



PROMOTING NUTRITION-SENSITIVE FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH A MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH

Eliminating malnutrition in all its forms is imperative to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. To ensure that food systems support healthy diets and better nutrition, it is necessary to strengthen the knowledge base and capacities of key stakeholders. With funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, FAO is implementing a project in Ghana, Kenya and Viet Nam, with the overall goal of developing the capacities of relevant academic institutions and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in these countries to promote and adopt nutrition-sensitive approaches that contribute to making food systems conducive to healthy diets. The three expected Outputs can be summarized as follows: (i) to improve capacities of nutrition- and food science-oriented universities to transfer skills and competencies on nutrition-sensitive food systems and value chains; (ii) to scale up the capacities of SMEs to adopt nutrition-sensitive business approaches and practices through multistakeholder collaboration, including the private sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and academia; and (iii) to develop an e-learning course targeting SMEs for the improvement of knowledge and skills on nutrition-sensitive food systems, which will be disseminated in the targeted countries and worldwide.

APPROACH

Through its multistakeholder approach, the project has created synergies among the private sector, academia and civil society, which is critical to boosting in-country capacities to support healthy diets. Progress has been made towards the achievement of each Output. Regarding Output 1, FAO and its implementing partners have been working with national universities to incorporate nutrition-sensitive food systems into university curricula.

To improve the skills and competencies of targeted SMEs under Output 2, knowledge gaps have been identified in specific business sectors, and based on those gaps, training materials and sessions are being prepared in areas such as agribusiness management, nutrition-sensitive approaches, food nutritional value, food safety management and regulations. Training workshops have also been conducted to address specific learning needs in both academia and among SMEs. Finally, under Output 3, FAO is developing an e-learning course entitled 'Leveraging SMEs for Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems' that will be distributed globally. Awareness-raising and knowledge-building/sharing activities are also taking place, with the aim of putting information within reach to support the transition to nutrition-sensitive food systems.



KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 1 523 696

Duration
December 2016 – November 2021

Resource Partner
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan

Partners
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); University of Ghana; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; and Vietnam National University of Agriculture

Beneficiaries
Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) operating in the agri-food sector and students/professors from the universities in the project's target countries

IMPACT

By supporting capacity development in academic institutions and among SMEs, the project is expected to lead to the adoption of nutrition-sensitive approaches and practices among public and private stakeholders in the targeted countries.

ACTIVITIES

- Knowledge gaps and target areas for capacity development among SMEs were identified through participatory processes in Ghana and Viet Nam. A learning needs assessment is expected to be carried out in Kenya in 2020.
- Nutrition-sensitive food systems have been integrated into the curricula of Ghanaian, Kenyan and Vietnamese universities.
- Two webinars were organized to facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge and resources on nutrition-sensitive food systems.
- A training workshop targeting SMEs was conducted in Ghana.
- Two workshops were held, and a white paper was produced to identify key elements/practices for leveraging the role of SMEs to contribute to nutrition-sensitive food systems. Similarly, synergies were created among participating experts from the private sector and partner universities, UN agencies and other international organizations.
- The outline of the e-learning course has been defined through a participatory process involving the project's stakeholders, who have also contributed their experiences and lessons learned on leveraging the role of SMEs to promote nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches. The course overview and lessons are expected to be finalized shortly.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/712/JPN

Project Title

Strengthening capacities for nutrition-sensitive food systems through a multi-stakeholder approach (involving private sector, civil society organizations and academia)

Contact

Pilar Santacoloma (Lead Technical Officer)
Pilar.Santacoloma@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach
For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy