



Integrating agriculture-nutrition: guidance points for group work



African Union



NEPAD Planning and
Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

CAADP

Reminder: What kind of problem are we dealing with?



Simple



Complicated



Complex



The Real World

Making agriculture work for nutrition

- ❑ **First, do no harm!**
- ❑ Put nutrition as an outcome *and measure it*
- ❑ Understand local causes of malnutrition by “*livelihoods group*”
- ❑ Identify and target the most vulnerable
- ❑ Promote production and access to *diverse and safe* foods (livelihoods diversification)
- ❑ While protecting the environment (**sustainable diets**)
- ❑ Provide nutrition education
- ❑ Gender-sensitive approach (supporting women, engaging men...)
- ❑ Promote urban-rural linkages
- ❑ *Work with others*

Examples of nutrition objectives and indicators

Example of a potential “objectives” framework

■ Goal – *multisectoral*

- Reducing stunting (and acute malnutrition) → height-for-age
- Improving nutrition (address all forms of malnutrition) → multiple indicators (H/A, W/H, overweight and chronic disease...)

■ Main Objective / outcome:

- Improving diets: diverse, nutritious & *safe* → consumption indicators (e.g. diet diversity score, number of meals/day) and food safety indic.

■ Specific objectives:

- Increasing consumer awareness on nutrition → knowledge
- Increasing production → yields
- Diversification (production and accessibility) → variety of products
- Reduced post-harvest losses

Examples of interventions

- Nutrition education / marketing (complementary feeding, school-age children, adolescents, pregnant / lactating women)
- Diversification (input supply, extension, processing, storage, marketing):
 - Horticulture
 - Livestock
 - Fisheries
 - Forest productsIncluding in urban and peri-urban areas!
- Biofortification and fortification
- Social protection for production and consumption: building assets to diversify, as per the needs of different groups (e.g. the case of Ethiopia)
 - Food subsidies (caution with diversity!)
 - Free agricultural inputs
- Food regulations
- Capacity development (institutional and individual)

Using a nutrition lens to identify interventions

- Need to understand the CAUSES of malnutrition and food insecurity at local level
- Use analysis of food consumption needs and trends as an entry point for agriculture situation analysis
- Analyse trends and disparities by region / livelihoods group
- Understand vulnerability:
 - Physiological vulnerability (age and sex)
 - Socio-economic vulnerability
- Choose interventions that are adapted to agro-ecosystems and livelihoods of vulnerable groups
- Gender-sensitivity
- Prevent / mitigate potential negative impact (care, consumption...)

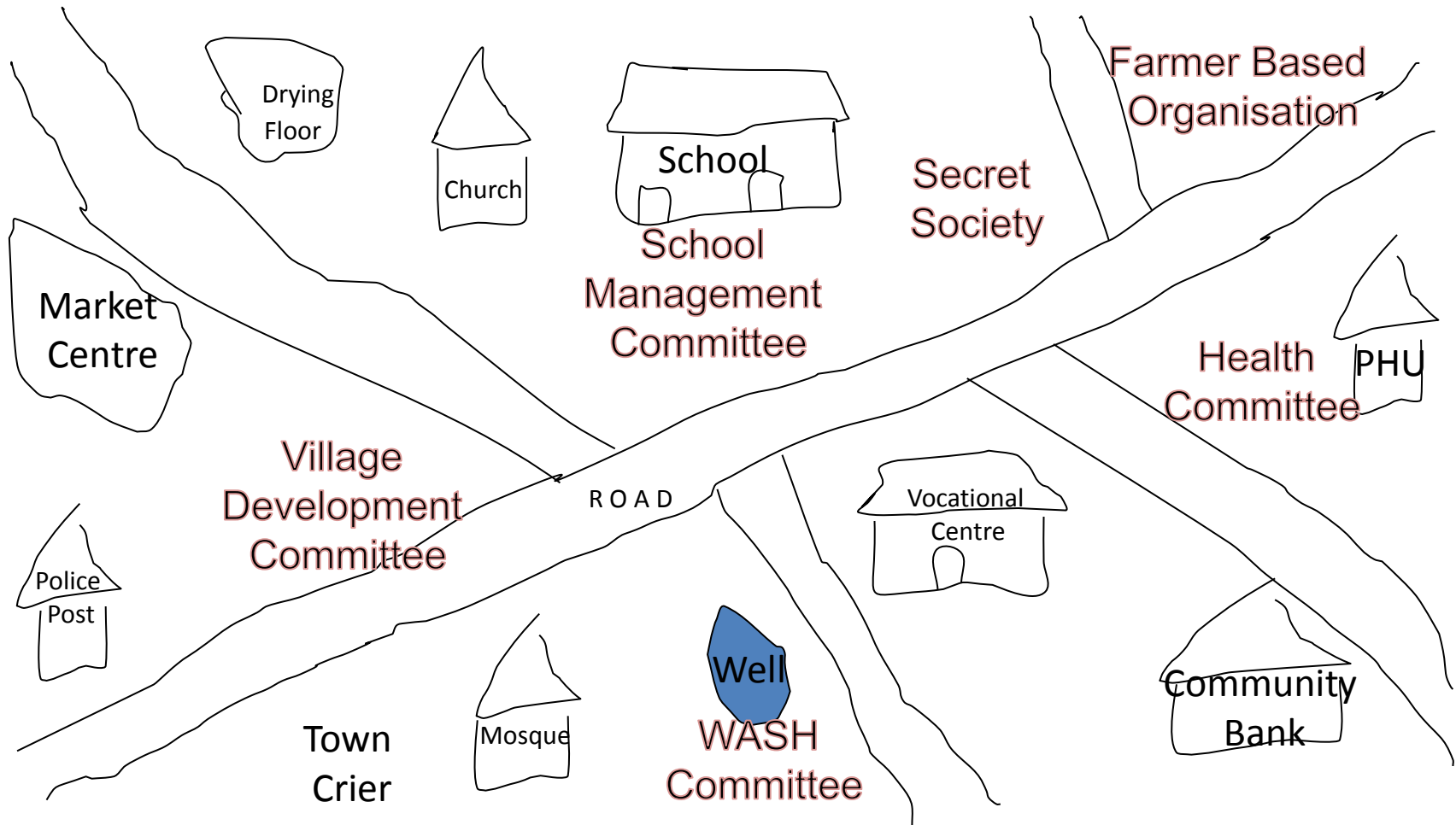
Other interventions – should you include...

