



**Response to invitation to review, comment and make recommendations
for strengthening CFS HLPE Vo Draft Report on reducing inequalities for
food security and nutrition (due 2023 January 10)**

Solutions from the Land¹ (SfL) Farmer Leaders' Perspectives and Recommendations

The 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO, UNICEF) cites rising world undernourishment affecting 702-828 million people or 9.8% of the world population. Equally concerning is that almost 3.1 billion people were not able to afford a healthy diet in 2020. Unprecedented extreme variabilities in weather and climates, COVID pandemic, markets and political uncertainties- drought and flooding, crop failures, disrupted food production and distribution systems, rising costs and unavailability of critical agricultural inputs, wars and rumors of war, social, economic, environmental and political crises have exponentially amplified impacts on local and global hunger and malnutrition. **The CFS HLPE Vo Draft Report is an urgent call for transitioning beyond essential food aid/famine relief to the strengthening and transformations of local and global food systems that are sustainable and provide availability, access, utilization, stability, affordability and enable human agency to achieve for all individuals and nations food and nutrition security.**

Our farmer-led NGO, Solutions from the Land, acknowledges this excellent, thoughtful report and applauds the multiple collaborative efforts that have gone into its conceptualization and operationalization with the purposeful intent to inspire change and identify pathways to solutions. We fully support the CFS HLPE Vo Draft Report, its goals to identify systemic drivers within food and nutrition systems, gaps in food and nutrition systems and proposed actions to reduce inequalities and inequities in local and global food security and nutrition. Our comments and recommendations for strengthening this report follow.

SfL Assumptions:

1. Farmers, fishers and foresters--representing all scales and types of food and agricultural production systems--are the beginning of the food system and essential to food and nutrition security. They must be part of identifying problems, the search for solutions, have a voice in shaping policies and how they are implemented.

¹ The mission of Solutions from the Land, a farmer-led organization, is to inspire, mobilize and equip agricultural, forestry and fishery leaders to advance pragmatic, proven and innovative agricultural solutions that benefit producers, the public and the planet in a new era where sustainably managed farms, ranches, fisheries and forests are at the forefront of resolving food system, food and nutrition security, energy, environmental and climate challenges to concurrently achieve global sustainable development goals (SDGs). Solutions from the Land 1430 Front Av, Lutherville, MD 21093 USA

2. Food security and nutrition (SDG #2) is critical but not a standalone SDG. Agriculture and food systems directly influence/underpin more than half of the UN SDG [1, No poverty (profitable livelihoods); 2, Zero hunger (food production); 3, Good health and well-being (nutrition);6, Clean water and sanitation (efficient management of water); 7, Affordable clean energy; 8, Decent work and economic growth (promoting sustained, inclusive sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment); 12, Responsible consumption and production (managing waste); 13, Climate action (adapting to and mitigating climate change);14, Life below water; and 15, Life on land (biodiversity) AND food and nutrition security will require the concurrent effort to achieve all 17 SDG.

3. Increases in agricultural, forestry and fishery production must be accomplished with fewer resources and under conditions of declining biodiversity, increasing risks to ecosystem health and changing climates. This means we must better understand coupled human-natural system relationships and find ways to concurrently be productive and effectively protect and renew our natural resources as we adapt to unexpected events like COVID disruptions to supply chains, limits to resources, changing markets and climate conditions (Morton & Shea 2022).

RECOMMENDATIONS.

OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (in red).

1.What's missing?

Food and nutrition security begins with food production and farmers, fishers, and foresters who have resources, knowledge, technologies, supporting public policies and are able to make a living for their households using climate neutral and nature positive strategies while producing abundance of food and quality nutrition. While many of these aspects are discussed in different chapters of the report, the basic recognition that “food and nutrition security begin with food produced by farmers, fishers, and foresters and their systems of food and agriculture production” is missing from the Chapter 1, the Introduction overview and conceptualization that frames the report. This matters because 80% of the worlds’ farmers are poor (World Bank) and most are food and nutrition insecure with their food production intimately linked to their agricultural practices and natural resource base (climate, soil fertility and health, water availability etc) and associated geographies, social and political conditions. This is a key systemic driver of inequity and inequality and isn’t mentioned until Chapters 3,4,5.

