Outcomes of the FSN Forum in West Africa workshop
Accra 20-21 November 2013

FSN Forum in West Africa
Strategy and work plan 2014

Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition in West Africa
www.fao.org/fsnforum/west-africa
About the document

This strategy and work plan for the FSN Forum in West Africa is based on the outcomes of the workshop held on 20 and 21 November 2013 at FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra. Participants to the workshop have been selected among FSN Forum members and organizations working on food security and nutrition in the region; staff of local FAO offices hosted, facilitated and participated in the workshop (list of participants in the annex).

The workshop took place a month after the official launch of the FSN Forum in West Africa platform, and followed an initial needs assessment and the first online discussion. Through a participative and bottom up approach, the workshop allowed to consolidate the FSN Forum in West Africa network, to further refine its objectives and to gather guidance for the operations of the network to better reflect the needs and priorities in the region.

The FSN Forum (background)

The FSN Forum was launched in 2007 and gathers a growing community of 5000 experts and practitioners on Food Security and Nutrition issues. The FSN Forum regularly hosts online discussions to exchange knowledge and to inform the global dialogue and decision-making processes. By participating in online discussions and exchanges, members of the FSN Forum can provide constructive feedback along policy processes linked to food security and nutrition and can learn from each other, reaching a better understanding of the topics covered.

More information can be found in the presentations: The FSN Forum: overview and The FSN Forum in practice.

The FSN Forum in West Africa

The FSN Forum in West Africa is a network dedicated to the region. It aims at supporting linkages between various initiatives taking place in West Africa related to food security, nutrition and agriculture and at raising awareness on most pressing issues through inclusive, open online discussions and face-to-face events (in both French and English).

Currently the network gathers 1750 members, including existing FSN Forum members from the region and stakeholders interested in food security and nutrition in West Africa.

This initiative is part of the FSN Forum’s regional strategy, which aims to develop networks and online platforms targeted at specific geographic areas in order to provide a space for engaging with regional priorities and policy processes, relevant to the region.

More information can be found in the presentation: The FSN Forum in West Africa.
Vision and strategic objectives for the FSN Forum in West Africa

The shared vision for the FSN Forum in West Africa is:

“The FSN Forum in West Africa is the online network for advancing food security and nutrition dialogues in West Africa, inclusive of a wide range of stakeholders and supporting outreach and effectiveness of policy initiatives”

Two strategic objectives have been identified that will help in achieving this vision:

1. Liaise with and support policy processes in West Africa, focusing in particular on implementation and monitoring of policy processes and initiatives;
2. Involve grassroots stakeholders in these processes, including farmers, local communities and community based organizations and allow their voices to be heard.

The FSN Forum in West Africa should help sharing experiences and disseminating best practices creating a link between research and application on the field and should become a space of influence that takes into account the diversity of approaches in discussions to inform decision making processes.

Development of the FSN Forum in West Africa

The features of the FSN Forum in West Africa described below incorporate participants suggestions and views.

Areas of interest / topics identified for online discussions

The following issues have been identified as potential topics that would benefit from stronger knowledge sharing and discussion in the region:

- Land tenure, international investments in agriculture, how it is impacting on food security in West Africa
- Youth and Agriculture
- Right to Food, ways of implementation in West Africa
- Nutrition issues and their integration in regional and national investment plans
- Water and food security
- Climate change and awareness raising on climate change
- Family farming contribution to food security, in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming
- Food systems – food losses
- Agriculture transformation – technology and productivity; industry and markets
**Policy processes**

Policy processes and major programmes identified as most suitable to be linked to the FSN Forum are:

- **Zero Hunger Initiative**
  The new "Zero Hunger" of the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), supported by FAO and co-financed by Germany, seeks to unite the efforts of all regional stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, civil society and organizations of producers around a central issue of eradicating hunger in West Africa. It is a new approach rather than a new programme and the FSN Forum in West Africa can support the multistakeholder method and strengthen understanding and awareness on the areas of interest of the programme.

- **West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme – WAAP**
  The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program aims to develop and disseminate improved technologies adapted to the region in priority areas in line with the regional priorities.

