**Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?**

**Collection of contributions received**

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# Topic note

***Background***

In September 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the Food Security and Nutrition Program (FSNP) with the Action Plan for the period 2015-2017. The comprehensive program, where food security and nutrition issues are inseparably linked with the sustainable development policy of the country, was a result of a consultation process and participatory approach among various stakeholders supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

The country’s FSNP development goals are as follows: (i) a departure from the traditional tools for managing food security and nutrition issues in the country; (ii) expanding food security with targets aimed at improving nutritional quality and the health of the population; and (iii) harmonizing food security and nutrition issues in the country with the global concept.

The FSNP is based on the four targets:

1. Ensure food availability in the country;

2. Ensure physical and economic access to food;

3. Ensure dietary quality, diversity, and caloric intake;

4. Ensure control and supervision of food safety.

***Issues***

The current status of the FSNP implementation is not in line with the Action Plan due to a number of issues identified as follows:

* significant gaps between required and available funding;
* barriers in the translation of policies to action;
* capacity development on the implementation of FSNP are still lacking; and
* role of the private sector and civil society organizations is not clearly defined.

The successful implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Program is an important issue for Kyrgyzstan as the country still remains vulnerable to global economic shocks, volatility in international food and commodity prices and weather shocks that negatively affect country’s economy and the food security situation in general. In addition, the country is dependent on food imports (cereals, oils, meat) and remittance incomes.

Despite a considerable economic growth and improvements in household welfare in the recent years, the ability of the country to maintain food security at the national level does not always translate into better nutrition outcomes at the household level. In 2015, the poverty estimate was 32 percent with six percent of the country population undernourished[[1]](#footnote-1), and 7.9 percent of children suffered from weight deficit[[2]](#footnote-2).

***Purpose***

The Online Consultation “*Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?*” aims to involve stakeholders into an inclusive dialogue on how to support the successful application of the programme.

In this light, a Road Map for the Food Security and Nutrition Program may help to put the implementation on a clearly defined timeline while at the same time increasing the transparency and accountability to the public. The Road Map can constructively readjust the deliverables by priorities; highlight the involvement of private sector and non-governmental organizations in the process and help revise targets, funding sources and capacity gaps.

*This online consultation also embodies the commitment towards using innovative participatory mechanisms to involve stakeholder continuously along the different phases of the programme.*

We encourage stakeholders from Kyrgyzstan who represent public and private sectors, academia, civil societies, international community and developing programs, whose activities and interests lay in the field of food security, nutrition, agriculture, use of natural resources and social protection to share their views. Participants from other countries in the region and beyond are also very much welcome to share their experiences and perspectives that could further enrich this exchange.

We would like to have your opinion on the following questions:

**Policy:** The Food Security and Nutrition Program of Kyrgyzstan was designed for a three-year period. What timeline should be planned in the future in order to address a complexity of food security and nutrition issues? What can help increase the program’s impact: setting short-term goals; conducting assessments, surveys and /or revisions in an annual manner?

**Funding:** The scarcity or lack of funding is one of the main constraints. Could you suggest new sources for funding that may help covering financial gaps in the current and future phases of the FSNP? What are the possibilities of allocating more funds for the FSNP in the state budgets? What fund raising modalities should be used, including contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations?

**Role of Stakeholders:** The implementation process of the FSNP requires an inclusive and participatory approach of various governmental and non-governmental actors. Which institution should be responsible for the overall deliveries of the FSNP? How can the Government engage the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the complex objectives of the FSNP? Who are other stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation process?

**Capacity Development:** Capacity development plays a crucial role in the efficiency of the FSNP implementation. What kind of coordinated approach is required between different government and non-government agencies for capacity development? Would you like to suggest some topics, relevant to FSNP, on which you can benefit from training? Would you recommend local institutions or development projects who have relevant skills and capacities to provide such trainings?

**Road Map:** The Road Map meant to visualize the FSNP implementation process, including the main actors. What would you suggest to improve in the Road Map in order to highlight the main financial gaps and define the role of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders? What principles should be followed in order to prioritize certain tasks over others? Any other activities would you advise to be added to the future plan of the FSNP?

***Expected outputs***

The results of the Online Consultation will be analysed and recommendations will be presented to the Food Security Council in Kyrgyzstan for further FSNP implementation and the development of the next steps of the Program beyond 2017.

***Place and time***

This Online Consultation is initiated by the FAO Representative Office in Kyrgyzstan and FAO’s Global Food Security and Nutrition Forum (FSN Forum) with the South-South Cooperation funding. The Consultation takes place on the regional platform of the FSN Forum for Europe and Central Asia from **1st** until **28th November 2016**.

***Supporting materials***

For your courtesy, we have prepared a number of supporting documents:

* “Road Map” will help visualize the activities and key actors to be involved.
* “Background document to the Online Consultation” will help you learn more about the FSNP and the proposed steps.
* “The Food Security and Nutrition Program of the Kyrgyz Republic” with the Action Plan provides you with the content of the national policy.
* “Macro-economic Food Situation Analysis: Kyrgyzstan” provides you with some analytical data for further reading.

We are looking forward to interesting and fruitful discussion!

Sincerely Yours,

*Arindam Banerjee,*

Associate Professor in Economics, the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

*Kanat Tilekeyev,*

Senior Research Fellow, the University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

*Marlen Tynaliev,*

Food Security specialist, FAO, Kyrgyzstan

# Contributions received

## Saydagzam Khabibullaev, Land of Plenty Agro Distribution LLC, Uzbekistan

**Good day (or whatever time of day applies)!**

*Please consider my comments as suggestions, not as an instruction-for-use.*

Firstly I am grateful for such a frank and undoubtedly important discussion. "Food security" has  always been important for any country and any nation. Namely due to these reasons I will try to be as open as possible in terms of food supply and establishing ways to provide food products.

I wouldn’t want my suggestions to be considered as pulling a blanket over oneself, as for me it’s also important, when ensuring one’s own safety, to do everything possible for neighbours to be comfortable as well, only this way it is possible to ensure your own safety and comfort.

So, let's sort all out.

**Policy**: The Food Security and Nutrition Programme of Kyrgyzstan was planned for a three-year period. What timeline should be planned in the future in order to address a complexity of food security and nutrition issues? What can help increase the program’s impact: setting short-term goals; conducting assessments, surveys and/or revisions in an annual manner?

I cannot completely agree with some of the statements given above. But I will not go into each point. In reality, the action policy on food security implementation will be based on provision of tangible profits for market participants. Ensuring implementation of such initiatives is possible in different ways, but, in reality, legal support for provided privileges and preferences plays a big role. There is a need for legislation which allows creation of economic zones that will attract not only investors (in reality - it is a utopia that any investor will come anywhere for the sake of a profit; investors are more interested for how long they will be allowed to implement their projects, which will let them export produced goods out of the country and sell them at a foreign market at world price rates), but also experienced food producers. There is a saying: the more laws, the less they are obeyed! The modern world cannot exist without ensuring rights of market participants depriving them of their legal rights and responsibilities.

Co-production policy should not be based only on JVs (Joint Ventures), it is better to use the status of an economic zone participant, which in future will be able to create joint ventures or LLCs with foreign investment, as the market gets maximum development when earned profit lead to bigger investments and bigger profits. It is a mistake to think that foreign investors are always willing to take away what they earned. They will keep investing more and more, if internal market rules and laws allow them to properly manage funds and earn more. South-East Asian countries can serve as an example of that, where foreigners were even allowed at national food production, but in the framework of national programs.

All of the above mentioned may seem as already well-known facts, but in current market conditions it’s allowed not everywhere. Recently I have received a proposal to elaborate conditions for production secondary and tertiary rice products in Vietnam, a country where for centuries rice has been crucial not only for existence, but also trade. Do you think it is possible to make bold moves on this product in this country? It is difficult to find the best ways, but the country's government gives legal guarantees for distribution of the manufactured product not only there, but also in the region. In addition, they provide legal guarantees for implementation of external banking operations (of course there are certain conditions, but still you can do your job within the permissible limits), and this has allowed many entrepreneurs to create new directions for work.

Of course, this analogy can be unpleasant, but it is necessary at least to introduce similar systems of project implementation at some extent.

Food supply always depends on means invested in it, facilities and, of course, prospects, potential and guarantees for product demand at the market. At this point, I would like to stop commenting on action policy in this sphere, because not every opinion of mine may be applicable, so I will not go any further.

**Funding**: The scarcity or lack of funding is one of the main constraints. Could you suggest new sources for funding that may help covering financial gaps in the current and future phases of the FSNP? What are the possibilities of allocating more funds for the FSNP in the state budgets? What fund raising modalities should be used, including contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations?

It’s better not to guarantee financial independence, but to develop a system of preferences with detailed terms for not only use but also investment of gained funds. Financial support for food production projects must always be based on the opportunity to earn in a long term, as particularly this area rarely allows investors to gain profits in their first year of project implementation.

