



# Food security through rural development

## FAO Legislative Advisory Group in the Philippines (FLAG-PH)



Participants during the learning session at the House of Representatives in Quezon City.

### Introduction

The agriculture sector of the Philippines has been underperforming in recent years, characterized by low growth and productivity, and high food prices. On average, growth and productivity of the agriculture sector has been lower than those of manufacturing and services. The contribution of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (AFF) to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) continues to decline.

Broad and sustained growth in the sector is key to address the problems of employment and poverty. Beyond these economic concerns, there are a number of legislative reforms needed to enable the country to achieve greater social equity and empowerment for the people. It is thus crucial to identify priority legislative measures and to build a broad consensus on indicative priorities of this 18th Congress aimed at improving the AFF sector.

In this regard, the FAO Legislative Advisory Group in the Philippines (FLAG-PH) and the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) have collaborated to undertake knowledge exchange sessions that can provide relevant inputs to the preparation of a legislative agenda towards sustained rural development and agricultural productivity growth.

Henceforth, a framework on food security through rural development was initiated by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) under the ambit of FLAG-PH.

Mr. Jose Ignatius "Joel" Pagsanghan assisted ANGOC and FAO in crafting this document, which was enhanced by the deliberations during the *FLAG-PH and CPBRD Learning Session on Food Security through Rural Development* held on 6 May 2019 at the House of the Representatives in Quezon City. The activity brought together a total of 58 representatives from the CPBRD, relevant Committees under the House of Representatives, FLAG-PH Technical Working Group, FAO, and ANGOC.

A work-in progress, this document is FLAG-PH's contribution to the food security and nutrition (FSN) discourse.

Initially composed of 10 legislators from both Houses of Congress (Senate and House of Representatives), **The FAO Legislative Advisory Group in the Philippines (FLAG-PH)** serves as a platform which aims to contribute to addressing national food security and nutrition issues by taking the necessary legislative actions that would impact on the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and environment and natural resources sectors.

FLAG-PH is a pilot initiative of FAO in the Philippines under a larger effort to build a Parliamentary Alliance in the Asia-Pacific region. FLAG-PH's activities includes consultations with provincial and municipal governments, local legislative councils, farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous groups, and civil society organizations as part of its objective to advance food security and nutrition in the Philippine legislative agenda.

## The meaning of food security

Food Security (FS) exists “when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996; Weingartner, 2005).

The concept of food security has evolved, and now includes the element of nutrition (thus some experts use the term “food and nutrition security”). Food security has four dimensions:

- Availability – addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock, and net trade
- Access – a) economic access, i.e. whether households have enough resources to obtain food in sufficient quantity, quality and diversity for a nutritious diet, and b) physical access, referring to infrastructure and other facilities that provide access to food
- Use and Utilization – includes food choices, food preparation, allocation within the household, as well as health and sanitation
- Stability – refers to the temporal dimension of food security – i.e. time frame over which food and nutrition security is being considered. Distinction is made between chronic food insecurity and transitory food insecurity (Weingartner, 2005)

## The “two-track approach” to food security through rural development

Since most of the world’s food is produced in the rural areas, there is great interest in rural development as a strategy for achieving food security. The framework below proposes such a strategy. It is based on the research paper entitled, *A Conceptual Framework for National Agricultural, Rural Development, and Food Security Strategies and Policies* by Kostas Stamoulis and Alberto Zessa (2003).

The starting point of the framework is that a conducive socio-economic, political, institutional, cultural, and natural environment provides the basic, initial condition for food security. Various macro and contextual factors, such as trade policies, market conditions, educational, and social policies all have an effect on food security, as they affect food prices, food supply, people’s attitudes and practices, as well as their health status. While some natural factors (like the geographical location of a country) cannot be altered, country policies do affect the pace of global warming, the rates of siltation or desertification, and other natural phenomena which affect food production.

