

SESSION 4

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY FOR
AFRICAN CITIES

[AGRICULTURE – NUTRITION LINKAGES
IN AN URBANISING WORLD]

KEY ISSUES AROUND URBAN NUTRITION

- Rapid pace of urbanisation
- Land tenureship (shortage)
- Vulnerability due to poor social background (new city life and food patterns)
- Unemployment and limited access to capital and training (low purchasing power)

KEY ISSUES

- Reliance on foods produced by rural producers
- Inadequate food distribution channels
- Poor hygiene and food safety practices (perishability of fruits/vegetables; food borne diseases)
- High cost of living (poor, non diversified diet)

CHALLENGES: how to..

- Harness effective partnerships to promote good practices from the local to national level (organise farmers into groups, planning committees)
- Flag political good will as springboard for resolving legislative issues (eg around land, employment) and embracing a common vision and planning
- Improve quality of services in respect of low cost technologies, training, nutrition educ, ethics, mandate)

CHALLENGES

- Break into the urban market with highly nutritive foods (seasonality, storability, evidence base, image change/preferences of certain foods to others)
- Promote blending vs substitution with focus on PPP
- Increase scale of implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions for effective uptake
- Interrelate crop based and non crop based nutrition (neglect of livestock/fisheries)

CHALLENGES

- Produce vegetables and fruits that are safe for consumption in peri-urban and rural areas
- Match demand with supply

PRACTICABLE SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES

- Create /adopt specific legislation for safe food (fruits/vegetables) and livelihoods
- Integration of street food planning into national urban planning frameworks
- Channel public investment into street vending to reduce urban poverty (formalising food vending e.g restaurants)
- Private sector led value addition (processing of foods)
- Start young (school gardening) and grow into right practices

STRATEGIES

- Massive educational effort (producer and consumer awareness)
- Advocacy for policy orientation and service delivery (NEPAD-AU/AFSND; consumer groups, CSOs, urban planners)
- Build evidence base (research) for urban food and nutrition security planning

INCENTIVES TO CATALYSE RESPONSE

- Access to micro-credit
- Localised safety net programmes
- Knowledge and skills