

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The foremost evidence-based inclusive
international and intergovernmental platform
on food and nutrition security

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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (HLPE)

Meeting with Cedia – 17 February 2012

The reform of the CFS



Hunger crisis 2007-2008, price volatility (2009):
“Wake-up calls”. Why is international governance of recurrently failing?

Institutional earthquake: puts in question the role of International organizations, FAO included.

June 2008 – High level conference: proposal of a global partnership on agriculture, food security and nutrition with 3 pillars: political discussion platform, scientific pillar, and finance.

“An expert panel for food security – just like the IPCC has helped the climate change debate

A reform run with determination



3 key points to revitalize CFS

1. Politics are taking over bureaucracy
2. Openness to civil society
3. Independent scientific and evidence-based advice/ the HLPE: the question on “**how to handle knowledge**” was central in the debates that led to the reform. .

A quick calendar for a reform within UN

October 2009 – CFS Reform, creation of the HLPE.

July 2010 – Steering Committee of the HLPE nominated (rules, international nomination call etc) by the CFS Bureau

July 2011 – First two report published.

What does the CFS aims at?



What does it do? Can it take decisions?

World to local FS&N is a goal for many: the CFS is the UN central FS&N platform to coordinate it all.

CFS's roles :

1. A coordination platform at the global level.
2. Promote policy convergence.
3. Advice and support to countries and regions.

(2nd phase:

Promote monitoring and accountability,
GSF – global strategic framework on FS&N)

Renewed CFS's : key new elements



1. An “inclusive” CFS: Governments + civil society, producer, private sector, intl. organizations (including trade and finance, WTO, IMF), organizations and research systems (CG and national), foundations;
>>Advisory Group

2. The HLPE, an independent expertise process for analysis and advice to the CFS

>> New “informed” intl governance

>> inclusiveness goes hand in hand with renewed expertise they are complementary.

>> Importance of an open and complete (honest) process

Voting and decision taking is the exclusive prerogative of Government Members

With active participation of

- International organizations
- Civil society, NGOs
- International agricultural research systems
- International financial institutions
- Private sector associations and philanthropic organizations

All of these are associated to decisions, in plenary, but also between sessions.

Science-policy interface: HLPE



Many analyses, need for a synthesis that confronts them

Need of a starting point for analysis and advice

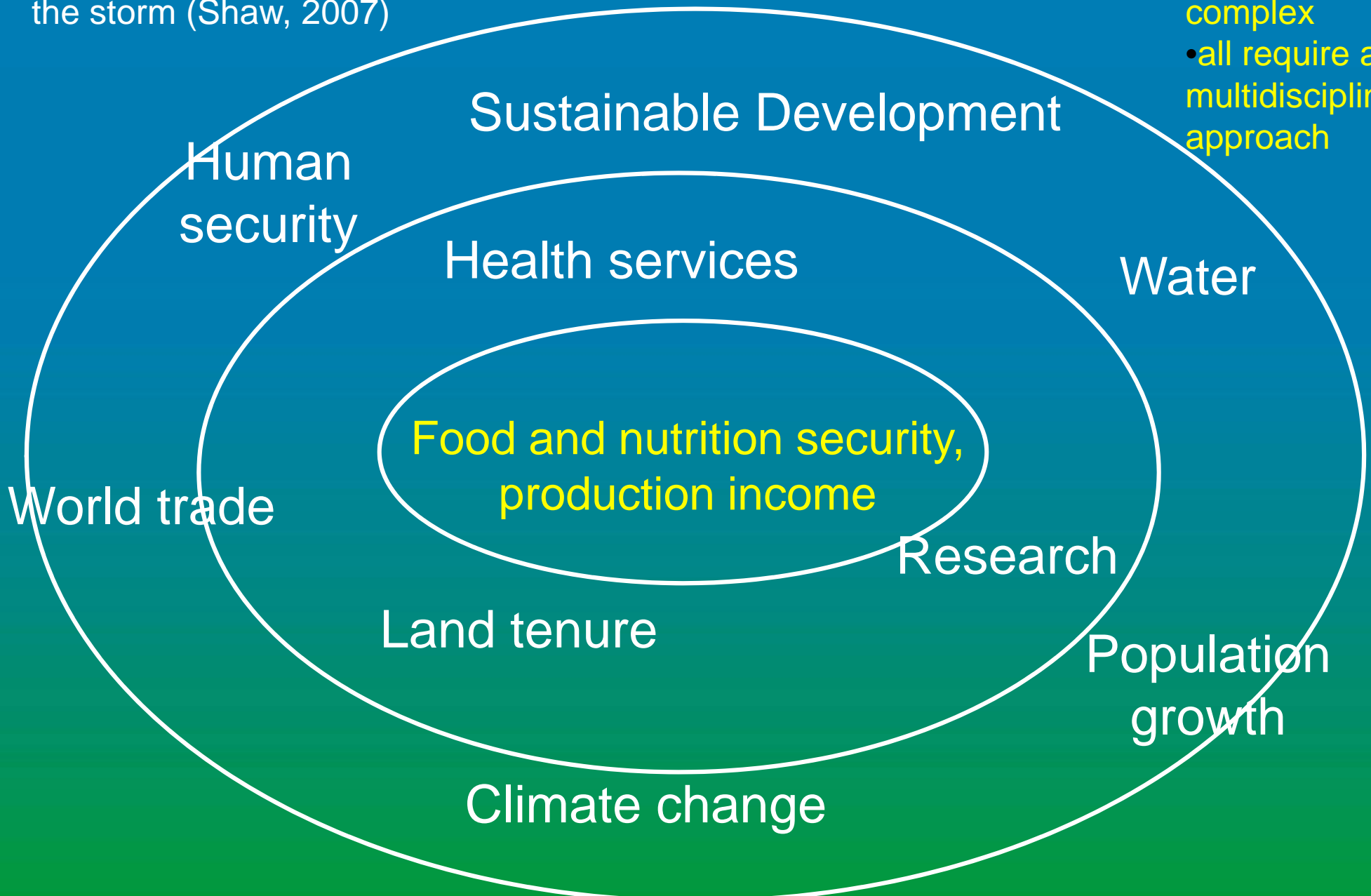
Crisis has revealed the need of a watchman a sentinel that looks at problems ahead or overlooked problems