“Humanity cannot do without agriculture since the activity is the main source of food, a basic right of all people...” Dr. Rattan Lal, soil scientist and Special Envoy of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to COP27, the UN Conference of the Parties October 2022. [POTENTIAL CALL OUT BOX in Chapter 1?]

2. This is a strong report that well articulates the problem and daunting trends in food security and nutrition. However, **Chapter 6, Transformations necessary for positive structural change to reduce inequalities in FSN** ends (pp 125-126) with a singular solution claim that agroecology is the only structural reformation approach that can address inequalities and inequities. This conclusion is not well aligned with CFS 2020 Draft 1 report, Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food security and Nutrition, nor with reality. If the pandemic has showed us nothing else, it is that we need all kinds of innovations and diversity of productions systems and practices in order to improve resilience, ensure food security and nutritional well being, and prepare for the next global challenges whatever they may be. Clinging to the

HLPE report/evidence base that seeks to position agroecology as the new “preferred approach” for sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition is not in alignment with today’s reality of a global health and food systems calamity.

COVID, locusts, drought, floods, abnormal temperature norms require an “all tools in the toolbox” approach to managing land that recognizes a) the tremendous diversity of agricultural landscapes and ecosystems; b) enables producers to utilize the systems and practices that best support their own unique situations and circumstances; and c) provides food security and nutrition that ensures availability, access, utilization, stability, affordability via sustainable systems that empower human agency to innovate and find immediate and longer-term solutions.

Further, SfL does not support clustering innovative approaches to sustainable food systems into two categories- (i) sustainable intensification of production systems and related land approaches and (ii) agroecological and related approaches. Why reinforce a false dichotomy between these systems other than to purport that one is superior to the other. In reality we need blended and diverse approaches that meet multiple SDGs; not just food production. We cannot embrace actions to improve food security and nutrition in a silo; the land and waters provide many other goods and services that equity and equality in achieving food and/nutrition security must be harmonized with.

See Chapter 6 review below for recommendations on restructuring this section.

3. Conceptualization of food and nutrition security dimensions. Language is critical in communicating shared concepts and motivating stakeholders to re-evaluate perspectives, behaviors, decisions and actions.

- **Pg 9.** The “beyond ‘availability, access, utilization and stability’ to include ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’..” dimensions offer a useful lens for conceptualizing how unequal experience of FSN are produced (figure 1.1) intended to set goals to reduce the unequal experience of FSN outcomes.

Page 9 under “Concepts and definitions” might you consider revising the first sentence in this section **so these dimensions include the word “nutrition”**? It would read, “The **conceptualization of food and nutrition security goes beyond** ‘availability, access, utilization and stability’ to include ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’...”

- **Pg 10. Friendly amendments to Box 1.1: Key definitions**
“A **food system** gathers all elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities including socio-economic and environmental outcomes (HLPE 2008, 2014, 2023). Three key elements of food systems are: food **and agricultural production and** supply, food environment, and consumer behaviour (HLPE, 2017).”

Recommended word inserts in red. Suggest that food supply be enlarged to explicitly include agricultural production which is the beginning of the food chain. The addition of “agricultural” acknowledges that there are many agricultural activities that enable food production but don’t directly produce food (eg. We don’t eat cover crops but they are an agricultural component of a sustainable food system). This set ups and supports the explicit use of the term agri-food system in subsequent chapters 3,4, 5, and 6 (thank you).

“**Food and nutrition security** exist when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food that meets their dietary need and food preferences for a healthy and active life (FAO, 2001). The key dimensions of **food and nutrition security** are availability, access, sustainability, agency, utilization and stability” (HLPE, 2020, 2023).”

The recommended insertion of the word “nutrition” to the phrase “food and nutrition security” follows the recommendation to page 9 above.

