



FSIN Focal Points – Terms of Reference

These terms of reference serve to clarify the role of FSIN Focal Points in developing countries and regions

Background

The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) was officially launched in October 2012 (see the attached brochure) to serve the professional needs of regional and national food and nutrition security information practitioners. In particular, the FSIN aims to establish a Community of Practice (CoP) to facilitate exchanges on experiences and best practices in FSN analysis and capacity development among national, regional and other global or thematic networks (e.g. resilience measurement).

Substantial efforts have been made recently to set up this dedicated CoP and agree on services that the CoP would offer to its members. In order to do this, it is important to raise awareness about the FSIN among national and regional practitioners and institutions by first identifying *an official point of contact* in every country and regional network.

The FSIN Focal Points should represent a relevant network in their respective country or regions, provided it exists. In case it doesn't exist yet, the contact point should represent a government agency or ministry (or regional organization) that has a broad food and nutrition security mandate and is well placed to take the initiative to set up a food and nutrition security information network. The focal point should also have a good knowledge of food and nutrition security related areas such as capacity development, standards, tools and indicators and related themes such as resilience measurement.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The role of the focal point will be:

- To act as point of liaison between the global FSIN secretariat and the country/regional level food and nutrition security information network;
- To help identify local and/or regional representatives and food security information practitioners in the country/region who would benefit from an active membership in FSIN and its Community of Practice;
- To facilitate the FSIN Secretariat work to ensure that relevant news, activities or reports in the country/region are shared with the community of practice through the FSIN website;
- To raise awareness among food and nutrition security information practitioners and decision-makers in the respective country/region about FSIN's mission;
- To help identify needs for specific assistance from FSIN, for instance requests to support country or regional level capacity needs assessments on food and nutrition security information, and
- To facilitate the FSIN Secretariat work in setting up or strengthening of a food and nutrition security information network in their respective country or region.

Note

The name and email address of the focal point will appear on the FSIN Website (www.FSINCoP.net).

In addition to one to one communication the FSIN Secretariat will be keeping focal points up to date on FSIN's activities through the general FSIN mailing list as well as a dedicated mailing list for FSIN Focal Points.