

Fostering Nutrition Mainstreaming Through RBA Collaboration for Africa
Accelerating the Progress of Nutrition Sensitive Investments at Country Level

12th October 2017- 18.00- 19.30 Iraq Room
Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The scale of malnutrition and its impact on health and economic growth are serious global concerns. Malnutrition in all its forms is affecting one in three people globally. The 2016 Global Nutrition Report estimates that 58 million children under the age of 5 (which represent 36% of the total children in that age group globally) are chronically undernourished and 13 million (8.5% of the total) are acutely undernourished. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread with 163.6 million children and women of reproductive age affected by anemia. Vitamin A and Zinc deficiency are also a concern together with increasing child (10%) and adult (30%) overweight and obesity. According to the Cost of Hunger studies, malnutrition costs African economies between 3 and 16% of GDP annually. This suggests that investing in nutrition is paramount towards building and improving human capital which entails improvements in health and labor productivity.

The growing momentum on nutrition agenda has been supported by several initiatives including the adoption of the *2025 Global Targets for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition*, the *Nutrition for Growth (N4G)* financial commitment, the *Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*, the *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition* and the SDGs.

In Africa through the *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods* and the *Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa*, African leaders committed to ending hunger and reducing stunting to 10 percent by 2025. To translate the Malabo commitments into implementable programmes NEPAD developed the CAADP Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (IS&R), a programme of work, a results framework, and guidelines for appraising existing National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and formulating second generation ones.

This idea of a side-event on Fostering Nutrition Mainstreaming was initiated during the IFAD's East and Southern Africa (ESA) Regional Implementation Workshop (RIW) 2017 in Kampala, Uganda following a dedicated nutrition awareness session jointly planned with RBAs colleagues.

RATIONALE

The UN agencies have an important role in rendering necessary policy guidance from one hand and technical operational support from the other to seize the momentum of the global and regional commitments and accelerate their translation into large scale actions at country level. To this end, the UN Rome-based agencies are jointly rallying behind the achievement of the SDG2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. With a rising number of initiatives and platforms for nutrition at the global level, it is critical the RBAs build coordination among them, enhancing synergies for effectiveness and building on individual strengths and comparative advantages. They further recognize the significance of a holistic multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach in integrating nutrition into agriculture, social protection and other broad rural poverty reduction strategies to achieve better results on nutrition.

Several technical working groups from the three Rome-based agencies are currently engaged in a number of joint activities with a common global objective: creating an enabling environment for improved policy and programme formulation and implementation to address hunger and malnutrition globally. While some of the groups focus on knowledge management and tools, others provide technical operational support in policy, program and project design at country level.

Relevant examples from the African region include the joint collaboration among FAO, IFAD and WFP in the AINA programme in Madagascar and the MDG1c programme in Mozambique; the current collaboration discussion between IFAD-WFP on the Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Investment Project in Zambia; and the IFAD-FAO collaborative effort in designing joint activities under the PAPEP project in Botswana.

In an example of how the Rome-based agencies are stronger working together, the Madagascar country team was recognized as the 2016 recipient of the RBA Award of Excellence for country-level collaboration. The Madagascar AINA project is a sound example of how the RBAs successfully leverage their distinctive strengths: FAO focuses on post-harvest and storage, seed production, crop diversification and capacity development; IFAD supports crop production, processing, value chains and infrastructure; and WFP assists in local food purchase/procurement and distribution, nutrition education, specialized food distribution, and creation/rehabilitation of community assets. Within this context, the Madagascar country-team exemplifies how integrated RBA country-level collaboration maximizes collective impact.

Previous awardees include the Democratic Republic of Congo country team in 2014 and the Mozambique country team in 2012 as well. Since 2015, the RBAs are also collaborating through a Working Group on Sustainable Value Chains for Nutrition (SVCN) to promote information exchange, develop common approaches, and encourage country-level interaction.

Further opportunities on how to enhance nutrition at all levels in the African region will be explored by the RBAs with key partners such as Hivos and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) during the side event. In particular, JICA in partnership with RBAs and other stakeholders launched the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security for Africa (IFNA) during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The IFNA puts emphasis on integration of agriculture into nutrition actions where the RBA collaboration is of much importance.

This side event is a talk show intended to put on the spotlight the work of the RBAs on nutrition and the nutrition-sensitive initiatives of partners for collaborative efforts towards fostering nutrition mainstreaming in the African region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT:

- **Enhanced visibility and relevance of RBA collaboration in accelerating nutrition mainstreaming in Africa.**
- **Showcase ongoing country examples and share experiences on nutrition-sensitive interventions and concrete opportunities for RBA collaborative support on nutrition in the African region.**
- **Bring to discussion the ways to further improve RBA collaboration and enhance synergies among relevant partners on nutrition mainstreaming at country level.**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Visibility on the different RBA collaborative efforts to accelerate nutrition mainstreaming in Africa is improved.** Increased awareness of these initiatives will strengthen the perception of countries and relevant development partners on the key role and combined comparative advantage of the RBA's joint engagement on nutrition.
- **Concrete ways forward will be identified to further improve collaboration, coordination and synergy among the different technical working groups and external stakeholders** with the view to add value on and unleash the potential of country level interventions in Africa.
- **Contribute to the overall CFS agenda on food security and nutrition** by triggering debate and dialogue on diet diversification, nutrition-sensitive agriculture investment for enhanced food systems with the view to inform and sensitize different CFS stakeholders on the potential behind the RBA joint work and contribution on nutrition.

