



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

Action Plan for Mainstreaming Nutrition in Agriculture

GAMBIA

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Action Plan for Mainstreaming Nutrition in Agriculture

Participants

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Reference document : Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP) 2011-2015

During the Group Work exercises, please work with your Country Team members to complete the document below, referring to the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP) and Nutrition Country Paper for your country, and other relevant documents.

Reviewer: Maura Mack, USAID, mmack@usaid.gov

Group Work 1: Review of existing National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP)

Element	Yes/ No	Comments	Reviewers' Comments
<i>Nutrition Situation</i>			
<p>What are the main nutrition problems (limit to 4) in your country which should be addressed by the NAFSIP for your country?</p>		<p>1- Stunting 22%. 2- Vitamin A deficiencies: 64%. 3- Iron deficiency anaemia: 79% among pre-school children; 75% among pregnant women (WHO, 1999). 4- Over nutrition (obesity)</p>	<p>The identified problems do not entirely align with the information provided in the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP) and the Gambia Country Nutrition Paper. . More specifically, the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age was 28% in 2009 (UNICEF, 2011).</p> <p>Based on WHO data from 2005, Vitamin A deficiency is not considered a public health problem in the Gambia. 80.1% of children under 5 years of age receive Vitamin A supplementation.</p> <p>Iodine deficiency is a concern. 7% of households consume iodized salt (MICS 2005-2009).</p> <p>Inappropriate infant feeding practices: 52% of all newborns do not receive breast milk within one hour of birth; 59% of infants under six months are not exclusively breastfed; and 56% of infants do not receive timely, appropriate complementary foods.</p> <p>Household food insecurity is another serious problem that is not discussed in the action</p>

			<p>plan. In 2006, 46% of rural household fell below the food poverty line compared with 15% in peri-urban areas and 4% in the Banjul area. Household food insecurity is related to chronic food deficits due, in large part, due to low, erratic, and unevenly distributed rainfall resulting in low agricultural production and productivity. This situation negatively impacts household income and food stocks, particularly during the hungry season. Refer to GNAIP.</p> <p>Any problems cited should be described in terms of prevalence and population groups (e.g., infants, children under 5 years of age, etc.) affected by the problem.</p>
Are the key nutrition problems in your country discussed in the plan?	Yes	Yes they were identified in The Gambia Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP).	Overnutrition (obesity) is one nutrition problem identified in the action plan that is not discussed in the GNAIP. More information is needed to determine if overnutrition is a significant problem.
Vulnerable Populations/Target Beneficiaries			
Are the vulnerable populations/target beneficiaries identified in the plan? If yes, who are they?	Yes	<p>Yes in The Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP)</p> <p>These include small scale farmers especially women farmers in the rural and peri-urban, children and poor Farmers (youths, and</p>	According to the GNAIP (p.6) 46% of rural households fall below the food poverty line compared to 15% in peri-urban areas. Should peri-urban areas be targeted or should the focus be on rural households? If both populations will be targeted, somewhat

		household vulnerabilities)	different strategies will likely be needed to address the food security needs of the two populations. How are children and poor farmers defined?
If yes, is information provided on their geographic location in the country?	Yes	Rural and peri-urban households.	Please be more specific. Which regions/districts in Gambia have the highest food insecure/vulnerable populations> Refer to Gambia Nutrition Country Paper (pg. 6) and other sources.
If yes, is information provided on their number/% of total population?	Yes	15% of the population is food insecure. Persons malnourished estimated at 30% of the population. –GNAIP, page 37	
Nutrition Goals/Objectives			
Is/are goal(s) specific to food and nutrition security in your country stated in the plan? If yes, please state it/them.	No	In the overall goal it was not mentioned but implied,	
Are there nutrition-specific objective(s) stated in the plan? If yes, please state them.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased food security, income generating capacity and nutritional status of farmerbeneficiaries, especially women and youth, through the use of sustainable land and water management practices. (GNAIP, page 25 and 29) Improved national and household food security and adequate nutritional levels including during periods of disaster, with attention to targeting the most vulnerable groups and households in rural and urban communities. (GNAIP, page 25) 	The overall Development Objective is increased food and nutritional security and household incomes, particularly for vulnerable households. (GNAIP, page 25)