Let me give one example which would better illustrate the elements of the system:

A producer supplies bean products, for instance, those that do not require a lot of water. This product will be low-cost and will require little labor. Its quality will fall when the product will be profitable only at the national market. But if an opportunity of selling an already processed product at another market appears, the quality will improve dramatically. Why? Because, in case real financial possibilities are provided for turnover of funds, involvement of mechanisms and equipment for processing products will gradually pay off. It is a mistake to consider opening one’s own venture at other markets, it’s better to combine and cooperate with the most open and law-abiding players of the same market which has a constant demand for this product. How is this possible? This is possible when, in reality, this seller invests profitably himself/herself in production of this product.

**Role of Stakeholders**: The implementation process of the FSNP requires an inclusive and participatory approach of various governmental and non-governmental actors. Which institution should be responsible for the overall deliveries of the FSNP? How can the Government engage the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the complex objectives of the FSNP? Who are other stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation process?

Stakeholders must be defined in the scope of all product consumers. Implementation of product promotion projects at the national and other markets must be planned carefully.

For example: access to food must come through identifying the  recipients as winners of various competitions, or even winners of competitions initiated by the producer, together with other civil society organisations. As a result, not all can be eaten, but when there is sth to cook from, then that’s what we call a food product. Not everything should be linked to financial gain or money. This question requires a more detailed description, and it is better to leave it for further discussion.

At this point I would like to suggest creating legal entities that will be able to attract experienced market players under a single idea - to produce goods of the regional specificity, but not only for the national market. For example: there are different types of meat, but there is almost always a demand for quality meat. And why not to try to grow small cattle in Kyrgyzstan? Its pastures have always been famous for  abundant plants, so why did flocks disappear? Because there was no rational approach to production of not only meat, but also other processed products of animal origin. Implementing innovative, modern, effective and resource-efficient technologies lies in the same line as gained benefits, profits and development opportunities. Consequently, the best option is an economic zone with guaranteed preferences.

Solutions for the remaining issues requires participation in the project, which cannot be done at the discussion level.

Let each person have a lot of friends, colleagues and fellow-thinkers in his/her life, who will eventually facilitate his/her growth, development and prosperity of his/her business, as well as promote his/her welfare.

Please accept my highest regards and good wishes

*(Please do not judge my spelling mistakes, if such appear here, as thoughts are faster than fingers)*

## Tursun Mamyrbaev, Kyrgyz – Slavic University, Kyrgyzstan

**Policy:** the Program should be developed before 2025, basic indicators on nutrition should be developed before 2025 (WHA indicators), with intermediate SDG-2030 indicators. We should plan and implement specific measures to achieve these indicators.

**Funding**: it is necessary to ensure that the Government will be allocating certain funds for implementation of measures within FSNP and establish expenditure monitoring. Currently the FSNP 2015-2017 state program is at work. Did somebody feel its implementation? Did anything change? The program implemented on paper only, with exception of funds allocated for the specific purposes by development partners.

**Role of Stakeholders: Establishment of multispectral platform within SUN Kyrgyzstan movement (Scaling Up Nutrition Kyrgyzstan), which involves governmental agencies, scientists, professors of higher and secondary institutions, private sector, Parliament, NGOs. Who is a leader of this platform? NGOs and development partners, but it should be vice versa. The public sector should be leading; eventually Food Security and eradication of diseases related to nutrition are public responsibilities. Why is it happening? Because of weak human resources.**

**Road Map or Implementation Plan.** I do not know the international practice, but in Kyrgyzstan in case of development of program for a period of 5 years, the plan should be map out for 5 years. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic should then approve the document. This is a very difficult and exhausting process. FSNP 2015-2017 was approved after almost a year period in September 2015 after approval of the 2015 Budget, therefore events, which were scheduled for 2015 within FSNP 2015, were left without funding. Once the plan is drawn up for 5-year period then reporting should be made also within 5 years. Some of the events may lose relevance or appear outdated by the end of Program implementation.

On my opinion, it is not entirely rational. Why not divide the Plan into several phases, map it out  for 2 year period, implement them, run a mid-term evaluation for efficiency of measures, and in view of this analysis and evidence to develop an action plan for next 2 years, etc. In order to avoid this long and exhausting approval process with ministries and departments, each participant develops the Program implementation plan for the next 2 years considering indicators, identified by the strategic program.

## Matraim Jusupov, Agriculture and Water Resources Management Expert, Consultant at FAO, Kyrgyzstan

**About problems, situation in agriculture and provision of the Food Security Policy in Kyrgyzstan:**

Yes, I agree with my colleague that the Food Security and Nutrition Program in Kyrgyzstan should be planned for 10 years, i.e. - until 2025.

I would like to give a fill-in on problems in agriculture in Kyrgyzstan. Simple everyday formulation of the situation as follows: What is a current situation in agriculture in Kyrgyzstan?: atomistic farms, irrigation water deficiency (irrigation canals, facilities are designed only for large crop rotation fields), delivery loses, global climate change, impossibility of prediction and issuance of accurate agrometeo data (long term data recurrence was disturbed), crop cultivation technology disregarded / also due to lack of money, farmers are not provided with state-of-the-art knowledge, therefore they refuse to take care of unprofitable business, the land is owned as an estate due to the full land degradation (the land stands as a real property asset only).

We observe reduction of yields by 2-3 times comparing to 80th. Farmers take out loans and go bankrupt because they are unable to recover value. In simple words, they abandon hope. From around 350 thousands of small farms there are only 10-15 more or less successful fall on every district (in total around 500 nationwide). Problems in agriculture largely occur owing to lack of competent staff and **clear agricultural policy**. Kyrgyzstan is unable to set an agrarian policy for over a number of years.

Currently the development capability behind the reforms is exhausted. Agriculture remains low-income, low productivity, out of date sector for a long period. The sector permanently depends on external concessional financial assistance. We observe constant growth of competitive pressure of foreign manufacturers that supply our market with more varied and cheaper products.

Existing policy in relation to agriculture may lead to an increase of poverty among small farmers. This necessitates the development of new agricultural development strategy. It will form the State policy with regard to existing competitive advantages, implying qualitative changes in agricultural production for a more complete solution of food security problems and problems of rural income increase.

Upon condition that population growth in Kyrgyzstan will remain in the range of 15% decennary, it will reach approximately 7 million people up to 2025th. In order to provide the required increase in food production it is necessary to either increase the land area under crops or, respectively, increase yield of existing lands, or import additional quantity of products, or perform these steps together. For example, in order to increase the consumption of bread it is enough to increase the area under crops for 5 to 10%, increase yield on existing lands for 5 to 10%, and increase grain import for 4 - 6%. The most suitable option should be selected based on an assessment of real possibilities of each option and its economic feasibility. In view of the above, the country faces the task of ensuring: a) stop the process of further degradation of irrigated lands from depletion, waterlogging, salinization, contamination with reeds and weeds, b) introduction of water saving technologies, c) construction of new regulatory and accumulating facilities, d) increasing the efficiency of irrigation systems.

There are currently 983 private (large, medium and small) processors, functioning in Kyrgyzstan: of which milk and dairy products - 438; meat - 482; vegetables, fruits, berries - 63 (of which fruit juice and fruit drinks - 22, preserves and jams - 19, preserve tomato juice and tomato paste, spices and sauces - 22, jams, marmalades, fruit puree - 7); flour and flour products - 3030 (large flour mills – 21, medium fm – 9, mini fm - 3000). Organization of gathering of raw materials from more than 350 thousand small farmers across the country is the main problem. The Government / the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation should solve this problem through the development of appropriate public policies, cooperation of these small farms and motivations (providing interest). Food and processing industry is one of the top priority sectors of industry and an important part of the agro-industrial complex of the Kyrgyz Republic, based on local raw materials, and has significant potential for a high added value. The level of development of the sector determines the well-being of the population and is a significant part of the food security of any state. Food and processing industry as a part of manufacturing has a great social significance in solving the problem of employment of the population.

According to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Food security is considered to be secured if the level of reserves of state material reserve covers at least a 90-day need for socially vulnerable segments of the population in staple foods. The main elements of the National Food Security Policy: (i) agriculture; (ii) marketing; (iii) social protection and health; (iv) macroeconomics and public finance.

Currently, the Kyrgyzstan is secured with staple food of own production on a following level: bread products - by 62.5%; vegetable oil - by 30.9%; sugar - 17%; meat - by 64.5%; fruits and berries - by 63.8%. This poses a threat to the country's high dependence on the situation on world food markets, as well as the foreign trade policy of countries we export food from.

There is no monitoring and early warning system in Kyrgyzstan that would alert of negative trends on food market both within the country and worldwide. We should admit low control over the safety of food products and their low compliance with technical requirements, which creates a threat to the health and lives of the population. There is a growth of share of genetically modified and counterfeit goods, some of which causes direct harm to human health or it’s quality does not correspond to the declared in labels.