FORMAT OF DISCUSSION

The format consists of an **interactive panel discussion** supported by the presentation of a brief mini-documentary on modern fish processing in Zambia.

The **documentary through a short video** is to stimulate discussion for engagement among partners. The documentary will illustrate further the initiative on nutrition mainstreaming. The protagonist of the short video, Kasazi Nyendwa, is a young woman beneficiary of the IFAD-funded Smallholder Agribusiness Promotion Programme (SAPP) currently based in Kafue, Lusaka Province in Zambia. She ventured into aquaculture by producing a variety of innovative fish products including fish patties, fish sausages, fish polony, fish snacks etc.

Her commitment and contribution towards enhancing nutrition in Zambia through her products is a good example to be showcased.

A dynamic **panel discussion** on *Agriculture for Nutrition* will focus on concrete ways forward to improve further RBA collaboration and coordination for better joint support at country level. In particular, panellists will share their respective experiences on nutrition mainstreaming at country level and talk show on how to strengthen RBA collaboration and enhance nutrition for all.

Key partners such as Hivos and JICA will also share their experiences to improve nutrition in the context of the recently launched Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security for Africa (IFNA) and on sustainable diets and food systems, respectively.

Ample time to interact and engage with the audience on possible collaborative efforts among partners to accelerate nutrition mainstreaming will complete each panel (**Q&A**).

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELLISTS

Richard Abila, Senior Technical Specialist for Fisheries and Aquaculture, IFAD

Richard holds a doctorate degree in Fisheries, and has over 25 years uninterrupted career in fisheries and aquaculture research and development fields. Most of his work experience has been on small scale fisheries and aquaculture systems, working with national, regional and international projects and programmes in Africa and Asia. Richard has particular interest on the social and economic dimensions of small-scale fisheries in developing countries, and has produced several publications in this field. He has been a strong advocate for actions to ensure that small-scale fishers, fish processors and traders can benefit more from these resources for their livelihood and nutrition.

William Chilufya, Regional Advocacy Officer for Sustainable Diets, Hivos

William is the Hivos Southern Africa – Regional Advocacy Manager for Sustainable Diets. He leads the advocacy and campaign on safe, nutritious, environmental friendly, accessible and healthy food. Previously, he worked as Country Coordinator of the Zambia Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance (CSO-SUN). Chilufya was instrumental in organizing civil society around Scaling Up Nutrition in Zambia. His untiring efforts with the CSO-SUN have rewarded him with being an authority on discussions surrounding raising the profile of nutrition in Zambia, within civil society and beyond. William has managed to marshal attention to Nutrition through social media, and was indicated in 2014 by the Guardian Newspaper of the UK as one of the top ten people on Twitter shaping policy and practice on nutrition and development. Further, he was recognized as one of the ten ‘Transform Nutrition Champions’ for 2015.

Hiroshi Hiraoka, Senior Advisor, JICA, Food and Nutrition Matters

Hiroshi began his career in the fields alongside farmers in his native Japan as a research staff at Sumitomo Chemical Company Limited in charge of development of fertilizers and pesticides for rice and vegetables. His career has spanned into a wider horizon when he took up a position of an agricultural expert in Oman in 1999. He went on trotting the globe as Soil and Fertility Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand), Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Agriculture of Afghanistan. He started his connection with Africa in the mid-2000s, and has been fully committed to Africa since 2008 as the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Coalition for African Rice Development to assist the development of the rice sector in Africa, and then as Senior Agriculture Economist of the World Bank in charge of rice, nutrition and value chain development. He has recently come back to Japan to assume the position of Senior Advisor at JICA in charge of food and nutrition matters.

Hamady Diop, Head of the Program Natural Resources Governance, Food Security and Nutrition, NEPAD

Hamady is the current Head of the Program “Natural Resources Governance, Food security and Nutrition” of the NEPAD Agency, a technical arm of the African Union for program implementation. He has also served as Director of Research and Information Systems for the West Africa Sub regional Fisheries Commission. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and a Masters’ of Science in Economics and Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University. He has been a recipient of many grants and his research has been published widely in many scientific journals. He has also been a guest speaker at many

international conferences. His areas of interests are natural resource economics, seafood production and marketing. He was also a recipient of a one year training, coaching and mentorship in leadership through the Duke University Center for Effective Leadership Training (CETL).

Louise C. McDonald, Programme Officer, IFAD

Louise started at IFAD in 1996 and has almost continually worked in the East and Southern Africa Region across a wide range of countries in a range of roles. From 2014 to 2015 Louise spent two years in the Independent Office of Evaluation to broaden her knowledge and expertise returning to ESA to put it into practice. Prior to IFAD she had worked in New Zealand and Australia, predominantly in the NGO working in cross cultural situations across a variety of sectors (working with homeless youth, emergency and long term housing for women escaping domestic violence, youth escaping family violence, policy development, etc.) as well participating in national policy forums including secondments from the Australian Federal Government to develop special initiatives.