The heart of the framework is the close link between food security and poverty reduction, and in order to achieve both, there is a need for targeted hunger & nutrition programs as well as a broad-based rural development strategy. This is the “two-track approach” being advocated by FAO.

## Cross-sectoral dimensions of food insecurity

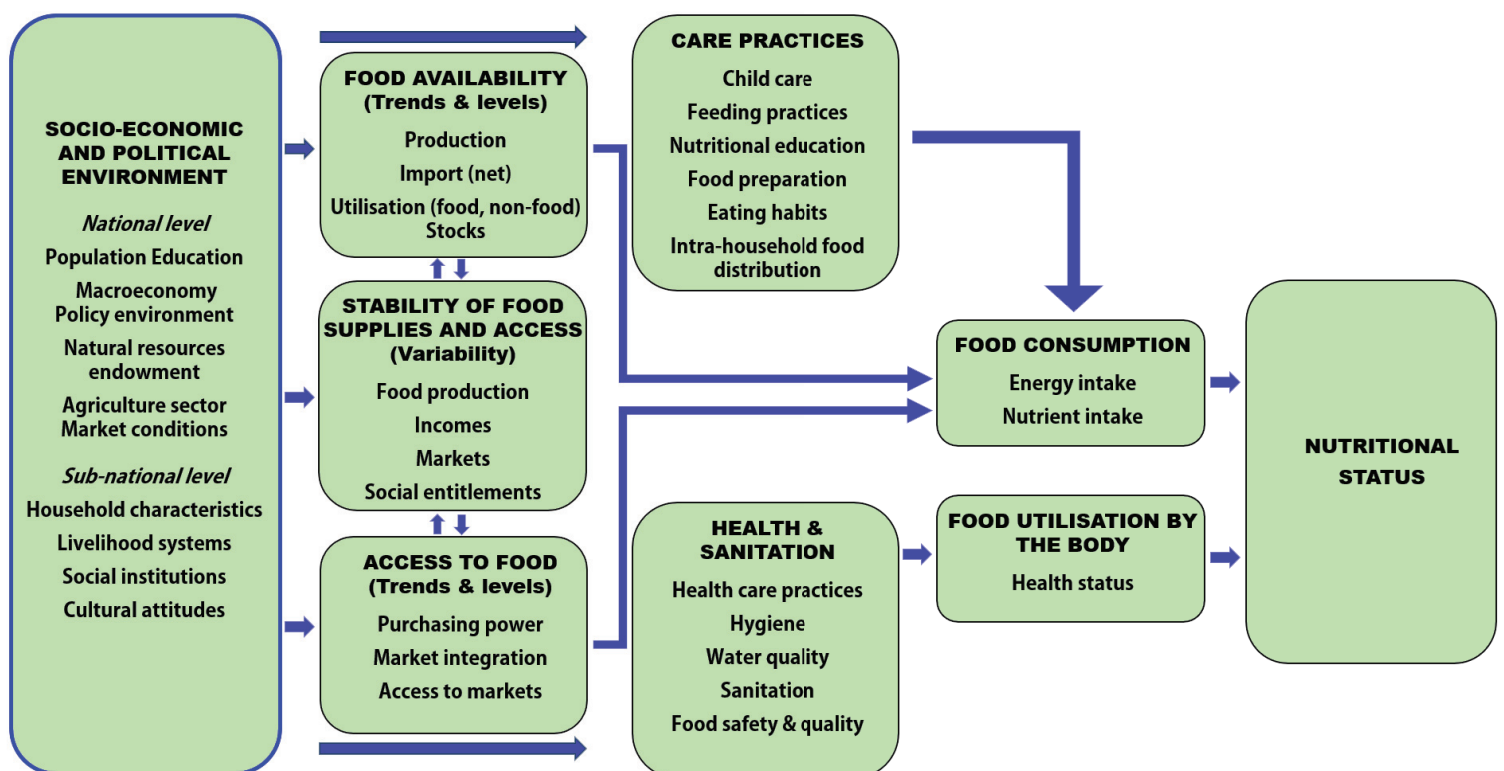


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for Understanding Possible Causes of Low Food Consumption and Poor Nutritional Status (FAO, 1998)



