



Invitation to an open discussion on the political outcome document of the ICN2

Comment Form

Personal information

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1. General comments on the Draft of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

The World Farmers' Organisation, WFO, strongly supports the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the importance of a "Rome Declaration on Nutrition". As a general comment, WFO wants to highlight the importance of explicitly referring to farmers, the main food producers and those responsible for high-quality food production, as key stakeholders to achieve better nutrition standards.

Nutrition is certainly a major challenge to development, and all stakeholders, including farmers, civil society, private sector, and Governments have to join forces and make an extra effort to raise awareness on the importance of nutrition all over the world. Involving farmers in this process is the key for success. Farmers do not simply produce food, but they are the ones who know what to produce, how to produce and when to produce. Farmers have the knowledge and expertise to produce high-quality food which is the basic element to achieve better nutrition goals.

2. Specific comments on the paragraphs related to the multiple threats that malnutrition poses to sustainable development (paragraphs 4-10).

With specific reference to paragraph 8, WFO welcomes the recognition of the negative impact of climate change on food production. In this context it is important to recognize also that climate change is affecting farmers directly and consequently the quantity and quality of the food they produce. Farmers are on the forefront to fight climate change, they are called to build resilience in order to adapt to it, and they are asked to produce high-quality food in

order to feed the world's growing population. In this context, WFO wishes that a specific commitment to tackle climate change through the support of farmers, reducing the chances of affecting the quality and quantity of food production, will be included in the draft declaration.

With reference to paragraph 10, WFO proposes to add a sub-paragraph f) in which stating the costs for the global economy caused by malnutrition, as a result of lost productivity and direct health care costs, amounts to US\$3.5 trillion per year¹.

3. Specific comments on the vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition (paragraphs 11-12).

With reference to paragraph 11, WFO proposes to add a sub-paragraph f) in which reaffirming that the involvement of farmers has to be guaranteed during the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and initiatives to ensure better results and a more participatory approach.

With reference to paragraph 12, sub-paragraph c), WFO suggests to add farmers in the list of stakeholders involved in the production, process, storage, distribution, preparation and consumption of food.

WFO proposes to introduce a sub-paragraph k) to clearly recognize that investing in the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies would result in better health, fewer child deaths and increased future earnings, with a benefit-to-cost ratio of almost 13 to 1².

4. Specific comments in the appropriate fields relating to these commitments (paragraph 13):

Commitment b): reshape food systems through coherent implementation of public policies and investment plans throughout food value chains to serve the health and nutrition needs of the growing world population by providing access to safe, nutritious and healthy foods in a sustainable and resilient way;

¹ The State of Food and Agriculture 2013. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3301e/i3301e.pdf>

² *Ibidem*



WFO believes that farmers, as agent of solutions, have to be involved in the designing and implementation of the above-mentioned policies and investment plans.

Commitment c): take leadership to shape and manage food systems and improve nutrition by strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring adequate resourcing and coordinating effectively across sectors;

WFO strongly supports this commitment, but it proposes to specify the involvement of all stakeholders involved in the process.

Commitment d): encourage and facilitate contributions by all stakeholders in society and promote collaboration within and across countries, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

WFO proposes to specify the stakeholders involved in the process, in order to actively involve them since the beginning; namely: farmers, civil society, private sector, and Governments.

5. We would also appreciate your vision on policies, programmes and investment that might help translate such commitments into action.

From the WFO perspective the direct involvement of farmers, as primary source of food production, is necessary and unavoidable to ensure a successful outcome of the declaration.

In particular, WFO proposes to organize awareness-raising activities and training on the critical value of a balanced diet to ensure a healthy life. This implies that everybody is adequately informed about the characteristics of the food they eat and its impact on human health. WFO believes that facing one of the root causes of malnutrition, lack of information on the consumer side, will reduce the risks of adopting an unbalanced diet.