

# MINUTES TWG RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 2021** 

## Thematic discussion on CFS Policy Convergence Process on Youth Engagement and Employment

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

- Anna Befus, FAO
- Cyriaque Hakizimana, YARA
- Elisenda Estruch Puertas, ILO
- Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
- Ileana Grandelis, FAO
- Julie Rødje, Spire

- Lise Saga, GDPRD
- Marie Balse, ART
- Maurizio Navarra, GDPRD
- Nick Goetschalckx, EU
- Peter Wobst, FAO

#### **AGENDA**

| Time   | Topic  | PIC    |
|--------|--|--------|
| 5 min  | Context - why this meeting   | Frank  |
| 10 min | Overview CFS youth workstream: Milestones / timeframe, process, etc.                               | lleana |
| 10 min | Insights from the CFS 49. discussion – and overview of "agreements"  Link to CFS 49 plenary report | All    |
| 10 min | TWG perspectives and scope for joint positions   | All    |
| 20 min | Discussion on the 2 guiding questions for CFS Feedback (see below)                                 | All    |
| 5 min  | Agreements, next steps   | Frank  |

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES**

- The High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) launched a report on 'Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems'.
- At CFS 49 in October a policy convergence process was initiated on the same topic. The CFS process on youth is a key policy process in the field of RYE, which the working group could engage in.
  - o Highlights from the session on Youth Engagement and Employment at CFS 49
  - o Plenary report of CFS 49.
  - o Overview of the workstream

Ileana (FAO) presented the policy convergence process of the CFS on Youth engagement and employment. The final objective of the process is to develop policy recommendations to be presented at CFS 50 in October 2022 for endorsement. A nominated rapporteur and a secretariat will facilitate the negotiation processes for the policy recommendations.

- 22 November is the deadline for the public call for submission of written statements, which they will base the zero draft of the recommendations on. The inputs are built around two questions; the priority issues and the policy relevant areas that should be addressed in the recommendations. To ensure inclusivity, there is a question about how to engage with youth constituencies as well.
- On 19 November there is an open-ended working group meeting for all CFS stakeholders to discuss the policy areas that should be included in those recommendations.
- For the topic of youth, a new approach has been introduced to include thematic discussions that are meant to be oriented towards capacity development, aimed at clarifying concepts. The first thematic discussion will be held on 10 December and will be a session to clarify and explain the conceptual framework of the HLPE report.
- In May-June-July 2022 they have planned for six days of negotiations.
- In the CFS 49 discussion, there was were controversial discussions to base the policy recommendations on the HLPE report, with its conceptual framework strongly based on the pillars of recognition, agency, equity, and rights.
- Lessons learnt from other similar processes is to engage stakeholders that policies are aimed at early in the formulation of the policy, and to ensure that the target groups are empowered in the uptake of the policy.

#### Guiding Questions - for discussion and to collect feedback from the TWG

- 1) Which priority issues and policy-relevant areas should be addressed through this CFS policy convergence process and included in the policy recommendations?
  - The HLPE report presents good recommendations, e.g. on
    - The wellbeing economy as a core concept to a holistic approach
    - The importance of cross-sectoral policy coherence
  - Youth as key actors for food systems transformation
  - Strengthen focus on "demand side" measures (like e.g. entrepreneurship, VC, RAI) and the role of the private sector for job creation and food systems transformations.

- This is important as the private sector is a one of the key players for the uptake and implementation of the policy guidelines to be drafted by the CFS.
- Build on relevant reports and initiatives on RYE, representing a broad consensus
   ('state of the art') in the field, like e.g. the "IFAD Rural Development Report 2019:
   Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth", the "G20-Initiative on Rural Youth
   Employment", etc.

### 2) Do you have any suggestions for CFS meaningfully engaging youth constituencies in the policy convergence process?

- Include youth organizations systematically in the process of policy convergence.
- If possible, aim for an outreach to multiple youth organizations and efforts should be made to ease the process of participation for youth organizations.
- Encourage organization of local / national dialogues / consultations to have a broad range of interests covered, if possible prior or parallel to the CFS process
- Link to Youth Parliaments (Groups), UN/AU Youth Envoy, and other representatives
- Link up to relevant policy (decision) processes on local, national, regional.
   Continental level (e.g CAADP national dialogue, national investment programs, etc.)

TWG members are encouraged to bring in their positions and mobilize their networks for a broad participation in the current call (deadline on 22.11. next week) as well as the upcoming OEWG meeting on Friday 19 November (15:00 - 18:00 CET) which is an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in the process. The TWG should aim at engaging in this process, since it is highly relevant and currently the most central policy process in the field of RYE.

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

| Agenda item/Issue | Action  | Timeline               | Responsible<br>Person(s)                 |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Next steps        | Open Ended working group meeting of the CFS: register to the first meeting on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems scheduled for Friday 19 November 2021 from 15.00 to 18.00 (CET): https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcuvrzwqEtO4D6Kns ZX1D4dwzVCaFnL | Friday, 19<br>November | All encouraged to participate in meeting |
|                   | Submit written inputs for the policy convergence process  | 22 November            | Individual<br>members                    |
|                   | Continue the exchange and explore possibilities for the TWG to contribute with a joint statement to the CFS policy convergence process  | TBD                    | All                                      |