

Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change

Meeting Summary

22-23 September – INRA Headquarters, Paris, France

Commission guidance

- Revise the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) and main report, based on specific discussion outcomes, using a two-track approach.
- Implement “critical friend” review processes for the SPM and main report.
- Finalize the two targeted analyses by INRA and CSIRO, post online and publish as an ensemble in a relevant journal.
- Finalize info-graphics as discussed for inclusion in the SPM and main report, and make available as powerpoint slides.
- Extend the Commission’s mandate to ensure adequate engagement in dissemination of report findings.
- Orchestrate policy engagement activities as discussed as well as information-sharing among Commissioners.

Next Steps

- Draft, review and finalize meeting summary.
 - Revise SPM and distribute first for review by Commissioners then by “critical friends.”
 - Develop and finalize case studies.
 - Finalize diagrams.
 - Revise main report and distribute first for review by Commissioners then by “critical friends.”
 - Finalize and post CSIRO and INRA reports.
 - Prepare for key meetings and other planned outreach activities including global media launch.
 - Prepare for journal articles.
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Meeting Summary

1. Introduction to the Meeting

Dr Campbell opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda, explaining that Sir John had requested that he and the Deputy Chair facilitate discussions on Day 1 of the meeting and noting the background materials prepared by the Secretariat. Dr Guillou welcomed the group to the INRA Headquarters and provided some brief background on INRA’s portfolio of work. *(See list of meeting participants at end.)*

2. Progress since 10 May meeting

Dr Campbell invited Dr Negra to provide a brief report on the Secretariat’s implementation of Commission guidance. Progress was reported for the following categories:

- Development of Commission report including structured Commissioner inputs, matrix of evidence from major assessment reports, targeted analyses, zero order draft.
- Commissioner meetings including the July videoconference and the Paris meeting.
- Bellagio drafting workshop including recruiting participants, agenda development, logistics, supporting materials, workshop facilitation and outcomes.
- External engagement including email updates to key contacts, GDPRD briefings, input to the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, and contact with selected advisors.
- Preparations for key meetings including Africa College (23 June), African Agricultural Ministers' meeting (13 Sept), Global Science Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture (24 Oct), Agriculture and Rural Development Day (3 Dec), Planet Under Pressure (March 2012).
- Media outreach / communications including blog posts, e-bulletins, and the information exchange and planning group.

Dr Negra invited Dr Clark to summarize the targeted analysis done by CSIRO on Food Price Volatility and Dr Guillou to summarize the targeted analysis done by INRA on Eating Patterns and Food Systems. Outcomes of group discussion included the following:

- The two studies will be finalized and posted on the Commission website.
- There are opportunities to link these two studies and to provide an overarching frame for their findings and recommendations. It is important to find the right way to focus on core issues while acknowledging complexity (ie, the food system is highly complex, but the solution space is not uncharted).

3. First order draft: overall structure

Dr Campbell invited Dr Negra to provide an overview of the structure and content of the first order draft report. An in-depth discussion produced a set of recommended changes. On Day 2, these were revisited and adjusted. The list below summarizes the final outcomes.

- The report title should include "food security" while the name of the Commission shall remain "Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change."
- The Executive Summary should be retitled as a Summary for Policy Makers and should be focused toward decision makers (ie, not a summary of contents of the main report). The table should be moved to Chapter V in the main report.
- Chapter I is primarily intended to set the context and should include more information about the survey of major assessment reports. It should be used to deliver key background concepts and terminology, using boxes where appropriate.
- Chapter II is primarily intended to describe the current functionality of the food system in the context of climate change. Key changes include a new subsection on land, water, energy and biodiversity, expanded discussion of supply chains, attention to temporal-spatial dimensions of food-climate challenges, and significance of minor crops.
- Chapter III is primarily intended to chart a way forward to a sustainable food and climate system. Introduction should articulate that substantial synthesis has pointed to specific solutions, but these are encountering barriers. It should be re-structured according to 5 subsections: (1) Identifying and Evaluating Tradeoffs; (2) Quantity; (3) Access; (4) Quality; (5) Uncertainty.
- Chapter IV is primarily intended to demonstrate how policy barriers can be breached and illustrate the consequences of inaction. It should include the same 5 subsections as Chapter III, presenting relevant examples and case studies.
- Chapter V is intended to house the full set of Commission recommendations including those that are not strictly policy actions (eg, local actions). It should articulate the importance of key points from the Summary for Policy Makers followed by case studies.