- **Page 20 Figure 1.1 Conceptual framework diagram and text elaboration of the diagram.** Recommend linking of agriculture to food systems, as in food and agriculture systems. 2nd sentence. “...addressing inequalities in FSN will require radical transformation of **food and agriculture** systems as a whole; recognising the interconnectedness of FSN **and agriculture with essential ecosystem services** and other systems and sectors;” Suggested word insertions in red.

- **Page 21.** Excellent concluding sentence for Unequal outcomes paragraph. “FSN is context-specific and requires diverse solutions operating at a range of scales.” This well reflects SfL farmer values and our view of getting to solutions. Thanks.

2nd paragraph on page 21 . Consider inserting the word “**knowledge**” in the paragraph:

“The food system inequalities addressed here include inequalities relating to: land, livestock, and other food production resources; inputs, technology, **knowledge resources**, and finance; value chains and markets; international trade and food environments.”

- **Page 22. Representation (political and social exclusion)** last paragraph. Consider explicitly including the occupation/social group of low income, **small holder farmers** as not well represented and often excluded from representation when regulations and policy decisions are made that affect how food is produced and livelihoods derived from food and agriculture production. Recommend inserting “**small holder farmers**” to read as:

“A lack of political representation can result in policies and practices that mean certain individuals or groups are unable to participate sufficiently for their needs, preferences or framings of the issues to be represented adequately. **This** alludes to multiple different groups, sometimes discussed as social groups, sometimes named as women, **small holder farmers**, or indigenous peoples or the poor. **For** an equity framing to work it is important to specify a way by which different groups experiencing inequity and inequality might be identified.”

- **Page 24, clarifying scope and boundaries paragraph.** Consider the friendly amendment in red to this sentence in the paragraph:

“By food system issues, we mean those issues that accrue to people by virtue of their participation in food systems as food system **producers and workers** (e.g. access to land and inputs), **processors and distributors of food** (e.g access to markets), **and consumers** (e.g access to affordable nutritious foods).”

- **Page 25. Last sentence before Report structure.** Consider the insertions in red

“Building forward, we also focus where possible on important future trends in inequalities, such as those driven by climate change, **epidemics and pandemics, regional violence and wars** and on how action on equity could mitigate or transform these.”

3. Definitions of concepts (table) and their elaboration and applications

Colonialism and Agency. CFS work with underdeveloped and developing countries makes it critical that we clarify definitions and relationships as well as we can. Please review how colonialism and agency are defined and discussed throughout the report in light of food and nutrition security. Colonialism has become a simplistic and easy scapegoat without causal evidence; and decolonization the popular “solution” in ways that are not helpful in addressing deep food and nutrition inequities and inequalities. African Scholar Olufemi Taiwo (2022) points to “...ways in which ex-colonised, at least in some parts of Africa, have domesticated (not merely by mimicry) many ideas, processes, institutions and practices that are routinely attributed to colonialism, but are in fact traceable to modernity and other causes.” (p. 7) He asserts that “Modernity is not a product of colonialism.” The attribution to colonial causation (and victimization) assumes almost undefeatable capacity to bend the will of the colonised; and “denies or at least discounts the agency of the colonised.” Why do the relationships between colonization, decolonization efforts and agency matter? Taiwo answers this with evidence of how “indigenous genius has taken hold of and turned to their own purposed various material and ideational artefacts that were parts of their lives before, during and after colonialism.” (p.9).

This report does a nice job of balancing and illustrating colonialism and agency throughout the report without getting dragged into these controversies. Thank you.
Chapter 5 is especially well done.

Key authors of this HLPE Vo draft should consider reading African scholar Olufemi Taiwo book *Against Decolonisation Taking African Agency Seriously* (2022);

See recommendation below for Chapter 5 Box 5.1 Defining agency for suggestion to incorporate some of Taiwo’s language in elaborating the definition and meaning of “Agency.”

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY CHAPTER.

