



## Country group Road Map

### *Zambia*



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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, agriculture strategies and investment plans. The team developed a road map to achieve the intended objectives. Among several documents consulted were the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), the Vision 2030, the Sixth National Development Plan, the Food and Nutrition policy, and the National Food and Nutrition strategy.

## **B. Background**

The Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) reviewed and revised the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) to provide a policy framework for the development of the agricultural sector. The revised NAP encompasses key facets of the agricultural sector namely; food and cash crop production, agro-processing, inputs distribution, agricultural marketing including trade, sustainable resource use, livestock and fisheries development, irrigation, agricultural research and extension services. Institutional and legislative arrangements, co-operatives and farmer organizations, biodiversity and crosscutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, Gender and Climate Change have been considered as integral and, therefore, are also included.

The vision of the Zambian Government in the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) is to attain sustainable agricultural production, which will enhance food and nutrition security and contribute to income generation by 2020. This vision is anchored on the Ministry of Agriculture goal of attaining agriculture growth from 7 to 10 percent by 2016.

In order to fulfill this vision and goal, the Zambian Government signed the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) compact in January 2011, which is intended to support and strengthen implementation of programs in the agricultural sector. This was followed by the launch of the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. The NAIP seeks to build on the National Development Plans (i.e. National Agricultural Policy, Vision 2030 and the Revised Sixth National Development Plan R-SNDP). The NAIP further seeks to achieve at least 6% annual growth as well as at least 10% annual budgetary allocation from the national treasury.

### **C. Analysis of nutrition.**

The burden of all forms of malnutrition remains high in Zambia with stunting (low height for age), at 45% in under five children (beyond the acceptable cut off point of 20%). About 21% of children below 5 years are considered to be severely stunted, while 14.6 % are underweight. Zambia still records 54% children under the age of 5 with Vitamin A deficiency, while iron, iodine and other micronutrient deficiencies are still prevalent.

The NAIP outlines several basic and underlying causes of malnutrition in Zambia. Basic causes include poor diets, insufficient uptake of food, poor food storage at household level, inadequate nutrition education while underlying causes of malnutrition include poor farming practises which render the country food insecure, poor coordination among key players dealing with food and nutrition, and inadequate mechanisms to deal with disaster risk management and exposure to infections.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is positioning itself to embark on series of nutrition training on the benefits of food based micro nutrients such as vitamin A in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health in schools and clinics respectively. The training will involve conducting practical demonstrations on production, processing and utilization of orange fleshed sweet potatoes, legumes and other nutritious crops, including formulation of recipes on complementary feeding, so as to contribute towards their nutritional status. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock targets to train of about 200 District/camp officers and 92,000 farming households, covering different types of recipes using crops being produced by households.

### **D. Objectives and strategies related to nutrition issues**

#### **Objective I:**

Increase Micronutrient and Macronutrient Availability, Accessibility and Utilization through Improving Food and Nutrition Security.

#### **Strategies**

- i. Promote sustainable production, processing, preservation, storage, consumption and marketing of variety of food crops (especially legumes, vegetables, and fruits), fish, and livestock.
- ii. Increase production and use of fortified and bio-fortified foods including home fortification to improve micronutrient nutrition.

- iii. Strengthen Public –Private Partnerships and support for food fortification.
- iv. Nutrition Education for extension workers and farmer Households.
- v. Targeted young child feeding sessions for farmer households with children 6-24 months.
- vi. Promote the production and utilization of nutrient dense specific local or traditional foods to address specific micronutrient deficiencies like foods rich in iron, vitamin A, Zinc, high protein beans.
- vii. In collaboration with Health sector, package special nutrition information for the consumer both in rural and urban areas to address diet related non-communicable diseases

## **Objective II**

Institution and capacity building to develop skills and knowledge for nutrition programming

