

Road map for follow-up

Process, outputs and initial follow-up of the phase I of the CAADP Nutrition Initiative (2011-2013)

Phase I of the CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative: background, process and main outputs

In spite of CAADP's potential to address food and nutrition security, a technical review conducted by NEPAD with support of USAID in 2011 revealed that most National Agriculture Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) lacked explicit nutrition objectives and concrete actions to improve nutrition. In order to fill this gap, the African Union and NEPAD, in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and its development partners (donors, UN organizations, NGOs, academia and private sector), launched the CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative.

The overall purpose of the initiative is to enhance the contribution of the agricultural sector to multi-sectorial strategies to improve nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. The specific goal is to assist countries in integrating nutrition in their CAADP process – from design to implementation – and ensuring that nutrition interventions are planned, budgeted and implemented as a part of their NAFSIPs.

For the phase I of the initiative, the implementation modality used was the organization of three regional workshops for West Africa (Dakar, Nov 2011, 180 participants from 17 countries), East and Central Africa (Dar-El-Salaam, Feb 2013, 200 participants from 19 countries) and Southern Africa (Gaborone, Sept 2013, 200 participants from 14 countries). These workshops brought together country teams composed of 6 to 10 professionals from agriculture, health, education, planning, finance, coordination mechanisms (e.g. SUN focal points and REACH facilitators), civil society and private sector to develop roadmaps for mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture and food security policies and programmes, with a focus on CAADP Compacts and Investment Plans. The initiative was supported by an active steering committee led by NEPAD and supported by FAO, USAID, which included Regional Economic Communities, UN organizations (FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, REACH), SUN Secretariat movement, NGOs (e.g. HKI, Save the Children), academic institutions and donors (Bill and Melinda Gates, EU, WB..).

The main outputs of the preparation process and workshop are¹:

- ✚ **Nutrition Country Papers** synthesizing the nutrition situation and analysis of major policies and programmes relevant to food security and nutrition
- ✚ **Draft country “roadmaps”** presenting recommendations for mainstreaming nutrition in NAFSIPs in terms of content and process.

Box 1: Key elements of “Mainstreaming Nutrition”

When looking at integrating ‘nutrition’ in their CAADP Programmes, countries paid close attention to their nutrition situation analysis and considered various measures which could improve impact of agriculture on nutrition. Elements taken into account included **changing consumer behaviour, promoting nutrition sensitive value chains and food safety aspects** including aflatoxin, **diversifying local production and livelihoods**, linking agriculture to **social protection** measures, integrating **urban issues**, among others. In Southern Africa, special attention was given to **HIV and AIDS** considering the high prevalence and the impact that it has on household food and nutrition security in the Southern Africa region.

¹ Available on <http://www.fao.org/food/fns/workshops/caadp-nutrition/en/>

So far, 16 West African Countries, 16 East and Central Africa Countries and 14 Southern Africa countries have developed their nutrition roadmap and finalized it during or immediately after the workshop. Recent surveys show that:

- For West Africa : **12** out of 17 Countries are in the process of implementing their roadmap namely : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap Verde, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo
- For East and Central Africa : **15** out of 18 countries are in the process of implementing their roadmap namely : Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Congo DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
- For Southern Africa : **10** out of 14 countries are in the process of implementing their roadmap namely Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Follow-up so far: achievements, challenges and emerging needs

For the three workshops, the steering committee and organizing team have conducted immediate follow-up activities, which included:

- Collecting, reviewing roadmaps and conducting follow-up surveys (still on-going, done on a regular basis) **NEPAD/FAO**
- Ensuring responsibilities lying with the country teams are appropriately identified, with support from SUN focal points, REACH facilitators and FAO Nutrition focal points **CAADP Focal points, Support persons (e.g. FAO Nutrition focal points), Country teams and existing coordination mechanisms**
- Gathering feedback in terms of needs for technical assistance, emerging opportunities and major constraints (see **Box 2**) **NEPAD/FAO**
- Developing strategies and projects to help support follow-up in a more systematic and sustainable manner at regional, sub-regional and country level (e.g. Regional Hunger Free Initiative with ECOWAS in West Africa). **Steering Committee**
- Advocating and communicating on the initiative: sharing documentation on the process, workshop materials, reports, and country outputs. **NEPAD/FAO**
- Informing the Steering Committee on a regular basis. **NEPAD/FAO**

Box 2: Highlights from country level needs

- **Continued advocacy and guidance on policy and programming** on the role of Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, including more technical assistance and detailed guidance on how to mainstream nutrition in food and agriculture policies and programmes at national and decentralized levels.
- Assistance for setting up mechanisms for **costing** and ensuring sectors related to agriculture and food systems mobilize and allocate resources (both human and financial)**for nutrition.**
- Support to strengthening **information systems on the food security and nutrition situation, M&E and impact assessment:** integration of nutrition indicators (related to anthropometric measurements, food consumption indicators, food safety...in food security information systems and to better link food security and nutrition and health information systems (HIV/tuberculosis impact on food security and nutrition for example).
- Further develop **Nutrition education and nutrition in extension systems:** greater emphasis on nutrition education, and integrating nutrition as part of agriculture extension, are some of the most commonly identified recommendations by countries, but they need assistance for putting this in practice.
- Develop and share results on **research on agriculture-nutrition linkages**, including research on the identification of nutritious crops and food composition, and operational research on nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, and impacts achieved.
- Set-up **efficient country level coordination mechanisms** between sectors involved (agriculture, education, health, social protection, etc.)

Rationale for a next phase

While the steering committee and technical team that has supported the implementation of this initiative is committed to continuing ensuring quality follow-up to these workshops and to staying engaged with country teams, the experience of NEPAD and its partners to date shows that post-workshop follow-up requires a significant investment in time and resources.

Specificities of the follow-up at country level: Follow-up at country level depends very much on the national context and opportunities / challenges in each country, which are often complex, changing and beyond the control of the partners who have supported the process. Given this changing environment and the fact that CAADP is also a living process, with its own challenges (e.g. high turn-over of CAADP focal points), it is recognized that significant resources are required to ensure proper follow-up on agriculture-nutrition at country level.

On the importance of the continental and sub-regional level role: Most of the needs are to be addressed at country level, and for that the continental and sub-regional level can play a key role in maximizing regional level learning and leveraging of resources. Several opportunities for providing technical assistance on mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture and food security policies and programmes are arising and other capacity development initiatives associated with CAADP are ongoing, as well as capacity-development nutrition initiative in the health sector. A mechanism is required to ensure that these various resources are well coordinated, so as to efficiently and effectively respond to countries' needs for technical assistance on food and nutrition security related issues. Regional organizations, including NEPAD and Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, COMESA, IGAD, ECSA, etc.) will play a key role in promoting and financing actions on Agriculture / Food security and nutrition linkages at regional and national levels, but it is important their capacities also be strengthened to play this role effectively.

Objective and set of actions at continental, regional and country level of the phase II of the CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative

The second phase of the initiative will contribute to:

Overall objective: Support countries in integrating nutrition in their CAADP process, from design to implementation, and ensuring that nutrition interventions are planned, budgeted and implemented as a part of their NAFSIPs.

Expected results:

1. CAADP/NEPAD and the RECs are supported to improve the regional governance of nutrition in agriculture and maximize regional level learning and leveraging of resources
2. Support to countries is provided to refine and implement their roadmap for "Mainstreaming Nutrition in CAADP" and monitor/evaluate progresses, and more progressively incorporate in broader way nutrition in the designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policies, investment plans and programmes

A set of outputs /actions would be implemented at different levels and include:

At Continental and sub-regional level

I. Advocate for and improve the regional governance of nutrition in agriculture

- Advocate on linkages between nutrition and agriculture in key regional and country meetings on nutrition and food security (in particular : AU official meetings, CAADP Partnership Platforms, country teams and Donor Working Group, SUN country calls and meetings, Regional Food and Nutrition Security Working Groups, Federation of African Nutrition Societies' (FANUS) Nutrition Congress 2015, ARISE, etc.).
- Strengthen linkages between the CAADP Nutrition Initiative and other regional / country initiatives or policy process, in close partnership with AU/DREA as well as AU/Social Affairs – Health, the RECs, UN agencies
- Strengthen the capacities of the RECs for improving nutrition governance and resource mobilisation
- Support the organization of Nutrition forums across the continent
- Keep the CAADP focal points regularly engaged with the task force (organization of regular calls)
- Ensure nutritionist are part of Country CAADP teams and strengthen capacities of these teams
- Communicate on the initiative (website, videos, use of media...)

Key achievements 2014:

- **Members of the task force participate in the 10th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in Durban in March 2014 and supported/informed the workstream on Food Security and Nutrition.** Outcomes of this workstream fed the Malabo Declaration (26-27 June 2014)²
- **The task force facilitated the organization of SUN country calls³** on the contribution of Agriculture, Food Systems and Social protection to Nutrition in which CAADP focal points were intensively engaged. To prepare for these calls, a survey and preparatory calls with CAADP focal points were organized to identify key achievements in terms of linking agriculture and nutrition, interaction with nutrition stakeholders and engagement in the SUN Movement.
- **The African Food Security and Nutrition Day was organized in Kinshasa / Congo DRC** focusing on «Une action accélérée pour une Afrique libérée de la faim ». The 2014 ADFNS theme **'Accelerated Action for a Hunger Free' Africa'** called for 'business unusual' in our efforts to end hunger. It was preceded by a symposium on Sustainable Indigenous African Diets for Food and Nutrition Security, jointly organized by the African Union Commission, NEPAD, FAO and the EU. This forum provided time ahead of the ADFNS official commemoration for Food and nutrition experts from across the Continent to discuss the importance of sustainable diets for Africa's nutrition security and aimed to devise a harmonized approach to take stock and assess all African diets, including their potential contribution to nutrition security. The event also aimed to raise awareness amongst policy makers about the importance of traditional diets.
- **NEPAD's efforts for mainstreaming nutrition in CAADP investment plans were presented in a plenary session at the Committee on World Food Security, 41th session⁴**, where member states converged on the need to mobilize national resource to pursue these efforts and recognized the importance of such an initiative.
- **Meetings of the task force were regularly facilitated and reports were produced (4 meetings).**