Maya Takagi, Senior Social Protection Officer and Deputy Strategic Programme Leader, FAO

Maya is currently Senior Social Protection Officer and Deputy Strategic Programme Leader for Reducing Rural Poverty at FAO-Headquarters. She is specialized in public policies; has PhD in economic development and worked in the implementation of the Zero Hunger programme in Brazil. Previously, she worked as advisor of Brazil's President of the Republic from 2005-2010, as National Secretary for Food Security and Nutrition in the Ministry of Social Development from 2011-2012 and as agriculture researcher linked to Ministry of Agriculture from 2013-2014.

Juliane Friedrich, Senior Technical Specialist on Nutrition, IFAD

Juliane is a nutritionist with particular focus on nutritional challenges in developing countries. She is specialized in linking nutrition, gender, youth, and food security. She has more than 20 years' field-based experiences in nutrition programming in several African and Asian countries. Before joining IFAD in 2014 as Senior Technical Specialist for nutrition, she worked as global nutrition policy advisor for the European Commission DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. She also worked for Governmental Organizations (GIZ), International NGOs, and United Nations agencies such as UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF.

Mutinta Hambayi, Nutritionist, WFP

Mutinta is a Nutritionist with the UN World Food Program (WFP) for over 10 years. She has held various positions and contributed to debates on Food, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS at country, regional and global forums. Working as HIV & Nutrition advisor, she has assessed humanitarian needs, supported refining of nutrition policies and guidelines while working in Sudan, Southern Africa Bureau, Malawi and currently in Italy. Her current portfolio is Chief, Nutrition Sensitive Unit at WFP HQ. She holds a Master's degree from Queensland University in Australia and is a PhD candidate at Maastricht school of Governance and Policy Analysis, in the Netherlands.

Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer, FAO

Florence is the Senior Officer in the Nutrition and Food Systems Division and Group Leader of the Market Linkages and Value Chain Group in FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), in Rome. Her areas of expertise are the following: sustainable value chain development and inclusive business models; voluntary standards and geographical indications; institutional procurements; small and medium food enterprises development. She joined the organization in 2001 posted at the FAO Regional office for Latin America, before coming to Rome in 2005. Before that, she worked 10 years in Guatemala, for the French Cooperation, INCAP (Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama) and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). As academic background, she is a food engineer and has a PhD in Economical Geography from Paris University.

David Ryckembusch, Senior Programme Adviser, WFP

David is a Senior Programme Adviser, Safety Nets and Social Protection Unit of the WFP Division for Policy and Programme at its Headquarters in Rome. His work brings together the areas of social protection, school feeding and value chains. It aims to support operations and assist governments in achieving measurable progress towards SDG2 targets through scalable and cost-effective safety nets and social protection systems. He joined WFP in 2011 after a 15 years career with private sector companies in Supply Chain Management in Europe. He has a master degree in engineering and graduated with two executive global MBA. He has published in World Development and in collaboration with IFPRI.

Militezegga A. Mustafa, Nutrition Policy Consultant, FAO

Militezegga holds master's degree and bachelor degree in development economics. She joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2011 and since then she contributed to the corporate efforts towards policy support at regional and country level in the areas of nutrition, social protection and cross sectoral linkages to address broad hunger rural poverty reduction. In the last year she has been extensively engaged in the facilitation of RBA dialogue and initiatives to establish strong RBA collaboration and joint effort to provide complementary technical support at country level.

Moderators

Abla Z. Benhammouche, Country Director, IFAD

Abla is a seasoned development expert with particular experience in supporting countries challenged by rural poverty and food insecurity in under difficult environment. This involves working with stakeholders in fragile, land locked, small island economies in support of pro-poor and sustainable development. Her expertise also includes working within the UN system and the international community, as well as engaging with the highest levels of Government. She is skilled in mobilizing resources and brokering financing arrangements with international financial institutions and bilateral agencies. She has worked in about 16 Sub-Saharan Countries for the Fund and she worked and lived in Zambia for four years as IFAD Representative and Country Director. She is a trained agricultural

engineer and applied research officer specialized in extensive livestock systems and rangeland systems.

Marian Amaka Odenigbo, Senior Technical Specialist on Nutrition, IFAD

Marian is a registered nutritionist and a Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition in IFAD. She undertook a regional approach on nutrition mainstreaming in IFAD agriculture and rural development investments; led and strengthened projects on nutrition-sensitive interventions; contributed to knowledge product development and advocacy on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Prior to joining IFAD, she was a research associate and visiting scholar in McGill University, Canada, where she managed the nutrition component in a multinational rice postharvest project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency on enhancing food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her PhD from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka was on community health nutrition, food consumption pattern, assessment of nutritional values and glycemic indices of traditional foods. She explored locally neglected/underutilized foods in management of diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases in Nigeria. Her work experience as a senior lecturer at University of Agriculture in Nigeria involved lecturing, research, supervision of both undergraduate and post-graduate students, and over 30 international and national scientific publications.