**General Introduction**

Mexico is a country in the southern portion of North America, covers 1,972,550 square kilometers making it the world's 13th-largest country by area; with approximately 126,014,024 inhabitants, 77% of the total population lives in urban localities and 23% in rural areas. it is the 10th-most-populous country and has the most Spanish-speakers.

The Government of Mexico's agri-food policy assumes the principle of an economy for well-being, based on the importance of small and medium-scale producers, who constitute 85% of all agri-food producers, generate more than 60% of contracted employment and are the owners and guarantors of agrobiodiversity.

In view of the need to reduce inequalities, a differentiated policy will be undertaken to attend to the different groups of producers and regions of the country, considering the potential of the territories and the differentiated needs of agricultural and fishing producers.

**Recommendations**

1. Creation of new opportunities for poverty reduction in rural territories, through the socioeconomic revitalization and integration of small producers, young people, women, indigenous people and Afro-Mexicans into value chains.
2. Promote healthy and sustainable food systems and environments to address food insecurity, overweight, obesity and other forms of malnutrition.

**Rationale/background information on why those guidelines/recommendations are key to achieve the objective**

1. **The objective is to provide more and better job opportunities for young people in rural areas and welfare for farm workers.**

At the national level, the per-capita income of urban families amounts to 55,495 MXN per year, while the rural population earns an average annual income of 30,016 MXN. Likewise, as of 2018, 41.9% (52.4 million) of the population in Mexico was in poverty (34.5% in moderate poverty and 7.4% in extreme poverty), of which 17 million are in rural areas and 35.5 million in urban areas.

Extreme poverty affects 17.4% of the rural population, while in urban areas extreme poverty reaches 4.4%, and of the 12 million indigenous people in the country, 71.9% are in poverty.

Until a little more than thirty years ago, women landowners accounted for barely one percentage point and now represent close to 18%, that is, 1,877,000 rural women who are currently landowners, distributed among 701,000 ejidatarias; 201,000 comuneras; 656,000 possessionarias and 318,000 private landowners.

It is important to promote and protect the labor rights of agricultural day laborers, to guarantee them fair wages, favorable employment conditions and a dignified life, through labor regulations, in order to expand opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The activities of agricultural day laborers are an essential component, as they contribute to guaranteeing food security in Mexico and maintaining the country as one of the main exporters of agricultural products.

Expanding job opportunities for young people in the Mexican countryside and guaranteeing their labor rights are essential to maintain the agri-food sector as a productive and developmental option with justice for agricultural workers and their families.

1. **Promote healthy and sustainable food systems and environments to address food insecurity, overweight, obesity and other forms of malnutrition.**

A large proportion of the global population does not have access to a healthy diet, even though global per-capita food consumption has increased in the past decades. Malnutrition is still a current issue, and fighting hunger is FAO's main target since some 800 million people are currently undernourished worldwide. Today's rapid changes in the diet in developing countries are not improving nutrition. Obesity more than doubled at a global level since 1980, and nowadays almost 2 billion people are overweight, resulting in serious chronic diseases. Obesity is a global epidemic, and, in many countries, it is taking over malnutrition.

Thus, global food security involves two major complex issues: the large resource use and environmental impact related to food production, and the nutritional status of the global population. Several studies have shown that food security should be addressed from both the production and the consumption spheres; for example, changing production systems to a more sustainable production and shifting diets to lower meat consumption. These studies stress the need to implement integrated policies to solve the issue.

In order to achieve food security in Mexico, an integrated assessment is needed including the sustainability of both food production and food consumption. This would make possible to design an integrated national strategy to achieve National Food Security; this adaptation process will require the engagement of the various stakeholders and sectors. Transversal policies are needed to implement this strategy involving health, agricultural, economic and federal instances to propose a feasible national solution to reach food security for all people. It is essential to incorporate a geographical approach to consider the Mexican heterogeneity in terms of the socioeconomic, agro-climatic, cultural and political contexts to identify the specific route to achieve food security. Therefore, a national strategy should be designed through a bottom-up approach including strategies for reforming agriculture and food systems, biofuels, agricultural policies and trade, food aid, land tenure, financing, farm insurance and alternative agriculture.