Producing for the Shelf?
Why many policy documents and food security plans never see the light of day

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Linking Information and Decision-Making to Improve Food Security in Selected Countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region
LIGHT AND SHADOW IN FAO’s SUPPORT TO POLICY FORMULATION

is governance the missing ingredient?
CONTENTS

- The Starting Point: what is the problem?
- The Policy Cycle: where does policy formulation fit in?
- How FAO Supports Policy Formulation
- FAO Strengths and Weaknesses
- Policy Formulation: Light and Shadow
- What could FAO do better?
- Conclusion
1. We have the knowledge and the technology to produce more food and feed more people.
2. Despite concerted effort, the prevalence of undernutrition has remained stubbornly high.
3. Is good governance the missing ingredient?

Participation
Accountability
Non-discrimination
Transparency
Human dignity
Empowerment
Rule of Law
THE POLICY CYCLE

Policy Knowledge

Policy Analysis

Policy Formulation

Negotiation and Policy Adoption

Investment Analysis

Policy Implementation

Policy Evaluation
**POLICY FORMULATION: How does FAO deliver?**

**FAO’s STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

A. Sustainable intensification of *crop* production

B. Increased sustainable *livestock* production

C. Sustainable management and use of *fisheries and aquaculture* resources

D. Improved *quality and safety of foods* at all stages of the food chain

E. Sustainable management of *forests and trees*

F. Sustainable management of *land, water and genetic resources* and improved responses to global *environmental* challenges affecting food and agriculture

G. Enabling environment for *markets* to improve livelihoods and rural development

H. Improved *food security* and better *nutrition*

I. Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and *emergencies*

K. *Gender* equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in the rural areas

L. Increased and more effective public and private *investment* in agriculture and rural development
POLICY FORMULATION: How does FAO deliver?

FAO’s IMPACT FOCUS AREAS

1. UN Food Crisis Framework for Action: smallholder production, info & monitoring
2. EMPRES - Transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases
3. Forest management
4. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
5. Scarce land and water resources
6. Statistics
7. Global standards: development and implementation
POLICY FORMULATION: How does FAO deliver?

FAO POLICY SUPPORT

FAO’s Strategic Objective

Programmatic Set-Up

Institutional Set-Up

Tools and Means

Policy Knowledge
Policy Analysis
Policy Formulation

Policy Negotiation and Adoption

Policy Implementation

Investment Analysis
Policy Evaluation

Global Gov. Structures
HQ Technical Divisions

Working through regional bodies
Advocacy for global goods and governance

Working with partners
Information, analysis, intelligence

Direct policy advice to member countries
Capacity Strengthening

Inter-Governmental Agreements
Knowledge Exchange Networks

Regional and Sub-Regional Offices
Country Offices

FAO’s Impact Focus Areas

Knowledge Exchange Networks
POLICY FORMULATION: FAO Strengths

- A neutral broker
- Wide range of technical expertise
- Policy expertise
- Good presence at global, regional, country levels

POLICY FORMULATION: FAO Weaknesses

- Variable capacity at country level
- Heavy workloads of policy staff
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<th>Office of Evaluation</th>
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<td>Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Food and Agriculture Policy</td>
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Draft for Expert Panel
November 2011
1. Getting policies right, requires that we understand the food security context: information and analysis.

- Who are the food insecure?
- Where are the food insecure?
- Why are they food insecure?
- What type of food insecurity do they have?
- What topics should interventions focus on?
- What is the severity of the problem?
POLICY FORMULATION: Light or Shadow?

Food Security Contributing Factors

**Causal Factors**

**Vulnerability:** (Exposure, Susceptibility, Resilience)
Livelihood Strategies (*food and income sources, coping, & expenditures*)
Livelihood Assets (*human, financial, social, physical, & natural*)
Policies, Institutions, or Processes

&

**Acute or Chronic Events**
(*natural, socio-economic, conflict, disease and others*)

What are the **underlying causes** of food insecurity?

What are the **immediate causes**?
POLICY FORMULATION: Light or Shadow?

Food Security Contributing Factors

Causal Factors

Vulnerability: (Exposure, Susceptibility, Resilience)
Livelihood Strategies (food and income sources, coping, & expenditures)
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Acute or Chronic Events
(natural, socio-economic, conflict, disease and others)

Impact

Food Security Dimensions

Availability
Production
‘Wild’ Foods
Food Reserves
Markets
Transport

Access
Physical Access
Financial Access
Social Access

Utilization
Food Preferences
Food Preparation
Food Storage
Water Access

Stability

What are the limiting factors to food insecurity?
POLICY FORMULATION: Light or Shadow?

**Food Security Contributing Factors**

**Causal Factors**

- **Vulnerability:** (Exposure, Susceptibility, Resilience)
- Livelihood Strategies (food and income sources, coping, & expenditures)
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- **Acute or Chronic Events**
  (natural, socio-economic, conflict, disease and others)

**Food Security Dimensions**

- **Availability**
  Production
  'Wild' Foods
  Food Reserves
  Markets
  Transport

- **Access**
  Physical Access

- **Utilization**
  Food Preferences

**Impact**

What are the food security outcomes?

**Non food security-specific contributing factors:**
(Health, Disease, Water, Sanitation, Social Services, others...)

**Food Security Outcomes**

1st Outcomes

- Food Consumption
  Quality & Quantity
- Livelihood Change
  Assets & Strategies

Risk/Change
POLICY FORMULATION: Light or Shadow?

Food Security Contributing Factors

Causal Factors
- Vulnerability: (Exposure, Susceptibility, Resilience)
- Livelihood Strategies: (food and income sources, coping, & expenditures)
- Livelihood Assets: (human, financial, social, physical, & natural)
- Policies, Institutions, or Processes

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Acute or Chronic Events
(natural, socio-economic, conflict, disease and others)

Impact

Food Security Dimensions
- Availability: Production, ‘Wild’ Foods, Food Reserves, Markets, Transport
- Utilization: Food Preferences, Food Preparation, Food Storage, Water Access

Stability

Food Security Outcomes
- 2nd Outcomes: Nutrition, Mortality

Non food security-specific contributing factors: (Health, Disease, Water, Sanitation, Social Services, others...)

Risk/Change

Feedback
2. Whose policy is it? The case for ownership.

- Some countries have a sense that policy formulation is a national imperative.
- Other countries simply do not have the capacity to do it alone.
- National ownership versus sub-national ownership.
3. What is more important, the process or the product?

- Why is the process important?
- What is good process?
- Participation
- Capacity Building

- What is the “product”? Is it what is said in a document on a shelf, or is it what government does?
4. Dedicated food security policies, or mainstreaming?

- Do coordinating structures exist?
- Sectoral policies
- Cross-sectoral policies
- Food and nutrition policies
- Vested interests

Where these both exist, they may overlap or contradict
What could FAO do better?

- Better facilitation (versus doing it ourselves)
- Focus on the product or the process
- Strengthen capacity
- Mainstream food security into sectoral and national plans
Conclusion

Is good governance the missing ingredient?
REFERENCES


FAO (November 2011). DRAFT Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Food and Agriculture Policy, FAO, Rome.

Thank you!