# Food security through rural development

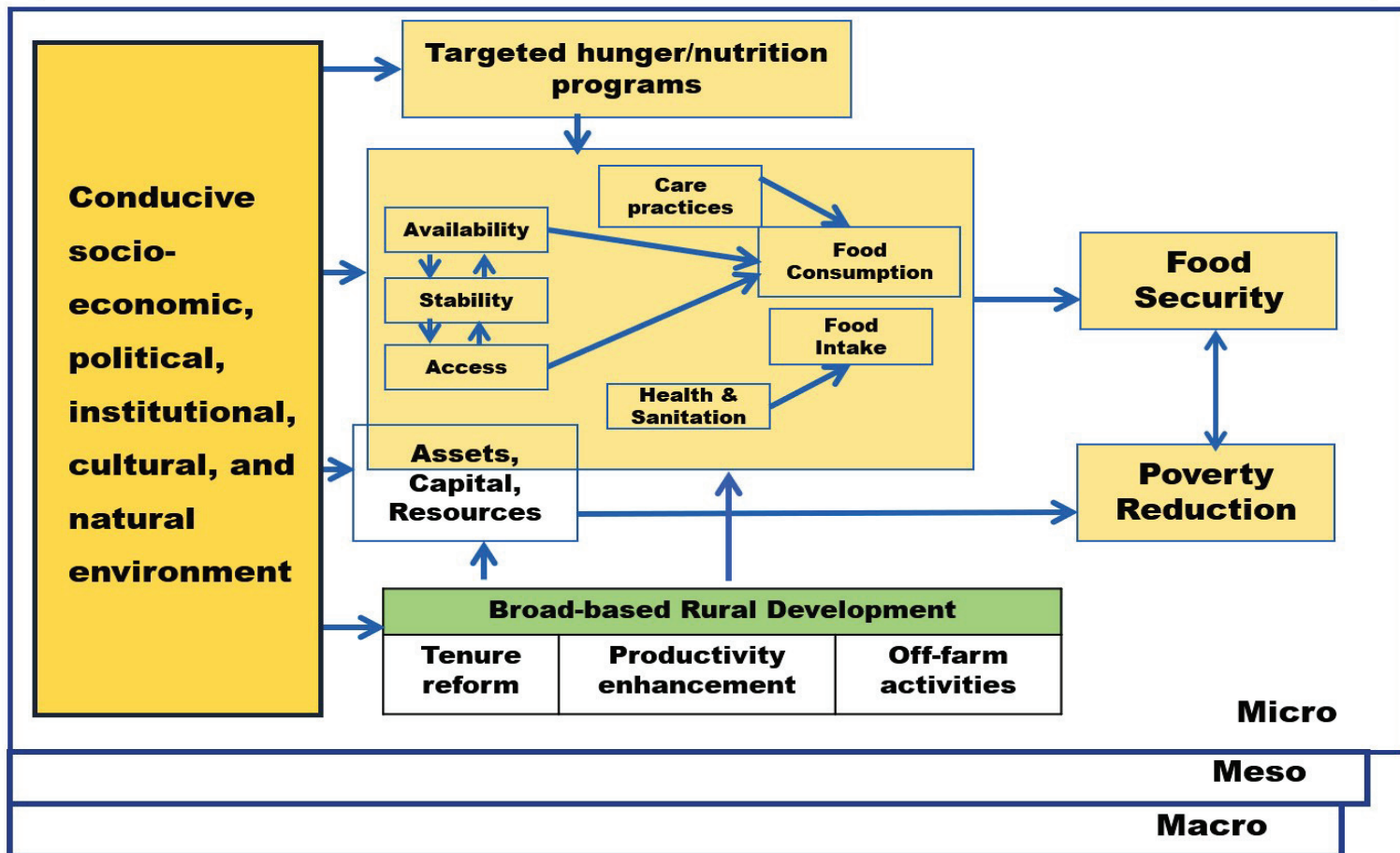


Figure 2. Food Security through Rural Development Framework (Pagsanghan, 2019)

