



## Regional Workshop on “Emerging Lessons, Best Practices and Challenges in Improving Food and Nutrition Security in Asia and the Pacific”

**FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**31 March to 1 April 2011**

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### Background

FAO is implementing projects on food and nutrition security in several countries in Asia region. These are mainly implemented in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Pakistan, Timor Leste and Vietnam. These projects are funded by European Union, the Royal Government of Spain, Sweden, Italy, FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) with approximately US\$15 million funding for reducing hunger and poverty and improving food and nutrition security.

Whilst general understanding and agreement exist on the value of cooperation among various countries as means of sharing knowledge and experiences originated from the projects, project practitioners are not fully exposed to the information and experience of other partners and projects in the region, and are missing opportunities to enhance their capacity through mutual learning. There is dire need to create a regional informal platform to discuss ways to improve the quality of programmes implemented by FAO, facilitating innovative partnership among projects.

To this end and given the significant wealth of experience among projects partners and institutions, and the fact that sharing practices and lessons learned can play a significant role in enabling the effectiveness of scaling up actions, FAO organized a regional workshop. The meeting brought together ten FAO supported project managers who were directly involved in design, implementation and management of projects on food and nutrition security from different countries working. The meeting took place at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

The objectives were to sharing practical experience, lessons learnt and good practices and approaches in improving food and nutrition security in the countries. The workshop facilitated an exchange of good practices in national policy and strategy development, innovative institutional arrangements, capacity development for better management of projects related to food and nutrition security. The project implementers/project managers presented their approach, rationale and achievements. Their introduced and discussed best practices in policy environment, linkages within the nutrition and other sectors.

In addition to the exchange of concrete good practices, the participants discussed about development of new projects and mobilization of funds.

The meeting participants were divided into three working groups. The working groups discussed best practices and innovative strategies/approaches for food and nutrition security programmes/projects/interventions.

The main constraints were focused on clear guidelines on project formulation and mobilization of funds from donors at country levels. In addition, the challenge of better coordinating with other FAO country projects was identified.

The key elements for successful implementation of food and nutrition security programme were highlighted. These are: i) involvement of national stakeholders in early formulation and identification and priority activities, ii) participation of communities in defining their needs; iii) engagement of service providers in reaching the grass roots; and iv) capacity building should be the core of the projects. The Groups also highlighted that the need to have a good monitoring and evaluation with setting clear indicators for measuring the impact of interventions.

The participants discussed on the means of promoting partnership and collaborations with other UN Agencies and international and national NGOs towards joint delivery initiatives for poverty reduction and food and nutrition security.

The discussions were also focused on exploring mechanisms to facilitate cooperation among different projects and information sharing and better communication among the participating countries. The participants agreed on the need of regular interaction and exchange of country experiences. The means of exchange could be using e-mails, having regular teleconferences and also exploring the development of electronic news letters and or online community practices for highlighting the projects. It was suggested that the regional office of FAO could facilitate such interaction. It was also suggested to explore the exchange visits of project managers to other country projects and provide support in their implementation. This would also strengthen the capacity of project implementers/project managers.

The meeting agreed to further document the lessons learned and good practices, which could be disseminated and shared with other countries. It was also suggested to have similar workshops at least every two years.

## AGENDA

Chair: Ms Shashi Sareen, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAORAP  
Technical Facilitators: Ms Arika Nagata, Nutrition Expert, FAORAP, Ms Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat, Nutrition Policy and Programme Expert, AGN, FAO HQ

### Programme

31 March (DAY 1)

#### Opening and Welcome

08:00-08:30 Registration

08:30-09:00 Opening Session

- Introductory Address: Ms Shashi Sareen, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, RAP
- Welcome Remarks by Mr ManHo So, Deputy Regional Representative, RAP

09:00-09:15 Workshop Introduction and Overview

- Overview of workshop process and outcome: Technical Facilitator
- Review of workshop agenda and structure: Technical Facilitator

09:15-09:30 Coffee Break and Group Photo

#### Country Initiatives, Lessons Learned and Sharing Experiences on Food and Nutrition Security policies and programmes

09:30-11:00 Presentations

Country case studies – share practical experience, lessons learned and best practices

- *Lao PDR* “Capacity Building for Food Security and Better Nutrition” (GCP/LAO/016/ITA) and “Development of a National Nutrition Strategy, National Plan of Action on Nutrition” (TCP/LAO/3203): Dr Maria Tuazon, Dr Somchit Akkhavong
- *Afghanistan* “Support to Household Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods” (GCP/AFG/050/GER) and “Feeding the Children of Afghanistan together” (“UNJP/AFG/057/SPA): Ms Mahbooba Abawi
- *Cambodia* “Improve the food security of farming affected by the volatile food price” (GCP/CMB/033/EC): Ms Shan Huang

#### Small Group Break-out Session (1)

11:00-12:30 Group Work

Compare and identify key successes in implementing food and nutrition security projects

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-14:15 Presentation of Group Work

14:15-14:30 Coffee Break

Country Initiatives, Lessons Learned and Sharing Experiences on Food and Nutrition Security policies and programmes (2)