² <http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Assembly%20AU%20Dec%20517%20-%20545%20%28XXIII%29%20 E 1.pdf>

³ <http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/EN-140730-June-2014-meeting-of-SUN-Mvt-Country-Focal-Points-Network-Report-EN.pdf>

⁴ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/CFS41/CFS41_Report_for_Adoption.pdf

- **Communication:** A **short video**⁵ on the initiative was disseminated in several forums, and a **review paper** on the initiative published in UNSCN⁶. The CAADP Nutrition Website⁷ is being updated and will be integrated as part of the new NEPAD/CAADP website.

II. Support M&E at regional and country level

- Establish a shared database capturing country recommendations, needs and opportunities
- Support monitoring of progress on the roadmaps and their implementation
- Develop and conduct an evaluation process to be followed regularly to assess the impact of this initiative and the effective mainstreaming of nutrition
- Provide feedback and align with the CAADP Result Framework

Key achievements 2014:

- **A draft database** (excel) to monitor country recommendations, needs, opportunities and progress in implementing the roadmaps has been established and updated but still need to be finalized and shared with all stakeholders on a regular basis(website).
- **A review** of (i) the integration of nutrition in revised CAADP Investment Plans and (ii) most critical country capacity development needs is on-going (to be finalized in 2015).
- The task force has contributed to the **design and review of the CAADP Result Framework 2015-2015, bringing a food security and nutrition lens**, and participated in the expert meeting in october 2014 to advice on key indicators to be tracked for better understanding the contribution of food and agriculture systems to nutrition, based on a review of indicators which has been recommended by country teams during the CAADP Nutrition workshops.
- During a consultation workshop on the establishment of a FSN Knowledge and information platform with SADC countries, M&E for nutrition was identified again as one of the priority area where countries need technical assistance and support to capacity development. It was agreed that a **Community of Practice would be established on M&E** (to be articulated with the SUN CoP 3 <http://scalingupnutrition.org/about/strengthening-capacity-to-deliver>).

III. Maximize regional level learning and inform the research

- Interact with country teams to identify areas requiring technical assistance, development of capacities with a particular attention to distinguishing areas which can be addressed through sub-regional trainings/workshops and those requiring in-country support;
- Identify existing sources of training or technical assistance and potential linkages which can be harnessed to meet country needs and inform countries
- Stimulate research on agriculture-nutrition linkages in the region (starting by conducting an in depth analysis of CAADP Investment Plans, Nutrition Country Papers and Country Road maps, to determine alignment among the nutrition problems identified, the programmes in place or planned, the indicators described/suggested and finally to analyze the extent to which the given recommendations are reflected in NAFSIPs).
- Document and share knowledge on good practices and useful materials (e.g. policy briefs, country compendium)

Key achievements 2014:

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNSjN9rtoPE>

⁶ Page 61 http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/SCN_News/SCNNEWS40_final_standard_res.pdf

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/food/fns/workshops/caadp-nutrition/en/>

- Regular calls of the task force, SUN country calls and participation in key forums were an opportunity to share knowledge among key stakeholders of the initiative (see I.)
- A **consultation workshop on the establishment of a NEPAD/SADC Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Knowledge-Sharing and Monitoring Platform** was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from December 3rd to 4th 2014, to consult country representatives and key resources partners on establishing this platform in support of CAADP implementation, with SADC as a pilot region. Stakeholders agreed on the need to establish this regional mechanism/platform which would add value to country investments and enhance on-going knowledge and information management efforts in support of evidence-based decision making. The mechanism/platform would enhance, among others: sharing of information and knowledge, development of concept and methodology and peer learning across countries as well as advocacy for investments in nutrition. Identified key modalities are : the development of a web-portal (which will include regional and country profiles, good practices, training / curricula offers) and the set-up of a pool of experts and communities of practice around key challenges and emerging issues (including advocacy, M&E, etc.).