- Water/eau ?
 - Roads and infrastructure?
 - “Climate smart” agriculture?
 - Access to credit?
 - Management of acute malnutrition?
-
- Depends on context and comparative advantages
 - Up to national stakeholders to decide
 - May be excluded from CAADP / Agriculture investment plan, but if is a constraint to food and nutrition security, then need to link to other sectoral interventions

Being “strategic”

- Build on existing experiences and lessons learnt
- Build on local knowledge and practices
- Respond to needs: – if relevant, people will pick it up!
- Use and create synergies between different “entry points” to “leverage” investments:
 - Linking field action and policy, working at central, provincial and local level
 - Building alliances to align investments
 - Using different entry points at local level

Existing village level committees provide an opportunity for needs assessment, implementing, monitoring/reporting and coordinating nutrition and food security programmes (REACH Sierra Leone)



○ Committees at village level

○ committees at Chieftdom or ward level

**Agricultural
Business Centre**

**Ward Development
Committee**

Opportunities for synergies and complementarities

- **Common nutrition education strategy: speaking as one and building synergies**
- Capacity development: a comprehensive approach, looking at the skills requirement of different sectors
- School-based approaches:
 - Nutrition education in curricula
 - School gardens
 - Diversified school meals and Home-Grown School Feeding
- Community groups (e.g. women's groups, cooperatives, etc.)
- Health services: e.g. livelihoods support to families of children attending feeding centers

What is (and is not) an Investment Plan?

What it is

- ✓ Instrument for Transformation Coordination, harmonization, alignment
- ✓ Developed through inclusive negotiation and prioritization: process as important as the final product.
- ✓ Resource mobilization tool in the hand of Government.