14:30-16:30 Presentations

Country case studies – Share practical experience, lessons learned and best practices

- *Bangladesh* “Protecting and Promoting Food Security and Nutrition for Families and Children (UNJP/BGD/042/SPA)”: Ms Anjuman Tahmina Ferdous
- *Nepal* “Emergency assistance to improve food and nutrition security of vulnerable rural communities affected by internal conflict, flood and drought in Nepal (OSRO/NEP/801/SPA): Mr Purushottam Khatiwada
- *Philippines* “Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition for Children 0-2 Years Old (UNJP/PHI/057/SPA): Ms Maria Cecilia Pastores
- *Timor Leste* “Promoting Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security in Timor Leste (UNJP/TIM/003/SPA): Mr Jose Sarmento

Small Group Break-Out Session (2)

16:30-17:30 Group Work

Compare and identify challenges, constraints and major gaps in implementing food and nutrition security projects

17:30- 17:40 Adjourn for the day by Chair

1 April (DAY 2)

08:00-08:15 Overview of the Day 1 by Chair

Small Group Break-out Session (2-continuation)

08:15-09:00 Presentation of Group Work

Country Initiatives, Lessons Learned and Sharing Experiences on Food and Nutrition Security policies and programmes (3)

09:00-10:30 Presentations

Country case studies – Share practical experience, lessons learned and best practices

- *Cambodia* “Children, Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia” (UNJP/CMB/031/SPA): Mr Hieu Luc, Mr Livio Valenti

- *Laos* “Sustainable insect farming and harvesting for better nutrition, improved food security and household income generation (TCP/LAO/3301): Dr Yupa Hanboonsong, Dr Phouvanh Vonglokham
- *Vietnam* “Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam (UNJP/VIE/039/SPA): Ms Huong Thi Nguyen

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 Presentations

Country case studies – Share practical experience, lessons learned and best practices

- *China* “Improving nutrition and food safety for China’s most vulnerable women and children (UNJP/CPR/041/SPA): Ms Fu Rong
- *Mongolia* “Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable Segments of the Population of Mongolia through Capacity Building in Small-scale vegetable production (GCP/MON/006/EC): Ms Amgalan Ariunbold

Small Group Break-out Session (3)

11:45-12:45 Group Work

Identify best strategies and recommendations in implementing food and nutrition security projects

12:45-13:45 Lunch Break

13:45-14:30 Presentation of Group Work

The way forward: Strategies/Recommendations

14:30-15:30 Open Forum on the way forward/recommendations

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

Closing Session

15:45-16:15 Address by Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO

- Wrap up and closing remarks by Ms Shashi Sareen, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAORAP

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FAO Projects

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<b>Bangladesh</b>	<p><b>Ms Anjuman Tahmina Ferdous</b> Nutrition Specialist E-mail: <a href="mailto:anjuman.ferdous@fao.org">anjuman.ferdous@fao.org</a></p> <p><i>Protecting and Promoting Food Security and Nutrition for Families and Children (UNJP/BGD/042/SPA)</i></p>
<b>Cambodia</b>	<p><b>Ms Shan Huang</b> National Nutrition Expert E-mail: <a href="mailto:shan.huang.fao.org">shan.huang.fao.org</a></p> <p><i>Improve the food security of farming families affected by the volatile food prices (GCP/CMB/033/EC)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Hieu Luc</b> National Project Manager / Nutrition Specialist E-mail: <a href="mailto:luc.hieu.fao.org">luc.hieu.fao.org</a></p> <p><i>Children, Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia (UNJP/CMB/031/SPA)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Livio Valenti</b> International Consultant E-mail: <a href="mailto:valenti.livio.fao.org">valenti.livio.fao.org</a></p> <p><i>Micro and Small Enterprise Development to Achieve Food Security, Food Safety and Self Reliance for Urban Poor in Phnom Penh (GCP/CMB/039/EC)</i></p>
<b>China</b>	<p><b>Ms Fu Rong</b> Programme Officer E-mail: <a href="mailto:rong.fu.fao.org">rong.fu.fao.org</a></p> <p><i>Improving nutrition and food safety for China's most vulnerable women and children (UNJP/CPR/041/SPA)</i></p>

## **Lao PDR**

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National Nutrition Consultant

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*Development of a National Nutrition Strategy, National Plan of Action on Nutrition (TCP/LAO/3203)*

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*Capacity Building for Food Security and Better Nutrition (GCP/LAO/016/ITA)*

### **Dr Yupa Hanboonsong**

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*Sustainable insect farming and harvesting for better nutrition, improved food security, and household income generation (TCP/LAO/3301)*

## **Mongolia**

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*Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable Segments of the Population of Mongolia through Capacity Building in Small-scale vegetable production (GCP/MON/006/EC)*

## **Nepal**

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*Emergency assistance to improve food and nutrition security of vulnerable rural communities affected by internal conflict, flood and drought in Nepal (OSRO/NEP/801/SPA)*

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*National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Formulation in Nepal*

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### **UN Agencies**

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