### **Strategies**

Promote Institutional and human capacity development

- i. Build institutional and human capacity for the effective delivery of nutrition services, including the design, development and implementation of relevant nutrition programs, projects and interventions targeting relevant service delivery systems. This includes lobbying for the repositioning of the Nutrition section to become a department so that it affectively cuts across all agriculture departments.
- ii. Increase pre -service and in-service training opportunities for food and nutrition services at National, Provincial, District and Community levels, with a focus on short courses on Nutrition.
- iii. Develop a sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for nutrition information system management. To be done in collaboration with the National Food and Nutrition Commission

## **E. Interventions to enhance the nutritional impact of agriculture investments**

### **The following are the existing programs**

- i. Promotion of agricultural diversification (crops [cereals, tubers, horticulture], livestock, fisheries)
- ii. Promotion of fish and small livestock production to enhance diversified diets. Promote consumption as intervention through consumer knowledge,
- iii. Promotion of energy saving technologies through partnerships with other departments to cut on time and energy spent on sourcing water and firewood
- iv. Promotion of bio-fortified crops (e.g. orange maize, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, Iron and Zincbeans, high protein maize, Vitamin A rich Cassava)
- v. Promotion of improved farming methods (Conservation agriculture, dry and wetland farming to bridge seasonal food availability, short maturing integrated farming)
- vi. Promotion of complementary feeding through local production of nutritious foods(collaboration between Ministry of Agricultural and Ministry of Health)
- vii. Establishment of a national food processing and nutrition center for teaching and demonstration of proven technologies to staff and farmers. Processing, preservation and storage of legumes, cereals, root tubers, fruits and vegetables to enhance food and nutrition security.
- viii. Farmer Input Support Program (FISP). A government farm input subsidy program to increase production and enhance food security.

### **Ways to Maximize Impact**

- i. Re-alignment of certain institutions and departments to improve their effectiveness
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to constitute a Technical Nutrition Team (TNT) drawing expertise from other sectors
- iii. Establish a steering committee of Permanent Secretaries from Ministries that have a bearing on the development of the agriculture and health sectors in Zambia. The TNT will report to the committee of Permanent Secretaries.

- iv. Ministry of Agriculture and livestock to work with other stakeholders, (such as NGOs, Private sector and other line Ministries) to effectively mainstream nutrition.
- v. Improve nutrition programming by designing nutrition specific interventions using food based approaches and nutrition sensitive agricultural programs.
- vi. Creating incentives through agriculture policies and investments (for producers, processors, retailers and consumers) to improve nutrition
- vii. Propose tax and non-tax incentives for producers, retailers and processors. For example give tax breaks to local producers of nutritious foods.
- viii. Promotion of diversified foods and diets through public media advertisements, which in the long run will create demand for diversified foods.
- ix. Improve legal framework to improve Land tenure system- a move that improves access to land as a factor of (food) production.

## **F. Priorities for information systems**

Currently there is no nutrition related national M&E framework in place. As a result consumption indicators which interpret nutrition and agriculture are lacking. Nonetheless, a common M&E framework is in the process of being developed by the National Food and Nutrition Commission and Central Statistical Office.

Therefore, there is need to harmonize existing information systems that lie in different sectors to be harmonized into sector wide M&E system

### **What are priority actions for improving food and nutrition security information systems?**

- i. Mapping all the existing M&E frameworks, linking them together and identifying the hosting institution, most preferable NFNC

## **G. Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock will be the overall coordinator of all agricultural related nutrition sensitive initiatives.

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

- i. Activity Implementation- Harmonized implementation of activities ensures maximum resource utilization and avoids duplication of efforts.
- ii. Monitoring and Evaluation - use the sector wide M&E developed by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- iii. Information sharing among various players in the Food and Nutrition field, facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Technical Nutrition Team.
- iv. Policy- Ensure that the Food and Nutrition policies urge multisectoral participation.
- v. Strategies- All sectors should recognize the overarching Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock strategy on nutrition and work responsively towards that strategy.
- v.vi. MAL nutrition unit needs to have a strategy that clearly defines the integration of Nutrition in the entire Agriculture system
- vi.vii. Planning- Multi-sectoral planning for food and nutrition, spearheaded by the Technical Nutrition Team in Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- vii.viii. Action- all sectors should participate in joint action planning that informs the MAL TNT.

