

Policy Seminars

High Food Prices



Justification

- Food price crisis
- Experience of the 2008 crisis
(reactions taken in haste/ panic, has contributed to exacerbate the crisis
FAO' mandate to react and support the decision making of country members
- *Guide for Policy and Programmatic Actions at Country Level to Address High Food Prices*

Objectives

- Share country experiences and raise awareness of the various policy options and programmatic actions and their implications to facilitate appropriate policy and programmatic decisions at the country level
- Assist governments of member countries in designing their immediate actions and
- Identify the way forward to design, implement appropriate policy and programmatic actions

- **Upcoming Seminar Dates and Locations**

- **Asia**

Asia region: **9 -10 March 2011**, Bangkok, Thailand

Pacific Islands subregion: **14-15 April 2011**, Nadi, Fiji

Africa

Eastern Africa subregion: **16-18 March 2011**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Central Africa subregion: **30-31 May 2011**, Libreville, Gabon

West Africa subregion: **20-21 June 2011**, Abuja, Nigeria

Southern Africa subregion: **6-8 June 2011**, Lilongwe, Malawi

Europe and Central Asia

Europe and Central Asia region: **20-22 June 2011**, Istanbul, Turkey

Latin America and the Caribbean

Central America subregion: **15-16 June 2011**, San Salvador, El Salvador

South America subregion: **7-8 June 2011**, Santiago, Chile

Caribbean subregion: dates/location to be confirmed

North Africa and the Middle East

North Africa subregion: **2-4 May 2011**, Tunis, Tunisia

Oriental Near East and Gulf Countries: **9-10 May 2011**, Amman, Jordan

overview

- Inputs
 - Donors community supported the seminars (United States, the Netherlands and Sweden through the FMM, Switzerland);
 - Regional offices (Organisation of Regional, preparation of background materials and delivery); and
 - FAO HQ (overall coordination and monitoring, preparation of background materials and support to delivery of each seminar).

Key outcomes: Bangkok

- Within the region rice prices have remained more or less stable in exporting countries and have risen in some importing countries;
- Avoiding excessive volatility in food prices requires long- and medium-term investments as well as short-term measures to preserve access to food by vulnerable populations.

Key outcome (continued)

- Climate change has emerged as a major threat to food security: urgent mitigation and adaptation measures required
- Need for balanced use of land and water for producing food and bio-energy crops through formulation and implementation of appropriate policies, without compromising food security.

key outcome (continued)

- Information collection and sharing
- electronic e-forum for policy makers
- follow-up at national level with similar seminars
- bi-annual regional seminars

Nadi (Fiji) outcomes

- There is a need to increase the productivity, production and consumption of local nutritious food to promote food security and reduce the impacts of high imported food prices.
- lack of access to basic services, lack of economic opportunities, lack of resources to meet the basic household needs

Outcome (continued)

- A better understanding is needed on the contribution of the subsistence sector to food security and Pacific island economies, to help guide improved policy responses and programmes for action.
- Make farming attractive to young people, investments, regional/intra-island trade
- Innovative technologies (hydroponics e.g.)

Out come (continued)

- collection and sharing of reliable food price and market information needs to be improved
- Regional and sub-regional consultations and seminars should be organized periodically to share information and experiences, including innovative ideas and good practices.

Way forward

- Way forward
 - Overall results of the seminars will be used as an important input to the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) next October;
- Follow up and next steps
 - Seminars at national level;
 - Creation of regional online fora to discuss the outcomes of the seminars but also have an ongoing discussion on country situation regarding food prices;
 - Long term projects for sustainable food security and agriculture development.

Thank you.