IV. Leverage resources for agriculture-nutrition capacity development and optimize the use of financial and technical resources based on country needs

- Coordinate existing resources to avoid duplication and ensure adequate distribution
- Mobilize additional resources

Key achievements 2014:

- FAO with the support of the European Union through the *Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme (2012-2015)*⁸ continued supporting NEPAD for the follow-up of this initiative, including the consultation and the pilot phase (2015) of the NEPAD FSN Knowledge and Information Platform.
- Germany and FAO are funding two project at regional (West Africa) and continental level which will aim at developing capacities of RECs and at country level for the implementation of the roadmaps :
 - ECOWAS/FAO Hunger Free Initiative (2013-2016) (*Output 3: Nutrition is firmly integrated into national and regional agriculture investment policies, plans and budgets*)
 - Mainstreaming Nutrition in CAADP and Agriculture Policies and Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa – Phase II (Oct 2014- Sept 2017)
- SUN / REACH have been critical in supporting linkages between this initiative and Nutrition platforms at Global and Country level.
- The follow-up of this initiative is mentioned as one of the activity of the EU Nutrition Action Plan.

At country level

At country level, the focus is on supporting the implementation of action plans / application of recommendations for mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture and food security investment plans. Activities will be implemented in a *coordinated manner* in particular with nutrition networks and other CAADP-related capacity-development efforts. Activities could include:

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/europeanunion/eu-projects/global-governance/en/>

- I. **Provide direct technical assistance or mobilize the relevant experts to do so to support government and their partners on implementing their roadmaps as required and possible** (through direct support for elaboration of technical assistance projects, backstopping missions, country-level workshops, workgroup sessions and meetings)

Priority areas include:

- ✚ Continued advocacy and guidance on policy and programming
- ✚ Costing / Budgeting
- ✚ Strengthen Information systems, Monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment for Nutrition
- ✚ Nutrition education and nutrition in extension systems
- ✚ Setting-up efficient country level coordination mechanisms

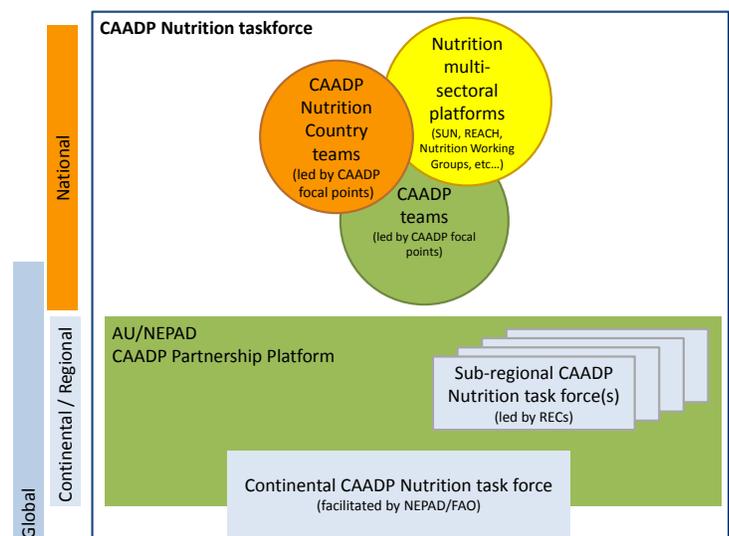
- II. **Develop capacities for mobilizing resources and harness opportunities to provide the technical assistance required at country level**

Support at country level from the CAADP Nutrition task force was limited due to lack of resources available (e.g. support mission in Comoros, Uganda, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi). At the same time, members of the task force have used their own resources and mechanisms to support progress at country level (UN agencies, SUN, REACH, NGOs, etc) and significant achievements at country level have been made as reported in the SUN progress reports or through monitoring exercises. A consolidated reporting matrix identifying progress country by country is being finalized.

Principles and mechanisms for implementation

The task force is organized in different groups:

1. **A network called CAADP Nutrition task force** will be kept regularly informed (composed of a variety of members, building on the Steering Committee initiated in 2011. Linkages with the Ag2Nut Community of Practice and other relevant community of practice will be explored).
2. **A Core group facilitated by NEPAD and FAO** will ensure overall supervision and coordination of the process. The continental group will be composed of representatives of: NEPAD, AU, RECs, SUN Secretariat, SUN UN Network/ REACH Secretariat, Academia⁹, HarvestPlus, Farmer organizations, Country, EU, USAID, Private Sector.
3. **Sub-regional task forces will be established, led by the RECs with support from NEPAD, FAO and other UN agencies.** These will be embedded and will strengthen existing coordination mechanisms at sub-regional level (e.g. West Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, South Africa FSN Working Group, etc...).



⁹ Academic institutions will play a very important role in the implementation of the process, as a source of expertise in evidence-based research and training opportunities. As part of their research activities academic institutions could be a valuable resource for monitoring processes such as in the form of operational research to direct implementation processes towards desired outcomes. Furthermore, their engagement with country activities could help update university curricula to meet professional needs on the ground.