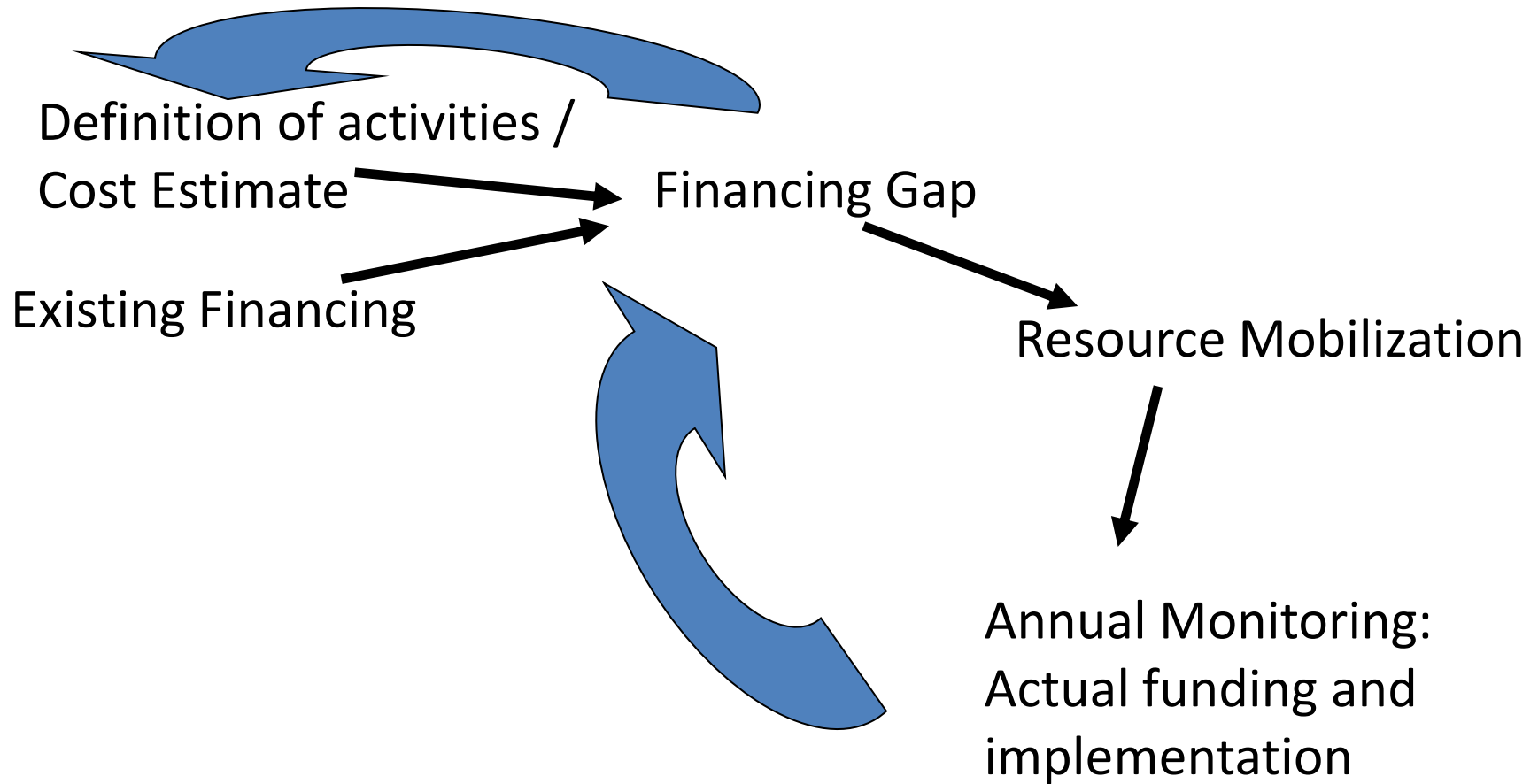
What it is not!

- ✗ An implementation plan with high level of detail
- ✗ a perfect, and ideal plan designed by experts
- ✗ a fully costed project

Cost Implications

- Rough cost estimates (detailed cost will come after)
- importance of process: not scientific but best estimates with agreed balance between activities,

Cost/financing Iterative Process



Delineate the nutrition Content (1/2)

- Depends on the objectives / targets of investment plan
- Clarify what we mean, include, what to cost? Existing plans have little / no nutrition
- Nutrition sensitive agriculture + nutrition specific activities
- Negotiation process; go back and forth
- depends on other resource mobilization processes and delivery channels in country
- Public vs. private investment (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania)

Delineate nutrition content What to cost? (2/2)

YES

Research on
Diversified
varieties

Bio fortification
of crops

Homestead
gardens

small livestock /
aquaculture

?

Nutrition Education

Community based
livelihood
programmes

Vitamin Supplementation

Safety Net
Programmes

School Feeding
(homestead?)

Food subsidies

NO

Potable water

Health centers

HIV / AIDS
prevention

Leveraging agricultural investments

- Some activities “zero-cost”
- But the process of making them “nutrition-sensitive” can require some investments in:
 - Information systems for understanding consumption and production trends, targeting the most vulnerable and M&E
 - Sensitization and education on nutrition and gender
 - Research (variety development, operational research...)
 - Capacity development of public institutions on nutrition, gender and rights-based approaches (Ministries, Universities...)
- Opportunity costs?

How to Cost

- Zero cost activities (e.g. variety development; crop diversification, rural infrastructure, women targeted extension and credit)
- Rough Cost estimates based on:
 - on-going projects / upscale
 - unit costs
 - preliminary designs when they exist
 - For nutrition, use Govt programmes and projects, NGOs, SUN and REACH as source of cost estimates

Benefits of making agriculture IP nutrition-sensitive

- *Can reduce operational costs* through synergies
- Investments in nutrition-sensitive agriculture can reduce costs in other sectors (esp. health)
- Making your agriculture plan “nutrition-sensitive” can help mobilize funding (e.g. GAFSP)

Nutrition...

A complex issue, but not complicated to solve when focusing on people's needs...

