

COMPENDIUM — FINAL REPORT
ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE WORKING GROUPS

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON
GLOBAL FOOD AND
NUTRITION SECURITY



100% INCREASE IN SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME

Working group composition – participating agencies

Co-Chairs: IFAD, ILO, UNDP

Participating agencies: FAO, OHRLLS, UNCTAD, World Bank

This compendium summarizes the outcome of the work done by the twenty-three High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities coordinated by the HLTF coordination team for the Zero Hunger Challenge from October 2014—July 2015.

This report outlines the main features of this specific Zero Hunger Challenge element, including suggested metrics to monitor progress, as a guide to all stakeholders willing to join the challenge. The report is articulated around four sections. Each section explains the approach used, bottlenecks encountered, alternatives considered and all the information necessary for the reader to understand how the group reached its conclusions.

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I. Definition

Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities:

For the purpose of this working group, references to smallholders or to small-scale food producers are meant to include smallholders, small-scale rural processors, agriculture and food workers, artisanal fishermen, pastoralists, rural artisans, indigenous peoples and the landless. Doubling income has been interpreted as doubling their consumption and savings opportunities in monetary terms. Doubling productivity has been interpreted as doubling the ratio of output to inputs used in the agricultural production process implemented by these groups.

As there are a number of different ways to define smallholder agriculture, the Working Group decided not to use a narrow definition for its work, but to focus on rural poverty reduction and improved welfare of smallholders through increased incomes and productivity and encouraging decent work in rural areas.

Given the heterogeneity of smallholder agriculture and rural livelihoods, the group agreed that there is no one size fits all approach toward achieving the established target of a “100 per cent increase in smallholder productivity and income.” As each country is guided in policy decision-making by its own understanding and way of categorizing small farms and small-scale farmers appropriate to its specific circumstances, the definition provided here is intended to be adapted to country-level contexts for implementation and monitoring purposes.

The agreed proxy definition has two key inter-related dimensions. The first dimension relates to outcomes which translate into: (i) increased smallholders’ productivity; (ii) increased smallholders’ incomes; (iii) diversified rural livelihoods; and (iv) increased decent work opportunities in rural areas. These outcomes will be especially important for poor rural people. The second dimension refers to the enablers which provide the means to achieving those outcomes.

II. Policy measures

Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities

Proposals for policies and investments to be established by governments to help achieve these outcomes are grouped around nine areas:

1. Promote adequate, secure and equal access for women and men to land, natural resources, finance, knowledge and technology, infrastructure, services and markets.
2. Foster increased and equal access for men and women, and in particular young people, to agricultural and rural advisory services, including agricultural research and extension, as well as improved seeds and good planting materials.
3. Promote investments in sustainable agriculture, in accordance with the “Principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems” of the Committee on World Food Security (2014) and the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.”
4. Enhance smallholder resilience, including through diversification of farm and non-farm employment, and increased investments in agricultural research.

5. Promote the application of international labour standards in the rural economy and in the agricultural sector in particular, giving priority to core labour standards.
6. Strengthen farmers' organizations, the organizations of smallholders and waged agricultural workers, and other rural-based organizations, paying particular attention to women and youth, to increase their participation and voice in policy and decision-making processes that drive agricultural and broader rural transformation and to recognize and enhance the economic roles of these organizations.
7. Promote access to social protection systems, including nationally defined social protection floors, and risk management mechanisms for smallholders.
8. Invest in the development of statistical indicators and data on the rural economy.
9. Take into account environment and climate change-related issues when designing and implementing agricultural and rural development policies.

These policies and investments will help achieve the four outcomes outlined above. Priorities among these will vary by country.

1. Promote adequate, secure and equal access for women and men to land, natural resources, finance, knowledge and technology, infrastructure, services and markets:

- Invest in developing human capital and infrastructure to improve access to services in rural areas – health, education, security and utilities, as well as commercial and financial services, government administrative services, postal and communication services, transport and construction – as part of broader strategies to improve food and nutrition security, working and living conditions for rural workers, and the attractiveness of the rural economy. Promote investment programmes in human capital, with a particular focus on smallholders and agricultural workers, both female and male, which build their capacities and have a positive effect on yields and revenues.
- Put in place policies to ensure that women and men have equal rights and control over resources, including land and other forms of property.
- Promote public investment in infrastructure — storage facilities, irrigation, roads, harbours, etc. – contributing to increased productivity and access to markets and reduced production costs for smallholders. This will attract private investment, enhance the creation of more and better jobs, and stimulate growth. Promote local resource-based infrastructure projects which create greater quantity and quality of jobs and contribute to broader local micro, small and medium-sized enterprise development, skills development and local economic development. Engage women in planning processes to support their equal access to employment opportunities.
- Improve access to financial services for both men and women to a range of productive (asset accumulation, working capital) and protective (mitigating risk exposure, including health issues) purposes. This should help smallholders and rural populations in general purchase stock, equipment, and agricultural inputs; maintain infrastructure; contract labour for planting and harvesting; transport goods to markets; make and receive payments; manage peak season incomes to cover expenses in the low season; invest in education, shelter and health; and, deal with emergencies. Insurance can help protect smallholders' asset base and increase their productivity.