## Kanat Tilekeyev, co-facilitator of the consultation, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Dear Contributors,

As a facilitator of the discussion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your active participation in the discussions on our subject. We really appreciate your feedback and active participation. I would like to thank you for expressed proposals, opinions, and comments and would like to express my own:

[**Saydagzam Khabibullaev**](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/member/saydagzam-khabibullaev)**,**"Land of Plenty Agro Distribution" LLC, "Real Estate Strong Partners" LLC, Uzbekistan

Your suggestion on the part of food market participant as the interested party is very valuable remark, missed in the development of the FSNP (the Food Security and Nutrition Program). The idea of Public-Private Partnership with enterprises that ensure food security should be undoubtedly analyzed in Kyrgyzstan, considering the fact that the legislation framework for such activity is already exist.

The idea of participation in an open transparent selection of market participants under production of essential products in Kyrgyzstan is quite interesting and should be analyzed in the process of discussion. An integrated approach to the development of food of any kind is also very important while revaluation of the FSNP.

**Tursun Mamyrbaev, Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Kyrgyzstan**

Implementation of crosscutting indicators not only for the FSNP but also for other state programs has a rational kernel and will facilitate integration of the FSNP, as a part of national program, and can be integrated into an agriculture, health programs. It is also a good idea to extend the horizon of the program accounting development of the Strategy 2030. Remarks on mandatory active role of the Government in a matter of Food security and Nutrition is also very important.

State funding is sensitive issue, although initially the proportion of state involvement into implementation process was no more than 3% (see Document, part). I would also like to inform that part of assignments, introduced by the Government through donors during the Food crisis of 2008-2009, are still valid as they incorporated into the activity of State bodies: daily food price monitoring, analysis of food balance, grain procurement program, seed farms support etc.

**Matraim Jusupov, Agriculture and water management expert. Consultant of the FAO Kyrgyzstan.**

Your remark that cottage industry and associated low productivity of agriculture is one of the most important factors indicating low level of internal security for essential types of food is undoubtedly true. Lack of knowledge and technologies are due to these institutional constrains. Agricultural policy, as you point out, has its limitations and is not aimed at structural transformations in the sector. Reforms in agriculture are also very important and should ensure well-being of the population. You remark regarding maintaining the land quality is essential. Therefore, I would like to ask your opinion on what is the solution in organization of logistics of collected raw materials from small farmers to processors, what is a Government’s role and what is a role of the private sector? Certainly, the food safety control is very important issue that is sensitive in Kyrgyzstan.

Once again, thank you all, and I hope to read your opinions and suggestions on the subject many times.

Yours faithfully,

Kanat Tilekeev

## Marlen Tynaliev, co-facilitator of the consultation, FAO KG, Kyrgyzstan

I would also like to thank all the commentators for such an interesting discussion and encourage new entrants to take part in this important debate for our country. I support the opinion of Tursun Mamyrbaeva that when developing the Food Security and Nutrition Government programs it should be provided with long-term implementation period (5, 10 or 15) with detailed step-by-step actions. Moreover the funding issue should be carefully considered to ensure an effective implementation of program activities. It must be also noted that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is planning to establish the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition in the near future. This perhaps suggests that the state wants to and strive to improve the Food Security situation. As far as I know, one of the responsibilities of new Secretariat will be to promote interaction with SUN (**Scaling Up Nutrition)**multi-sectoral platform, as well as with other regional and global platforms. These steps are taken by the State in an attempt to contribute to this platform, become it’s leader.

Yours sincerely,

Marlene Tynaliev

## Vanshaj Kaul, National Centre for Cold-chain Development, Ministry of Agriculture, India

1. As has been noticed in some of the moderately developed countries the potential of achieving food security is often constrained by supply chain inefficiencies and huge post harvest losses. The rural urban supply chain is not only important for food security but a major source of primary income in most agri based economies. Sustainable supply of Agri commodities especially highly perishables is essential for fragile economies to tackle rice rise and food security at the same time.

2. Effort should be made and policy should be designed to promote integration of production, collection and processing centres.

3. Efforts should be made to increase the gainful productivity of agriculture, making sure that most that is produced recahed markets. Liberal trade regimes which allow free trade of agriculture within a countries boundries would ensure multiple market access to farmers, who in a developing economy are invariably the targets of food secuity measures.

4. Incentives should be provided in terms of tax exemption and technological access to entrepreneurs who invest in businesses affecting food loss reduction.

5. International co-operation with countries like India who have experience in develping and promoting food security programs. This would help promote investements and access to better technology through technolgy transfer.

6. Liberal foreign investment regime for investment in post harvest should be promoted, and exports incentivised.

7. Focussing on capacity and skill building initiatives to promote best practices to ensure better employembility of worksforce with an aim to reduce burden on incresing production for food security, providing secondary means of income as well as opening entrepreneureal avenues in agriculture for skilled manpower.

8. Nutritional security can be achieved by soil erjuvenation and monitored by programs like soil health cards, promoting organic farming can also be promoted all as has been evident in India's case.

9. Farmers must be promoted to operate as an organisation, the govt may find it useful to promote framers to form and Farmer Producer Organisation, and allow the organisation to work ina professional manner. Such of FPO's may be studied in case of India. In an organisational modeof working small and marginal farmers have better access to trade, international funding opportunities and technology.

10. Both Productivity and increased  market access can be achieved when framers work cohesively under an organisational banner, this also cuts short the governemnts role and work.

## Arindam Banerjee, co-facilitator of the consultation, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

The discussion has started with some valuable insights and suggestions regarding the challenges of implementing the FSN programme in Kyrgyzstan. An important observation on the status of agricultural production in the country (Matraim Jusupov) has brought to the fore the challenges of small-scale agriculture. Inappropriate irrigational facilities, delivery losses and technological constraints are undoubtedly serious barriers to enhancing productivity and incomes of farmers. There is a need for revamping the agricultural sector for increasing productivity on a sustainable basis.

Associated with this there is the requirement for improving the marketing mechanism for agricultural production (Maitram and Vanshaj Kaul). A holistic intervention on the food security front would need an integration of production, processing and distribution of food products. The establishment of continuous and seamless value chains linking the farms to the consumers’ needs to be an important component of the FSN Programme.

In order to achieve some of these improvements, there are suggestions of attracting private foreign investors in the agricultural and food sector through an incentive structure under certain regulatory framework (Saydagzam Khabibullaev). Adequate incentives of exporting food products from Kyrgyzstan under free trade policies (also pointed by Vanshaj) can help in generating interests among foreign investors. In this regard, it needs to be carefully evaluated whether there are trade-offs between raising productivity and quality through this route and achieving food security. In the context of volatile prices in the world food markets as has recently been observed, what kinds of regulations does the country need to adopt to prevent any decline in domestic access to food. The idea of regional cooperation in trade can be explored by similar developing countries at global level.

The idea of developing the FSN Programme for longer terms like 5 or 10 years (Tursun Mamyrbaeva; and Maitram) along with provisions of mid-term appraisals and expenditure monitoring are valuable ideas for any planned and protracted intervention in food security. The need for stronger public intervention in terms of allocating more funds to FSNP as well as qualitative interventions like engaging and leading the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Kyrgyzstan movement is noted in the discussion. It is also observed that larger government intervention must be accompanied by better monitoring of expenditure and outcomes and capacity-building of human resources. More concrete suggestions on these aspects will enrich the consultation.

We would like to thank the participants and look forward to an engaged and lively discussion on the various challenges in implementing the FSN Programme, both on issues which have already been put on the table and other veritable challenges.

## Natalia Kireenko, The Institute of System Research in Agro-Industrial Complex of NAS of Belarus, Belarus

Good afternoon, colleagues. I am glad to join in the "Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?” discussion.

I represent the Republic of Belarus and I am a Head of Market Department of The Institute of System Research in Agro-Industrial Complex of NAS of Belarus. Food security is the main research area of our department.

I would like to share our experience on this issue in Belarus.

National Food Security System of Belarus began to take shape with an adoption of a Concept, developed on the instruction of the President of the Republic of Belarus Lukashenko A. G. as of January 24th, 2003 and approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus as of March 10th, 2004 with #252. The Concept includes strategic food security objectives, national food security model, criteria, indicators, parameters of own design and etc.

Priorities of the Food Security for a specific period are adjusted and refined as part of the State program on socio-economic development and the State program of agro-industrial complex. The State program for rural regeneration and development 2005-2010 with the focus on rural social development has particular, even exceptional importance in solving the food problem. The period of the Program implementation was quite productive for farmers. The AIC has provided food security of the country and also became a prominent exporter of food.

Logical extension of the 2005-2010 Program is The State program for sustainable rural development 2011-2015, main objectives of which involve provision of rural sustainable socio-economic development and improvement of demographic situation through an increase of economic efficiency of agro industrial complex, growth of rural income, and further improvement of social and engineering arrangement of settlements, maintaining their normal environmental conditions.