Stamoulis and Zessa (2003) argue that:

*“A twin-track approach, promises to be the most effective option for hunger reduction in many instances. The approach combines the promotion of broad-based, sustainable agricultural growth and rural development, with targeted programmes to ensure that hungry people who have neither the capacity to produce their own food nor the means to buy it can have access to adequate supplies.”*

Hungry, malnourished people are unable to work sufficiently or effectively enough in order to benefit from rural development programs, thus hunger and nutrition interventions such as feeding programs, nutrition and health education, subsidies, among others for targeted vulnerable groups are essential. Vulnerable groups may include the rural poor, pregnant women, underprivileged children, and others.

For its part, the broad-based rural development strategy has three components. *First*, the productivity of agriculture must be enhanced through the effective provision of support services including credit, appropriate technology, post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads, marketing assistance, etc.

This will increase the gross value of agricultural produce and raise the profitability of agricultural undertakings. The *second* is tenure reform, which ensures that the economic gains from the strategy are shared by a broad segment of the population, particularly the rural poor. The *third* is the stimulation of off-farm rural activities, such as small and medium-scale enterprises and services. These off-farm enterprises will only flourish if there is strong local demand, and local demand will exist only if there is agriculture is profitable, and if these profits are shared broadly. These off-farm enterprises offer the poor another source of income and a pathway towards diversified and higher value economic activity.

Stamoulis and Zessa (2003) summarize the rural development strategy thus:

*“Increases in agricultural productivity are essential in this context: an increase in agricultural productivity raises farm incomes. Where the resulting agricultural growth benefits small-scale farmers and rural laborers, the additional income is spent largely on food and on basic nonfarm products and services in rural areas, such as the services of merchants, artisans, mechanics, etc. and on simple agricultural implements and household goods. These tend to be*

*produced and provided locally. Non-farm enterprises offer the poor a potential escape route from poverty, since they usually require little capital or training to set up and are labor intensive. The extra income from agricultural growth can create demand for these goods and services, thus starting a virtuous cycle in which agricultural and rural off-farm income grow and sustain each other's growth. An important determinant of this mutually reinforcing process is where the extra income is spent. In a society characterized by smallholders it is more likely that the extra income will be spent locally, than when farming is dominated by large landlords. Such broad-based development opens up new opportunities for reducing poverty and hunger. Therefore, increases in agricultural productivity (higher output per hectare or shift to high value crops) create a series of ripple effects in the rural areas through the growth of rural off-farm activities."*

An area of overlap between food security and rural development is the sphere of assets, capital, and resources. At the household level, ownership of assets, capital, and other resources greatly influences access to food (i.e., through increased purchasing power). Assets, capital, and resources also affect things like education levels, which in turn affect health care and sanitation practices. People with more assets also tend to live in less marginal areas with greater physical access to food, health care facilities, and information. Rural development (especially tenure reform) is important because it provides households with assets, through which they can improve their lives and together with that, their food security.

This framework is useful for analyzing and designing programs to ensure food security and promote rural development at the micro, meso, and macro levels. At the micro level, the focus will be on analyzing household consumption and health practices, and on barangay-level welfare programs. At the meso level, the focus will be on targeted food security/rural development programs designed and implemented by local government units (LGUs) to address municipal or provincial-level food security or rural development issues. At the macro level, national legislation can target specific vulnerable sectors in the country, or multiple underprivileged regions.