- Promote cooperative and farmers' organizations which can facilitate equal access for women and men to knowledge, credit/finance and technology, services and markets, and help rural workers improve their productivity and incomes.
- 2. Foster increased and equal access for men and women, and in particular young people, to agricultural and rural advisory services, including agricultural research and extension, as well as improved seeds and good planting materials:**
- Strengthen smallholder access to markets and agricultural services, paying special attention to gender equality which is essential for increasing smallholder productivity and incomes and achieving sustainable economic development. Despite their multiple roles, women have significantly less access than men to land and other assets, services, processing and marketing opportunities that would enable them to enhance their productivity and improve their livelihoods and incomes. They also have limited access to credit, information and technologies, and often face difficulties in terms of mobility and political participation. Gender equality and women's empowerment are crucial to achieving food and nutrition security, and enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty. Evidence demonstrates that when women are empowered, there are significant benefits for agricultural production, rural business development, as well as nutritional and educational outcomes of children. Priority should be given to investments in programmes and policies that address gender inequalities, particularly those relating to access to education, health care and services, infrastructure, and productive resources and assets.
 - Invest in increasing access to and scaling-up innovations and interventions which promote sustainable and productive food and agriculture systems.
- 3. Promote investments in sustainable agriculture, in accordance with the "Principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems" of the Committee on World Food Security (2014) and the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security":**
- Develop and implement mechanisms that promote the level and quality of investments in the agro-food sector, in accordance with the CFS "Principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems", which address all types of investment – public, private, large, small – and can be used by all stakeholders when developing individual agreements and contracts. Responsible investments in agriculture and food systems are essential for enhancing food and nutrition security; increasing productivity, incomes and decent employment opportunities; and eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. Responsible investments in agro-food value chains – from production to consumption – create quality jobs, stimulate demand through increased economic activity, and assist small-scale enterprises, including small-scale family farmers, to access national, regional, and global supply chains, thereby improving their incomes and the availability of diverse, healthy and nutritious food. For measures to address nutrition, please refer to Reports of Working Group 1 and Working Group 2.
 - Establish measures to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, in line with the CFS "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" (2012), with the overarching goal of achieving food and nutrition security for all and to support countries in their efforts towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
 - Implement relevant recommendations of the mid-term review of the Istanbul Programme of Action due in 2016, particularly regarding boosting structural transformation, agricultural

productivity and productive capacity-building in agriculture in the least developed countries (LDCs).

4. Enhance smallholder resilience, including through diversification of farm and non-farm employment, and increased investments in agricultural research:

- Improve the productivity of smallholders, paying particular attention to rural women and young people. Promote on and off-farm economic and employment opportunities through technical advice, increased market access, more inclusive financial services (including risk management), provision of infrastructure that links rural and urban regions, and human resource development. Such improvements, along with coherent employment policies, can facilitate the transition from the informal economy to the formal economy, particularly for women farmers, and allow workers in food production systems to access services and earn a decent income.
- Provide entrepreneurship and skills training for smallholders, waged agricultural workers and rural workers in general, paying special attention to women and youth, to acquire the skills necessary to improve productivity, start their own businesses and take up employment opportunities in other sectors of the economy.
- Promote enterprise development and employability among women by providing financial assistance to small businesses. Improve skills and literacy, paying particular attention to such factors as local customs and culture and promoting measures such as equal pay, child care, flexible working hours and options for part-time work, which tend to enhance women's participation. Improve women farmers' access to productive resources to sustainably increase yields and raise total agricultural output.
- Support financial inclusion of smallholders and rural people through increased and sustainable access to a variety of financial services – savings, credit, remittances and insurance, etc. – to enable them to invest in productive activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural, and protect themselves against risk.
- Invest in agricultural research systems to support development of improved crop varieties and livestock breeds that are more resilient to climate shocks, and to the projected increase in global temperatures. Climate change is projected to reduce agricultural productivity, particularly in the poorest regions. More investment in improved seeds and livestock can help offset these negative impacts on productivity growth.