Certain adjustments to food problem solving are made according to monitoring, which is held annually since 2005 on the basis of a common methodology. This common methodology determines physical and economical availability of high-quality food for all social categories by criteria and indicators of the Concept of the National Food Security. Following to those findings, which are also being submitted to the Administration of the President of Belarus, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food stuffs of Belarus, qualified decisions are taken to ensure sustainability of food system at the national, regional, local levels, together with developing mechanisms to forestall influence of threats on standard of living and quality of food.

Belarus also takes an active part in official events (forums), held at different levels, including interstate level (meetings, seminars, discussions, scientific conferences etc.). In particular, it has participated in the development of:

1. EurAsEC Food Security Concept. Adopted by the decision of the EurAsEC Interstate Council on December 11, 2009 № 464;
2. The Concept on Food Security of CIS. Adopted by the leaders of the states-members of CIS; November 19th, 2010;
3. The Concept of Common Agricultural Policy within the Union State. Adopted at a joint board meeting of Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Agriculture and Food stuffs of Belarus on December 22, 2010;
4. Calculation methods and forms of joint balances of essential food types of CIS member-states, adopted by the Decision of CIS Economic Council as of September 14th, 2012;
5. The Concept of the Agreed (Coordinated) Agricultural Policy of the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space is approved by the Decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council on May 29th, 2013 #35.

As for now the food security problem may seem solved in Belarus - a high level of domestic production and consumption of basic foods is reached and about 35% of agricultural products are exported. But at the same time there are new challenges and threats, both external and internal, in a food sector, which require a response and formation of a modern efficient system of threats monitoring and well-defined national security strategy. In addition, the provisions and criteria, that were built-in into the current Concept 2004, were largely implemented, and the effectiveness of certain approaches and mechanisms in modern conditions should be reconsidered.

In this regard, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, including the Institute of System Research, launched a process of development of a new policy paper on food security (it is planned to be a Food Security Doctrine up to 2030), which is especially necessary to our country due to new challenges of development. Its objective is to form a complex of science-based regulations with mechanisms and measures of their implementation to strengthen food independence by creating a globally competitive and environmentally friendly agricultural production.

We believe that long-range objectives of food sector of Belarus should be:

* firstly, to ensure a high level of physical and economical availability of safe and quality food products for population in volumes and range essential for an active and healthy lifestyle;
* secondly, to create conditions for saturation of domestic food market with quality products of domestic food production. In this connection, it should provide an increase in proportion of healthy food and organic food up to 20%;
* thirdly, effective forecasting and anticipation of internal and external threats to food security, minimizing their negative impact due to formation of strategic stocks of agricultural raw materials and food, as well as real-time monitoring of food vulnerability of specific groups of the population;
* fourthly, increase the competitiveness of domestic producers on domestic and international market of the Eurasian Union countries by optimizing the use of agricultural sector capacity, introducing non-waste and environmentally friendly technologies with a gentle mode of resource consumption.

The monitoring methodology will be improving in framework of working out document with due regard to perspective parameters of consumption and own production, targeted on high quality of life and sustainable agricultural production.

It is possible that our experience and our planned activities will help Kyrgyz colleagues. I wish you success.

## Kalida Amanova, Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition and Food Security, Kyrgyzstan

**Policy:**

Giving consideration to a long process of 2015-2017 Food Security and Nutrition Program adoption, it should be assumed that the new program is already under development, and as it was proposed – until 2025th.

Agriculture in Kyrgyzstan, which is set to be the foundation for food security, has not yet defined a course of development. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country with limited crop lands. The land is privately owned with two / third of the population living generally in a rural area. Most of farmers own a land of less than 1 ha. And it is impossible to join together into cooperatives. Therefore, in my opinion, the policy should be built on the basis of these realities. Considering initiatives of the public. More advanced part of farmers has chosen organic food as line of development. Especially since there are organic aimacs whose primary focus is on development of **organic agriculture** – “the production system, which preserves the health of soils, safe for ecosystem and people. It is based on vernacular ecological processes, cycles and biodiversity, and does not use adverse technologies. Organic agriculture combines traditions, innovations and science for the benefit of environment in general and promotes pure cooperation and good quality of life for all involved parties”.

**Funding:**

Properly set strategy, good planning, well-defined tasks and obligations will help to avoid overlapping of activities and use internal and external funding in more efficient way.

Invest into development of small farms. This is the way to a healthier rural population and creation of conditions for the development of agriculture.

**Role of Stakeholders:**

Cooperation of all stakeholders within the SUN Movement creates good prospects, and the Government should strengthen this movement by nominating one of the Government top officials as a coordinator.

## Marystella Mtalo, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania

**Policy:** I would suggest 5-10  years for food and nutrition programs realise the impact of the program. Nutrition problems affects community /individual slowly for long period of time to see the symptoms and the intervantion to reduce or eliminate the effects take long time to realize the impacts.

The involvement of the stakeholders especially at the grassroot level during the program design is very important for the sustainability as well as for short to medium impact to be realised and also this will create sense of ownership.

**Financing:**  Establishment of community microfinace programs where poor people can  secure loans to rais small animals like chicken, goats and rabbits. Political will is very important to facilitate this  to happen. Although there is no set formula for achieving sustainable improvements in curbing undernourishment, tangible impact often requires transforming political commitments into: High-level leadership and improved governance; - Public-private partnerships and  create an enabling environment. Maistreaming food and nutrition in other National policies also is important as it is crosscutting issue.This should be a condition for countries that depend financing from donors. Funds can be raised by inviting high level people like President, Prime Minister, or First lady   for vouluntary walk where those who will participate will contribute.

 Increase in food production is key to the reduction of donors financing. To achieve the most direct reduction of hunger, priority must be given to economic growth in the agricultural sector which hosts the majority of the poor in order to ensure resilient livelihoods and achieve food and nutrition security.

Role of Stakeholders

The Health sector should take lead in Food and nutrition supported by Agriculture sector. Government can engage the private sector through Public Private Partinership initiative where the government will create favorable environment for for private sector to invest  for example in processing industries fortifying cooking  oil or maize flour with the deficient micronutients like Vitamin A or iodine or iron also growing high value crops such as Carrots and  Yellow sweet potatoes

Involvement of the private sector plays an important role in strengthening linkages within agricultural supply chains, while the public sector has oversight of social welfare, disaster risk management and equitable distribution of benefits.

Other stakeholders include higher learning institutions ( Universities),  WFP, UNICEF, FAO , USAID few to mention are very important in food and Nutrition issues.

## Gulmira Kozhobergenova, Chairperson of Civil Alliance on Nutrition and Food Security, Kyrgyzstan

**Hello, dear colleagues. I would like to share my thoughts on the issues raised in relation with the Food Security and Nutrition Program.**

**Policy**

FSN Program should be designed for a longer period, for example, for 5 years. It gives the chance to smoothly and consistently go to the goals, which arise in the period between the termination of the old program and the introduction of the new program. It is known that the coordination of the program and its approval take a considerable amount of time, sometimes it takes more than 1 year, as it happened with this Program. 5-year term will give enough time to achieve the goals, allow conducting an adequate assessment of the occurred changes and developing the next program.

What can strengthen the impact of the program? I adhere to an opinion that the theory and practice should be inextricably linked to each other. What do I mean by that? When the government develops and implements the policy, it is necessary to follow a scheme of the policy management cycle, and pay special attention to its coordination and monitoring, the analysis of the situation and regular amendment of the programs. Public servants must clearly understand this scheme and if they lack resources, they should attract resources from the outside, including civil organizations.

Accountability is an important factor of enhancing the impact of FSNP. The word "accountability" is negatively perceived by government officials. The ministries shall report to the government for the implementation of the Program, it appears that the government is accountable to itself. Participants of the process are not aware of how the Program is being implemented: neither those who make changes nor those to whom the changes are directed. Therefore, even the positive changes often remain unnoticed and do not go to the credit of the government authorities. In my opinion, the accountability, first of all, means informational awareness, and then, proceeding from this awareness, an opportunity to express one's opinion and influence the process of FSNP implementation. In order to enhance the impact of the Program it is necessary to consider the mechanisms of the accountability to the citizens of the country and the involvement mechanisms in the decision making process of the subjects and objects of FSNP.

**Funding**

I think that the government should be the main "new" source of funding of the FSN Program. The state budget is getting more transparent and clear, and the process keeps going. Since funding on food security and nutrition are scattered among sectors in the ministries and departments and hidden under different names of the articles, it is unclear how much money is allocated and spent on the issues of food security and nutrition, and how effectively they are being used. Resource mobilization involves ensuring transparency and clarity of public expenditures. Within the project of the Civil Alliance for Nutrition and Food Security (with the assistance of UNICEF and Scaling Up Nutrition Movement),  a budget analysis report of the ministries and the agencies implementing the sectoral policies and practices influencing the quality of food has been prepared. Expert Ibraeva made the following key findings:

1. Tracking the expenditures of the state budget for nutrition and food security requires a real transition to the program budget, changes in the budget law, namely in the budget code, budget classifications and regulations.
2. Funding for food security and nutrition programs is not reflected in the sectoral budgets, i.e. there is no apparent link between FSNP and the state budget.