### Legislative and policy intervention matrices

In order to assist policymakers in applying the framework and proposing new policies, three policy intervention matrices have been prepared, one each for the environmental factors, targeted food security programs, and rural development programs.

The first policy intervention matrix (See page 5) - *Selected Environmental Factors vis-à-vis Food Security Dimensions* -

matches the various dimensions of food security (availability, access, utilization, and stability) against the various environmental factors which the policymaker may wish to examine and plan for.

Examples of the environmental factors are "market policy" (i.e., the rules and regulations regarding import, export, and distribution of foodstuffs), basic service delivery (policies and programs relating to essential government services in health, education, etc.), and disaster resilience. The policymakers may identify any environmental factor they wish to analyze, and place it in the matrix.

Market policy can incentivize (or disincentivize) production by affecting prices, demand, and production cost. For instance, policymakers may wish to examine the impact of market policies on food availability: production (Column 1, Row 1). The General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) provides the overall rules framework on international agricultural trade. In the Philippines, the Agriculture Modernization Act or AFMA (RA 8435) provides the basic policy architecture as it covers all aspects of agriculture development. In 2019, the Rice Tariffication Act (RA 11203) was passed. RA 11203 mandates a shift from quotas to tariffs in rice importations, with the funds from the tariffs being directed to the improvement of the production efficiency of the local rice sector. These three policies are the key existing policies that define this policy space at the moment. There may be other relevant policies in place as well.

The matrix may also be populated with proposed policies. In the House of Representatives, 17th Congress for instance, there is HB 1720 which seeks to create an "Agricultural Marketing Council" which will, among others, "ensure the best agricultural marketing programs for agricultural products and food commodities" as well as review agricultural product pricing importation of rice, and monitor buffer stocks. HB 4223 on the other hand, seeks to create a Food Security Council that aims to ensure agricultural productivity by promoting environment-friendly production technologies. HB 6923 proposes to expand crop insurance, thereby protecting agricultural production.

Policymakers must study the impacts of the current laws and policies in place, determine if there are any issues, concerns or gaps, and then understand how the proposed bills address (or fail to address) these concerns. Based on this assessment, policymakers may then amend the existing laws, enact proposed laws, amend certain provisions of the proposed laws, pass the proposed laws, or craft and pass new laws different from the bills already pending. For instance, in this case (market policy vis-à-vis food availability and production), policymakers may wish to assess whether market incentives for farmers and other food producers are sufficient to encourage adequate food production.

Policy intervention matrix 1: Selected environmental factors vis-à-vis food security dimensions				
	1. Market Policy	2. Basic Service Delivery	3. Disaster Resilience	4. Others
Availability: Production	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT)</li> <li>• RA 8435 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act/AFMA)</li> <li>• RA 11203 (Rice Tariffication)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1720 (National Agricultural Marketing Act/NAMA)</li> <li>• HB 4223 (Food Security Council)</li> <li>• HB 6923 (Strengthening Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation/PCIC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA11037 (Institutionalizing the National Feeding Program)</li> <li>• RA11223 (Universal Health Care Act/ UHCA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB7512 (Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement/BIDANI)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA101211 (Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act/DRRM)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB5240 (National Land Use Act/NLUA)</li> <li>• HB6923 (Strengthening Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation/PCIC)</li> </ul>	
Availability: Stock	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATT</li> <li>• RA 8435 (AFMA)</li> <li>• RA 11203 (Rice Tariffication)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1720 (NAMA)</li> <li>• HB 4223 (Food Security Council/ FSC)</li> <li>• HB 6923 (Strengthening PCIC)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 101211 (DRRM)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB5420 (NLUA)</li> <li>• HB 1720 (NAMA)</li> <li>• HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	
Availability: Net Trade	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATT</li> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> <li>• RA11203 (Rice Tariffication)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 172 (NAMA)</li> <li>• HB8350 (National Food Security Council/NFSC)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 101211 (DRRM)</li> </ul>	
Access: Economic	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATT</li> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> <li>• RA11203 (Rice Tariffication)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 172 (NAMA)</li> <li>• HB 4223 (FSC)</li> <li>• HB6923 (Strengthening PCIC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 9155 (Governance of Basic Education Act)</li> <li>• RA11223 (UHCA)</li> </ul>		
Access: Physical	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1720 (NAMA)</li> <li>• HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 101211 (DRRM)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB5420 (NLUA)</li> </ul>	
Utilization	<p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA11037 (Institutionalizing the National Feeding Program)</li> <li>• RA11223 (UHCA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>	
Stability	<p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB6923 (Strengthening PCIC)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA101211 (DRRM)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB5420 (NLUA)</li> <li>• HB6923 (Strengthening PCIC)</li> </ul>	