CHAPTER 1

1. **Page 8.** “....**achievement of minimum dietary diversity** is higher when caregivers have secondary or higher education (22.4%) than primary or lower education levels (14.8%);
This is a very awkwardly phrased sentence and hard to interpret the meaning...“achievement of minimum dietary diversity” Consider rewording. Do you mean, “**Children with caregivers that have secondary or higher education (22.4%) are more likely to have greater diversity in their diets than those children with caregivers at primary or lower education levels (14.8%).**”
2. **Page 9. Concepts and definitions.**
The ‘**sustainability**’ dimension is **defined** as “food system practices that contribute to **long-term regeneration** of natural, social, and economic systems, ensuring the food needs of the present generations are met without compromising food needs of future generations” (HLPE, 2020, pg.

10). The incorporation of this dimension explicitly links food security outcomes to the nature of the food system and calls for a radically transformed food systems that are “empowering, equitable, regenerative, productive, prosperous” and that “boldly reshape the underlying principles from production to consumption.” (HLPE, 2020, pg. xvii).

We wonder about the use of “regeneration” to define sustainability and “regenerative” as substitute for “sustainability”. It seems this limits sustainability to restoring to status quo or prior existing conditions and doesn’t account for improvements beyond prior conditions. Regenerative has a number of meanings. It is usually defined as “to regrow or be renewed or restored especially after being damaged or lost”;

Could/should/is there not benefit in increasing carbon in soils that may have originally [500 yr, 1000 years, millions of years ago] not had much carbon in their original formation? Might we not in the future benefit from strategies and technologies that go far beyond regenerative capacities to produce food and nutrition for growing populations?

Sustainability meaning...” fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care and social well-being”. Sustainability may not always entail regeneration... meaning “renewing or restoring something that has been lost or damaged”. It does not seem that “regeneration” should be a requirement of the sustainability definition. Sustainability represents broadly many activities and issues that do not harm future generations of earth-human systems

Sustainable and regenerative have distinct but complementary meanings, however they are not synonymous and we recommend they not be used to define the other:

Please consider the following modification of these sentences on page 9:

Recommend wording:

The ‘**sustainability**’ dimension is defined as “food system practices that contribute to long term **restoration and enhancement** [delete **regeneration**] of natural, social, and economic systems, ensuring the food needs of the present generations are met without compromising food needs of future generations”

“The incorporation of this dimension explicitly links food security outcomes to the nature of the food system and calls for radically transformed food systems that are “empowering, equitable, regenerative **and innovative**, productive, prosperous **and advance sustainable development goals**” in ways that “boldly reshape the underlying principles from production to consumption.”

CHAPTER 2

Well done. No recommendations

CHAPTER 3

Well done. Excellent evidence based literature and graphs support and interpretations.

A couple of recommended edits:

1. Page 45. Introduction to the chapter.

This is an excellent introduction to Chapter 3 describing major inequalities arising within food systems and other systems relevant for FSN. It highlights “inequalities within agri-food systems”

This is a critical recognition that food systems are really food and agriculture systems.
Recommend you consider inserting **agriculture** in the chapter title and first sentence to read:

Chapter 3. Inequalities in food **and agriculture** systems and other systems and their FSN implications.

With first sentence reading: “This chapter describes major inequalities arising within food **and agriculture** systems and other systems relevant for FSN....”

2. Page 48. 3rd paragraph down, last sentence.

“However, the drivers of colonization and economic development models such as intensive farming and land grabbing, deepens ethnic inequalities and threaten the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples.”

Recommend that the word “intensive farming” be clarified to read:

“However, the drivers of colonization and economic development models such as **ecologically unsustainable** intensive farming and land grabbing, deepens ethnic inequalities and threaten the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples.”

It is not “intensive” farming that is threatening livelihoods, rather it is the use of ecologically and environmentally unsound management practices that disregard soil health, biodiversity, and managing water resources for quality and quantity.