Concerning the new sources of the FSNP funding, it is worth mentioning a phenomenon which is getting stronger around the world: imposing taxes on harmful products and directing these funds for the Program.

**Role of stakeholders.**

A subject of the food security and nutrition is wide; there are many participants and stakeholders. Each institution is responsible for its effectiveness according to its powers. The Government shall bear responsibility for its general effectiveness, undertake commitments on the achievement of certain goals, clearly and widely announce these commitments. And these should be be enclosed in the appropriate functionality. The government also should be a leader in engaging all stakeholders in a dialog during the implementation of the existing FSNP and in the development of the new one. The Food Security Council should implement it, although it is believed to be an advisory body, but there is no need to invent new structures, and currently, it is the only organization that can take over the coordination function.

In order to involve the private sector and civil society it is necessary to bring together representatives of these sectors for participation in the discussion of the FSNP general goals and commitments and so that the representatives of the businesses and civil society make commitments. It is necessary to ensure the businesses themselves determine their role in achieving the FSNP goals.

A common space for communication for the government, donors, NGOs, businesses already exists, it is the multilateral platform of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. So far, the meetings have been initiated at the level of the ministries. It is the right time to think how to move the dialogue higher; the meetings have to be regular, by the initiative of public authorities, with a planned agenda and the voluntary accountability/informing each other of the commitments made and their implementation. Electronic platform at which we are communicating now, can also serve as a means of involving in the process of achieving the FSNP goals.

As for civil society, the process of defining its role is already underway. Where do we see ourselves: building awareness among decision-makers with evidence; strengthening a voice of communities; increase in awareness of the population on the balanced food and on the right for food; budget monitoring, including local budget; data analysis; involvement of the new FSNP subjects and objects and facilitation of their coordination.

**One of the most important parts of FSNP is to inform people about healthy eating to change the eating habits.**

**Besides schools, the universities and professional schools/lyceums can play a big role in implementing of this task, forming a correct attitude to nutrition among students. Another important player is the media, especially television. Currently Kyrgyzstan is moving to a digital broadcasting, and many channels have difficulty in filling airtime with high-quality useful materials. This situation can be used for the benefit of all.**

**Capacity development**

To develop the potential, it is necessary to know exactly what skills and knowledge are required to participants of the Program, and it is also necessary to map the emerging or even existing capacity needs.

It would be interesting and useful for me to explore the following subjects: a cycle of the policy implementation, collection and analysis of the data to achieve the goals of the program, the basics of the food security and nutrition, the theory of change, analysis of the national and local budgets and tracking of the budget, documentation of the activities, achievements and best practices.

**Road map**

FSNP consists of three parts, the program itself, which includes priorities for activities, the action plan and program budget. Naturally, the action plan and the budget should be linked to the Program so that to know how much money is required for the Program. On the one hand, it is a necessity, but on the other hand it is a barrier in the process of coordination and approval. The lack/scarcity of the funding to cover the events forces to give up some important activities. Then, the country loses an opportunity to indicate resource requirements and create demand for resources for potential investors. The rules for the development of such documents should allow see the resource requirements and gaps in funding for such needs.

I support the idea that the plans should be adjusted annually, but I do not agree that the FSNP implementation plan should be developed by each ministry independently as a separate document, which remains within the ministry. In such a case, it becomes more difficult to obtain access to such plans, track and coordinate the execution of the departmental plans.

When developing the following FSNP, I propose including a section of drinking water and sanitation in the future plans, and the Program for prophylaxis of noninfectious diseases to consider an integral part of the FSNP.

## Georges Bazongo, Tree Aid, Burkina Faso

**I would like to congratulate you for adopting a FSNP for your country. Most of the time in African countries, we operate only based on programme not on sustainable policy to reverse the Food insecurity and nutrition issues. Find below my thoughs after the questions:**

**Policy:**The Food Security and Nutrition Program of Kyrgyzstan was designed for a three-year period. What timeline should be planned in the future in order to address a complexity of food security and nutrition issues? What can help increase the program’s impact: setting short-term goals; conducting assessments, surveys and /or revisions in an annual manner?

From my experience, the policy should be develop for a long terme i.e more than 10 years based on the country realities of Food and Nutrion data not based on the Politician views only. So this policy will survive to all the Government who will only develop their programme based on this policy. The work on food security and nutrition take time and the impact could be seen beyong 5 years so if you have a short or medium term policy, you will not be able to achieve result and impact before the end of the policy. To implement the Policy, you will need to develop a Global Programme for Food Security and Nutrition  for 5 years which will be more operational with a clear strategy for funding, implementation, M&E, Learning and Policy influence. You can review the achievement of the programme annually including all the stackeholders and the farmers organisation. Please make sure your Policy and the Programme don't match only on the potential donor needs and vision but should be based on the realities of the Country and the donor to look at where they want to provide supports and funding.

**Funding:**The scarcity or lack of funding is one of the main constraints. Could you suggest new sources for funding that may help covering financial gaps in the current and future phases of the FSNP? What are the possibilities of allocating more funds for the FSNP in the state budgets? What fund raising modalities should be used, including contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations?

The scarcity of funding is due to the fact in the development countries, the develop our programme based on the donors needs. You should at the first time find the strategy to mobilise the country population and the local development organisation to mobile their own funds for the policy. It's feasible, just to trust on the capacities of the farmers, the private sector and others. You should maintain the communication with all the stackeholders and to define the strategies to mobilise local funding. The organisations like FAO and other Intrenational organisations with some experiences can support to develop the strategy of local funds mobilisation. After assessing this possibility, you will now define the strategy to raise funds externally by showing what the commitment for local funds mobilisation.

**Role of Stakeholders:** The implementation process of the FSNP requires an inclusive and participatory approach of various governmental and non-governmental actors. Which institution should be responsible for the overall deliveries of the FSNP? How can the Government engage the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the complex objectives of the FSNP? Who are other stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation process?

The first people to implement and mobilise local funds are the producers/farmers and theirs organisations. May be they are in the civil Society but it's important to give them a strong importance in the process. The participatory approach is good and I think for the case it's better to push in deep with Programmatic Approach to engage all stackeholders around the FSNP, and define together the role and responsabilities of each others in the process. You will go from the problem statement together to the strategy of implementation and fund raising together. Your collaboration will be focus on acheiving the FSN policy and programme.

That is all for now but I could provide inputs for the two others questions later.

*Georges*

## Klara Dzhakypbekova, University of Bonn, Germany

Dear participants of the online consultation, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

The issues of the food security are deeply rooted in the sphere of the socio-economic policy of the government because they constitute a strategic component of the country's development. After reviewing the Food Security and Nutrition Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2017 years (FSNP), I was very pleased that this document comprehensively covers the key issues of the agricultural sector of Kyrgyzstan. Besides that, the main steps to implement the program have been developed.

I would like to specify the main points that can also be added to this program. These proposals are fairly conservative because of the thoroughness of the food safety problems.

**Policy:**

a) in the previous messages it was already said about the weak sides of the current Agricultural Policy in the country, which has virtually no clear direction (because of certain circumstances in recent years, the Agricultural Policy has failed to acquire stability and take a specific course for development). In addition, the measures mentioned in the FSNP, perfectly describe the mechanisms of solving the food security problems, but they mainly aimed at eliminating the consequences, rather than at resolving the causes of these problems.

The implementation of the minimum standards of the availability and access to food is determined to the main course of FSNP. Undoubtedly, the main instrument in this matter are the prices. Here I would join the opinion of the majority: in a short term - it may include certain fiscal instruments (tariffs and preferences) in relation to the imported foodstuffs. Although in terms of political context, it will be difficult for Kyrgyzstan to manipulate with such a term as "protectionism" (because of the commitments made to the WTO and CU), nevertheless the situation requires similar measures. A political rhetoric may illustrate it in a different light in the form of subsidies or indexation of the income (or the increase of the green package preferences within the WTO - which were discussed in a previous online consultation on the WTO/CIS conditions).  
   
b) The issues of socio-economic rural development, the improvement of the scientific and technological base, the technological development are particularly important for the resolution of problems of food security. However, the measures proposed in this framework, mainly relate to the agribusiness development sectors in general, which are good as long-term plans. As for short-term activities (in particular by 2017), it is important to pay special attention to the role of the government as the main participant and as a major driving force to resolve this issue. The colleagues from Belarus and Uzbekistan have already noted the importance of the government measures.

It is no secret that the political will in the issues of the food safety has an initial role in Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and even in the foreign countries. So, for example European Committee directly interferes in the issues of agricultural policy of the Member States (for example, the legal restrictions on fishing in the sea and agro-subsidies). Therefore, it is very important for Kyrgyzstan to develop a clear political position in this regard.