Priority Activities/Best Practices			
<p>Are specific nutrition activities/best practices identified in the plan that will be implemented to achieve the objectives?</p> <p>If yes, please summarize them.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Food and Nutritional Security (NFNS) Programme which will build on existing food and nutrition, early warning, and disaster management initiatives by expanding and strengthening interventions and coordination. The programme is comprised of two components: national food security and disaster risk management. The National Food Security component is comprised of three sub-components: food security sector institutions, food security and nutrition information system (FSNIS), and social protection for vulnerable groups. (GNAIP, pages 36-37) • Under NFNS, improve Food Security Working Group and Food Security Task Force capacities in coordination and operations to better inform and oversee food security policy and programs. (GNAIP, page 37) • Expand and institutionalize the government-sponsored Food For Education (FFE) Program. (GNAIP, page 38) • Under the NFNS, community-based nutritional training and supplementary feeding will be implemented to improve household food consumption and dietary diversity, and address micronutrient deficiencies among the most vulnerable groups. (GNAIP, page 38) • Household and school vegetable gardens will be implemented (GNAIP, page 38); • Supplementary feeding and nutrition package support will be guided by a 	

		<p>combination of existing targeting mechanisms (MOHSW), institutional targeting (clinics, health centres), and community-based targeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities of other programmes (i.e., horticulture, small livestock, agro-processing, and promotion of domestic and regional trade) contribute to improved household nutrition and food security. (GNAIP, page 38). • School feeding programmes in rural schools. (GNAIP, page 10) • UNICEF-supported child nutrition program (please describe). (GNAIP, page 10) • FAO-supported Nutrition Education Program. • FAO supported small-scale community projects (i.e., poultry production, fish smoking, fruit tree production, and fruit and vegetable processing using solar dryers). (GNAIP, page 11) • WFP-supported school feeding programme in all rural primary schools. (GNAIP, page 11) • WFP support for Government of Gambia to develop a comprehensive food security and nutrition assessment and monitoring system to better target and respond to food insecure and nutrition-deficit households in all regions of Gambia. (GNAIP, page 11) 	
<p>Are prioritization criteria identified in the plan? If yes, please summarize them.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Geographic. Self-targeting and community-based targeting based on vulnerability and risk analysis criteria will be used to identify locations and numbers of beneficiaries for each activity.</p>	<p>What are the vulnerability and risk analysis criteria? Please provide more specific information on the prioritization criteria. Where in the plan</p>

			are they discussed?
Timeline			
Is there a timeline in the plan for implementing the nutrition activities/best practices?	No	The lifespan of the main document is 2011 - 2015	
Implementation			
Are existing/appropriate institutions (governmental and non-governmental) for implementing nutrition activities identified in the plan? If yes, please list them?	Yes	National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, FAO and NGOs	Which NGOs are collaborating on implementing nutrition activities? Which UN agencies besides FAO are collaborators? Please provide a comprehensive list of partners implementing nutrition activities within Gambia's agriculture sector. Please link specific nutrition activities identified in the plan with their corresponding implementor(s), as feasible. Consider providing this information in the form of a table.

Group Work 2 : Objectives framework for strengthening the Nutrition Component of the NAFSIP

<p align="center"><i>Objectives Framework</i></p>	<p align="center">Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.</p>	<p align="center">Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i></p>	<p align="center">Reviewers' Comments</p>
<p>a. Vision</p>	<p>Briefly describe the envisioned change if you/colleagues/partners are successful in your work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nation's population lives healthy and productive lives • The Gambia is free of malnutrition 	<p>Who do you need to engage with/what should be done to (1) build consensus on the vision and (2) ensure the acceptance and integration of the proposed objectives and activities in the NAFSI?</p> <p>All the stakeholders listed under Implementation will be involved in the planning and consensus building for the acceptance and integration of the proposed objectives and activities.</p>	<p>Please list the specific stakeholders. Please refer to the Gambia Nutrition Country Paper (page 12) for additional suggestions regarding stakeholders.</p>
<p>b. Target Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Who do you aim to benefit with your projects/activities? What population(s) and geographic location(s) are you targeting?</p> <p>The target beneficiary are the small scale farmers and their household particularly the most vulnerable (women and children)</p>		<p>Please be specific and define the target beneficiaries by population group and age, if appropriate (e.g., children under 5 years of age), and geographic locations (i.e., regions/districts; rural, peri-urban). If the term "small-scale farmers" is used, define the term "small-scale."</p>

c. Goal(s)	<p>What are your desired medium-term outcome(s) by the year 2015?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by half the proportion of Gambians suffering from hunger by 2015. • Attain optimal nutritional requirements of the Gambian population. 		<p>Please clarify what is meant by “optimal nutritional requirements?” Please state this more specifically.</p>
d. Objectives	<p>What are the specific, measurable results/outcomes you aim to achieve via your projects/activities?</p> <p>To reduce childhood mortality by 5% from the current status.</p>		<p>Consider identifying other objectives, including measurable results/outcomes, to address the nutrition problems identified in the GNAIP and the Gambia Nutrition Action Plan: stunting, iron-deficiency anemia, household food insecurity/food poverty line, etc.</p>
e. Priority Projects/Activities to achieve objectives	<p>Identify the main priority activities/best practices that should be implemented using a multi-sectoral approach to achieve the stated objectives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve Food Security Working Group and Food Security Task Force capacities in coordination and operations to better inform and oversee food security 		<p>The stated activities/best practices are a repeat of activities identified in the GNAIP. Consider identifying additional activities/best practices to achieve the stated objectives. Also identify which stakeholders will collaborate in implementing each activity/best practice.</p>

	<p>policy and programs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Expand the Food For Education Program. 3. To improve household food consumption and dietary diversity. 4. Community-based nutrition training and management of moderate malnutrition. 5. Support household and school vegetable garden; 6. Support horticulture, small livestock and agro-processing. 		
<p>f. Timeline <i>Realistic timeline to achieve objectives.</i></p>	<p>What is your timeline for implementing your project(s)/activities? Identify milestones for key activities.</p> <p>Activity 1: January 2012 to December 2015 Activity 2: January 2012 to December 2015 Activity 3: January 2012 to December 2015 Activity 4: April 2012 to December 2015 Activity 5: January 2012 to December 2015 Activity 6: January 2012 to December 2015</p>	<p>What is the timeline for strengthening the nutrition component of the NASFIP?</p> <p>Identify key milestones for implementing this process.</p> <p>Review and update the GNAIP to incorporate nutrition issues</p>	<p>Please update the timeline based on any revisions to the activities/best practices and include milestones for each activity/best practice.</p>

Group Work 4: Monitoring, evaluating, and learning about the nutritional impact of agricultural policies and programmes

Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	<p>Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector.</p> <p><i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i></p>	Reviewers' Comments
<p>Are indicators to measure the performance of the nutrition activities identified in the plan? If yes, which ones?</p> <p>Although an M&E mechanism is mentioned in the GNAIP but the indicators are not specified. However, NaNA has developed a comprehensive M&E framework and tools that can be used to monitor nutrition activities in the GNAIP.</p> <p>Is the existing capacity in the country (within government, NGOs, etc.) for data collection and analysis discussed in the plan? If yes, which institutions are responsible for M&E?</p> <p>Capacity for data collection and analysis is not adequately discussed in the GNAIP document. However, some</p>	<p>What are the main indicators that should be used to measure nutrition improvement attributable to actions coordinated with the NAFSIP?</p> <p>Anthropometric measurement, food consumption surveys and dietary diversification.</p> <p>Who at the national level should be in charge of designing, implementing, and maintaining/updating the M&E and learning system and process related to strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP? How should this capacity be built?</p> <p>NaNA, Department of Planning (MOA)</p>	<p>What steps need to be taken to ensure nutrition indicators are mainstreamed in agricultural M&E systems?</p> <p>Review the whole GNAIP document especially the M&E framework and the National Nutrition Policy monitoring framework and agree on what should be included.</p> <p>Who should you engage to do this and by when can you do it? Should any specific upcoming opportunities be seized (e.g., planned surveys or large-scale nutrition programme evaluations)?</p> <p>The following stakeholders should be involved: National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health,</p>	