>> 3 functions of the HLPE (CFS 2009)

An infinite suite of topics

Food Security: the eye of the storm (Shaw, 2007)

- all topics are complex
- all require a multidisciplinary approach



The work program of the CFS



Main policy issues currently on the table of the CFS

- Food price volatility
- Land tenure – “land grabbing” and investments in agriculture
 - >> Voluntary guidelines on land tenure
 - >> Principles for responsible investments in agriculture

Emerging policy issues

- Climate change and food security
- Social protection and food security

And also

- Global strategic framework for food and nutrition security
- How to measure food and nutrition insecurity.
- Mapping of actions, policies, and spendings related to food and nutrition security
- Countries in protracted crises
- Linkages between agriculture, food and nutrition security, including, the clarification of terminology.

The HLPE as an interface



How does the HLPE work?

What is its structure?

Both respond to two purposes:

- I) Work as a demand driven interface, but independent
- II) Be able to treat a multiplicity of topics linked to food security and that are
 - all complex
 - all requiring a multidisciplinary approach
 - potentially very diverse

The HLPE and the CFS



CFS
Bureau
Advisory group

Nominated by the CFS
Demand-driven

Independent reports

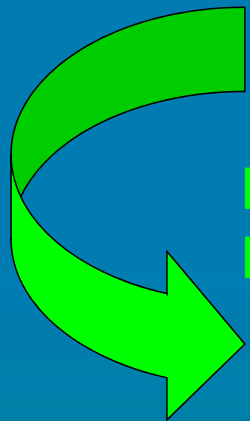
HLPE

Steering Committee

Project Teams
(time bound +
topic bound)

Roster (1200)

A modular
structure
to tackle very
diverse topics



Key attributes of the HLPE



Evidence-base policy making is key to modern schemes of international governance

- HLPE : Created, appointed, mandated by the CFS but working independently
- The HLPE has to address the multidisciplinary complexity of food security: many possible topics, none can be addressed within a single discipline
- Demand-driven, tight agenda, present status of knowledge
- Works in a transparent and open way, in particular openness to various forms of knowledge.

“Demand-driven” and goals of efficiency, openness, transparency, rigor and scientific legitimacy.

1. The CFS defines the mandate of the HLPE:
2. HLPE Steering Committee:
 - Defines the scope of the study
 - Appoints the Project Team
3. Open Public Consultations (scoping, V0)
4. External scientific evidence-based review
5. Approval of reports by the Steering Committee
6. Publication of reports and feeding into CFS (Bureau, Advisory Group, Plenary)

HLPE work program



Published in July 2011, fed CFS debates in 2011

- Price volatility
- Land tenure and international investments in agriculture

For July 2012 (CFS 2012)

- Climate change and food security
- Social protection and food security

For CFS 2013

- Biofuels and food security
- Investment into smallholder farming

More information



www.fao.org/cfs

www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe