



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

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Panel 1 - Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition and Knowledge Gaps— What do we need to know?



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Background

Global processes to identify issues and priorities

- **Several global processes**

- to identify issues and priorities for research and action on agriculture, food security and nutrition – with broad participation – scientists / experts / stakeholders

- **Examples**

- International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development 2005-2008 (IAASTD, 2009)
- World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development
- Process to identify “the top 100 questions of importance to the future of global agriculture” (Pretty et al, 2010)
- Priority setting process of the CGIAR system (since 2009)
- First HLPE Consultative Process to identify Critical and Emerging Issues – 2014



What can we learn from past processes? Areas of agreement – in line with the SDGs

- **Need for sustainable intensification of smallholder farming systems**
 - **SDG 2.3:** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- **Need to make agriculture more sustainable, resilient and climate-smart**
 - **SDG 2.4:** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices ... that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change
 - **SDG 6.4:** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater
- **Need to address gender issues in agriculture**
 - **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Need to make agriculture sensitive to nutrition**
 - **SDG 2.1:** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>



What can we learn from past processes? Areas of disagreement

Modern agriculture

- Science as basis of agriculture
- New technologies as opportunities
 - *Examples: CRISPR/CAS*
- Managerial approach to problem-solving
 - Environmental and social problems are not denied, but seen as manageable,
 - e.g., using market-based instruments and corporate social responsibility

Critique

- “Productionist” approach
- “Industrial mass production”
- Driven by the interests of big business
- Inherently unsustainable

Organic agriculture

Agro-ecology

- Nature as basis of agriculture
- Focus on local / tacit / indigenous knowledge
- Key concepts
 - Holistic approach
 - Multi-functionality of agriculture
 - Food sovereignty

Critique

- “Naïve” and romanticizing approach
- Depriving poor people of their development opportunities



Questions for the panelists

New Issues

- Considering the time horizon of the Agenda 2030,
 - **which new and emerging issues in your field of expertise have not yet received sufficient attention**
 - in current research and in existing assessments and priority setting exercises?
- What **type of knowledge** is needed to better understand these new and emerging issues?

Contested Issues

- Which issues related to food security and nutrition are,
 - from your perspective,
 - **particularly contested?**
- What **type of knowledge** should be generated
 - in what types of knowledge systems
 - to provide **better guidance** for stakeholders and policy-makers on such contested issues?



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