- **ECOWAS common external tariff - CET**
  The common external tariff consists in applying the same taxes and duties to all goods entering the ECOWAS territory, no matter where they come from and where they go. The FSN Forum can provide the platform for experts to debate on the outcomes of the CET and how it contributes to the development of regional markets.

- **The National programme for agricultural investment (PNIA) and the regional policy on agriculture (PRIA)**
  The FSN Forum can support the exchange of experiences on the implementation of National Investment Plans across countries.

- **The Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative - AGIR**
  The aim of AGIR (the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative) is to help build resilience to the recurrent food and nutrition crises that affect the countries of the Sahel region. The FSN Forum can support the countries inclusive dialogues set up by the initiative.

- **Feed the Future**
  Feed the Future West Africa is a USAID project making core investments in five key areas: regional trade in staple foods; capacity of regional agriculture sector actors; use of climate-smart agriculture practices; regional availability of improved agricultural inputs for selected crops. The FSN Forum can facilitate online discussions and consultations on the main areas of interest of such initiatives.
Type of activities / scope
Numerous efforts and initiatives are being carried out in West Africa to improve agriculture and increase food and nutrition security. The Forum should focus in particular on implementation and monitoring of such initiatives and carry out online discussions, consultations, surveys, calls for inputs to support:

- Knowledge sharing on best practices between countries at different stages of implementation of policies and programmes
- Follow up of regional and national policies and programmes
- Review of practical implementation of programmes

While the focus is on regional policies, the Forum should also take on board opportunities to link with global debates such as the consultations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the work processes of Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Outcomes of activities will be summarized into briefs and information notes that can be circulated among relevant actors in the region and presented at meetings and events.

Communication channels
To facilitate access and participation of grassroots communities, associations and farmer organisations and in consideration of limited internet connection and access to computers in rural areas, the FSN Forum in West Africa will explore additional communication means and channels and integrate them as much as possible to the online platform. These include: mobile phones and possibilities to contribute to discussions and share knowledge via SMS, rural radios, social media.

Language
The FSN Forum in West Africa operates in English and French. To further encourage francophone participants, French will be featured more prominently as the main channel. This means that for most online discussions French will be used upfront and English translation provided; contributions in English will be translated into French.

Promotion and networking
The Forum will engage with relevant events and meetings in the region either directly or through the focal points and resource persons and will establish partnerships and collaborations with other networks and online groups in the region to promote FSN Forum in West Africa and support visibility of the activities.

Organization and structure
Development and facilitation of the network: FSN Forum team in FAO HQ, in collaboration with FAO regional office for West Africa with Justin Chisenga as the focal point.

Focal point for promotion and information sharing in West Africa: Félix Tékpon Gblotchaou.

Country focal point: Raymond Enoch (Nigeria).
Resource persons: participants to the workshop are resource persons for the network in their countries and will promote participation to FSN Forum discussions, provide feedback and suggestions to ensure the network’s success.

Identification of new focal points will continue along FSN Forum in West Africa activities throughout the year.

**Partnerships and collaborations**

The FSN Forum will seek partnerships and collaborations with major actors in the region with the aim to ensure relevance of the topics discussed on the Forum and on to support outreach and engagement of grassroots level stakeholders and communities.

FAO country offices: will be informed and, where possible, involved in the FSN Forum in West Africa.

Institutions: throughout the year and in connection with planned activities and milestones identified or coming up, the FSN Forum team will contact ECOWAS and its different bodies to coordinate with this major regional institution. In priority the following bodies will be contacted:

- ECOWAS commission and more specifically the Agricultural Development Directorate
- The ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Unit (WRCU) The Community parliament and more specifically the members of the committees Agriculture, environment, water resources and rural developments
- The ECOWAS task forces, in particular the task force on social protection

The FSN Forum will contact the implementation team of key ongoing projects and initiatives to discuss partnership opportunities (in part. ECOWAS Zero Hunger initiative and AGIR).

- NGOs/CSOs and farmer organizations.

**Other activities**

Depending on resources, needs and opportunities arising, the Forum will consider further activities such as:

- Training of facilitators and focal points
- Organization of workshops
- Participation in or facilitation of policy dialogue initiatives
- Presentations at conferences
- Webinars / virtual meetings
- Integration of written and oral (audio) contributions in online discussions
Work plan for 2014

The work plan for 2014 includes activities that are feasible with current resources and can be adapted and further developed during the year. These activities can be complemented with burning and upcoming issues depending on upcoming requests and needs in the region.

