

FSN FORUM DISCUSSION
DRAFT OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY FOR UZBEKISTAN
FROM THE 12TH TO 27TH FEB 09

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Duration: 12.02.2009 to 27.02.2009

Number of participants: 6

Number of Contributions: 6

II. INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC

English:

Dear colleagues,

UNDP in Uzbekistan supports institutional development of a national think tank – Center for Economic Research (CER). Responding to the request of the Government of Uzbekistan, CER has initiated the process of formulating the **draft of National Agricultural and Food Policy**. The policy is to promote more effective use of available capacities in production and export of food products, ensure balanced nutrition for the population and address food security.

Based on internal preliminary consultation a kind of a logical framework matrix was developed as first step (please see at: http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1). This will be followed by a broader consultations involving all the interested partners:

- Government (Security Council, Ministries of Economy and Finance, Health, Education, Agriculture, Environment, etc.)
- Private Sector (both in agriculture and trade, food processing, machinery and equipment, R&D)
- Civil Society
- Research and Academia
- International Community.

We were particularly requested to review international experience and best practices in this given field. Therefore **I hope colleagues in the network:**

- Could share their experience related to formulation of National Food Security Policy Documents and implementing of those.
- Could share comments on the suggested draft Logical Framework Matrix (http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1).

Thanks in advance.

Bakhodur Eshonov

Project Manager

Support to Reform Process in Uzbekistan

UNDP

Español:

Pregunta: Uzbekistán / Estrategias Nacionales de Seguridad Alimentaria

Estimados colegas,

La PNUD de Uzbekistán apoya el desarrollo institucional de un Centro de Investigación nacional – El Centro de Investigación Económica (CER por sus siglas en inglés). En respuesta a la solicitud del gobierno de Uzbekistán, el CER ha iniciado el proceso de la formulación del borrador de la **Política Nacional de Agricultura y Alimentación** (disponible en inglés: http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1). La política promueve el uso más eficaz de las capacidades disponibles en la producción y exportación de productos alimentarios, asegura la nutrición equilibrada de la población y se enfrenta al tema de seguridad alimentaria.

Basado en la interna consultación preliminar, como primer paso se desarrolló una matriz de marco lógico (ver documento adjunto). Después, habrá unas consultaciones más amplias, las cuales involucrarán a los socios interesados:

- El gobierno (Consejo de Seguridad, Ministerios de la Economía y Finanzas, Salud, Educación, Agricultura, Medioambiente, etc.)
- El Sector Privado (tanto en la agricultura como el comercio, elaboración de alimentos, equipo y maquinaria, investigación y desarrollo)

- Sociedad Civil
- Investigación y academia
- La comunidad internacional

En particular queremos informarnos sobre la experiencia internacional y las mejores prácticas en este ámbito. Por **lo tanto espero que los colegas de la Red puedan:**

- **Compartir sus experiencias relacionadas con la formulación e implementación de los Documentos de Política sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional.**
- **Compartir sus comentarios sobre el borrador de la matriz de marco lógico (http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1).**

Gracias de antemano,

Bakhodur Eshonov

Director de Proyecto

Apoyo para el Proceso de Reforma en Uzbekistán

PNUD

Français:

Requête: Uzbekistan/ Stratégies Nationales en matière de Sécurité Alimentaire

Chers collègues,

En Uzbekistan le PNUD appuie le développement institutionnel d'un groupe de réflexion – le Centre de Recherches Economiques (CER). En réponse à une requête du Gouvernement de l'Uzbekistan, le CER a initié le processus de formulation d'un **avant-projet d'une Politique Nationale en matière d'Agriculture et d'Alimentation** (National Agricultural and Food Policy: http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1). La politique consiste à promouvoir un usage plus efficace des capacités de production et d'exportation de produits alimentaires disponibles, veiller à une alimentation équilibrée pour la population et traiter la question de la sécurité alimentaire.