5. Promote the application of international labour standards in the rural economy and in the agricultural sector in particular, giving priority to core labour standards:

- Support countries in their efforts to ratify and effectively implement relevant international labour standards, thereby promoting an enabling environment for improved productivity and performance. Give particular attention to standards applicable to the agro-food sector and to labour in rural areas. These standards may include, inter alia, the Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 11), Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery (Agriculture) Convention, 1951 (No. 99), Rural Workers' Organizations Convention, 1975 (No. 141), Plantations Convention, 1958 (No. 119).
- Given the prevalence of child labour in agricultural and rural areas, place particular attention to promoting implementation of international labour standards on child labour. These may include the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- Create an enabling environment for effective and inclusive social dialogue, which brings together public, private and civil society stakeholders, on employment practices and working

conditions and encourage the development of labour market institutions in rural areas, with a view to helping states implement international labour standards.

- Support governments in their efforts to establish a legally defined minimum wage corresponding to a living wage, ensure labour inspections in agriculture, secure social security for smallholders and waged agricultural workers', and establish compulsory registries of agricultural workers and the compulsory licensing of labour contractors.
- Promote occupational safety and health in agriculture, which is among the most dangerous sectors due to exposure to hazardous chemicals and machinery, and long working hours. At least 170,000 agricultural workers are killed each year due to accidents in the workplace.

6. Strengthen farmers' organizations, the organizations of smallholders and waged agricultural workers, and other rural-based organizations, paying particular attention to women and youth, to increase their participation and voice in policy and decision-making processes that drive agricultural and broader rural transformation and to recognize and enhance the economic roles of these organizations:

- Promote social dialogue and organization in rural areas, including among smallholders and waged agricultural workers, in order to increase their bargaining power with respect to other market actors of the economy, as they often lack the leverage and organization needed to engage their partners in collective bargaining or social dialogue.
- Promote the design of integrated national policies that support the establishment, growth and functioning of rural workers' organizations. Support the development of strong, independent and effective smallholder and farmers' organizations to ensure that their collective voice contributes to the elaboration and implementation of economic and social development.
- Support and strengthen smallholders' organizations, which protect and advocate for markets and policies that favour smallholders, particularly rural women and youth. Effective smallholder and farmers' organizations also enable smallholders to achieve economies of scale, reduce costs and risks, improve productivity, generate higher incomes and enhance food security.
- Improve the economic roles and performance of smallholder and farmers' organizations. This should include training to upgrade smallholder capacities and know-how in business and financial management, marketing, legal aspects and advocacy. Build capacity of waged agricultural worker organizations and harness spill-overs to better enable smallholder participation and contribute to constructive dialogue among stakeholders.
- Promote the application in law and practice of freedom of association for all agriculture and rural workers and employers, which requires addressing a range of challenges related to the nature of the rural economy such as geographical isolation, limited access to technology and means of communication, lack of capacity in the labour inspectorate, low levels of skills and education, and the high incidence of child labour, forced labour, and discrimination.
- Improve policy frameworks (including those related to the rural business and investment climates) that help enhance the sustainability and productive capacity of smallholders and profitably link them into remunerative and sustainable value chains. Strengthen smallholders' roles and participation in agro-food value chains – from production to marketing and processing.

7. Promote access to social protection systems, including nationally defined social protection floors, and risk management mechanisms for smallholders:

- Extend social protection systems to rural areas, making them more accessible and better targeted to smallholders and agricultural workers, especially women, youth and disadvantaged groups. Establish social protection floors, as recommended by the Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202, to increase the productive capacity of smallholder and worker households, for example by helping them improve nutrition, invest in education, retain productive assets and mitigate risk. Support governments in their efforts to address gaps in access to social protection services for informal rural workers through appropriate and integrated policies.
- Implement social protection policies and programmes that promote human capital investment, and improved and resilient livelihoods and productive capacity of the rural poor to safeguard food and nutrition security for all.
- Establish risk management mechanisms and measures to limit the adverse impacts of natural disasters and excessive price volatility.

8. Invest in the development of statistical indicators and data on the rural economy:

- Strengthen the knowledge base through research and development of statistical indicators and data for different sectors of the rural economy, thereby improving the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of rural development programmes as an integral part of national development plans.