Calendar of online discussions (minimum of 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Agriculture</td>
<td>Dec 2013 / Jan 2014</td>
<td>Justin Chisenga, Lucie Jouanneau, Renata Mirulla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to Food</td>
<td>March / April 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum Team, Right to Food Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Aim: participants contribute to policy documents on Right to Food</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water for food security</td>
<td>June / July 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum Team, in collaboration with Velasco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family farming contribution to food security</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least one activity related to family farming is implemented on the network</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land tenure, international investments in agriculture</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum Team and a partner institution to be defined</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Development of the FSN Forum in West Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and milestones</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure coordination with ECOWAS and its most relevant bodies regarding food security and nutrition issues such as:</td>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td>FSN Forum team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ECOWAS commission and more specifically the Agricultural Development Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Unit (WRCU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ECOWAS task forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Community parliament and more specifically the members of the committees Agriculture, environment, water resources and rural developments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities and milestones</td>
<td>When</td>
<td>Responsibilities</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in events related to food security and nutrition in the region to introduce the FSN Forum in West Africa (Representation in at least 5 events (workshop, side-events...))</td>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td>FSN Forum team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network with major civil society and farmer organisations in the region</td>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td>FSN Forum team, in collaboration with focal points and members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow up on the first online discussion on Social Protection in West Africa:</td>
<td>By January 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum Team in collaboration with the facilitators (Al Hassan Cissè and Anna Antwi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presentation of the outcomes into relevant events or projects interested in social protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop at least two partnerships to support the delivering of ongoing projects and initiatives</td>
<td>January 2014, By July 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum team in cooperation with FAORAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ECOWAS Zero Hunger initiative inception workshop</td>
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<td>• AGIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of a SMS system to complement online interaction:</td>
<td>By January 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum team in cooperation with FAORAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Test phase</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Review and implementation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development and dissemination of communication materials (leaflet, promotional material, ...)</td>
<td>By March 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore the opportunity of linking online discussions to rural radio for the FSN Forum in West Africa</td>
<td>By March 2014</td>
<td>FSN Forum team in cooperation with Liliane Kambrigi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further identify NGOs and CSOs at national level with the support of identified stakeholders on the field</td>
<td>By June 2014</td>
<td>In cooperation with the focal points and members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify relevant focal points for the FSN Forum at country level</td>
<td>By September 2014</td>
<td>In cooperation with the focal points and members</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least half of ECOWAS country have a focal point for the FSN Forum in West Africa</td>
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Annex – list of participants

- Félix Tékpon Gblotchaou, Plateforme des Alliances contre la Faim et la Malnutrition de l’Afrique de l’Ouest, Bénin
- Anna Antwi, GD Resource Center Executive director and advisor food security CIDA-PSU, Ghana
- Raymond Enoch, Focal Person National Alliance Against Hunger, Nigeria
- Al Hassan Cissé, Oxfam, Senegal
- Kodjo Dokodjo, Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Statistics services, Togo
- Aude Viviane Goulivas, Agro-economist, Interprofessional Funds for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA), Côte d’Ivoire
- Mahamadou Hassane, Secrétaire général de la FUCOPRI - Fédération des unions de coopératives des producteurs de riz, Niger
- Ernest Pedro, Plate-forme des Acteurs de la Société Civile au Bénin (PASCIB), Bénin
- Carmen Lahoz, Instituto de Estudio del Hambre, Spain
- Enrique Deloma, Instituto de Estudio del Hambre, Mali
- Mohamed Ag Bendech, Senior Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana
- Justin Chisenga, Knowledge management officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana
- Koffi Amegbeto, Food System Economist, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana
- Gregorio VelascoGil, Project coordinator, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana
- Edoardo CalzaBini, Partnership consultant, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana
- Mauricio Rosales, FSN Forum coordinator, FAO, Italy
- Renata Mirulla, FSN Forum facilitator, FAO, Italy
- Max Blanck, FSN Forum facilitator, FAO, Italy
- Marie Christine Laporte, Secretariat Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM), FAO, Italy
- Brendan Rice, Secretariat Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM), FAO, Italy