



gFSC Agriculture WG

Terms of Reference – January 2022

Purpose

The purpose of the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) **Agriculture¹ WG (AWG)** is to ensure a platform for members to discuss about agriculture response in humanitarian crisis, advocate for agriculture needs in major crisis, share technical guidelines to improve the quality and timeliness of Agriculture responses and produce ad hoc document that might be required from the Food Security Clusters/Sectors (coordinators and members) and their technical WGs at field level.

More specifically, the AWG supports members at global level as well as Cluster coordinators and their partners in the field by disseminating global policies, technical standards guidelines, technical guidance relating to the various aspects of the project cycle, including the design, dissemination and application of appropriate methodologies², tools and guidance.

The working group will support and promote knowledge sharing and advocacy to ensure that the agriculture-related assistance provided has the ultimate goal of reducing the needs of vulnerable and/or affected populations including the most vulnerable groups according to the context (e.g. women, children, marginalized groups, refugees, IDPs, disabled, etc.)

The Agriculture Working Group focuses on two core objectives:

- 1. To undertake knowledge management, dissemination and advocacy activities and promote best practice, learning and innovation in agricultural responses**
- 2. To provide agricultural technical support to FSC members and Coordinators in the field and to all Food Security cluster stakeholders for the enhancement of their in-country core coordination functions³,**

¹ Agriculture - as mentioned in the FAO definition - includes four sub-sectors: **seeds/crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry.**

² For example production methodologies such as agro-ecology or natural resource management during crisis/emergencies.

³ The six core coordination functions of the FSC are namely to: (i) support service delivery; (ii) inform the Humanitarian Coordinator/Humanitarian Country Team's strategic decision-making; (iii) plan and implement cluster strategies; (iv) monitor and evaluate performance; (v) build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning; and (vi) support robust advocacy.

Knowledge Management & Advocacy:

- Supporting dissemination of best practices, lessons learnt and innovations
- Organising ad hoc meetings on agriculture related technical issues (
- Linking with relevant training opportunities
- Promotion of knowledge & standards
- Identification and where possible networking of stakeholders, research institutions and universities in the development of innovative agriculture initiatives
- Advocacy for improvement of timeliness, quality and appropriateness of responses

Technical Support:

- Provision of guidance (or promotion of existing guidance) on issues related to any new emergency (e.g. COVID19, climate change adaptation) through its technical competencies, networking and knowledge of the area and of the issues at stake
- Provision of Technical Support to the FSC members and Coordinators in the field and to all Food Security cluster stakeholders on the design and implementation of agricultural assessment tools and response analysis, interventions, agriculture innovation systems⁴ strategies, and other activities
- Promotion of key sector standards associated to humanitarian response (e.g. SEADS and LEGS, etc.) in the agricultural sector (together with other relevant WGs) by:
 - (i) raising awareness of the standards and sharing technical information to WG members and Cluster members;
 - (ii) supporting the application of standards in different context through structured comparison and guidance;
 - (iii) involving gFSC WG and Cluster members in an open dialogue for development of SEADS and feedback on LEGS.

Context approaches:

- A) **Cross-cutting issues:** Mainstreaming gender, HIV/AIDS, disabilities, child labour, etc.
- B) **Context priorities:** conflict-sensitive approaches, disaster resilience, climate change adaptation, natural resources and environment , innovation for agriculture and farmers participatory models, etc.
- C) **Integration:** nutrition sensitive agricultural approaches, MBA, resilience dimensions, climatic factors, market based approaches, market approaches

Method of Work:

The work of the Agriculture WG will be implemented through:

- Regular e-mail correspondence, including updates on partners' activities, events, knowledge sharing and learning activities;
- Work-plan development and follow up
- Teleconference/Webinars on specific thematic areas of interest;

⁴ To consider the central role of farmers in the co-creation of agriculture innovation and processes: the group should promote discussions and look at which models put the farmers at the center.

- Undertaking any initiative agreed by the group (surveys, technical products) in coordination with the FSC/AWG in the field
- Internal task forces (if/when needed) to develop *ad hoc* documents
- Meeting minutes to all members, guidelines, products, and updates on the gFSC dedicated page <https://fscluster.org/agricultureworkinggroup/workinggroup/agriculture-working-group-0>

Leadership and chairing

The chairing of the AWG follows a rotational basis. The election process involves self-nomination and election.

Roles of the chair include work-plan monitoring, agenda, technical topics, meetings facilitation, report to the SAG of the FSC, bilateral meetings, presenting the AWG at the Global Partners' meeting.

The AWG secretariat role (gFSC): meeting organization, website update, facilitation of meeting when needed, connection with the SAG and with FSCs and global partners, supporting Chairs.

gFSC team' member will also support the Chair(s) as focal point and secretariat.

Membership

It is essential that members engage systematically upon the objectives agreed by the Working Group and fulfil the roles and responsibilities for participation. Members of the Working Group are self-selected representatives of organisational members of the gFSC. Participants are expected to have programme experience in at least one of the following areas: crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and be in a position to take decisions on policy and guidance documentation on behalf of their organisations. It is also essential that once members commit to the programme of work, consistent and substantive engagement is adhered to in order to follow through on the agreed upon work plan. Agencies in lead role of implementation of work plan activities should endeavour to provide useful solutions, tools and guidance for field level issues that are in the realm of cluster work. Agencies in support roles on implementation of work plan activities should show commitment, provide input and assist those taking an active lead.

Rules of Participation

N.B. Views expressed by participants during meetings will not be treated as the formal position of the organisation they are representing. Verbal contributions at working group meetings can also be assigned an information sharing level. Members who wish their contributions to be considered as formal should clearly state this before making their point.

Possible linkages with other gFSC WGs

Linkages will be explored with other working groups in a bid to leverage the impact of the agriculture interventions through complementary actions, good practices and learning as will be relevant.

Example: Programme and Quality WG for standards and indicators, Cash & Market

Linkages with Agriculture WG at country level

Good practices and learning emerging at country level will be critical in informing documentation and knowledge sharing. The working group will endeavour to promote exchanges and networking among countries and sharing of learning including from research networks.