9. Take into account environment and climate change-related issues when designing and implementing agricultural and rural development policies:

- Address concerns over the environmental sustainability of agricultural growth and facilitate a shift to a Green Economy through the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices which address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change adaptation as well as mitigation;
- Pay specific attention to addressing the needs of, and constraints faced by, indigenous peoples. More than 370 million self-identified indigenous peoples in the world are among the most marginalized and vulnerable groups; and the value of their unique knowledge and systems are often under-appreciated. Understanding and supporting the ways in which indigenous peoples have been able to use their traditional knowledge and social systems to make agricultural and the environment work together in harmony is of particular interest given the challenges that the world is facing with regard to food security and the management of natural resources in a context of climate change. Indigenous systems and foods protect biodiversity and are rich in nutritional value. Working in partnership with indigenous peoples and ensuring that their rights are respected, in particular in relation to their ancestral lands and dietary practices, should be a key element of sustainable food production in a post-2015 world.

III. Metrics

Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities

Three core indicators are proposed to track progress in the productivity and incomes of rural people across all country contexts (Group A) and four indicators that may be applicable only in certain country contexts (Group B):

GROUP A: Indicators applicable to all country contexts:

- Value of total agricultural production per labour unit
- Value of agricultural production per hectare
- Incidence of the rural working poor (proportion of rural workers living in households below the nationally defined rural poverty threshold).

GROUP B: Indicators that may not be applicable to all country contexts:

- Agriculture-orientation index of government expenditures
- Share of women (and share of men) landowners out of total agricultural landowners
- Proportion of agricultural land under irrigation
- Incidence of the rural working poor (internationally-defined poverty threshold).

GROUP A: Indicators applicable to all country contexts

Indicator A1: Value of total agricultural production per labour unit (agricultural-wide, constant US dollars)

The indicator is directly linked to the target, particularly the labour dimension of agricultural productivity. In line with the lead indicator proposed for the target in the SDG process, agriculture-wide implies a sectorial coverage that includes a full set of agricultural activities, forestry, fisheries, livestock, and hunting/gathering.

The indicator measures agricultural labour productivity, expressed in constant United States dollars per labour unit measured during a given reference period (typically: year corresponding to one full agricultural season). The quantity of labour input should cover all forms of work used in the agricultural production process, including persons in employment and persons involved in the production of own-use goods. The labour unit (denominator) may be measured by the total number of persons engaged in forms of work that contribute to agricultural production.

As an alternative measure, labour productivity could be measured as agricultural value added per labour unit (or per worker). This information is available in national accounts data and labour statistics. This would take the indicator closer to the target of doubling incomes by subtracting input costs from the production value.

The indicator can be generated for all agricultural producers and workers and for smallholder producers and women-headed household producers, separately in two sub-indicators (see A.1a and A.1b below).

Sub-indicator A.1a: Value of total agricultural production per labour unit (for smallholder producers; agriculture wide, constant US dollars)

To estimate this indicator for smallholders specifically, a more operational definition needs to be adopted. In the context of the preliminary SDG indicators, it is proposed to break it by farm size. The specific cut-off farm area size for smallholders still needs to be determined.

While defined as a sub-indicator, this (along with indicator A.2a) will be one of the two indicators closest to the overall target for this ZHC element.

Sub-indicator A.1b: Value of total agricultural production per labour unit (agriculture-wide; for female-headed farm household; constant US dollars)

See justification of indicator A.1. In many developing countries, women make up an important share of the agricultural labour force, also managing the family farm unit. Women often have a lack of access to and control over land (see indicator B.2). They may also have a lack of access to finance, inputs, and other resources (more so than their male counterparts) while also carrying out most unpaid care and work burdens in the household. The indicator should be reflective of such differences in access to resources and, hence, productive potential. Interventions to reduce such gender gaps should lead to a smaller differential in productivity between female producers and the average.

Indicator A2: Value of agricultural production per hectare (agriculture-wide; constant US dollars / hectare)

This indicator provides another proxy of increased supply of food and income earning capacity of smallholders. As a land productivity indicator, the value of production used in the numerator and the land area used in the denominator only refer to crop production and crop area planted. Along with indicator A.1, this indicator will provide the basis for monitoring progress towards the target of doubling productivity. It will support monitoring of that target for smallholders, both generally and by sex.

