The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is hosting the West Africa Regional CAADP Nutrition Programme Development Workshop on November 9-12, 2011 at Le Meridien Hotel in Dakar, Senegal.

The purpose of the workshop is to assist countries with nutrition program development efforts. To this end, the workshop will (a) provide training on program design and (b) promote sharing of knowledge and best practices about what works and makes nutrition programs successful (tailored to the different types of nutrition programs that are priorities for countries).

Workshop objectives include: (1) to identify and integrate nutrition-related best practices and approaches into program design and implementation that aligns with National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans; (2) to increase understanding of available tools, technical resources, and program experiences to strengthen nutrition program design; (3) to determine how to coordinate new nutrition programs with current or planned agriculture programs, and how to align ongoing programming with technically reviewed country investment plans; and (4) to identify opportunities for partnership to support nutrition program scale-up.

The workshop is bringing together approximately 150 representatives of government Ministries of Health and Agriculture, donors, UN organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector, among other partners, from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. In addition, four countries (Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, and Mauritania) that do not yet have approved investment plans are participating as observers.

During the workshop, participants are organized into country-specific teams to develop draft, country-specific action plans for incorporating best practices in a nutrition program design process that addresses program scale-up and includes a timeline for next steps. The action plan aims to strengthen coordination among appropriate sectors and stakeholders (e.g., donors, government, technical partners) in aligning ongoing and new nutrition programs with current or planned agriculture programs.

Following the workshop, country teams will be encouraged to hold a debriefing with nutrition and agriculture colleagues, among others, in country to discuss the draft action plan for nutrition program development prepared at the workshop. Technical assistance will be available to assist country teams in finalizing their action plans and, subsequently, during their implementation.

Questions regarding the workshop may be directed to Bibi Giyose (bibig@nepad.org) or Edith Maboumba (edithm@nepad.org) at NEPAD.