

Workshop of the Regional Nutrition Working Group

“Maximizing the Nutritional Benefits of Food Security interventions in West Africa”

24th to 27th May 2011 – Dakar, Senegal - Hotel Ngor Diorama

 <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/fns/en/> -- & -- <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/fns/fr/> 

SUMMARY

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the REACH Partnership, three members of the Regional Nutrition Working Group (NWG, based in Dakar, Senegal) organised a workshop on linkages for nutrition and food security, as part of the ongoing NWG workplan around this topic.

The workshop brought together 54 participants, 35 of which were decision makers who implement programs with impacts on nutrition in 11 countries in West Africa, whether in agriculture, health, food security or coordination. Nineteen regional and international experts in nutrition and food security also participated.

The workshop shared concrete tools and relevant examples to help participants planning and implement joint programs in their own countries. The agenda was organized to lead participants through the project cycle: starting from needs analysis, proceeding to program design, and finally to monitoring and evaluation. Coordination was also a prominent topic since the goal was to create linkages. A schema of the objectives and agenda is presented here, followed by a description of the specific content of each workshop module.

Table 1: Workshop’s Agenda and Objectives Were Designed To Match the Project Planning Cycle

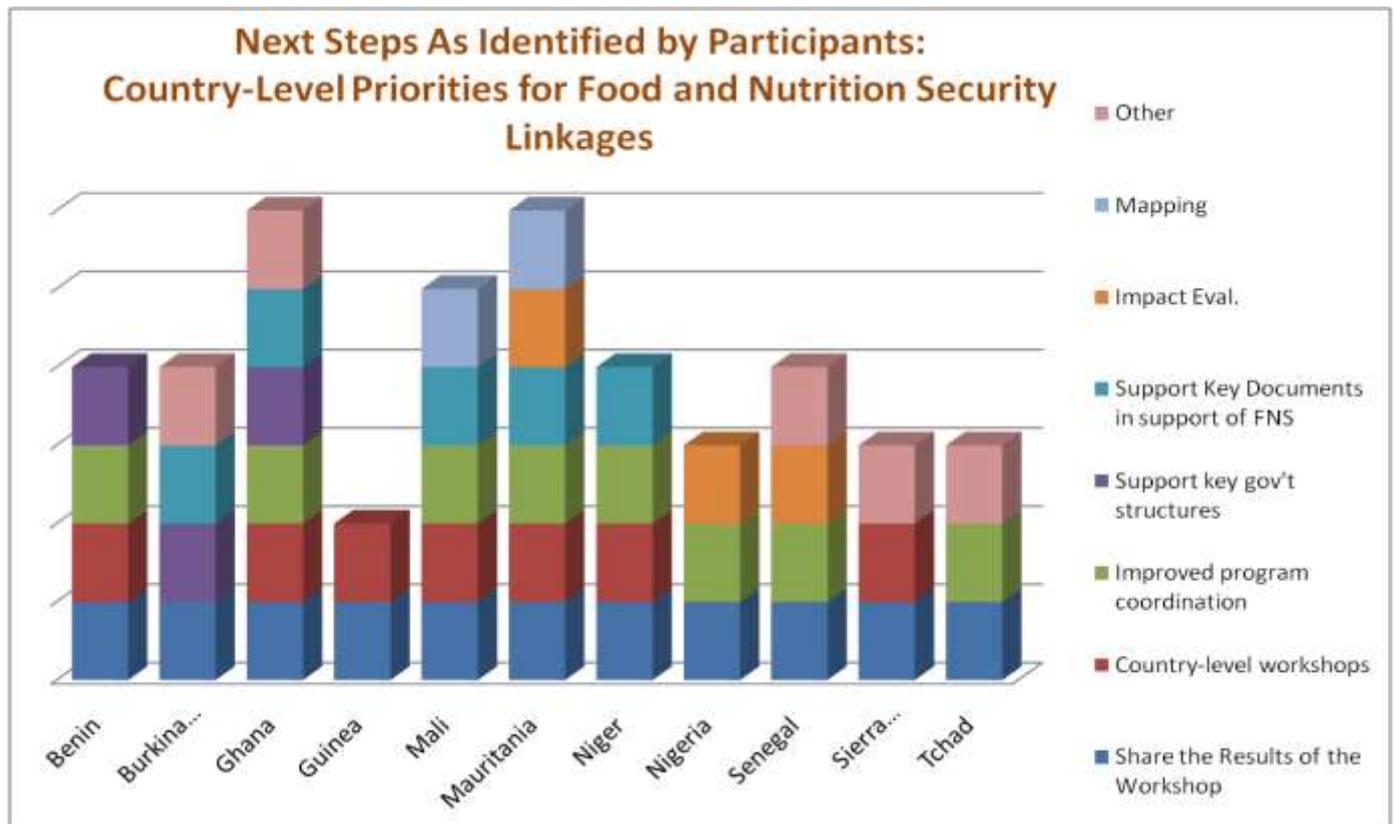
Project Cycle	Agenda Module	Workshop Objectives
Planning	Situation Analysis	Support design of integrated nutrition & food security programs
Implementation	Program Examples	Share positive examples & lessons learned from the field
Monitoring & Evaluation	Impact Evaluation	Share tools for implementation and for monitoring and evaluation
	Coordination	Give examples of synergies through joint coordination of nutrition and food security

Table 2: Detailed description of Workshop's content

Section and Module	Content
Project Planning : Situation analysis	
Guidelines for Joint Planning for Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods	<i>A manual with stepwise process of joint planning using participatory methods to create Problem Trees (causal analysis) and Solution Trees.</i>
Operational Methodology for Nutrition Causal Analysis	<i>The ACF draft guidelines will be available in early October and testing in Chad and Bangladesh is underway.</i>
IYCN (Infant and Young Child Nutrition) Toolkit	<i>Two tools to help agricultural specialists design nutrition-sensitive programming: "Nutrition Program Design Assistant", & "Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool".</i>
HEA (Household Economy Approach) & 'Light' HEA	<i>Method to get a detailed snapshot of livelihood groups by socio-economic level. Helps improve program targeting. A 'light' method for when constraints prevent classic HEA method implementation.</i>
Mapping of Food Security Projects (MAFS)	<i>An online tool by FAO for standardizing mapping food security interventions.</i>
Integration of Nutrition into food security Surveillance systems	<i>Food production levels do not match nutritional vulnerability in the Sahel areas; since 2005, several nutrition indicators are thus included in food security surveillance.</i>
Project Implementation: Program Examples	
Integrated Community/Household Agriculture and Nutrition Projects (HKI & ACF)	<i>Examples of two approaches that bring agriculture-health-nutrition together at community and household level. They increase food production, availability and quality and use.</i>
Cash Transfer and Nutrition (Concern)	<i>Cash transfer via mobile phone to the poorest populations in one region of Niger. Nutritional impact was measured by level of acute malnutrition, dietary diversity and frequency of meals.</i>
Project Monitoring & Evaluation: Impact evaluation	
Nutritional Impact Evaluation in Food Security Programs:	<i>Overview of principles of impact evaluation, methods, analysis and interpretation. Some main indicators include: anthropometry, dietary diversity, household food insecurity assessment scale.</i>
FAO guidelines for Dietary Diversity	<i>A manual for dietary diversity score shared. The questionnaire needs to be adapted to the local context before using.</i>
Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS)	<i>A manual for measuring food insecurity in the household was measured. The questionnaire needs to be adapted to the local context before using.</i>
Household Hunger Scale:	<i>A FANTA manual for creating a locally-adapted questionnaire that measures hunger at the household level.</i>
Coordination	
Millennium Development Goal Fund for Children, Food Security and Nutrition (Mauritania & Senegal)	<i>Experience from two projects that have facilitated multi sectoral joint planning and implementation among UN Agencies in partnership with government ministries.</i>
ConFed Mali	<i>Food security program in Mali has started including nutrition indicators. There is joint, multisectoral coordination from different government stakeholders and also a direct collaboration with government and the EU.</i>
ECHO & Food Insecurity in the Sahel	<i>An EU manual on addressing nutrition in external assistance was shared. ECHO supports nutrition-sensitive programs for food security through a 3-pillar approach.</i>

Planned follow-up activities to workshop

It is clear from the results of this survey conducted at the end of the workshop, that different types of support should be made available to countries, to enable them to implement some of the recommendations:



The regional support, part of a multi-year inter-agency workplan, will consist of:

- Workshop website will share information and make the workshop resources available throughout the region;
- An online discussion group to bring together stakeholders from the region to share experiences, and find support;
- A short video will be produced as an advocacy tool for nutrition-agriculture linkages;
- Country-level workshops will be prepared in selected countries to bring regional workshop messages and tools to a wider audience;
- Country's requests for technical support for the development of policy documents, or to perform mapping exercises, will be responded to.