



FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE)



Partnerships for Addressing Food Insecurity in Eastern Africa

7th Sub-regional Management Team Meeting

12-14 May 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CONCEPT NOTE

7th FAO SFE Sub-regional Management Team Meeting

“Theme: Partnerships for Addressing Food Insecurity in Eastern Africa”

12 to 14 May 2014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background

Despite great strides being made across Africa in terms of economic and social development, the Eastern Africa region remains with a high proportion of hungry and malnourished people. At the same time the region continues to have low agricultural productivity, low rural incomes and high rates of unemployment, particularly among the youth. As such, millions of people in Eastern Africa and particularly in the Horn of Africa region are still either at risk of, or are already experiencing food insecurity and malnutrition.

This sentiment was reiterated at the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders (HLM) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2013, under the theme “Towards African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme”. The meeting recognized that about 25 percent of the African population (approximately 245 million people) do not have enough food to meet their basic food and nutritional needs and between 30 to 40 percent of children under 5 years of age suffer from chronic under-nutrition. The participants of the HLM committed to work collectively to end hunger in Africa by 2025 in line with the process of sustaining the CAADP momentum for the next 10 years. This was followed by the African Union declaring 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa while the United Nations has declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

At the African Regional Conference held in Tunis, Tunisia in March 2014, the centrality of agriculture in Africa’s efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty were highlighted. The main discussions at the conference centered on how to carry forward commitments from the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders while at the same time promoting the role of youth in agriculture and rural development.

With all this in mind The FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE), an advisory and technical unit for the Eastern Africa sub-region comprising Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, is holding its Seventh Sub-regional Management Team Meeting with the theme **“Partnerships for Addressing Food Insecurity in Eastern Africa”**. The meeting will focus on how to strengthen FAO’s partnerships with the AU, RECs, other UN agencies and development partners in Eastern Africa in order to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger in Africa by 2025. The meeting will also focus on how to improve support to Eastern African countries to deliver the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). Ultimately, The FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) will seek to fine-tune the SFE Programme of Work for 2014-15 in the context of the new FAO strategic objectives and the Regional Initiatives (RIs) and based on feedback from partners and FAO Country Offices.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Exchange information on FAO partnerships with Governments, RECs and development partners in terms of key priorities, challenges and opportunities in the Eastern Africa sub-region;
- Identify opportunities to create synergies at the country and sub-regional levels;

- Review proposed SFE supported regional TCP projects and identify those with the most potential for success in 2014-2015;
- Review the regional initiatives and identify methods for working at sub regional level; and
- Prepare action plans that encompass the Country Programming Frameworks, the Regional Initiatives (RIs) and the Programme of Work for 2014-15.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Information on SFE work in partnership with Governments, RECs and development partners are exchanged substantiated by concrete examples ;
- Priorities for the Eastern African region for the coming year are elaborated;
- Key areas of work across the subregion are elaborated and discussed;
- SFE supported regional TCPs are identified; and
- Areas of partnership and collaboration to end hunger in Eastern Africa in line with the HLM outcomes are highlighted.

Meeting date and duration

The meeting will be held over a period of 3 days from the 12th – 14th of May 2014. The normal working hours for the conference will be from 9:00 to 17:00 each day. The conference meeting on the 12th will be open to FAO partners and provide a forum for sharing of information and work plans and eliciting of feedback. The afternoon session on the 14th of May will be reserved for the FAO Sub-regional Management Team meeting for FAO representatives in the region.

Meeting venue

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Organizers

The 7th FAO Sub-regional Management Team meeting is organized by the FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa.

Expected participants

All FAO Representatives and Assistant FAO Representatives for the eight countries falling under the Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) will be expected to participate and make brief presentations of their CPFs and the state of the CAADP process in their country in line with the new FAO Regional Initiatives for Africa. Selected technical officers from FAO headquarters and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) will be expected to participate and share information about their support to FAO work in the sub-region. Representatives of strategic partners, including the AU and RECs in Eastern Africa as well as development partners will be invited to participate in the first day of the conference.

Guidance for presentations by FAO Representatives

Presentations by FAO Representatives should highlight the following:

1. Programme of Work 2014-2015 under the CPFs and CAADP framework in line with the new FAO Regional Initiatives for Africa;
2. On-going initiatives and partnership which can be scaled-up to the sub-regional level;
3. Technical and financial support expected from the sub-regional office;
4. Key opportunities and challenges envisaged with implementation of country activities; and
5. Suggestions on how to overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

These presentations should be brief and focused on highlighting the key areas above to set the stage for discussion on both the first day and throughout the rest of the conference. For CPFs that are not approved or pending approval, the presenters can also present on current updates in the finalization process.

Reporting

Rapporteurs will be selected for each session that will be responsible for writing up the session reports by the end of each day. The overall meeting report will be compiled by SFE, with the draft circulated internally by 14th June 2014.