Scaling-up purchase from Africans for Africa

Family farmers supply nutritious meals for school children

Development challenge

Food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition are complex problems. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 214 million people are chronically hungry and child and infant malnutrition rates are amongst the highest in the world. As part of a multipronged approach to addressing the challenge, the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has adopted Home Grown School Feeding as part of its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). There is a need to feed 50 million African schoolchildren. School Feeding Programmes (SFPs) to date have often relied heavily on development partners for funding and food provision.

Development solution

Based on the success of Brazilian local purchase schemes for school feeding and food assistance, the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) programme is sharing lessons learned by Brazil across continents. SFPs that directly purchase from smallholder farmers can provide important nourishment for children, enhance school attendance and enrolment, support family farmer’s livelihoods and local food markets. While approximately 80 percent of the food produced in sub-Saharan Africa comes from smallholder farming, smallholder farmers face constraints with market inclusion. Estimates suggest that some 60 percent of the rural population have poor access to markets despite living in areas of agricultural potential. Efforts to shape national policies on food assistance and family farming, and support the ability of local actors to implement these policies, are essential to expand local purchase schemes in Africa.

Solution exchange

The PAA Programme links smallholder agriculture with school feeding through local procurement. PAA is a partnership between the Government of Brazil, the Government of the United Kingdom, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme’s (WFP) Purchase for Progress initiative (P4P). Inspired by the Brazilian experience of fighting hunger, PAA supports home grown school feeding in five countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

PPA works at operational, programming and policy level. Its pilot activities are:

- **improving food access and availability**: encouraging institutions to procure food from local smallholder farmers to meet children’s needs;
Potential for upscaling

There is a vast potential to upscale PAA in the five partner countries. Broader awareness of the benefits of local food procurement can be built, improving current results. An additional investment of USD 45 million would spread PAA benefits to another 16 700 smallholder farmers and supply local and nutritious food to over 263 000 students in these countries.