**Funding:**

The main source of funding of FSNP are the donor funds. This component has been indispensable for the entire period of the development of Kyrgyzstan. Measures to attract the donor funds should be continued, however it should not be the main source of funding but an additional one.

Other sources of funding may include PPP, as was noted in the previous comments. Because, in contrast to the traditional commercial investment packages, PPP allows implementing a social component, without which it is difficult to ensure the profitability of investments in agriculture. This component is of special importance (in particular, state subsidies and other conditional preferences) when it comes to organic farming and other environmental land uses.

Therefore, as it was already fairly mentioned in the messages below, commercial investments will generate a smaller share of the social dividends.

Another alternative may be low-interest loans or loans at easier terms, for example, KfW, with the support of which, the GIZ projects work in Kyrgyzstan and around the world, is offering a variety of options for funding public projects pursuant to international agreements. But to ensure the effective use of such borrowed funds it is very important to have clear policy and strong political will. Such projects could be aimed at the creation of the real sector in agribusiness (in particular the mentioned processing plants, and their collection points of the raw materials), and it is important to ensure sales through the import substitution.

**Stakeholders:**

Food security, as part of the national security of the country should mainly be under the administration of the state bodies. As well as the other national authorities, it will require strengthening of institutionalization and structure to solve the issues raised.

In this case I suggest understanding the structure not only as the creation and support of the state material reserves, but also continuation and strengthening of actions of the government on the collection of raw materials  (it was also already noted in the previous comments) at competitive prices. Thus  including in the social policy the purchase of agricultural goods from local producers at market prices, respectively for further sale to the population at the lower prices (or in the future for the use in processing industry).

**Capacity development:**

Here the role of scientific research and constant informing of the country people is very important, it is described in detail in FSNP.

As a possible road map to improve the realization of the FSNP purposes, it is important to lobby increasing of the political will of the government in strengthening of the food security of the country by creation of stable and steady infrastructure by means of public funding and the policy of supporting of the agricultural sector. While the measures on strengthening of the potential, raising awareness, introduction of the new technologies and methods on fields can be further continued in the framework of the cooperation with the partner countries and donor organizations.

## Arindam Banerjee, co-facilitator of the consultation, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

**Policy:** Several participants in the consultation have largely converged on the requirement of a FSNP with a longer term, of 5 years or more, given that policies take time to be effectively implemented at the ground level and the impact in the area of food and nutrition is slow in manifesting itself (Kalida, Marystella, Gulmira and Georges). This also ensures some continuity in the interventions on food security across governments (Georges).

The success of Food Security policy is crucially dependent on the development of the agricultural sector in a sustainable manner with appropriate use of scientific knowledge (Natalia, Kalida and Klara). The Belarus experience underscores this importance of the agricultural sector in raising the physical and economic availability of food and also producing surplus for exports. Important concerns regarding the development of the agricultural sector are specificities in Kyrgyzstan like mountainous agriculture and small land-size holding which may require adopting strategies like organic farming. One needs to look at how such strategies can be pursued in a balanced manner along with the objective of increasing food availability. Rural socio-economic development, which increases rural incomes and productive capacities, are also identified as a necessary complement to food security policies (Natalia and Klara).

In the context of volatile global markets, price of food is an important factor in determining accessibility (Klara). It may be useful to explore the room, which lies within the WTO and other trade agreement frameworks, for using trade policies like tariff protection for important food items to ensure price stability in domestic markets. Consequently, monitoring mechanisms for food price trends also need to be an integral part of food policy (Natalia).

The synergy between theory and practice, especially in policy formation and implementation, and accountability of the government and implementing agencies are crucial requirements for successful policy implementation (Gulmira). Proper information sharing and feedback mechanisms can help make the policy implementation participatory and effective. The various insights regarding policies make very useful contribution to the discussion.

**Role of Stakeholders:** There are multiple views on stakeholders and implementation from the government being a primary stakeholder (Klara) to the government playing the role of a leader in bringing together various stakeholders from the private sector and the civil society (Gulmira, Georges and Marystella). It may be useful to reach out to non-government actors in areas of implementation where the government does not have adequate capacities. The involvement of private actors from within the health sector should be helpful for interventions in nutrition (Marystella).

A clear distribution of responsibilities and commitments on part of various stakeholders will be imperative for successful policy implementation. The Food Security Council can effectively play a coordinating role for this purpose (Gulmira and Marystella). In this regard, it has been re-emphasized that the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement provides an appropriate platform for involving different stakeholders (Kalida and Gulmira). The FSNP also needs to incorporate greater clarity regarding the role of farmers/producers organizations from the point of view of participatory implementation. Schools and Universities can also play a constructive role in raising awareness regarding healthy diets within the young population.

**Capacity Development:** Developing monitoring mechanism for prices and food market and the use of scientific regulations for attaining food sovereignty and environment sustainability in agricultural strategies are identified as important capacities for the Program (Natalia and Klara). A continuous collection and analysis of data, tracking of budgets over the cycle of policy implementation would be another effective requirement for the Program (Gulmira). Mapping the relevant capacity needs will remain an important aspect of the FSNP.

## Kanat Tilekeyev, co-facilitator of the consultation, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

**Funding:** The role of the state in funding FSNP should be leading by the opinion of most of the contributors (Klara, Georges, Gulmira, Marystella, Kalida and Natalia). However, the ways of raise funds vary. Direct involvement in raising attention to the FSN problems by high-level officials may help to consolidate and increase funds for FSN purposes (Marystella).

Another way of mobilizing resources could be through fund-raising from stakeholders - both public and private. Donors may assist in formulation of a resource mobilization strategy. In the next step, after the fund has to be formed from the national sources, the country can seek for an external donors support to cover gaps (Georges). Some participants suggest an improvement of public management capacity (strategy development, planning, and implementation) and an overall budget transparency for defining an internal capacity to provide funds in FSN field (Gulmira and Kalida). It was suggested using public- private partnerships approach for inviting private capital in exchange to tax or other incentives (Klara, Marystella).

The following set of ideas came out: (i) the taxation of ‘harmful’ products to cover FSNP needs (Gulmira); (ii) support smallholder home- base production for subsistence farming through community- based loan program for low-income households (Marystella) or direct investment (Kalida)

**Road Map:** Rules of the formulation of FSNP should help analyze the gaps between needs and available resources prior and not after the Programme approval. Regular analysis of the implementation of the Programme is a key to success. The inter-ministerial character of the Program should be consistent and ensure access to the results monitoring and support the coordination of the Programme implementation. Besides, it was proposed to include additional sections such as access to clean water, sanitation measures, and program for non-infection diseases prevention (Gulmira).

## Matraim Jusupov, Agriculture and Water Resources Management Expert, Consultant at FAO, Kyrgyzstan (second contribution)

I am glad that so many new experts from around the world have joined our forum. On this occasion I would like to note that there are so many programs, strategies, concepts and other documents have been developed and developing, however their implementation is rather weak to various reasons. The main reason is the lack of financial resources or thoughtless use of available funds. Klara has correctly noted that “measures to attract the donor funds should be continued, however it should not be the main source of funding but an additional”. The donor funds should be attracted with due regard to accurate external debt management of the country. It is necessary to welcome attraction and usage of grant funds for complex, large-scale projects, by combining small local projects related to food security and nutrition. Capacity building should be aimed towards improving the funding and arrangement of conditions for attraction of private investments by participants of agricultural sector of the country, including investments of farmers and their associations.

## Yrysbek Abdurasulov, Kyrgyz-Et Association, Kyrgyzstan

**Policy:** The period of up to three years can be considered as the most optimal period for the Food Security and Nutrition Program in Kyrgyzstan. However, the issue here is not about duration of the program, but about the ways of successful implementation of the program. The issue is wide and serious. The Government undertakes certain attempts in the area of food security: adoption of the Law “On Food Security” (as of 2009), establishment of Interdepartmental Commission under the Government on food security, implementation of Food Security Projects with the assistance of International Institutions, organizations (FAO, UN, EU and others), donor countries, the effort was made to develop an information system in the area of food supply and security (EU) and etc. Even though all these efforts don’t yet have a definite success, they contribute to the formation of a concept of Food security and nutrition in Kyrgyzstan. Despite the fact of formation of the Food Security Policy, it remains at the level of paper routine, unfortunately. There is no stable and consistent work on this issue carried out in the country. And in general in order to heighten an effect of the Food Security and Nutrition it was well proposed to: set short-term goals; carry out annual assessment, analysis and amendments.

**Funding:** it is true that shortage of financial resources is the major setback to implement the Program. And things should be called by their proper names. It is essential to plan a budget correctly and professionally. Therefore, for now it is useless to count on a budget funds for implementation of the program. In my opinion, establishment of a strong tax base is a pivot point of FSNP implementation.

**Role of Stakeholders:**Kyrgyzstan almost does not have industry; its agriculture remains at the level of subsistence farming, weak service, low tax returns from tourism and farms, scientific community undergoes a shortage of funds, civil organization are on the donor foundation.

