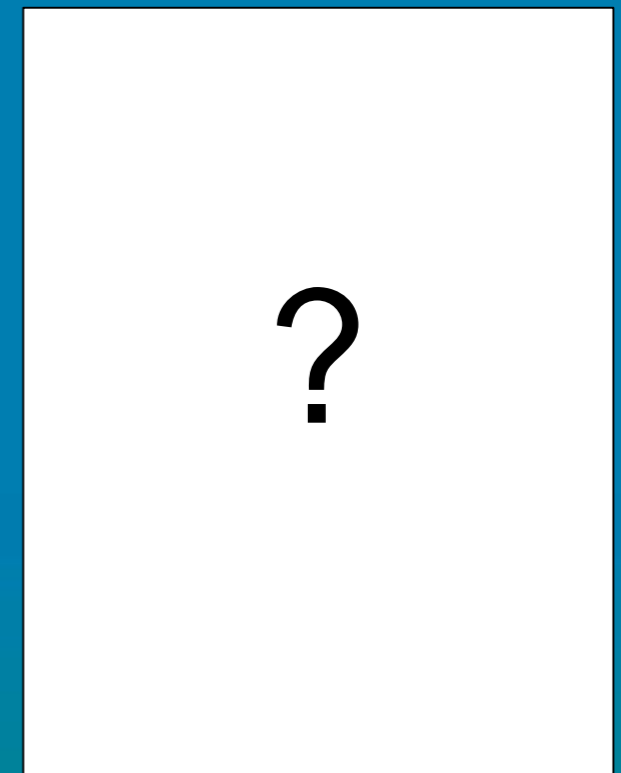
# 3 time frame: how HLPE informs CFS debates on short, medium and long terms

- CFS requests the HLPE



CFS (MYPOW) for future request

- HLPE « Critical and emerging issues »  
for future MYPOW



# II) 2030 Agenda and Challenges for FSN from an HLPE perspective

# Rio+20: beyond environmental issues, a science-policy interface



## The Rio+20 final declaration recognized the need:

- “to promote the **science-policy interface** through **inclusive, evidence-based** and **transparent** scientific assessments”,
- “to enhance the participation and effective engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders”,
- “to promote transparency and broad public participation and partnerships to implement sustainable development”,
- in order to “facilitate **informed policy decision-making** on sustainable development issues”.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Global and universal:  
N/S

«Transformative»

3P : People, Planet,  
Prosperity



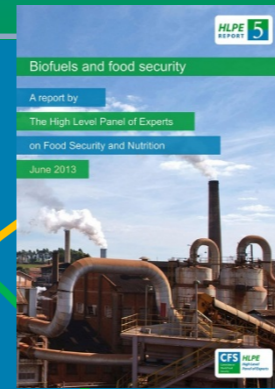
# Past HLPE reports... and SD: a global narrative

Environment

Economic

SD for FSN

Social



# FSN: SDG 2... and much more

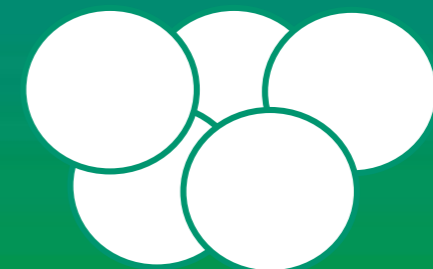
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



At the heart of a complex **nexus**:

*Agriculture  
Poverty  
Environment  
Health  
Energy  
Employment & income  
Political stability and peace  
....*

**Food security and nutrition**  
is linked to most of (if not all)  
the 17 SDGs





- FSN as a concrete entry point to operationalize global progress towards sustainable development
- A metamorphosis of food systems as a lever towards the achievement of SDGs
- Challenges: evidence and knowledge towards
  - Nexus and complexity
  - Contradictions & consistency
  - Controversies and burning issues
  - Local diversity and global dimension
  - ...