The policymakers must do a similar analysis in all the cells of the framework (i.e., the environmental factors selected for analysis vis-à-vis the different dimensions of food security). The policymakers may also skip cells which are not relevant to the issues they are trying to address.

The matrix (as well as the succeeding matrices) is also useful for local government units (LGUs). They can assess the impact of the current national laws on their specific jurisdictions. Without waiting for new national laws to be passed, repealed, or amended, they may be able to draft their own policies (i.e., local ordinances) or develop their own programs to address perceived gaps and needs. It should also be noted that the Local Government Code/LGC (RA 7160) has devolved "agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities" to LGUs. For example, with regards to Column 1 Row 1 in Matrix 1, LGUs can assess if the GATT and Rice Tariffication Law are sufficiently effective in promoting higher agricultural productivity (food availability) in their respective jurisdictions. If not, they can develop their own programs, for instance, to strengthen agricultural extension services to farmers.

The second policy intervention matrix (See page 7) – *Targeted Hunger & Nutrition Interventions vis-à-vis Food Security Dimensions*, was designed to help policymakers think about and develop focused policies/programs on food security.

The matrix plots the food security dimensions (availability, access, utilization, and stability) against sectors/population groups that are vulnerable to hunger or malnutrition. These sectors could be landless farmers, indigenous peoples, undernourished children, pregnant and lactating women, landless peasants, or any vulnerable group the policymakers are concerned about. There is a need to target these vulnerable groups clearly and specifically, since the type of interventions will vary across groups.

As an example, policymakers may wish to analyze food availability (production) vis-à-vis landless farmers (Column 1 Row 1). Asset reform is a key to increasing production because farmers will be more motivated to work when all the profits from the land accrue to them. Moreover, small, family farms rely on more intensive, integrated cultivation, resulting in higher production per hectare. The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) is a comprehensive law covering most key aspects of agriculture, including production. There are also various proposed measures in the House of Representatives. For instance, HB 1720 proposes the creation of an Agricultural Marketing Council which will, among other functions, "formulate policies, plans and programs on food production, post-harvest handling, storage, milling, distribution and credit support."

As in the previous matrix, policymakers need to decide whether the policies in place are sufficient to promote food availability for landless peasants.

With regard to peasants, the issue is complex because they are a sector that is both food-producing and vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. Thus, peasants must be able to provide for the nation's food needs, at the same time ensure their own food security. Policymakers must then assess whether current policies are already sufficient to ensure this, or if new policies are needed.

In this matrix, some cells may be more relevant than others, and it is up to the policymakers to choose which ones are useful for their analysis.

The third and last policy intervention matrix (See page 8) – *Broad-based Rural Development Interventions* – is designed to aid policymakers in thinking about and designing appropriate rural development policies.

The matrix plots the three rural development components (tenure reform, productivity enhancement, and off-farm activity) against key rural sectoral groups: landless farmers, small owner-cultivators, indigenous peoples, and other underprivileged groups which policymakers are concerned about.

For instance, with regards to tenure reform policies for landless peasants, RA 9700 is already in place. In terms of pending bills, the National Land Use Act (NLUA) could be seen as a measure that further enhances land tenure security because it seeks to protect the country's remaining prime agricultural lands.

