PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAM (SFSP) WITHIN THE 10 YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES (10YFP) ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)

Background/introduction

The proposed 10YFP Programme builds on the existing work of the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and of the Agri-food Task Force on SCP.

The FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme was established in 2011 with the support of the Government of Switzerland to prepare for its recognition as part of the 10YFP, with the same objectives and structures of the Marrakech Task Forces. The Agri-Food Task Force was established to promote the implementation of the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme, and is an essential part of the proposed new 10YFP Programme by bringing together a broad coalition of concerned stakeholders, including national Governments, the European Commission, UN Agencies and Programs, civil society and private sector representatives.

Sustainable food systems are key to ensuring sustainable development. They have to ensure food security and nutrition and satisfy a growing demand, both in quantity, quality and diversity. At the same time current food production and consumption already exert a considerable impact on the environment. Food systems valorise resources which are becoming ever more fragile and scarce. Therefore, they have to become more efficient in their use of resources, at every stage, from primary production to transformation, distribution and consumption. Population and income increase as well as urbanization are driving increased food and feed demand. Food systems are very diverse. Their impacts are also very diverse, from environmental, economic and social perspectives. Therefore the proposed 10YFP SFS Programme should be adapted to various local and regional specificities and take into account different levels of development.

Proposed objectives of a 10YFP SFS Programme (SFSP)

Given the central role of food in society, the proposed 10YFP SFS Programme (SFSP) is foreseen as a significant opportunity to contribute to accelerating the shift to SCP in both developing and developed countries. The main added value of the proposed SFSP with regard to existing programmes under the 10YFP is that it will promote sustainable consumption and production patterns in the area of food and agriculture. It will contribute to the 10YFP vision, objectives and goals by supporting regional and national initiatives in order to accelerate the shift towards sustainable food consumption and production systems for achieving global sustainable development, while improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. The SFSP will also contribute to supporting sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth, poverty eradication and shared prosperity and will be consistent with international obligations. Within the 10YFP, through a transparent and inclusive process, the SFSP will boost a broader participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular regards to developing countries.

The proposed goal of the SFSP is to protect natural resources and promote a more efficient use of natural resources, products and recovered materials based on a solid scientific and policy knowledge base, by improving resource efficiency and reducing the pollution intensity of food systems, all along food chains, from production to consumption, while improving food and nutrition security. The
central role of sustainable food systems in achieving global sustainable development will thereby be enhanced. The SFSP will achieve this goal by involving governments, farmers, fisherfolk and fish farmers, small-holders, agro-food industries, retailers and consumers in its activities. This also requires taking into account the specific needs of indigenous people and women, and being in line with national and regional priorities, with particular regards to developing countries. By improving the sustainability of food systems the proposed SFSP aims to contribute to the implementation of global sustainable development commitments, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will also support the implementation of targets and goals agreed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and enhance the ability to meet the needs of future generations, while conserving, protecting and restoring the health and integrity of the ecosystems. The goal will be achieved at national, regional and global level by:

- Mainstreaming SCP into sustainable development policies;
- Raising the profile of the need to shift to the SCP of food;
- Building capacity for the uptake of SCP practices across food systems and facilitate access to financial and technical assistance;
- Developing and disseminating information, tools and methodologies to support governments, private sector action, consumer choice and investments which make significant contributions to improving SCP of food; and
- Bringing together initiatives and developing partnerships to build synergies and cooperation to leverage resources towards mutual objectives.

The SFSP’s proposed objectives will consider:

- Regional and national needs, priorities and circumstances to achieve sustainable food consumption and production;
- Stimulating the creation of enabling conditions and new economic opportunities to support the transitions towards a more inclusive economy delivering full and productive employment and decent work for all and fostering efficient social protection systems;
- Opportunities to design, pilot, and/or scale up innovative policies, market based mechanisms and financial tools that provide the incentives for more resource efficient production and consumption in the agri-food sector;
- Creation of knowledge platforms, and technical assistance to policy makers, industry, and wider civil society to build capacity to adopt more sustainable agri-food production systems and consumption patterns, including on food losses and waste;
- Techniques and practices to increase productivity, profitability and sustainability at every stage of food chains, with particular attention to developing countries, gender equality and the active participation of those living in the most vulnerable situations;
- Development of systems-based approaches and tools to assess sustainability of food systems, including life cycle methodologies, as well as science-based and traditional knowledge-based approaches, cradle to cradle and the 3R concept (reduce, reuse and recycle) and other related methodologies, as appropriate;
- Policy options to improve environmental performance of food systems and to recognise and valorise sustainable production and products, including market based mechanisms;
- Ways and tools to communicate information on sustainability to processors, retailers, consumers and other interested stakeholders, with a view to establishing guidelines in order to increase transparency.