Increased land productivity (crop yield) does not necessarily correspond to increased income. (e.g., if productivity improvements imply increased input costs or if increased supply leads to reduced unit prices). Hence, some caution will be needed in interpreting this indicator to measure progress toward the target of doubling rural or smallholder incomes. Given the different agro-climatic conditions and potential yields across countries, the aggregate indicator should be interpreted with care. It may not be appropriate to have a uniform target for the value of (smallholder) crop production per hectare. Ideally, targets should be set to reflect progress towards closing the yield gap (defined as the gap between the yields achieved in a country and technical potential yields). Closing this gap reflects progress towards productivity growth, new technology, infrastructure improvements and market integration.

Sub-indicator A.2a: Value of total agricultural production per hectare (for smallholder producers; agriculture wide; constant US dollars / hectares of arable land)

For justification of the disaggregation by farm size, see indicator A.1a. For interpretation, see indicator A.2.

Sub-indicator A.2b: Value of total agricultural production per hectare (for female-headed farm households; agriculture-wide; constant US dollars / hectares of arable land)

See justification of indicator A.2. For the disaggregation for female headed farm households, see A.1b.

Indicator A.3: Incidence of the rural working poor (proportion of rural workers living in households below the nationally defined rural poverty threshold).

The indicator is defined as the number of people whose main form of work is in employment and persons whose main form of work is in own-use production of goods. These people live in households whose incomes (often derived by consumption expenditure per capita, using the LSMS methodology) are below the nationally-defined poverty line. This is applicable to all countries since the poverty

threshold is based on nationally-defined rural poverty thresholds rather than on an international threshold.

Data may be disaggregated by economic activity (including agriculture and non-agriculture) in employment or own-use production of goods, as well as by age group (total, youth and adult) and/or sex. It is typically based on the measurement of real household expenditure (as a proxy for disposable income) and refers to a nationally-defined absolute poverty line for rural areas. The indicator is directly linked with the target of "100 per cent increase in smallholder income", and shows the links between rural poverty and employment. Because nationally defined poverty lines are used, different welfare standards may apply across countries. Hence, this indicator cannot be used for international comparisons.

Sub-indicator A.3a: Incidence of rural poverty (proportion of the rural population below the national poverty line for rural areas)

This is a context indicator: it provides information about well-being in terms of the income of all people living in rural areas.

All technical considerations regarding poverty line indicated above apply for this indicator as well.

Sub-indicator A.3b: Rural poverty gap index (depth of poverty among rural households measured as the mean income/expenditure shortfall from the national poverty line in rural areas as a proportion of that line)

The indicator is applicable to all countries since the poverty threshold is based on a nationally-defined rural poverty threshold rather than an international poverty line which would be suitable to lower-income countries. This indicator measures average income shortfalls of the rural poor and is indicative of additional efforts needed to lift them out of poverty. Higher values indicate higher shortfalls, with the non-poor having zero shortfalls.

The indicator is generated using the same data and poverty line(s) as for the poverty incidence, indicator A.3a.

GROUP B: Indicators that may not be applicable to all country contexts

Indicator B.1: Agriculture-orientation index of government expenditures (ratio of the share of government expenditures on agricultural development in total government expenditure relative to the share of agricultural GDP in total GDP)

The indicator relates to SDG target 2.a.1, which states: "Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productivity capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries." The proposed indicator measures country commitments to agriculture relative to other sectors and shows the relative importance of the agricultural sector for the economy at large. The relevance of this indicator is based on the assumption that the removal of key bottlenecks to smallholder farmers would require additional efforts from governments through rural infrastructure, targeted subsidies and other productive support measures.

This indicator is included in the proposed list of preliminary indicators for SDG monitoring, as an indicator linked to a means of implementation.

Indicator B.2: Share of women (and share of men) landowners out of total agricultural landowners

This indicator measures the percentage of women and the percentage of men with legally recognized and documented rights to land. Legal land tenure for women is widely recognized as important for poverty reduction, food and nutrition security and women's empowerment, all of which contribute to raising smallholder productivity and income. The landowner is the legal owner of the land. However, definitions of ownership may vary across countries and surveys. For instance, documented ownership means that ownership is verified through title or deed, while reported ownership relies on individuals' own judgment. Additionally, in some countries, it is more appropriate to investigate land ownership using proxies able to capture a bundle of rights. Therefore, the indicator will need to be complemented with metadata that specifies what definition(s) of ownership is employed.

This indicator could be complemented by a similar indicator measuring the proportion of adult women and men agricultural holders, out of total agricultural holders. The motivation for this indicator would be the same. It could overcome problems in measuring ownership consistently across countries and would also include those smallholders who have access to land by lease or arrangements other than formal ownership. The limitation here is that the indicator may not adequately or consistently distinguish between secure and non-secure access to and control of land.

Indicator B.3: Proportion of agricultural land under irrigation (per cent of total agricultural land)

This is a key indicator, as access to irrigation water is considered essential to smallholder farmers' ability to increase agricultural productivity, in weather dependent environments.

Indicator B.4: Incidence of the rural working poor (internationally-defined poverty threshold; proportion of rural workers living in households below the poverty lines of USD 1.90 per capita per day in PPP terms).

See indicator A.3 for definition and interpretation. However, because it is determined through the international poverty line, this measure allows for comparison across countries.

Sub-indicator B.4a: Incidence of rural poverty (proportion of rural population below poverty lines of USD 1.90 per capita per day in PPP terms)

See indicator A.3a for the definition and interpretation of this indicator. Since this measure is determined through the international poverty line, it allows for comparison across countries. The indicator would directly serve to measure progress towards SDG1 (to end poverty by 2030) as applicable to the rural population.

Sub-indicator B.4b: Rural poverty gap index (depth of poverty among rural households measured as the mean income/expenditure shortfall from poverty lines of USD 1.25 per capita per day, and USD 2.00 per capita per day as a proportion of that line)

See indicator A.3b for the definition and interpretation. However, because this measure is determined through the international poverty line, it allows for a comparison across countries.

IV. Messaging

Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities

Messages to the private sector should focus on the importance of responsible investments in the agro-food sector— and the production of healthy foods—in accordance with CFS’ guidance and with the need to address decent work challenges.

Messages to civil society and farmers’ organizations should promote inclusive and sustainable transformation of smallholder agriculture.

Advice and messages to the private sector and civil society:

Private sector

- Invest responsibly in the agro-food sector, in accordance with the Principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security of the Committee of World Food Security, thereby enhancing food and nutrition security, creating decent employment opportunities, eradicating poverty, fostering social and gender equality, and ensuring sustainable development;
- Address decent work challenges and ensure that workers receive decent wages that are at least adequate to provide for them and their family’s basic needs, including access to adequate and nutritious food, bearing in mind the negative impact that malnutrition has on human capital, productivity and growth;
- Improve employment opportunities for women, taking into account local customs and culture and providing measures such as equal pay, child care, and options for part-time work, which tend to enhance women’s participation and can positively impact productivity, incomes and household food security;
- Improve employment opportunities for young people by establishing apprenticeship schemes and skills and entrepreneurship development programmes, and offering employment services with job orientation, job matching and placement;
- Establish mechanisms for regular consultations with workers and their representatives on issues of mutual concern, and engage in collective bargaining processes to secure trust and commitment in employment relations and improve worker productivity.
- Invest in education, entrepreneurship and skills training to improve rural productivity and incomes, with a particular focus on women and youth.

Civil society and farmers’ organizations

- Advocate and defend smallholder interests to promote the inclusive transformation of smallholder agriculture and the scaling up of their economic activities to increase productivity, incomes, and working and living conditions.
- Include smallholders and their representatives in civil society organization structures at national and international levels and empower them to participate in decision-making processes on policies and programmes that address ways to increase smallholder productivity and incomes and promote rural development at large;
- Use and strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the Civil Society Mechanism at the Committee on World Food Security, to represent the interests of smallholders and agricultural workers and to advocate for policies that aim at increasing their productivity, incomes, working and living conditions.

V. Conclusion

The Zero Hunger Challenge Working Group 4 focused on reducing rural poverty reduction and improving the welfare of smallholders by raising incomes and productivity and creating decent work in rural areas. The content of this document reflects the collaboration among technical and policy experts across key UN agencies working on issues related to agricultural productivity and incomes and rural development at large. It combines analytical, programme, policy and investment perspectives, which take into account broader goals of sustainable development.

Given the heterogeneity of smallholder agriculture and rural livelihoods, this document acknowledges that there is “no one size fits all” approach toward achieving the established target of doubling smallholder productivity and income. Each country will thus have to adapt the definition and proposed policy measures for implementation and monitoring purposes.

The proposals in this document are intended to help inform approaches to monitoring and implementing SDGs that pertain to agriculture, and hunger and poverty reduction at national, regional and global levels, while SDG indicators, the development of which is currently under way, will be taken in to account to improve approaches to monitoring progress towards the objective of this specific element of the Zero Hunger Challenge. The indicators provide a tool for United Nations agencies and member States to monitor the status of smallholder productivity and incomes and the implementation of policy measures required to increase these significantly and to promote thriving rural economies.