

# Coordination between social protection and agriculture

## Key Issues

**Nyasha Tirivayi**

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)  
Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA)  
Rome, Italy

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# Outline of the presentation

- Why coordinate social protection and agriculture?
- What does coordination mean?
- Who are the key actors and institutions?
- Design and implementation of coordinated social protection and agricultural policies
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
- Conclusion

# Why coordinate social protection and agriculture?

- Theory and empirical evidence show potential synergies
- Coordination helps to build synergies
  - Less fragmentation
  - Policy coherence
  - Better targeting, graduation strategies
  - Efficiency
- Few governments currently coordinating. Little attention in policy discourse

# What does coordination mean?

- Collaboration by social protection and agricultural sectors
- No universal approach
- Varies by
  - Intensity- low levels to systemic approach
  - Level- policy, program, administrative
  - Structures
    - Vertical coordination from national, sub-national to local
    - Horizontal coordination across line ministries

# Who are the key actors?

- Government
  - Ministries of Agriculture, Social Development
  - Regional and local government
  - Other line ministries
- Non-governmental
  - Donors
  - Civil society
- Local communities and individuals

# What are the institutional mechanisms?

- Institutional mechanisms
  - Policy and legal framework that defines goals and objectives for coordination. E.g. Brazil's National Law on Food and Nutrition Security
  - Definition of mandates e.g. managing coordination and oversight.
  - Decentralization and inclusive participation e.g. Ethiopia's Food Security Programme highly decentralized.
- Financing mechanism
  - Public, private and external funding

# What are the institutional mechanisms ?

- Success factors
  - Strong political will
  - Clearly defined national policy and legal framework
  - Clearly defined mandates
  - Inclusive participation- decentralization
  - Strong institutional capacity
  - Financial mechanisms that create incentives for coordination

# What are the institutional mechanisms?

- Challenges
  - Vulnerable to centralization that may discourage innovation and responsiveness
  - Difficult if too many actors involved, e.g. horizontally or vertically
  - Competition among mandated actors e.g. fiscal space
  - Contestation of power by multiple actors
  - Strong institutional capacities required



# Design and Implementation

- Choice of design and implementation modalities can lead to conflicts or synergies

# Design and Implementation Issues

- ***consistency of objectives*** in order to maximize synergies
- ***type of instrument*** has implications on economic behavior of beneficiaries.
  - Positive effects on household spending, welfare and local economy
  - Unintended adverse effects e.g.
    - conditionalities may divert women's labour from production
    - food vouchers may constrain household investment
    - Public works may supersede women's other responsibilities,

# Design and Implementation Issues

- *Timing of programs and interventions*
  - Coordination harmonizes the timing to exploit synergies
  - Simultaneous implementation
    - to beneficiaries,
    - agricultural programs to non-beneficiaries in same community
  - Sequencing
    - Provide agricultural support in the medium or long term after poor beneficiaries of social protection have accumulated capital

# Design and Implementation Issues

- ***Seasonality***
  - seasonal variation in agricultural labour demand and food prices
    - public works may divert from household farm labour requirements during the planting season
    - high food prices can reduce the purchasing power of a fixed cash transfer
  - coordination would ensure correct timing regarding agricultural seasons

# Design and Implementation

- **Targeting**
  - Unified targeting and management information systems
    - Efficient
    - Improved monitoring of coverage
      - Bigger system vulnerable to errors or failure
  - Targeting criteria may contradict
    - fewer or small agricultural impacts among labour constrained beneficiaries of social protection schemes.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- Encourages responsive adjustments that improve coordination
- Success factors
  - Clearly defined in coordination policy
  - Consistency and comprehensiveness
  - Financial and human resources
  - Unified M&E system
  - Measuring synergies from coordination or integration

# Conclusion

- There are opportunities and challenges to coordination
- Dynamic process that takes time
- No universal approach
- Initial context and political will determine direction and extent of coordination
- Countries must tailor coordination that is suited to own context and capacities

# Thank You!

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