

Side Event on Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country level

1. Background

The report to the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)¹ explained why tools to map food security and nutrition actions are needed and what is meant by mapping food security actions. At the 37th CFS Plenary Session on *Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level – The Way Forward*, the Committee considered the progress made since the 36th Session. This was further supported by five case studies reporting on experiences with, and lessons learned from, mapping food security and nutrition actions.

As part of the efforts of CFS to support food security and nutrition governance at regional level, the Committee also recommended that the process to map food security and nutrition actions be considered during the FAO Regional Conferences to be held in 2012, and outcomes of the discussion be presented during the October 2012 Session of CFS. Accordingly, a side event was organized at the 27th ARC held in Brazzaville, Congo from 23 to 27 April 2012.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the side event was to share experiences and views on existing systems and practices related to mapping food security and nutrition actions with the aim to improve their effectiveness at country level. The specific objectives were to:

- Improve collective understanding of what is involved in mapping actions for food security and nutrition at country level and what is required to make this happen;
- Have an overview of different experiences and initiatives related to food security and nutrition action mapping in the region, and globally, and discuss eventual implications for countries in the Africa region;
- Identify needs for technical support for the development and implementation of food security and nutrition action mapping systems in the region.

3. Facilitator: Mohamed AgBendeche, Senior Nutrition Officer, FAO RAF

Presenters:

- Mr. Ram Saravanamuttu, Representative of CFS Secretariat;
- Mr. Prince Kamara, Coordinator SCP, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone;
- Mr. Rafin Andriaherizo, Technical Administrator of AMP, Madagascar.

Rapporteur: Koffi Amegbeto, Food Systems Economist, FAO RAF.

4. Activities and Outcome of the Side Event

A presentation was made by the CFS Secretariat which clarified the definition, purpose and state of food security and nutrition actions mapping systems. Specific experiences and challenges on the Mapping of Actions for Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSAN) web platform, developed by FAO in partnership with other agencies, were shared through case study presentations on Sierra Leone and Madagascar. The floor was then opened for participants to ask questions and share their views. Discussions were carried out around the following main points:

- A. Potential of existing regional and national systems;
- B. Relevance of a system such as MAFSAN for the countries in the region;
- C. Roles of national and regional organizations;
- D. Role of FAO; and
- E. Other matters of interest.

¹ *Mapping Food Security Actions at Country Level (CFS:2010/3)*.

A consensus was reached among participants who:

- *Acknowledged* the relevance of the MAFSAN system and welcomed the approach being taken to build on existing systems and institutions;
- *Noted* that a number of countries conducting successful food security and nutrition actions mapping had involved the highest level of government in its implementation.
- *Stressed the* importance of food security and nutrition policy frameworks to support country level food security and nutrition actions mapping;
- *Expressed* support for a broader implementation of mapping, in conjunction with relevant regional and national organizations, which should include a consideration of capacity development needs and the role of the FAO Regional Office for Africa.
- *Highlighted* the importance of coordination and harmonization as key elements of the mapping exercise, including the role of multi-stakeholder committees to support timely, reliable and comprehensive reporting, and the involvement of key decision-makers that is necessary for an effective use of mapping results.
- *Requested* FAO to work with appropriate stakeholders to facilitate the development of systems for mapping of food security and nutrition actions to enhance coordination and alignment of policies and programmes of government agencies and development partners.