**CFS-HLPE  
C&EI**

- Use Integrated, transdisciplinary approach; cut across SDGs
- Gather diverse knowledge for robust evidence base
- Address new & emerging issues
- Thematic inclusive platforms (e.g., the CFS)

**2030 Agenda  
implementation**

**HLPF**

III)

## HLPE note on Critical and emerging issues for FSN

**Third role of HLPE as defined by CFS:**

*“Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas”.*

# In 2013, CFS requested the HLPE:



To produce a first note on *Critical and emerging issues (C&EI)* for FSN,

providing insights, through an evidence-based perspective, built on the knowledge of diverse actors



# Process for the 1<sup>st</sup> C&EI note

**CFS request (CFS 40)**

11 October 2013

Peer Reviewed process & methods

Inquiry and e-consultation

Secretariat's synthesis

Final note drafted by the Steering Committee

Peer review of final note

**Release of the Final note to CFS**

6 August 2014



# Results of the inquiry

- Knowledge organizations, institutions and knowledge networks: 90 issues (from 25 sources out of 77 invited)
- Open consultation : 42 issues (from 28 different sources)
- Total : 132 issues (590 pages) from 53 different contributors

# **Inclusion of diverse forms of knowledge: essential for FSN**

**The inclusive process itself  
becomes a critical outcome**

**All information and results of this first  
C&EI process available on HLPE website:**

**[http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/  
critical-and-emerging-issues/cei-2014/en/](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/critical-and-emerging-issues/cei-2014/en/)**

# 5 interrelated issues 2014 and their consequences

Healthy **nutrition**  
in changing food systems  
(Triple Burden, diets, food S)



HLPE report #12 on  
*Nutrition and food systems* (2017)

**Livestock systems** and FSN: challenges  
and opportunities



HLPE report #10 on *SAD for FSN:  
what roles for livestock?* (2016)

**Inequalities** and FSN (resources, access  
food, governance): the imperative of  
addressing the needs of disadvantaged  
and vulnerable populations

The increasing **role of financial markets** in  
FSN (land, products, services, non  
agricultural commodities, financial products

HLPE report #8 on *FLW in the  
context of sustainable food  
systems* (2014)

**Pathways to sustainable food systems:**  
the pursuit of human and environmental  
health for all



HLPE report #10 on *SAD for  
FSN: what roles for livestock?*  
(2016)



# Current process: 2<sup>nd</sup> C&EI note (1)



August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016: CFS request to produce a new HLPE note on Critical and emerging issues... next MYPOW

6 August – 6 October 2016: Open Inquiry

**There is still time to contribute to this Inquiry!**

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/critical-and-emerging-issues/en/>

## Building on the result of this inquiry, the HLPE will:

- make a **synthesis** of the results of this inquiry, **mapping** the C&E issues around thematic clusters
- produce a **short list** of the main C&E issues, considering a set of criteria, e.g.:
  - Impact on FSN (including women, vulnerable groups)
  - Depth and breadth of the issue
  - Urgency and emerging character of the issue
  - Gap in knowledge and understanding...
- submit this work to an external **peer-review**
- release the **final note** in time for the CFS plenary session in **2017**

# Current process: improvements:

- Around **170** institutions worldwide directly contacted
- Conferences and events organized at different steps of the process
  - May 2016: International Seminar (Columbia University, NYC, USA)
  - **Sept. 2016: International Colloquium (Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany)**
  - Nov. 2016: International Seminar (FAO, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
  - 2017 (tbc): International Workshop (Coventry University, London, UK)
- Respondents invited to link their answers to the overall and global framework of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable development**

# Expectations today

- Concrete thoughts and proposals for a transformative agenda (*a university !*)
- Contribution to C&EI identification building on 3 panels and strengthening upstream frame
  - knowledge gaps (neglected, contested)
  - The way to fill them
- Long lasting partnership with universities, think tanks, panels, CSOs.. instrumental in the future: a process



# Thank you for your attention

# Thanks to the University of Hohenheim!



For more information about the HLPE and to download the reports, please visit the HLPE website at: [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe)