

OUTCOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

“Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda”

Wednesday 7th March 2018, 9:00 – 13:00

Wageningen, the Netherlands

The second face-to-face meeting of the Project Team (PT) working on the HLPE report on *“Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda”*, was kindly hosted by the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Wageningen, the Netherlands, from 6th to 8th March 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the writing of the abovementioned HLPE report that will be launched in June 2018 in FAO-HQ and presented to CFS45 Plenary session in October 2018.

During this meeting, the morning of Wednesday 7th March was devoted to an open session with experts from the CDI working on multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs). This session, chaired by Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, HLPE Steering Committee member, was organized as a small working group. This format allowed a thorough and fruitful discussion on the possible ways to strengthen the V0 draft (see list of participants below).

The HLPE Coordinator introduced the meeting, presenting the inclusive and evidence-based process of elaboration of HLPE reports, and its different steps. The experts from CDI acknowledged the work already accomplished by the PT to produce this very comprehensive and interesting V0 draft. They suggested a number of further references that could provide important insights for the final report.

The discussions revolved, in particular, around the following issues:

Definition and categorization of MSPs

MSPs are often confused with simple contracts. There is no partnerships without sharing risks and rewards among partners. Participants suggested to categorize MSPs according to their main functions and purposes and praised the distinction made by the HLPE between policy- and action-oriented MSPs.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

Participants highlighted the importance to define, from the outset, performance indicators related to the expected outcomes of MSPs and to set-up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that will strengthen their reflexivity and learning capacity. This initial reflection will ease data collection and exploitation. MSPs evaluation raises two challenges: how to assess the specific contribution of a given MSP to FSN (attribution), and how to cover the multiple and intertwined levels of outcomes and impacts.

Conflicts, and conflicts of interest

MSPs are often set up as a way to manage tensions and conflicts among different actors. Participants discussed in particular the conflicts of interest susceptible to appear in many MSPs, weakening their legitimacy. Funding partners, in particular private actors, might have a strong influence on goals and agenda setting in MSPs. This explains the distrust of MSPs shared by many actors who associate them with lack of democracy and power asymmetries. Participants stressed the importance of improved deliberative capacity and formal conflict resolution mechanisms to recognize and address these conflicts.

Financing food security and nutrition (FSN)

The report should define under which conditions MSPs can be an appropriate mechanisms to finance FSN. MSPs can be instrumental in bridging the gap between big private investors and FSN programmes and to better target funds for FSN. Participants underlined the importance for FSN of access to finance for smallholder farmers and discussed several instruments (including working capital, investment capital and guarantee mechanisms), considered as critical for FSN. They also discussed the discrepancy between the short-term expectations of donors and investors and the longer time required for a MSPs to produce effective impacts.

At the end of the workshop, Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan recalled that, in order to enhance MSPs contribution to FSN and the SDGs, researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders should pay a renewed attention to two critical dimensions of MSPs: **sustainability** and **scalability**.

List of participants:

From Wageningen University & Research:

Herman Brouwer, Senior Advisor on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation,

Jan Brouwers, Senior Advisor Multi-stakeholder Processes and M&E, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation,

Joost Guijt, Senior Advisor Inclusive Agribusiness, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation,
Sietze Vellema, Associate Professor at the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation group, Wageningen University, and senior researcher at the Partnerships Resource Centre, Rotterdam School of Management,
Domenico Dentoni, Associate Professor in Agribusiness Management, Management Studies Group.

From the HLPE:

Muhammad Azeem Khan, HLPE Steering Committee member (Pakistan)

Moraka Makhura, HLPE Project Team (PT) Leader (South Africa)

Eltighani Elamin, PT member (Sudan),

Madhura Swaminathan, PT member (India),

Anke Weisheit, PT member (Germany).

Nathanaël Pingault, HLPE Coordinator.