**The way forward towards coherent policies for food security and nutrition in Tajikistan**

The launch of the Programme for reforming the Agriculture Sector of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2012-2020 has been an important step for addressing Tajikistan’s low agricultural production and productivity. The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan identified one of the Country Framework Programme’s priority areas as “enhancing national food and nutritional security and safety”.

The multidimensional nature of food security, nutrition and the diversity of stakeholders involved clearly shows that policies need to be coherent with those of other sectors and converge toward the country’s goals.

While important progress has been made, several bottlenecks still risk jeopardizing the overall successful implementation of the Programme and the realization of food security and improved nutrition for the entire population.

Initiatives aimed at promoting agricultural commercialisation and diversification can be hampered by market and trade inefficiencies and problems at farm or post-harvest level.

Measures, aimed at improving nutritional status such as school food programmes are dependent on funding and the integration of schools with local supply chains.

With migration being a prominent feature of Tajikistan’s society it is crucial to also leverage both the human and financial capitals it generates to ensure that they contribute to and benefit from rural and agricultural development and household food security.

In this open online consultation, we would like to give you a space to share your views on what is most needed to design and implement coherent policies that mutually reinforce each other.

To keep the exchange focussed please provide your inputs along the following guiding questions:

1. Which sectors and players need to be involved in the development of coherent food security and nutrition polices and how?
2. Which analytical and technical capacities are most needed in order to allow national experts to develop and design comprehensive and mutually reinforcing policies?
3. What technical support do actors such as farmers, food processors, distributors and government officials need to effective contribute to the development of as sustainable and healthy national food systems?
4. What, how and where should nutritional components be included in the value chain of agricultural products (nutrition-sensitive agriculture)?

Results from this online discussion will contribute to the overall recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the donors under the FAO project “[Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia](http://www.fao.org/in-action/fsn-caucasus-asia/en/)”, funded by the Russian Federation.

In addition, this online dialogue will allow you to contribute your knowledge to inform implementation plans and to learn from the experiences of other experts.

We look forward to fruitful exchange of views and experience!

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