Proposed activities at global, regional and national levels
Activities will be developed and implemented at global, regional and national levels and reflect the diversity of food systems, priorities and needs. Partnerships will be a key mechanism to support implementation of the programme, both from the public and private sectors to help promote the shift to sustainable food consumption and production patterns. The SFSP will bring together existing initiatives and partnerships working in related areas, highlighting good practices and success stories, building synergies and cooperation among stakeholders to leverage resources towards mutual objectives and minimize duplication of ongoing efforts. It will help to prioritize policies and support development and/or dissemination of tools and methodologies for governments, private sector and civil society action, consumer choice and investments which make significant contributions to poverty eradication, food and nutrition security and overall sustainable development by promoting SCP.

The Agri-food Task-Force has focused its activities on following four clusters which will be further developed through the new proposed Programme:

- **Activity Cluster 1**: “Develop and enhance information platforms on agri-food products and sustainable food systems” for extension and knowledge sharing amongst producers;
- **Activity Cluster 2**: “Reliable and sustainable communication of food product information throughout the supply chain” (sustainability claims and informing consumer choice);
- **Activity Cluster 3**: “Creating the enabling conditions for uptake of sustainable production practices at the national level and through the building of partnerships” (primarily policy level support and matchmaking);
- **Activity Cluster 4**: “Market based mechanisms for sustainable food consumption and production throughout the supply chain” (supply-chains, certification, PES, etc)

The present concept note highlights potential objectives and proposed work areas for the 10YFP SFSP. However, as there will be extensive consultations and discussions with stakeholders, these may be significantly amended and modified in the course of the development of the programme. Ensuring consistency, where relevant, with other 10YFP Programmes will also be promoted.

**Interested Partners**

A diverse range of stakeholders have expressed interest in the inclusion of a SFSP into the 10YFP. In June 2013, the Agri-food Task Force requested for FAO and UNEP to work towards the inclusion of a SFSP within the 10YFP. The Agri-food Task-Force is essential for the development of a 10YFP SFSP by bringing together a broad coalition of concerned stakeholders ready to work on its development. The Task Force comprises representatives of States (Barbados, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, UK, South Africa, USA), United Nations Agencies and Programs (FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNIDO), the European Commission, civil society organizations (WWF, IUCN, ISEAL, World Farmers’ Organization), and international business organizations representing 325 firms (SAI, CropLife International) as well as the European SCP Round Table. The Agri-Food Task Force-SCP will continue to actively participate in formulating the future SFSP. Letters of support for development of a 10YFP SFSP have been received from the Governments of Costa Rica, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States of America.

The outcome of the 7th Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Regional Meeting on SCP in June 2013 included the request for a Programme on “supporting food security with sovereignty.” Most regional 10YFP processes have also identified food and agriculture as one of their top priorities in regional planning and action on SCP. Other governments and stakeholders, from both developed and
developing countries will be actively encouraged to become partners. The Government of Switzerland has provided initial funding support for the FAO/UNEP SFSP. The development of the SFSP will be led by the Food and Agriculture Organization in close collaboration with the United National Environment Programme.

**Expected Outcomes**

The SFSP will propose a mix of policy, regulatory and voluntary instruments and sustainability indicators, to be implemented on a voluntary basis in to accelerate the uptake of SCP practice across food systems. Outcomes will be evaluated through success metrics with progress on enhanced data collection, policy, regulatory and voluntary instruments measured, as well as on sustainability indicators provided and the number of active partnerships and projects developed as a result of the SFSP, with particular regards to developing countries.

**Indicative timeline to develop and launch 10YFP SFSP**

Guided by the 10YFP 5-Step process, work to develop the Programme will begin from the 10YFP Board approval of the preliminary proposal and include:

- Submission of a preliminary proposal to the 10YFP Board - by March 2014
- 10YFP Board Consideration of Preliminary Proposal – by April 2014
- Online Public Consultation – by June 2014
- Expert Advisory Group Consultation – by October 2014
- Expert Consultation & Taskforce Meeting – by November 2014
- Submission of draft Programme to the 10YFP Board for Approval – by February 2015
- Launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10YFP – by May 2015