<p>capacities do exist in the country but this need strengthening as capacity gaps do exist both in terms of human resources and equipment.</p> <p>How could this capability be improved?</p> <p>Provision of training on data collection and analysis as well as necessary equipment for data collection, processing and analysis</p>		<p>Ministry of Trade, FAO and NGOs</p> <p>Attempts have been made to incorporate nutrition indicators into the Agriculture survey currently ongoing. However a consensus was not reached and the idea has to be partly shelved.</p> <p>This opportunity can be taken or reconsidered when the document is revised.</p>	
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Group Work 3: Partners and coordination mechanisms			
Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>	Reviewers' Comments

<p>Are the partners/stakeholders/change agents (e.g., governmental ministries/agencies, NGOs, international donor agencies, etc.) that will collaborate in implementing nutrition activities/best practices identified in the plan? If yes, who are they?</p> <p>Yes. (National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, FAO and NGOs)</p> <p>Are mechanisms (existing or proposed) to facilitate coordination and communication among stakeholders discussed? If yes, what are the mechanisms and at what level do they operate? Who is involved in this process?</p> <p>Yes. The following structures are in place to facilitate coordination and communication:</p> <p>National level: - National Nutrition Council comprising Ministers and chaired by the Vice President</p>	<p>If the NAFSIP does not already have this component, what partners/stakeholders should be involved in strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP?</p> <p>What should be their role(s)? Their roles will be to spearhead the implementation process with the communities.</p> <p>How should they coordinate and communicate among themselves?</p> <p>Through the identified structures for coordination as specified on the left hand column and through meetings</p>	<p>What steps need to be taken to build or strengthen existing coordination mechanisms? What new coordination mechanisms might need to be introduced? Who should you engage in this process (governmental and non-governmental)? How soon can you do it?</p> <p>Through the existing structures already mentioned and regular meetings.</p>	
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<p>- The Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Regional level: -Regional Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Ward Level: -Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Teams</p> <p>Village level: -Village Development Committee -The Village Support Groups</p>			
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Group work 5: Partnerships: public-private and public-public			Reviewers' Comments
Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>	
<p>Are any opportunities for public-private partnerships to address food and nutrition security discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>Is already mentioned in GNAIP refer to page 46</p> <p>How could these partnerships be improved?</p> <p>The partnership could be improved through priority setting, mutual trust, equality and having a shared value.</p>	<p>Specify for which specific food and nutrition security issue(s) a public-private partnership should be implemented to strengthen the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food fortification (eg cereal products, oils and dried fruits etc) Food processing <p>Discuss how these initiatives should be driven. Who (which stakeholders) should be involved in supporting and guiding these initiatives? How should they be involved/what are their roles?</p> <p>This can be driven by public-private partnership with the involvement of key stakeholders such MOA, MOTIE and GCCI through meetings consultation.</p> <p>The Public sector to come up with the regulatory framework to</p>	<p>The national Food Fortification Alliance is being established and is at its infancy stage. However, this will be further pursued for a formal establishment of the Alliance in the next few months (January – February 2012).</p> <p>This should be an ongoing process and will continue till June 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory framework/guidelines for fortification and food processing will further be pursued. Continuous training of food processors Elaboration of food standards by the National Codex/SPS Committee. 	