To achieve SDGs we must “develop and enable diversified and sustainable agricultural intensification production strategies appropriate to different geographies; ecosystems and watersheds; cultures; a wide variety of farm types and scales; and possible changes in future conditions” [Renaissance Report - Solutions from the Land](#)

CHAPTER 4

Another well written and thoughtful chapter.
No recommendations.

CHAPTER 5

This chapter does a terrific job of succinctly laying out actions that have potential to address inequities and inequalities. Very well done. Concurrent with the values and thinking of many of SfL farmer thought leaders.

Recommendations to strengthen this well done chapter are:

1. **Page 93.** Consistent with recommendations to Chapter 3; consider adding the word “**agriculture**” to Chapter 5 title: Actions to reduce inequalities in food **and agriculture** systems and other systems to improve FSN.

This suggested modification to the title is well supported by the use of the term “agri-food sector” in first sentence in the 2nd paragraph of this chapter:

“Chapter 5 considers largely distributional actions that can be taken within the agri-food sector and other FSN-relevant sectors to reduce disparities in FSN.”

2. **Page 93. In the Focus on Agency section,** last paragraph. Insert “**small holder farmers**”

“Groups of particular importance to focus on include women, children, **small holder farmers**, the poor, marginalized social groups (Indigenous Peoples, ethnic and religious minorities), refugees and, people with disabilities.”

3. Page 94. Box 5.1 Defining agency

See comments above on Chapter 1, Table of conceptual definitions

Taiwo (2022) describes the exercising of agency as ‘determining how life and thought are to be organized’ meaning self-determined whereby “people, individually or collectively, write the scripts of their own lives..” p.34.

Recommendation in red for including Taiwo (2022) in this call out box definition:

Box 5.1: Defining agency

From HLPE 15: Food security and nutrition: Building a global narrative towards 2030

“Agency is widely accepted as a key aspect of the development process (Kabeer, 1999; World Bank, 2005; Ibrahim and Alkire, 2007). Agency is defined by (Sen, (1985, p.203) as “what a person is free to do and achieve in pursuit of whatever goals or values he or she regards as important.” **African scholar Taiwo (2022) elaborates the exercise of agency as ‘determining how life and thought are to be organized’ meaning self-determined whereby “people, individually or collectively, write the scripts of their own lives..” p.34.**

Agency goes beyond access to material resources in that it includes empowerment— the ability of people to take actions that help improve their own wellbeing, as well as their ability to engage in society in ways that influence the broader context, including their exercise of voice in shaping policies (Alsop and Heinsohn, 2005).

Olufemi Taiwo, *Against Decolonisation Taking African Agency Seriously* (2022) International African Institute. Hurst & Company, London.

4. Pg 96. Box 5.2

Concept and processes are on the mark but consider looking more closely at some of the word choice/verbs in this policy process description.

Some wording suggestions **in red to replace yellow highlighted sections.**

Box 5.2: An equity-sensitive policy process to adapt to local contexts

Understand the issue with an equity lens

1. Understand inequality data and evidence

a. What are the key FSN issues **? and how bad? What are the trends and severity of impacts?**

b. Who is affected? Which population groups are **worst** the most affected?

2. Understand the equity context a. What do we know about the drivers of the FSN issues in this context, particularly people’s daily living conditions?

b. How are these shaped by social assumptions about different groups?

3. Bring together key groups most affected by the FSN issues

a. How do they characterise the FSN issues affecting them, and their drivers?

b. What are their proposed solutions? What are differences among proposed solutions?

c. What do they see as barriers and resource constraints to implementing proposed solutions?

Define equitable policy or action options

4. Define together a process to agree on options to select a. What are existing governance or institutional arrangements that might shape action options?
 - b. What capacities are available to create change?
 - c. How do power dynamics play out to shape options for change?

5. Consider/**Assess** the evidence in light of the preferences of the most affected groups

The word “think” is a passive verb. Is there a verb that might convey action?

 - a. **Think about** **What** needs to change to address the issue in the most sustainable way?
 - b. **Think about** **Whose** priorities are considered and whose are not ?

