

Country group Road Map

Seychelles

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Participants:

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| First Name | Last Name | Organization / Post | Email | Participation |
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A. Objective of the group work

To build consensus on key nutritional problems in the country and identify ways to ensure these nutritional problems are effectively addressed in food security and agriculture strategies and investment plans

(Specify the name of the policy/investment plan which was reviewed during country group work)

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy

B. Background

You could provide here further information about the status of your country in the CAADP process:

- 0. Launch of the process (Focal Point appointed, CAADP launch, TC appointed, experts engaged)*
- 1. Compact design and signature*
- 2. Development of Investment Plan*
- 3. Technical review of Investment Plan*
- 4. Business meeting*
- 5. Implementation*
- 6. M&E / Impact assessment*

You could also insert here key activities that were carried out in preparation for the workshop (i.e. setting up a multi-sectoral country team, production of the NCP, identification of key relevant policy and strategies (including main National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan – NAFSIP; organization of a pre-workshop meeting with country team members, etc.) and specify the objectives of these pre-workshop activities.

IP design ongoing

C. Analysis of nutrition problems

- 1. What are the main nutrition problems in your country? Have malnutrition rates changed over the last decade? Will it change further in future 10 years? If so, how? What do you think are the major reasons for these changes?**

Guidance: Consider the various types of malnutrition. Analysing trends (seasonal and historical) can help identify causes of malnutrition and understand the evolution of the situation. Do not forget to consider issues within urban areas and urban-rural linkages; as well as HIV and AIDS

- The main nutrition problems in Seychelles are overweight and obesity where 60% of Seychellois are overweight and obese. We have at this point in time never really looked into under nutrition and micro nutrient deficiency in Seychelles so this needs to be done.
 - Yes malnutrition rates have changed over the last decade. We have seen since 2005 that the prevalence of overweight and obesity has doubled and more and more we are seeing problems of overweight and obesity affect children.
 - The trend that we are seeing now if left unchecked will continue to increase however if we really have focused intervention measures adopting this problem we can reverse the trend.
 - The major reasons why there has been a shift over the past decade are several. Firstly the liberalization of imports has had a huge effect. We have a situation where 80% of the foods we are eating are imported. These foods are high in sugars, fats and salt, this is coupled with lifestyle and lack of exercise has increased the prevalence of overweight and obesity. There is also the situation where people are trying as much as possible to be part of the 'the fast food life'
 - Overall Seychelles is not food insecure but nutritionally insecure. However we can argue that we are food secure because we have secured imports however those imports are what makes us nutritionally insecure. This makes us a very vulnerable state as we are constantly relying on someone else for our food. Food safety is also an issue especially because we have no control over the quality of food, labelling etc..
- 2. Are particular geographic areas / population groups (age, gender, infant and young child, people living with HIV, type of socio-economic groups, etc.) more vulnerable to malnutrition? Which ones, and why?**

- There is not really any distinction between rural and urban areas in Seychelles. No evidence has shown that some groups are more vulnerable than others to malnutrition. However we assume that there are pockets of poverty based on evidence we have of low salaries etc but this has not been assessed in detail.

- 3. Are the main nutrition problems and causes for malnutrition that you have identified already described in your NAFSIP? If not, which information should be added?**

E.g. different types of malnutrition, key nutritional trends, analysis of nutritionally vulnerable groups and geographic areas, immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition

- The NAFSIP covers well all the nutritional aspects however more emphasis can be made how to link nutrition and agriculture.

D. Objectives and targets related to nutrition issues

4. What specific objectives and targets would you need to include in your CAADP Compact and / or CAADP Investment plan to ensure that nutrition is effectively addressed (incl. linkages between HIV and nutrition)?

Guidance: try to be more specific than “reducing malnutrition” / or “improving food and nutrition security” which are impact level goals. Example: Contribute to reducing stunting by ... by 20 .. / Contribute to improving dietary diversity ...