Policymakers will have to assess whether the tenure of farmers is sufficiently protected under the status quo, or if additional measures are required. As in the previous matrices, this could mean amending existing laws, passing pending bills into law, or crafting and enacting new laws.

These three policy intervention matrices provide policymakers with frameworks to assess and develop policies for specific aspects of food security and rural development, or for specific vulnerable sectors.



Atty. Patrick Velez introduces FLAG-PH to the participants of the learning session.

Policy intervention matrix 2: Targeted hunger & nutrition interventions vis-à-vis food security dimensions						
	1. Landless Peasants	2. Small Owner-cultivators	3. Indigenous Peoples	4. Under-nourished Children	5. Pregnant & Lactating Women	6. Others
<b>1. Availability: Production</b>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA 9700 (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms/CARPER)</li> <li>RA 8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1720 (Agricultural Marketing Council/AMC)</li> <li>HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1720 (AMC)</li> <li>HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA8371 (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act/IPRA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 115 (Indigenous Community Conserved Areas/ICCA)</li> </ul>			
<b>2. Availability: Stock</b>						
<b>3. Availability: Net Trade</b>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GATT</li> <li>RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1720 (AMC)</li> <li>HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>				
<b>4. Access: Economic</b>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GATT</li> <li>RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1720 (AMC)</li> <li>HB 4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA8371 (IPRA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB115 (ICCA)</li> </ul>			
<b>5. Access: Physical</b>						
<b>6. Utilization</b>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA10611 (Food Safety Act/FSA)</li> <li>RA9275 (Clean Water Act/CWA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>			<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA11037 (Institutionalizing School Feeding/ISF)</li> <li>RA10611 (FSA)</li> <li>RA9275 (CWA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA10611 (FSA)</li> <li>RA9275 (CWA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 7512 (BIDANI)</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Stability</b>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA 101211 (DRMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 5240 (NLUA)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA 101211 (DRMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 5240 (NLUA)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA 101211 (DRMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 5240 (NLUA)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA 101211 (DRMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 5240 (NLUA)</li> </ul>	

Policy intervention matrix 3: Broad-based rural development interventions			
	1. Tenure Reform	2. Productivity Enhancement	3. Off-Farm Activity
1. Landless Peasants	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA9700 (CARPER)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB5240 (NLUA)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1720 (AMC)</li> <li>• HB4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1720 (AMC)</li> </ul>
2. Small-owners Cultivators		<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1720 (AMC)</li> <li>• HB4223 (FSC)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8435 (AFMA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1720 (AMC)</li> </ul>
3. Indigenous Peoples	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8371 (IPRA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB115 (ICCA)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Existing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA8371 (IPRA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Pending:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB115 (ICCA)</li> </ul>	
4. Other Sectors			

## Conclusions and ways forward

The food security through rural development framework, together with the three policy intervention matrices, corresponds directly to the gaps in the Philippine rural sector. The literature and statistics on Philippine agriculture consistently identify low productivity and gross value added as the main problem in sector. Data also points to unfinished land reform as a major stumbling block to productivity and social equity in rural areas. All of these factors result in food insecurity and hunger for rural populations, and high commodity prices for urban consumers as well. Finally, the lack of diversification and economic synergy in the rural areas (in part because of low productivity and skewed asset ownership patterns) contributes significantly to the poverty and underdevelopment within the sector. The framework and matrices thus focus on food security, productivity, asset reform, and off-farm economic activities. The framework illustrates the relationships between and among these factors, while the matrices invite policymakers to craft policies and programs to address each of these four factors.

The framework and matrices can be utilized by policymakers at national or local levels to assess current programs and policies with regards to food security and rural development and develop new policies or programs if deemed necessary. □

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FLAG-PH is being implemented in close collaboration with the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC).



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