6. Consider/**Assess** intended outcomes from change
 - a. Focus on improving the issue for the most affected groups first; then about reducing the gap between the most and least disadvantaged; and then flattening the gradient across the whole population.
 - b. **Think about** **Identify** equity trade-offs and synergies likely from proposed changes
 - c. **Think about** **Identify** other related outcomes that might need to change
7. **Consider** different population groups
 - a. **Think about** **Who** else will be impacted by any proposed changes – who would be winners and losers from proposed changes?
 - b. Can the proposed action make inequities worse for any groups?
 - c. **How can more**
 - c. **What actions and support are needed for** power be taken by the most affected groups to create change?

Support equity education and accountability

8. Ensure that affected populations are supported to learn about FSN and equity issues, and any rights or entitlements they have under current arrangements
9. Ensure that any accountable agencies or organisations are clearly identified **and mobilized to provide support** for proposed changes

10. Ensure that effects as a result of change are tracked
 - a. Ensure FSN outcomes are tracked with data disaggregated by different populations, particularly those identified as most affected
 - b. Ensure that the changing experiences of those most affected are considered
 - c. Ensure that evidence and experiences are used to improve the process
 - d. **Watch data trends/discuss with stakeholders unintended (positive and negative) consequences of change**

5. **Page 97.** Insert the word **agriculture** or **agri-food systems** in first paragraph, 4th sentence “These actions span different segments of the food **and agriculture** system and surrounding areas.”

6. **Page 98. Equalize access to food production resources section, Land, item iii)** insert **small holder farmers**

“iii) going beyond ownership to full consideration of access and control, having consideration for groups that face particular disadvantage, including women, **small holder farmers**, indigenous groups and the poor.”

Last sentence in this paragraph insert “and other innovative”

“...such as promoting inclusive value chains, agroecological and other innovative approaches and territorial markets described in other sections or chapters.”

7. **Pg 103, third paragraph, last sentence.** Consider including cultural and indigenous orphan crops in this last sentence. Something like:

“While boosting productivity in historically important commodities will always be a component of public agricultural research, it is important that strong consideration be given to equity-sensitivity of the research portfolio, including investments in crops and livestock for marginal environments and low-potential rainfed areas and climate-resilient technologies for smallholders. This could include crops that have cultural, indigenous, and regional importance, such as orphan crops that reflect local conditions, climate, soils and cultural foods.

Call out box here could give the example of the African Orphan Crops Consortium.

101 crops that form the backbone of the pan-African food system have not had the attention of plant breeders’ efforts to develop superior nutritional varieties that will end chronic hunger and malnutrition, a cause of stunting. 115 mid-career plant breeders from 27 African countries have graduated from the African Plant Breeding Academy after being trained by some of the best plant breeders in the world, after learning how to improve 101 key crops through breeding for improved nutrition, higher yields, water and nutrient use efficiency, pest and disease resistance and climatic resilience. These graduates have launched 37 improved crop varieties, published over 180 peer reviewed scientific papers, and initiated over 200 national breeding programs. The African Orphan Crop Consortium’s students become leaders in the field of plant breeding who will pass on their knowledge to the next generation of African plant breeders and develop the future annuals, perennials and trees that will end chronic hunger and malnutrition in Africa. This uncommon collaboration includes The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, The World Agroforestry Centre, UC Davis, FAO, Mars, Incorporated, World Food Program, and Wageningen University to mention a few of the consortia.

Pg 19 of 21st Century Agriculture Renaissance: Solutions from the Land (2021) report. [Renaissance Report - Solutions from the Land](#)

CHAPTER 6 Transformations Necessary

1. **Pg 119, Transformative action, 2nd sentence,** insert and innovative
“The report identified sustainable food systems as: productive and prosperous; equitable and inclusive; empowering and respectful; resilient; regenerative and innovative; healthy and nutritious.”
2. **Pg 119, Transformative action, 2nd to last sentence in first paragraph in this section.**
Additions in red.

