



Building Capacity to Mainstream Nutrition in National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans in Africa

CAADP Agriculture Nutrition Capacity Development Workshops

East, Central and Southern Africa

Undernutrition affects nearly 200 million children and one in three women worldwide. In Africa, the number of underweight children has almost doubled since 1980 and is forecast to be 25% higher in 2015 than in 1990. Many countries on track to meet MDG1 income poverty targets have made little or no progress in reducing underweight prevalence. However, improving nutrition is achievable and evidence-based interventions exist. Successful country-led program models that address the underlying determinants of undernutrition (poverty, agriculture, policy environment, health care, and gender equity) have been designed and implemented. Importantly, achieving significant reductions in malnutrition requires a more prominent role for nutrition in the policy making processes, which then must translate into effective policies and programs that address challenges at the household, community, and national level. This requires a multi-sectoral effort in which each sector takes action to 1) mainstream nutrition within current programmes and 2) improve collaboration efforts between sectors and institutions.

The momentum for scaling-up nutrition multi-stakeholder action is growing as demonstrated by the increasing number of countries and partners joining the *Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement*¹. The recognized roles and responsibilities of the agriculture sector in addressing nutrition are also increasing and were recently highlighted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) during an international conference on *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health* (February 2011).

In Africa, efforts to strengthen the contribution of the agriculture sector in reducing poverty are laid out in the CAADP Framework for African Food Security, which sets out a plan of action for achieving MDG1 in Africa through agriculture led growth. CAADP is therefore an opportunity for agriculture to engage in the “nutrition momentum” and join forces with other sectors in the fight against malnutrition. While many CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) include nutritional goals, most are lacking the concrete actions needed to facilitate nutrition security through improved agricultural practices. NEPAD has therefore launched an initiative to strengthen capacity for addressing nutrition through the formulation and implementation of NAFSIPs. Regional workshops are at the heart of this strategy, bringing together country teams composed of professionals from agriculture, health, finance, private sector, and civil society, to develop roadmaps for maximizing the nutritional impact of agriculture investment plans. The first of these workshops, which was held in Dakar, Senegal (Nov 2011), brought together 180 participants from 17 West African Countries, as well as development partners working at regional and global levels. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to increase their understanding of agriculture’s role in improving nutrition, intensify dialogue and mutual

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understanding of each sectors' role in improving nutrition, and to agree on practical steps for nutrition actions on the ground. The workshop increased country-level momentum and heightened the profile of agriculture as a key partner in nutrition.

Overall goal

The overall goal of the Nutrition Workshops and follow-up process is to ensure nutrition interventions are planned, budgeted and implemented as part of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans. The workshops are also part of a wider capacity-development process designed to assist countries in enhancing the nutritional impact of national agriculture and food security investment plans. Countries will build on, and draw upon, existing capacity-development initiatives at country and regional levels. These efforts will contribute to CAADP capacity development initiatives on the technical and program design, management, and monitoring and evaluation of CAADP Pillar 3 programs.

Workshop specific objectives

- 1) Identify and integrate best practices and approaches for improving nutrition within the CAADP framework and its processes (formulation of country agriculture investment plans, CAADP compact, country investment plans, resource mobilization and programming cycle)
- 2) Increase understanding of available tools, technical resources, and program experiences for mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture
- 3) Strengthen country-level and regional networks of development professionals and experts contributing to the achievement of CAADP and food and nutrition security goals
- 4) Increase understanding of how policy and governance/institutional/management issues need to align for improved food and nutrition security programming, particularly with regard to multi-sectoral coordination

These workshops will focus on strengthening the contribution of the food and agriculture sector to the scaling-up of multi-sectoral action for improved nutrition. The workshops will cover the following themes: **situation analysis, design and strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, coordination, capacity development, and costing/funding issues**. Particular attention will be given to **coordination**, as nutrition is multi-sectoral by nature and coordinating actions to improve nutrition well-being has been particularly challenging during the CAADP process. **HIV/Aids will be considered as a cross-cutting issue**, as HIV/Aids and Nutrition are intimately linked. HIV/AIDS affects household food security and Nutrition through multiple routes. Poor nutrition can damage the immune system, and contribute to the progression and acceleration from HIV to AIDS. HIV/AIDS leads to malnutrition. Therefore optimal nutrition and care for People Living with AIDS (PLWA is extremely important, and includes the consideration of a well-balanced diet as well as nutrition education)

Workshop Outputs

The expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- **Background briefs / Nutrition Country Papers** summarizing information on the nutritional status of each country (drawing from/feeding the nutrition country papers being prepared by countries for the International Conference on Nutrition twenty one years later (ICN+21))
- **Country Roadmaps** based on a *guidance check-list*, defining how nutrition should be mainstreamed in agriculture investment plans (IP) and describing the actions to be taken to ensure recommendations are actually integrated in the plans and implemented. These Country Roadmaps

will be subject to further in-country consultation after the workshop and be used as a reference for follow up at both country and regional levels (AU/NEPAD and RECs).

