



Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia

TOPIC NOTE

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Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?

Background

In September 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the Food Security and Nutrition Program (FSNP) with the Action Plan for the period 2015-2017. The comprehensive program, where food security and nutrition issues are inseparably linked with the sustainable development policy of the country, was a result of a consultation process and participatory approach among various stakeholders supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

The country's FSNP development goals are as follows: (i) a departure from the traditional tools for managing food security and nutrition issues in the country; (ii) expanding food security with targets aimed at improving nutritional quality and the health of the population; and (iii) harmonizing food security and nutrition issues in the country with the global concept.

The FSNP is based on the four targets:

1. Ensure food availability in the country;
2. Ensure physical and economic access to food;
3. Ensure dietary quality, diversity, and caloric intake;
4. Ensure control and supervision of food safety.

Issues

The current status of the FSNP implementation is not in line with the Action Plan due to a number of issues identified as follows:

- significant gaps between required and available funding;
- barriers in the translation of policies to action;
- capacity development on the implementation of FSNP are still lacking; and
- role of the private sector and civil society organizations is not clearly defined.

The successful implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Program is an important issue for Kyrgyzstan as the country still remains vulnerable to global economic shocks, volatility in international food and commodity prices and weather shocks that negatively affect country's economy and the food security situation in general. In addition, the country is dependent on food imports (cereals, oils, meat) and remittance incomes.

Despite a considerable economic growth and improvements in household welfare in the recent years, the ability of the country to maintain food security at the national level does not always translate into better nutrition outcomes at the household level. In 2015, the poverty estimate was 32 percent with six percent of the country population undernourished¹, and 7.9 percent of children suffered from weight deficit².

Purpose

The Online Consultation "*Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?*" aims to involve stakeholders into an inclusive dialogue on how to support the successful application of the programme.

In this light, a Road Map for the Food Security and Nutrition Program may help to put the implementation on a clearly defined timeline while at the same time increasing the transparency and accountability to the public. The Road Map can constructively readjust the deliverables by priorities; highlight the involvement of private sector and non-governmental organizations in the process and help revise targets, funding sources and capacity gaps.

This online consultation also embodies the commitment towards using innovative participatory mechanisms to involve stakeholder continuously along the different phases of the programme.

We encourage stakeholders from Kyrgyzstan who represent public and private sectors, academia, civil societies, international community and developing programs, whose activities and interests lay in the field of food security, nutrition, agriculture, use of natural resources and social protection to share their views. Participants from other countries in the region and beyond are also very much welcome to share their experiences and perspectives that could further enrich this exchange.

We would like to have your opinion on the following questions:

Policy: The Food Security and Nutrition Program of Kyrgyzstan was designed for a three-year period. What timeline should be planned in the future in order to address a complexity of food security and nutrition issues? What can help increase the program's impact: setting short-term goals; conducting assessments, surveys and /or revisions in an annual manner?

¹ FAO/IFAD/WFP (2015) The State of Food Insecurity in the World. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress, FAO, Rome

² National Statistical Committee, Information bulletin of the Kyrgyz Republic on food security and poverty, 2016, available online: <http://stat.kg/media/publicationarchive/a088fb17-45ea-4cf2-9e70-e253d44ea998.pdf>

Funding: The scarcity or lack of funding is one of the main constraints. Could you suggest new sources for funding that may help covering financial gaps in the current and future phases of the FSNP? What are the possibilities of allocating more funds for the FSNP in the state budgets? What fund raising modalities should be used, including contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations?

Role of Stakeholders: The implementation process of the FSNP requires an inclusive and participatory approach of various governmental and non-governmental actors. Which institution should be responsible for the overall deliveries of the FSNP? How can the Government engage the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the complex objectives of the FSNP? Who are other stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation process?

Capacity Development: Capacity development plays a crucial role in the efficiency of the FSNP implementation. What kind of coordinated approach is required between different government and non-government agencies for capacity development? Would you like to suggest some topics, relevant to FSNP, on which you can benefit from training? Would you recommend local institutions or development projects who have relevant skills and capacities to provide such trainings?

Road Map: The Road Map meant to visualize the FSNP implementation process, including the main actors. What would you suggest to improve in the Road Map in order to highlight the main financial gaps and define the role of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders? What principles should be followed in order to prioritize certain tasks over others? Any other activities would you advise to be added to the future plan of the FSNP?

Expected outputs

The results of the Online Consultation will be analysed and recommendations will be presented to the Food Security Council in Kyrgyzstan for further FSNP implementation and the development of the next steps of the Program beyond 2017.

Place and time

This Online Consultation is initiated by the FAO Representative Office in Kyrgyzstan and FAO's Global Food Security and Nutrition Forum (FSN Forum) with the South-South Cooperation funding. The Consultation takes place on the regional platform of the FSN Forum for Europe and Central Asia from 1st until 28th **November 2016**.

Supporting materials

For your courtesy, we have prepared a number of supporting documents:

- “Road Map” will help visualize the activities and key actors to be involved.

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- “Background document to the Online Consultation” will help you learn more about the FSNP and the proposed steps.
- “The Food Security and Nutrition Program of the Kyrgyz Republic” with the Action Plan provides you with the content of the national policy.
- “Macro-economic Food Situation Analysis: Kyrgyzstan” provides you with some analytical data for further reading.

We are looking forward to interesting and fruitful discussion!

Sincerely Yours,

Arindam Banerjee,

Associate Professor in Economics, the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

Kanat Tilekeyev,

Senior Research Fellow, the University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Marlen Tynaliev,

Food Security specialist, FAO, Kyrgyzstan