4. Policy outreach and impact strategy

Dr Campbell presented framing ideas and questions for the Commission's policy outreach and impact strategy that is intended to distribute and amplify key messages and build international consensus on policy action. He explained that the Commission would employ a tiered policy engagement strategy, emphasizing (1) global policy venues; (2) global committees; (3) research communities. Robust discussion included the following:

Global policy venues

- **UNFCCC:** There was agreement on the need to bring agriculture into the highest levels of policy making, ideally mobilizing ministers. Specific activities were agreed for further action.
- **Rio+20:** There was agreement on the need to engage with the set of regional consultations (eg, October in Africa) as well as non-regional meetings that will be key for agenda-setting.
- **CSA consortium:** Dr Campbell noted that there are a lot of opportunities for sharing the Commission's findings with these efforts.
- **G20:** Opportunities will be investigated for side events at the Cannes meeting in early November and for ways to bring relevant Commission messages (eg, research priorities) into discussions, in 2011 and 2012.

Global committees

- A strategy was agreed that the Commission would target select messages to each global committee via briefings supported by specialized briefing papers. If further opportunities emerge from these briefings, they could be pursued as appropriate.
- To share Commission recommendations into the IPCC process, it was agreed that publishing findings (by July 2012 at the latest) was the most important route.

Research communities

- A new open source, peer-reviewed journal on agriculture and food security was noted as a good venue for a linked presentation of the targeted analyses.
- Research recommendations from the Commission should be, in part, directed to CGIAR / CCAFS as a special stakeholder group.
- Several Commissioners will be at Planet Under Pressure. Sir John and Dr Nobre will give keynote presentations in addition to the Commission-specific session on Day 3.
- David Howlett has drafted a strategy for reaching high-impact journals.

It was noted that the dissemination phase is critical for impact. There was agreement that Commissioners' responsibilities should continue in 2012 and that an extended mandate from CCAFS was appropriate. The Secretariat was requested to orchestrate information-sharing among Commissioners so that the Commission provides a linking function across policy venues as Commissioners bring findings to specific stakeholders in advance of the report release through existing engagements and communication channels. The Secretariat was further requested to create an online "Communication Corner" online (access restricted to Commission affiliates) for communication materials.

5. Info-graphics

Dr Campbell described the importance of info-graphics (including photographs) to: (1) break up the text (ie, something visual on every page); (2) convey complex ideas and meet multiple learning styles; (3) brand the work through iconic graphics. Dr Asaduzzaman invited Dr Scholes to present the proposed info-graphics that have been developed. Subsequent discussion provided guidance for fine-tuning the set of proposed info-graphics and exploring a small number of additional ideas. To finalize diagrams, figure captions will be elaborated and underlying data will be obtained, followed by work with a graphic artist. The resulting diagrams will be available as powerpoint slides in addition to inclusion in printed materials.

6. Summary for Policy Makers

Sir John articulated the importance of the Summary for Policy Makers for reaching key audiences. Robust discussion of the narrative component of the SPM led to a set of agreed changes, including richer inclusion of food waste and loss, eating habits, food and climate system attributes, spatial-temporal dimensions and special consideration for vulnerable populations. Further discussion of the key messages section led to a set of agreed changes, including emphasis on food systems rather than sustainable agriculture and condensing the number of key messages.

Sir John proposed that the Secretariat should advance on two tracks in which the Summary for Policy Makers is fast-tracked to ensure that it is fully prepared by mid-November and the main report is developed in parallel with a goal of completion in early December.

7. External “critical friend” review

Sir John briefly outlined the purpose of the external review and emphasized the importance of keeping the list small but diverse and that the review request be carefully articulated (ie, invite views on emphasis, prioritization). It was agreed that 6-7 individuals will be identified as reviewers for the Summary for Policy Makers in the very near term and a somewhat larger list will be identified as reviewers for the main report

8. Wrap Up

Sir John reflected that the Commission had made significant progress, especially with regard to the Summary for Policy Makers by agreeing the preambular text and the 7 key messages. He requested that the Secretariat take leadership to develop the specific text and work quickly to ensure Commissioner input and external review.

Meeting participants

Commissioners via video link:

Professor Lin Erda, China (22 Sept)

Commissioners present:

Professor Sir John Beddington, United Kingdom (Chair – 23 Sept)

Dr Mohammed Asaduzzaman, Bangladesh

Dr Megan Clark, Australia

Dr Marion Guillou, France

Professor Molly Jahn, United States

Professor Tekalign Mamo, Ethiopia

Professor Bob Scholes, South Africa

Dr Judi Wakhungu, Kenya

Commissioners sending regrets due to other commitments:

Dr Adrian Fernández Bremauntz, Mexico

Dr Carlos Nobre, Brazil

Dr Nguyen Van Bo, Vietnam

Dr Rita Sharma, India

CCAFS and Secretariat staff present:

Dr Bruce Campbell, CCAFS Director

Dr Christine Negra, Commission Coordinator

Ms Ratih Septivita (“Vita”), CCAFS Meeting Planner