	<p>provide the enabling environment, while the private sectors provide the capital and investment.</p>		
<p>Are public-public partnerships (e.g., collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture with Ministry of Health/Nutrition Unit and/or Ministry of Education, among others) discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>The collaborative mechanism is not dilated in the GNAIP document. However, the Technical Advisory Committee being anticipated can create a forum for improving this collaborative mechanism.</p> <p>How could these partnerships be improved?</p>	<p>Specify for which nutrition issue(s) a public-public partnership should be implemented. Which public institutions should participate in this partnership and what would be their roles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food fortification, food processing, food packaging, food labeling, food safety. →The same stakeholder institutions as mentioned above. • The Public sector to come up with the regulatory framework to provide the enabling environment and carry out monitoring and evaluation. • The private sectors provide the capital and investment. 	<p>Which immediate steps can you take to ensure relevant public-public partnerships are established or strengthened? Who should you engage and by when can you do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national Food Fortification Alliance is being established and is at its infancy stage. However, this will be further pursued for a formal establishment of the Alliance in the next few months (January – February 2012). • Review of the Food Fortification and Salt Iodisation • Regulation to provide the regulatory framework. 	

Group Work 6: Capacity development			Reviewer's comments
Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>	
<p>Are nutrition capacity development needs in your country discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>No</p> <p>Are training activities to develop nutrition capacity identified in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>No</p> <p>How else could this capacity be improved?</p> <p>Conduct training needs assessment for nutrition capacity development among the stakeholders</p>	<p>What is needed in terms of capacity development in projects/activities coordinated with the NAFSIP?</p> <p>Project proposal development, project management and implementation and monitoring.</p> <p>Who needs training? In what areas is training needed (e.g., project design; project management; monitoring and evaluation; behavior change communication; etc.)</p> <p>Both central and regional level staff including extension workers, households, farmer associations, food processors, nutritionist and food technologist.</p> <p>What training (existing or planned) could help develop capacity? Give recommendations for future actions in this area.</p> <p>Training of stakeholders on basic nutrition and food processing.</p>	<p>Which steps can you take to strengthen capacity-development efforts? With whom should you engage? By when can you do it?</p> <p>Group management, entrepreneurial development, communication, post harvest handling/processing and preservation, nutrition education.</p> <p>Stakeholders mentioned above</p> <p>By 2011 - 2015</p>	

Group Work 7: Budgeting and financing			
	Budgeting and financing to strengthen the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Budgeting and financing the nutrition integration process at the national level.	Reviewers' Comments
a. What resources exist/what are additional resources needed to achieve the stated objectives, outcomes, and targets (e.g., staffing, technical assistance, IT, capacity development, other)			No information is included on budgeting and financing.
b. Categories of costs (i) Recurrent (list the main ones) (ii) Capital (list the main ones)			
c. Possible sources of financing including government budget, international donors (grant and loan), PPPs, and other innovative mechanisms.			

Constraints and Strategic Solutions to effective action plan implementation	Key Constraints	Possible Solutions	Key Constraints	Possible Solutions
<p><i>Identify potential constraints/barriers (limit to top 4) to efficient implementation and identify possible strategic solutions to achieve effective and efficient Implementation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inadequate Resources -Ineffective Coordination -High level of poverty - Low level of nutritional awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide more resources (human and financial) - Strengthen existing coordination mechanisms - Support poverty reduction strategies - Intensify information, education and communication and behavioural changes communication activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inadequate Resources -Ineffective Coordination -High level of poverty - Low level of nutritional awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide more resources (human and financial) - Strengthen existing coordination mechanisms - Support poverty reduction strategies - Intensify information, education and communication and behavioural changes communication activities.

Overall Comments

There are significant gaps in the Nutrition Action Plan.
It does not appear to draw from The Gambia Nutrition Country Paper.
There is no indication that the plan has been shared or discussed with The Gambia Donor Working Group