“It is clear that unsustainable food system activities are a considerable driver of climate change, with food systems being responsible for one third of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions (Crippa et al 2021).” **Yet agriculture, forestry and fisheries and producers of all types and scales-from small holders to large scale enterprises are part of the solution for adapting and mitigation climate: ecosystems remove CO2 from the atmosphere via biomass, trees, soil, and organic matter which retain and sequester carbon and offset 20% of emissions (US EPA.gov <https://epa.gov/govghemissions>).** As noted in Chapter 4, the burden of climate change has unequal effects across the food system, often exacerbating existing inequalities. **Land use, ecosystem protection and enhancement and better agri-food system management are critical components in addressing climate change, improving food security and nutrition equity and climate equity.**

3. Page 125-126 Structural reformation approaches with implications for equity.

This section focuses only on agroecology and is silent on other innovative approaches. As noted in our overview recommendations, we respectfully observe that agroecology is only one approach among many other effective approaches to achieving equity and equality. As this report has stated multiple times (congruent with the 2020 CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovations report), there is not one solution to food security and nutrition inequality, but a great need for a variety of innovative approaches in sustainable agriculture and food systems. It is important to remind ourselves that many of the most food insecure and vulnerable are poor, rural subsistence and small holder farmers. The challenges faced by these farmers are highly complex, context-specific and unpredictable. We must ensure that women, small and mid-sized producers, including indigenous, geographically and culturally unique farmers have access to the growing array of science-based food and agriculture technologies and innovations; new understandings of the roles of ecosystem services and the necessity of concurrently producing agriculture and food products while providing livelihoods and ensuring healthy soils, water quality and improved water management to address water scarcity, biodiversity, and many of ecosystem resources. They must be given the tools, knowledge, access, education, and resources to apply the many innovative technologies and to innovate themselves based on their own local knowledge and experience. This is the “agency” that African scholar, Taiwo (2022) speaks about, the empowerment of “indigenous genius” that can take hold of and turn to their own purposes the artefacts that are parts of their lives.

The goal of this report is the promote human progress and well-being regardless of it’s origin and to foster indigenous agency to use all potential approaches, tools and strategies that support all dimensions of food and nutrition security: availability, access, sustainability, agency, utilization and stability. To withhold the growing tool box of science-based food and agricultural innovations and technologies and only offer an agroecology approach is to withhold opportunity, knowledge and resources in the assumption that someone else knows “best” and these farmers are not able to make decisions for themselves.

We recommend the “Structural reformation approaches with implications for equity” section be substantively revised to 1) reflect the prior 2020 work and policy recommendations of CFS on agroecological and other innovative approaches, 2) recognize that agroecology and innovative approaches are not on a continuum but have complementary components that can be blended and integrated (e.g. sustainable intensification can incorporate agroecological systems and practices; 4) recognize that transitions to new kinds of systems are dynamic and policies that

enabled transformations will also need to be dynamic and responsive as conditions change; and 5) utilize approaches to balance rather than optimize one sustainability goal over all others.

Pretty (2020) offers a good starting point for framing this section: “A wide range of different types of more sustainable agriculture have recently been developed and implemented, most centering on the notion that making more of existing land by sustainable intensification and collective action can result in synergistic coproduction” (p.629). He further states that “agricultural management now requires fresh redesign” if we are to “sustain beneficial outcomes over long periods of time across differing ecological, economic, social and political landscapes. Redesign is a social and institutional challenge, as landscape-scale changes are needed for positive contributions to biodiversity, water quantity and quality, pest management and climate change mitigation.” Efficiency and substitution strategies are localized approaches within transformative redesign of agroecosystems and landscapes to “harness ecological processes such as predation, parasitism, allelopathy, herbivory, nitrogen fixation and pollination.” Achieving equity and equality in food security and nutrition will require that women, poor, small holder farmers, and indigenous peoples are involved in the redesign and co-production of ecologically and socially viable technologies and practices.

Jules Pretty. 2020. New opportunities for the redesign of agricultural and food systems. *Agriculture and Human Values* 37:629-630