A partir d'une consultation préliminaire interne nous avons élaboré une sorte de matrice de cadre logique comme première étape (voir la pièce jointe). Elle sera suivie par de plus larges consultations avec tous les partenaires concernés:

- Gouvernement (Conseil de Sécurité, Ministères de l'Economie et des Finances, de la Santé, de l'Education, de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement, etc.)
- Secteur Privé (opérant dans l'agriculture et le commerce, la transformation alimentaire, l'outillage et l'équipement, la recherche et le développement)
- Société Civile

- Recherche et Université
- Communauté Internationale.

Il nous a été particulièrement demandé de faire le bilan de l'expérience internationale et des meilleures pratiques dans le domaine donné. **Nous formons donc le voeu que les collègues du réseau :**

- **Puissent partager leur expérience en matière de formulation de documents sur les Politiques Nationales de Sécurité Alimentaire et leur mise en oeuvre.**
- **Puissent partager leurs commentaires sur la Matrice de Cadre Logique proposée (http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1).**

Merci d' advance.

Bakhodur Eshonov

Responsable de Projet

Appui au Processus de Réforme en Uzbekistan

PNUD

III. LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution by Erik Davies, from UNDP

Dear Bakhodur Eshonov

While I am not a food security expert per se, I have been doing extensive reading into this area for the last year and come with 20 years of environmental management experience. I did a quick review of the attached matrix (http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/Food_Logical_Framework_Matrix.doc) and noted that the following **key issues had not been addressed:**

- 1. Large scale livestock farming** has created the perfect conditions for the **spread of disease** in livestock. When animals are raised in close proximity to each other, and fed animal remains to increase their protein uptake, it makes them particularly vulnerable to disease. There are many instances where entire herds have been wiped out. The recent Ebola Reston virus outbreak in pigs outside of 4 farms in the Philippines is a great example. In many cases the entire group of pigs were wiped out and planned exports to Singapore have been suspended pending investigations. So the costs of these practices can be quite high.
- 2. Animal-Human disease transmission** is also made possible when the above farming conditions are done. In particular we have learned from experiences like SARS that raising ducks and pigs together create the perfect conditions for viruses to hop to humans. While Ebola Reston is not harmful to humans, other forms of Ebola are considered the most deadly viruses known to humans (biohazard level 4). Pigs have metabolisms that are very similar to humans. A disease that has variants in both species is therefore particularly dangerous when placed in commercial farm conditions.
- 2. Mono-culture practices of raising genetically identical crops has always posed a**

problem. The irish potatoe famine of the last century was created by a disease that could readily attack potatoes that were virtually clones of each other. The wheat rust that is starting to spread across Asia could create hug nutritional problems in the near future. Using indigenous species and diversifying the gene pool of crops is the best protection against these problems.

3. I dont believe it is good enough to talk about "sustainable farming practices". One needs to be more direct and talk about things like organic farming, using practices like allowing fields to go fallow, etc. All of which drastically reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, build up the soil profile, etc.

4. One never just trades crops, there is a huge **potential for trading pests** as well. This means there has to be an honest debate about what gets traded and what level of inspection food is given when traded. This has financial implications, so who pays for the inspections is also important. I would also note that trade in non food stuffs can also inadvertently introduce pests.

My list could be much longer, unfortunately I have a busy day. I strongly recommend that you **engage a food security expert at this stage of project formulation**. Food security is not just about access to food, it involves environmental management, transportation, trade issues, health, etc. The logframework needs to specifically address these issues if you are to develop a robust model to guide the next steps forward.

Best Wishes,

Erik Davies

Contribution by Manfred Metz, from the bureau CODEPLAN, Germany

Dear Bakhodur,

Recently I had prepared distant learning modules on "**Formulation and Implementation of Food Security Policies**" which may be useful in your process. Here is the link:
http://www.foodsec.org/DL/dlcourselist_en.asp

Wish you good success.

Best regards,
Manfred Metz

Contribution by Zakir Hossain, from the Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice) institute, Bangladesh

Dear Bakhodur,

Even to us - the farmers of a developing country, we do have much reason to believe that the International Development agencies (either donors OR development partner) are still holding the conventional theory of development discourse - even though it is clear that intensive production and consumption theory have failed , to a large extent.

It is highly expected that these factors or views must be under review by the world think tanks.
We do agree with Erik.

Looking forward to hearing from you .

Sincerely,
Zakir Hossain

Krisok

http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/Institutional%20Brief_KSFV_11.0.pdf

Contribution by Jacques Vercueil, from France

Dear Mr Bakhodur,

I follow on your invitation to react about the LF Matrix which you have made available to us for such purpose. I am deeply aware of my ignorance about your project and about Uzbek country and conditions, and you should not feel surprised or hurt if I am making comments out of place - but this is the rule of the game here ; I hope you will not feel a waste of your time by reading this comment. I have one overall remark and a few detail questions.

The **overall remark** is about what they sometimes call "**verifiable indicators**". No matter the words: when I read columns 1 and 2 of the matrix, the question I have is "**will this be achieved? How can one know it happens ?**". An easy case is for 5 and 5.1:

5- Q&S control... in place: two possibilities, a/ institutions and people have been put in place (this is already an important achievement, and indispensable), or b/ the control is indeed operational (the Q&S of goods is actually tested, according to established procedures) ? Is there any training required to get there? etc. Of course all details of action are not shown on this summary matrix.

It may not always be possible, or easy, to identify how to ascertain that the output or the objective is achieved : it may take a long time before the efforts of the project lead to visible change in the targetted situation; usually also the project can influence only some of the factors that determine change, and other factors (outside the project's reach) may overpower the project's impact. But in all cases nevertheless - at least according to my own experience - it is highly rewarding to ask oneself "how can I (or can they) know that the intended outcome has been achieved? " This in particular forces one to express in terms of practical, "visible things" (or characteristics of these things : the price of a good, the health of a person) what is intended.

Another example from the matrix, (difficult, I guess) how can one ascertain Objective 1 (Nutrition policy environment etc. in place?) What is observable to tell us "it is there"? Same for 1.1. If nothing can be observed (I do not say: if nothing happens! but you cannot see whether something happens or not), is it useful to keep the corresponding "blind box" in the Logframe? Asking such questions sometimes can lead to formulating differently the outputs or objectives – or lead to adding activities that emerge as necessary, or to de-prioritising others ...

It is quite possible, even likely!, that all this is there in your project, but just not displayed on this synthetics matrix! but if not, you might think about adding a "verifiable indicators" column (which begs the question in turn: who will be in charge of monitoring? Often, NGOs dream of having a stand in the monitoring game, and often governments do not like it too much...)

Detail questions:

3.1.6 (my counting): the nature of such SafeNets to be researched and identified, or do they already exist and just need being developed and fostered?

3.2.4 incentives for trade companies...: is it a question of putting up enough money for the purpose in Gov budget, or to invent low-cost/high-response incentives?

4.2.1 liberalize... replace cotton with food: such summary statements as can be included in the matrix are often treacherous. Here I would say that, if one liberalizes, the choice of crops (cotton or food or fodder) will be determined by the farmer, not the project. But it may be, instead, reading between the lines, that there being little hope to get rid of the compulsory cropping

pattern, at least a shift towards people's needs would be a progress (I may be totally out of track, of course - I do not know Uzbekistan!)

Good luck in your project

J. Vercueil

Contribution by Mahtab Bamji, from the Dangoria Charitable Trust, India

Dear all ,

Global food and nutrition security are threatened partly due to **unsustainable life styles, food preferences and wastage**. Over 80% of world's natural resources are appropriated by 20 % of the rich. Even in the developing countries rich poor divide is increasing. Fast developing countries like those of East Asia are shifting from plant based foods to animal based foods, particularly meat, which involves diverting large quantities of food grains to animal feed with inefficient conversion ratio. Thus the problem of unsustainable consumption needs to be addressed.

Regarding the logical framework for sustainable agriculture and food security, while it is beneficial to promote livestock farming for small and marginal farmers to enhance their incomes and nutrition, it has to be done in a **sustainable manner** by using farm waste and food grain not fit for human consumption for animal feed rather than corporate farming for fattening large animals. Developing countries have an opportunity to draw up more sustainable development strategies which would not only help to save natural resources like energy, water and food, but also protect health.

Mahtab S. Bamji
INSA Honorary Scientist, Dangoria Charitable Trust, Hyderabad