



BROOKE'S SUBMISSION TO THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON THE FUTURE REPORT ON NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

December 2016

General Comments

1. Brooke congratulates the HLPE project team for this first draft of this very important report on nutrition and food systems, which will provide a critical evidence base for CFS policy convergence on nutrition-focused recommendations which have the potential to make substantial improvement for the one in three people suffering from malnourishment globally, as we work collectively to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitment to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.
2. Brooke would like to take this opportunity to offer its perspective as an international NGO with over 80 years of experience operating in smallholder and pastoralist food production systems across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, which seeks to support sustainable farming and food production practices which provide the best outcomes for people, animals and the environment.

Specific Comments

Sustainable and Healthy Diets

3. Brooke welcomes the focus on sustainable and healthy diets, which are culturally acceptable, accessible, fair and affordable, recognising the need for diverse solutions which take account of the broad range of economic, cultural and situational circumstances which people live in. As noted within the policy recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets endorsed at CFS43, smallholders produce 70% the world's food, but many continue to face food insecurity and malnutrition themselves. Therefore, a focus on smallholder food systems, their contribution to nutrition and the barriers to food security and nutrition amongst smallholders would be particularly valuable.
4. In particular, we welcome the recognition of the need to protect and respect biodiversity and ecosystems, and ensure the optimal use of natural resources. In light of the recently endorsed CFS policy recommendations on the role of livestock in sustainable agriculture and the recognition of the crucial role which livestock plays within food security and nutrition, we would recommend that animal and livestock resources are included within the report's considerations of the diets which best protect ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources (and within the outcomes it is noted will be developed on page 23 of the report).
5. There is an emphasis within the report on new technologies and innovation. While we recognise the hugely valuable contribution that technology and innovation can make to nutritional outcomes, we feel there is a need to redress the balance, so that traditional farming and food production practices which have evolved over millennia and contribute greatly to food security and nutrition are given equal or greater attention and afforded the recognition and protection they deserve. We would also suggest that a deeper understanding of the traditional practices

which contribute to sustainable and healthy diets should be identified as a key area for future research and knowledge building within the report.

Food System Typology

6. We note that the food system typologies on which the report's recommendations will be based was not available in time for the release of the zero draft report. Therefore, our comments here relate to the future development of that typology. While it is important for governments to be able to identify and categorise the different food systems within their respective countries in order to develop appropriate policy and legislation, we would caution against the categorisation of countries by food system-type, due to the wide diversity of food systems found within each country based on the different livelihoods strategies employed by different communities.

Social Movements and Conflicts of Interest

7. We are pleased to note that these sections will be elaborated and developed respectively in the future report. The inherent tension and conflicts between different food production systems must be considered and addressed if diets are to be sustainable. Due to its capacity to undermine traditional sustainable smallholder, pastoralist and agroecological food production systems, the impact of pursuing sustainable and healthy diets through industrial agriculture deserves special attention, as does an assessment and comparison of the nutritional value of food produced through the different systems.
8. While the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), which we are pleased to be a member of, and the ICN2/Nutrition Civil Society Group represent crucial mechanisms for the coordination of a large number and very broad range of civil society actors, including national and international NGOs and social movements (particularly in the case of CSM), these should not be considered social movements in themselves and a more nuanced and in-depth reflection on social movements and their contribution to the nutrition agenda would be welcomed.

Further Consultation

9. We are grateful for the opportunity to feed into this open consultation on the zero draft report. While we recognise that it would go against normal protocol, as fundamental sections of the report including the recommendations, food system typologies and conflict of interest section are not yet available, and other important areas such as the indicators are less developed than would usually be expected in the zero draft report, it may be appropriate to consider a further consultation once these areas are at a more advanced stage of development, before the finalisation of the report.
10. We have also submitted our general feedback for inclusion within the CSM Submission.

Thank you.