It is expected that **country teams will come prepared** having reviewed their CAADP Compacts and IP's and any national food security and nutrition strategies they may have with regards to nutrition. Country teams will work through a pre-workshop assignment to be captured into background briefs that compiles information on the status of nutrition in country investment plans, national food security and nutrition policies, nutrition architecture in country, and perceived capacity gaps for nutrition and action needed to strengthen the food security and nutrition elements of IPs. Furthermore, the steering committee is committed to **ensuring that the recommendations made during the workshop are acted upon**. Efforts will be made to help countries mobilise the additional technical and financial resources needed to implement their country roadmap (e.g. for regional trainings; e-learning courses; country level technical assistance projects; national workshops). Particular emphasis will be given to coordinating available technical assistance and resources to optimise their effectiveness. Results from this initiative will contribute to the debate on nutrition-sensitive agriculture (see also ICN+21).

Proposed Participants

The proposed targeted audience will consist of individuals from the agricultural and other nutrition-related sectors (e.g. health, education, but also finance), representing government, civil society, private sector, and development partners. Each country shall be represented by **6-8 participants**, including:

- CAADP Country Focal Point
- Ministry of Agriculture planning department and/or ICN+21 Focal Point
- Ministry of Health representative responsible for nutrition and/or ICN+21 Focal Point
- Ministry of Education representative
- National Planning Commission Senior Representative
- Ministry of Finance Senior Representative (responsible for agriculture, food and nutrition security)
- Representative of multi-sectoral coordination committee on food and nutrition security (if any)
- Civil Society representative(s)
- Private sector representative(s) (including farmer organisations)

Participants will be **identified through consultations with appropriate local stakeholders at country level**. In addition to country representatives, the workshop will be attended by professionals from the Regional Economic Communities (e.g. COMESA, ECSA, SADC and EAC), development partners, UN agencies, NGOS and academia working at regional and global levels.

Workshop organization

The workshop preparation process is led by a **steering committee** which is charged with coordinating all aspects of the workshop preparation, namely: strategic planning; advocacy, communication and fund-raising; definition of the technical content; invitations and logistics. The Steering Committee is chaired by the NPCA and composed of representatives of Regional Economic Communities, donor organisations (participating in the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund), UN organisations, NGOs and universities.

Proposed Dates and Locations

- 🚩 East and Central Africa CAADP Nutrition Workshop – February 25-March 1, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
- 🚩 Southern Africa CAADP Nutrition Workshop – Spring 2013

List of countries, East and Central Africa Workshop

Country	COMESA	ECSA	EAC	SADC	IGAD	ECCAS	CAADP Milestones	SUN ²	REACH ³
1. Burundi	✓		✓				Business Meeting held	✓	
2. Cameroon							Drafting Compact		
3. Central African Republic						✓	IP design ongoing		
4. Congo DRC	✓			✓			IP design ongoing		
5. Congo Rep						✓	Drafting Compact		
6. Djibouti	✓				✓		IP design ongoing		
7. Equatorial Guinea						✓	Technical review done		
8. Eritrea	✓				✓		Process to be launched		
9. Ethiopia	✓				✓		GAFSP Received	✓	✓
10. Gabon						✓	Drafting Compact		
11. Kenya	✓	✓	✓		✓		Business meeting held	✓	
12. Rwanda	✓		✓				GAFSP Received	✓	✓
13. Sudan	✓				✓		Drafting Compact		
14. Somalia					✓				
15. South Sudan					✓		Drafting Compact		
16. Tanzania		✓	✓	✓			Business meeting held	✓	✓
17. Uganda	✓	✓	✓		✓		Business meeting held	✓	✓

São Tomé and Príncipe will be invited as an observer country to the East & Central Africa Workshop

List of countries, Southern Africa Workshop

Country	COMESA	ECSA	EAC	SADC	IGAD	ECCAS	CAADP Milestones	SUN	REACH
1. Angola				✓			Process to be launched		
2. Botswana		✓		✓			Process to be launched		
3. Comoros	✓					✓	Drafting Compact	✓	
4. Madagascar	✓			✓			Process to be launched	✓	
5. Malawi	✓	✓		✓			GAFSP Received	✓	
6. Mauritius	✓	✓		✓			Process to be launched		
7. Mozambique				✓			IP design ongoing	✓	✓
8. Namibia				✓			Process to be launched	✓	
9. Lesotho		✓		✓			Drafting Compact		
10. Seychelles	✓	✓		✓			IP design ongoing		
11. South Africa				✓			Drafting Compact		
12. Swaziland	✓	✓		✓			IP design ongoing		
13. Zimbabwe	✓	✓		✓			Drafting Compact	✓	
14. Zambia	✓	✓		✓			IP design ongoing	✓	

Countries covered during West Africa Workshop (Dakar, Nov 2011) : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo
Remaining countries : Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

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³The Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH) Initiative promotes a holistic approach to tackling undernutrition in the context of MDG1, with a view to helping governments plan, prioritise and manage inter-sectoral nutrition activities among multiple stakeholders.