### **These actions will contribute to**

- Harmonized service delivery
- Maximization of impacts
- Maximization of resources utilization
- Improve lessons learning and sharing



**H. What will strengthen existing coordination mechanisms to better integrate nutrition in agriculture policies and programs, and better integrate agriculture in nutrition policies and programs**

- i. The establishment of Steering committee of Permanent Secretaries to coordinate nutrition programs at national level.
- ii. The establishment of multi stakeholder Technical Nutrition Team to implement nutrition activities.
- iii. Incorporating a subcommittee on Nutrition at Provincial and District Development coordinating committees and also at community level(ADC and RDC)

**I. Who are the proposed partners (national institutions, development partners, private sector) / initiatives (Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), UN, REACH, etc.) to be involved for strengthening the nutritional impact of agriculture policies and programs.**

- i. National Institution namely (Ministry of agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health, National Food and Nutrition Commission)
- ii. Cooperation partners (USAID, UN agencies, EU, Irish AID , DFID, )
- iii. Civil Society Organization (CSO-Scaling Up Nutrition)
- iv. Farmer Associations (Zambia National Farmers Union,
- v. Private Sector (Pamalat, food processors, Millers Association, ZACCI, manufacturers association)
- vi. Academic Institutions , University of Zambia, Natural Resources Development College and other tertiary institutions are critical for research and development and promotion

- vii. Consultative Group in International Agriculture Research (Harvest plus, world fish and IATA)

**J. Capacities needed for integrating nutrition in agriculture.**

- i. Strengthening coordination amongst stakeholders at all levels.
- ii. There is increase aggressively mobilize financial and human resources for nutrition activities.
- iii. Decentralize human resource to lower organs to implement nutrition activities.

**K. Costing / funding issues**

**Using existing resources to address some of the priorities (in terms of interventions, information systems and capacities) identified above? Where would you need new resources?**

**How to use existing resources:**

- i. Promotion of dietary and food diversification by engaging extension workers
- ii. Research and Development into appropriate nutritious foods, causes of malnutrition and solutions.
- iii. Strengthening Research and extension linkages to ensure that information is accessed by all users and inform policy direction.
- iv. Capacity development of institutions and individuals (training, tools, transport, ) in particular to build skills and competences of Trainers of Trainers
- v. review legislation on food standards, safety and enforcement
- vi. hold periodic national, provincial, district, community meetings on food and nutrition

### **Where to find resources:**

- i. Government budget
- ii. Development Partners.
- iii. Civil Society Organization (Local and International)

### **How to report back**

- i. Use the new sector wide M&E developed by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Also existing Ministry of Health and National Food and Nutritional Commission M&E system.
- ii. Provide periodic reports to Government institution and other stakeholders.

### **L. How to sensitize/influence decision-makers to take on board recommendations coming out from the workshop?**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Technical Nutrition Team will have scheduled meetings with the High level Steering committee of Permanent Secretaries to discuss policy recommendations.

### **M. 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.)?**

- i. World food day- explore with other organizations on how to sensitize the masses and engage the decision makers
- ii. Introduce budget lines within the various departmental section budget lines for promotion and support of nutritional activities,

**Needs for external support/assistance?**

- i. To actualize agreed actions under the 1000 days and SUN work plans
- ii. Support for Research and development in the indigenous foods promotion
- iii. Capacity development
- iv. Technical assistance on packing nutrition sensitive agriculture

**N. Who will be the main contact persons for nutrition-related issues in the CAADP process after the workshop?**

- i. Director Policy and Planning through the CAADP Focal person.
- ii. Director of Agriculture through the Chief Nutrition Officer.