- BROAD OBJECTIVE: To improve the nutritional status of people living in Seychelles by specifically decreasing the prevalence of overweight and obesity.
 - To promote and increase the consumption of diversified locally grown food.
 - To make fresh and healthy food accessible, available and affordable
 - To change consumer behaviour by making healthy food more attractive and increasing consumer awareness on healthy diet(marketing)
- Targets/Indicators: (difficult because we have limited baseline data)
 - Decrease in trend of the prevalence of overweight and obesity.
 - To increase the diet diversity score (need a baseline data for that)
 - Decrease in proportion in imported food
- We need to identify the nutritional situation in the country (regarding under nutrition, micronutrient nutrition) and looking at the causes why this is the case why people eat junk food and also know data on food consumption and diversity
- Problem of data availability: under nutrition/diet diversity score not available in Seychelles.

5. On the basis of the nutrition objectives that you have formulated above (related to agriculture), how could specific objectives in the NAFSIP be revised / formulated to better address nutrition issues?

- We need to better revise in our policy how agriculture can have a role in having a positive impact on nutrition. At the moment we do have nutrition problems stated but we do not really have solutions stating how agriculture can facilitate the process.

6. Should any specific population groups (age, gender, infant and young child, people leaving with HIV, type of socio-economic groups, etc.) or geographical areas be targeted to achieve these objectives?

- Since we do not have any data available on the vulnerable groups we cannot really target particular groups as we only have assumptions on what groups could be vulnerable.

7. What nutritionally vulnerable groups / geographic areas do you recommend to add / further target in the NAFSIP?

- Same as above we need data to assess what vulnerable groups.

E. Interventions to enhance the nutritional impact of agriculture investments

8. How can existing food and agriculture programmes be “transformed” to support the achievement of the propose nutrition objectives / targets and meet the needs of identified target groups? Suggest concrete steps to take / interventions.

Guidance: Start by identifying existing programmes and think about what worked / did not work until now. Then identify ways to maximise the nutritional impact of these programmes. Make sure that proposed interventions are adapted to different livelihoods. Make sure that the proposed strategies are:

- *relevant to address the nutrition problems and causes that were identified,*
- *feasible given existing capacities*
- *have maximum impact for minimum investments*
- *provide opportunities to create synergies and complementarities with other initiatives*

- At the moment our agricultural programmes cannot cater for nutrition objectives. We need to develop new programmes as our existing programmes cannot transform to improve the nutritional needs.
- At the moment we have our national programme which have extension services where extension officers go out and give out technical farming advice to farmers. We have not sensitized them on nutrition so at the moment nutrition is off their radar.
- We do not have institutional set up to gear the nutritional side as for now.

9. How can agriculture policies and investments create incentives (for producers, processors, retailers and consumers) to improve nutrition? Suggest concrete steps to take / interventions.

- Agriculture policies can provide interventions along the value chain that would make local food more available, accessible and affordable and this in turn will create incentives for all those along the value chain. At the moment we need to strengthen the value chain and the weakest link is the marketing link. There is also the need to develop value chains for commodities that have a comparative advantage and develop a value chain for them.
- It was discussed that a policy should be designed that encourages hotel to purchase local foods

10. Should any new interventions be piloted / implemented to complement existing programmes? Suggest concrete steps to take / interventions.

- One of the interventions that was suggested was that of cooperatives. The idea to getting small farmers to pool their product in a central place and make those products available, affordable and accessible to the households surrounding it and this will enhance nutritional status. This could be an investment.

- Provide consumers with a variety of locally grown food which is safe and nutritious.
- Another intervention is the support to home gardening-more and more people are living in flats and they don't have plots of land.

F. Priorities for information systems

11. Do existing information systems provide the information you need to adequately plan nutrition and agriculture interventions? If not, how should these be strengthened? What are priority actions for improving food and nutrition security information systems?

- We have no information system that provide food and nutrition security.
- We need to set up a database that talk about all information about nutrition and food. The ministry has a data base only on clinical information. The agriculture sector only on production factors. We need to have a better coordination between the ministry of health and ministry of agriculture, (The nutrition department in the ministry of health with the communication unit of t he ministry of natural resources)
- We do not have long term contingency plans for food and nutrition security.

G. Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms

12. What needs to be coordinated and for what: what do you want to achieve with coordination?

- Joint programmes between agriculture and health need to be coordinated. Through coordination we want to achieve a joint effort to combat the epidemic of overweight and obesity

13. How should existing coordination mechanisms be strengthened to better integrate nutrition in agriculture policies and programmes, and better integrate agriculture in nutrition policies and programmes?

- We need a inter ministerial working committee or alternatively if human resources allow to have agriculture employ a nutritionist

14. Which partners (national institutions, development partners, private sector) / initiatives (SUN, REACH, etc.) should be involved for strengthening the nutritional impact of agriculture policies and programmes?

- Ministry of Health,
- Health NGOs,
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Natural Resources,
- private sector,
- implementing agencies,

- farmers organizations

H. Capacities needed for integrating nutrition in agriculture

15. What are the most critical capacity gaps for achieving the proposed objectives? How would you address these gaps in the short and long term?

Guidance: Look at operational, strategic and research capacities for both individuals and institutions.

- Human resources are limited, financial resources for infrastructure, concrete data, limited resources for the communication unit.
- The IFAD programme coming on board and ADB have components of strengthenin the financial resources and communication unit.
- The organogram structure for increase for human resources has been approved

I. Costing / funding issues

16. How can you use existing resources to address some of the priorities (in terms of interventions, information systems and capacities) identified above? Where would you need new resources?

- Seychelles will use IFAD ad ADB funding and national budget to address some of the pertinent priorities

J. Next steps

Guidance: Think about:

- *How each team member will report back to their individual organization?*
- *How to sensitize/influence decision-makers to take on board recommendations coming out from the workshop?*
- *What are the key events/opportunities to integrate your suggestions on nutrition (e.g. in the CAADP process; during a SUN meeting; during a national high level meeting, etc.)?*
- *What are your needs for external support/assistance?*
- *Who will be the main contact person for nutrition-related issues in the CAADP process after the workshop?*

| Action point | Responsible person | Date | Comments (i.e. resources required, potential constraints) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Farmers association Report back at Annual General Meeting a presentation on nutrition and agriculture | Serge Benstrong | 10 th October 2013 | |
| Back to office report to PS | Celia Ponzo | Mid October 2013 | |
| Presentation on healthy eating and importance of agriculture and nutrition during world food week (incorporate)- | Celia Ponzo | 14 TH -20 th October 2013 | Financially supported by government of Seychelles and FAO, UNDP/GEF |
| Members of CAADP team will continue to work in the team for development of National Investment Plan | All people attending the workshop | 6-8 weeks after workshop | -Celia Ponzo will be the main nutrition person for nutrition related issues in the CAADP process after the workshop -Seychelles scenario we need to emphasise on food sovereignty in order to justify local production as a means to achieve our nutritional goals |
| Members of CAADP team will continue to work in the team for development of National Investment Plan | All people attending the workshop | 6-8 weeks after workshop | -Celia Ponzo will be the main nutrition person for nutrition related issues in the CAADP process after the workshop -Seychelles scenario we need to emphasise on food |

| Action point | Responsible person | Date | Comments (i.e. resources required, potential constraints) |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | sovereignty in order to justify local production as a means to achieve our nutritional goals |
| Formal retreat for parliamentarians to esnsitize on food and nutrition security | Mermedah Moustache | 2014 | Request to NEPAD for assistance as a follow up to ministerial retreat. |
| Documentary and project about the bulk marketing on Praslin-cooperative | Udrah and Serge | Before 10 th October | Joint proposal with minister of health and ministry of natural resources. |
| To raise awareness amongst farmers and students from the Seychelles Agricultural training center in the ministry of education about importance of nutrition in farming and that he will feed his people and nourish them. | Celia Ponzo | January 2014 | |