**Capacity Development:**Trainings and I will also add that food security provision and FSNP implementation won’t have any success without strong financial base and financial source!! It will be a waste of time and scanty money of International institutions and donor countries.

## Aida Jamangulova, Agency for Development Initiatives (ADI), Kyrgyzstan

Good afternoon participants, Regarding the duration of the program. I am also of the opinion that the duration of the program should be at least 5 years with specific target indicators. It is necessary to conduct analysis / assessment of objectives fulfillment for 1-2 years in order to incorporate addition corrective measures.

I would like to emphasize an importance of working with families, because NUTRITION since the first days starts within family, habits form within a family, families establish diversity and quality of daily food ration, which largely depend on understanding and knowledge of older family members. Families can also be considered as an additional source of savings of state funds for implementation of many activities in this field. At the same time, specific practical measures necessary when working with families (for example, specific recipes of healthy food available from local agricultural products). Emphasizing the fact that families should be deliberate buyers (of seeds, agricultural products, etc.) and become so-called joint producers influencing the market - demand begets supply.

Regarding the organic agriculture. Unfortunately, the majority of farmers think of it as a marketing step, considering organic food from “profitability”, “merchantability” point of view. In my opinion it is very important to highlight key point of working with farmers.

The next issue is the lack of research work in the area of food security and nutrition. There are some data collection work and most of it regarding health indicators (anemia, short stature), but we need more empirical researches so that people could "read" and understand the collected information.

Bottom line, the issue of food security and nutrition of the country in all its aspects should become an issue of a NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

Thank you

## Dirck Stryker, Associates for International Resources and Development Inc., United States of America

Over the past two decades the Kyrgyz Republic has suffered from a high turnover of public officials responsible for food security and nutrition. This lack of continuity has contributed to significant underinvestment in the creation of of the Food Security and Nutrition Programme and the formulation of policies to implement such a programme. This is inconsistent with the broad guidelines found in the National Sustainable Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic. This document, which was prepared by the National Council for Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic and approved by the President, sets forth the overall strategy for Kyrgyzstan over the period until 2017.

There is a need for the Government Office and the Ministry of Agriculture and Amelioration (MOAA) to build the capacity of a Policy and Implementation Unit within the Ministry to improve agricultural and food security policies and regulatory structures within the Kyrgyz Republic. This unit should be lodged close to the MOAA’s top decision makers and should undertake the information gathering and analysis required to elaborate a viable conceptual approach to increase agricultural production and exports, expand employment, reduce poverty, and increase gender equality and food security. It should be involved in preparing MOAA’s agricultural investment plan and operational budget, as well as the formulation of legislation and regulations to achieve these goals.

This will involve many areas of legislation beyond what is normally considered the MOAA’s domain. For example, tax and trade policy are normally the responsibility of the Ministries of Finance and Economy, but they have a major impact on agriculture. Representatives of these and other relevant agencies, such as MOE, Government Office, the NBKR, the Institute of Public Policy and Administration/University of Central Asia, private sector associations, etc., should meet on a regular basis with the MOAA Policy Unit as part of a Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG). This working group should be responsible to ensure that the perspectives of different public agencies, the private sector and civil society are taken into account as agricultural and food security policies and regulatory structures are being formulated. Where these policies and regulatory structures lie outside the domaine of the MOAA, it should see that the responsible agencies are brought into the policy-making process. Participation of these agencies in the FSNWG should involve those who are close enough to top policy makers that they can play a role similar to that played by the PU in the MOAA.. Once policies and regulatory structures have been formulated and approved, the FSNWG should oversee implementation and enforcement, and communicate the results of this oversight to top decision makers in such areas asfood storage, standards certification, customs, tax collection, trade facilitation, marketing, and input pricing and delivery.

## Guljahan Kurbanova, FAO, Russian Federation

Dear all,

Let me express thanks for the initiations of discussions and contribution of other colleagues. Hope not repeat or overlap what have been expressed.

The topic on the implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Programme in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan is paramount of importance for the country. It is well prepared form the point of its structure and coverage of issues concerned. It is in line with the country’s needs and international approach and experience. From this point it is an example for other countries for future preparation of such programmes or strategies.

At the same time, since I was involved in this activity at the certain stage, let me express some observations for further steps on the Programme realization towards moving ahead in solving the issues and challenges of FSN in Kyrgyzstan.

1. Notwithstanding the social oriented objectives and targets on nutrition and social protection in accessing food by all peoples in all regions and districts of the country the special priority areas such remotes territories are not articulated well enough. At the same time by understanding of nutritious aspects and food intake of the population of Kyrgyztsan it is clear that achievements of the relevant objectives and targets require economic growth and reducing of poverty (it is over 30 percent in the country, ADB, Basics Statistics 2016). This indicator is directly linked to the level for rural population which is about 60 percent of the total population in the country. Therefore, the consideration of FSN requires inclusion of combating poverty and rural development. These two issues are not well articulated and addressed in the FSN Programme of Kyrgyzstan. From my point of view, they are not streamlined and now the situation has to be adjusted during the realization of the Programme through its implementation.
2. The absence in the Progamme of the logical framework with assumed, not just goals, but also outcomes, outputs, and actions makes the Progamme not streamlined to real results on FSN.
3. The implementation of the programme requires its efficient coordination which is function of a high level, presumably of the Government. It is clear that the Government has to have such a coordination body which might be done through the existing Food Security Council (FSC). The latter requires relevant adjustments such as reorganization into Food Security and Nutrition Council (FSNC), and the existing provisional documents as well as a working apparatus.
4. For real functioning of FSN Programme a number of the strategic documents (for example the strategy on the agricultural development for 2014-2017) have to be adjusted or revised in a way that they all represent one comprehensive approach.
5. Last but not least, whatever targets and approaches are basis for the Programme, in countries like Kyrgyzstan, where around 60 percent of population lives in rural areas, farming and services for farming and agricultural infrastructure are main sources for their income and instrument for improving FSN. Therefore, the role of agricultural and rural development has to be emphasized and prioritized with this regard.
6. Fully understanding the role of nutrition and health related with FSN it is impossible to solve the problem if there is no an adequate food, access to it and income to pay for it.  In other words the agri - food sector growth and its sustainability including environmental protection has to be strengthening.

 Thanks,

*Guljahan Kurbanova, Food Security Expert, Economist, Eurasian Center of Research and Development, FAO International Consultant*

## Botir Dosov, CFS-HLPE / ICARDA-CAC / CACAARI, Uzbekistan

**Dear colleagues, I would like to share my comments with you, which reflect particularly my personal opinion.**

***Policy:*** *The Food Security and Nutrition Program of Kyrgyzstan was designed for a three-year period. What timeline should be planned in the future in order to address a complexity of food security and nutrition issues?*

I agree with many participants of these consultations that FSNP could have more tangible outcomes, if it was planned for 5 years. In three years it is possible to achieve the intermediate results (outputs). I also support the opinion of those colleagues who believe that we should not be limited by a five-year plan. It is possible to set out milestones to achieve results at the level of national impact (Impact) in the next five-year cycle, subject to financing issues, the role of stakeholders and capacity development.

*What can help increase the program’s impact: setting short-term goals; conducting assessments, surveys and /or revisions in an annual manner?*

In the documents attached to the consultation preliminary studies, i.e. baseline assessments are reflected. Mid-term evaluation of 3-5 years, and long-term evaluation of 5 - 10 years may be adjusted depending on the tasks achieved or adjustments in goals and objectives at the national level. In this respect, I also support my colleagues who offer the creation and functioning of monitoring and evaluation (M & E). However, FSNP should not be isolated from other national strategic programs, particularly in the field of agriculture, and should take into account national priorities and targets. It is necessary to create working and sustainable M & E mechanism, which should be integrated into existing agricultural complex management system, including food security sector.

***Funding:****The scarcity or lack of funding is one of the main constraints. Could you suggest new sources for funding that may help covering financial gaps in the current and future phases of the FSNP? What are the possibilities of allocating more funds for the FSNP in the state budgets? What fund raising modalities should be used, including contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations?*

I am not competent to answer this question with certainty. However, I want to comment that involvement of stakeholders in financing is difficult, but at the same time, is the appropriate task. I think that the state budget will still be the main source of funds, as a contribution of the taxpayers. Contributions from international development agencies can be targeted to specific FSNP tasks, as they will be accompanied by technical support. As for other sectors, such as academia and civil society organizations, I do not think that they can invest significant capital, although their contributions can be given not in financial form (in-kind contributions). They may invest their expertise in a program as a knowledge, information and human development. To involve private sector, we need incentive mechanism. It is necessary to create incentives to attract private capital. This is a very complex task and may require further improvement of the regulatory framework, insurance, credit and monetary system, taxation, etc.

***Role of Stakeholders:****The implementation process of the FSNP requires an inclusive and participatory approach of various governmental and non-governmental actors. Which institution should be responsible for the overall deliveries of the FSNP? How can the Government engage the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the complex objectives of the FSNP? Who are other stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation process?*

This question is directly related to the previous one, because it requires involvement of various types of investments: financial, knowledge and information, and others. These consultations are attempting to determine the interests of various stakeholders. However, it should not be limited only to these consultations. There should be wider consultations and surveys to determine the interests of potential stakeholders. For example, the scientific community may be interested in carrying out related research in various areas of agriculture, the results of which may be relevant for the purposes of achieving FSNP objectives. In addition, they could provide the results of previous research. Food safety issues are related to many areas of national economy, and if so, the existing capacity of various sectors could be used to establish an effective chain of food and nutrition. Along with the agriculture, sectors such as insurance, lending, processing of raw materials, ICT, trade, and many others can contribute to an effective chain of food and nutrition. It is especially important to increase the productivity and efficiency of the agricultural production, reduce waste and losses of food products, as well as to ensure distribution and access to food among various segments of the population suitable in size and geographic coverage. Correct and easy to understand formulation of these questions may provide increased interest of various stakeholders.

***Capacity Development:****Capacity development plays a crucial role in the efficiency of the FSNP implementation.  What kind of coordinated approach is required between different government and non-government agencies for capacity development? Would you like to suggest some topics,* relevant to FSNP, on which you can benefit from training? Would you recommend local institutions or development projects who have relevant skills and capacities to provide such trainings?

Capacity development is an important component of FSNP and it really requires a coordinated approach. But for coordination,  efficient functioning of central institute for capacity building in the field of FSN is required, which would provide coordination between various institutions, centers, universities, and other educational institutions. Creating both full-time and part-time (distance) courses in the field of FSN at leading universities could provide quality capacity of professionals in the field of FSN. You may need to hold consultations between the sectors of agriculture, health and education to identify the specializations required for FSN.

***Road Map:****The Road Map meant to visualize the FSNP implementation process, including the main actors. What would you suggest to improve in the Road Map in order to highlight the main financial gaps and define the role of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders?  What principles should be followed in order to prioritize certain tasks over others? Any other activities would you advise to be added to the future plan of the FSNP?*

I believe that efficient and sustainable functioning of M & E system or mechanism is an important factor in efficient implementation of FSNP, as I said above. But, as international experience shows, M & E system is set at the stage of program or project planning. It is determined who will carry out M & E and by what funds. Perhaps these questions should be answered / identified by inter-agency council of FSNP.

With respect,

*Botir Dosov, Member of the High-Level Food Security and Nutrition Group of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*

## Alisher Tashmatov, CACAARI, Uzbekistan

I would like to note about the role of agricultural research and education systems in FSN in Kyrgyz Republic.

Kyrgyzstan National Agriculture Researches System (NARS) is represented by four research institutes, namely Kyrgyz Research Institute of Farming Agriculture, Kyrgyz Research Institute of Livestock Farming and Pastures, Kyrgyz Research Institute of Veterinary and Research Institute of Irrigation) and Kyrgyz National Agrarian University.

Until 2010 all agricultural research institutes were within the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Kyrgyz Agrarian University was under the Ministry of Education and Science of the country. By the end of 2009 all 4 institutes were integrated under the University’s institutional umbrella and a new scientific and educational complex was reformed that included agrarian science, higher and secondary special agricultural education as well as entities of primary seed farms and livestock breeding farms.

The primary objective of such a system is the integration of agrarian education, science and production as well as concentration of educational and scientific and industrial and financial capacity on addressing the challenges in agricultural sector, capacity strengthening of higher and middle qualification human resources and improvement of scientific researches outputs.

Kyrgyz Research Institute of Farming Agriculture directly participates in food security problem-solving by conducting corresponding researches based on “Farming Agriculture” program throughout the country. The program reflects the following objectives:

* Generation of highly productive sorts of wheat, barley, cotton, potato, vegetable and fruit and berry crops, hybrids of corn and sugar beet sustainable against diseases, drought and heat;
* Development of scientific farming agriculture systems covering rational soil processing, sensible use of fertilizers and modern cultivation technology that ensure growth of crop yield and receiving of ecologically pure products;
* Development of new crop rotation systems for farms;
* Development of systems on soil productivity reproduction, land degradation prevention and rational use of soil resources (crop rotations, organic fertilizers, seeding of perennial legume grasses, improvement of saline lands, plastering of solonized soils).

Kyrgyz Research Institute of Livestock Farming and Pastures conducts its researches based on the topic called “Development of scientific basis of enhancement of genetic resources of farm animals”. Scientists generated a new breed of sheep “Kyrgyz mountain merino” adapted to mountain and pasture keeping. Aikol breed of mutton-fat sheep has been originated, which is adapted to the severe highland conditions. Also transhumance grazing management systems are being developed as well as technology of origination of sown pasture lands for sheep under Chuy valley conditions.

Kyrgyz Research Institute of Veterinary develops scientific basis of enhancement of biotechnology of veterinary drugs (serum, vaccines, and diagnostics) that ensure animal health protection. Here for the first time in the country’s veterinary practice local sheep-pox and goat-pox virus strains have been developed and used that differ from the other Master Seed Bacteria with higher immune-biological properties.

Brucellosis diagnostics ring test among lactating animals has been enhanced via milk Rose-Bengal Test. Anti-parasitic properties of a new drug “Alivek” have been tested.

Kyrgyz Research Institute of Irrigation develops methods of protection from impounding by sub-ground waters of lands with a low level of ground waters using geo-filtration models. Impact of irrigation and drainage on changing of meliorative condition of lands and productivity of soils is addressed.

Methods on soil protection from irrigational erosion are developed using adequate irrigation technologies. Ecological and chemical evaluation of drainage and sewage water quality in the urban sewerage system is conducted to justify their eligibility for irrigation. They design the computer system on planning and registration of operation of Water Users’ Association.

For 19 years of joint operation in the frame of ICARDA/CIMMYT, 14 thousand hybrids of wheat have been originated and two sorts have been generated – “Jamin”, facultative and “Almira”, winter-annual. ICARDA has delivered over 13 thousand hybrids of barley to Kyrgyzstan. International cooperation has resulted in origination of three sorts of winter-annual barley: “Adel”, “Jenish” and “Belek”. Under production conditions they produce 4-5 tons of crops per hectare.

A compact gene bank has been constructed with ICARDA support, information on 881 species of wild flora plants has been entered into the database. In 2010 collections of 64 soya hybrids have been sowed for investigation purposes, and the world collections of cold-resistant forms of chick-pea and lentil received from ICARDA have been used as parent materials.

Within the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) hybrids of tomatoes, sweet pepper, chilly pepper, eggplant and vegetable soya have been examined. “Rural area small farms and women income increase by processing via adding value and export of cashmere, wool and mohair” Project funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is of a significant interest for farmers.

Results of researches on land resources sustainable management conducted jointly with ICARDA are getting introduced into practice of farms.

As a result of 19-year operation of Kyrgyz-Swiss Agrarian Program, in Kyrgyzstan the Rural Advisory Services has been created that tends to provide new knowledge and timely information for commodity producers as well as increase technological and practical skills of local farmers.

Advisory services are also provided for village mobilizers within projects and programs funded by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Foundation for International Development of Agriculture, German Technical Cooperation Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization And other international institutes.

## Chinara Abdyraimakunova, МОФ "Инициатива Розы Отунбаевой", Kyrgyzstan

Dear colleagues, I would like to express gratitude to initiators and facilitators of the forum for the opportunity to exchange opinions on topical issues.

On the first issue:

Food security issues are the most important in the era of globalization. And the positive impact of the forum will be through influence and consideration of all components of food security, such as production (agriculture, livestock farming), food and nutrition education, environmental aspects, at a high level.

On the second issue:

In general, the global climate change sets new challenges. Climate change, cold snap, heat wave or snowfall in summer, rainfalls, light frost and etc. have a great impact on productivity of land and fertility of crops. Agricultural producers need subsidies. Farmers need Government support in an interest-free loans, financing, marketing, and availability of inter-governmental agreements. There is also necessity for usage of organic fertilizers, fight against degradation of pastures, compliance to pastures usage requirements, common usage of drip irrigation, increasing the yield by using of traditional, natural, organic fertilizers.

Government should develop and monitor a State program, which will include the promotion of proper nutrition from birth and also proper mother and child nutrition. The program should also include an economic component such as utility, rationality, balance and complexity of issues.

“Food security and environmental safety” subjects should be included into a school program. We need to promote the scaling up of tree planting, including fruit trees, with creation of greenbelt.

Those actions should be covered by the media, so the population at local and global levels would be informed about the importance of food security, which directly affects the health and budget of family, society and country.

On the third issue:

It is necessary to accelerate training, coverage and promotion of healthy lifestyles, including issues of human obesity, diabetes, exposure to stress, alcoholism, and smoking. The implementation of these activities should be funded by the state budget and donor funds. These activities should be also included into international projects (by areas).

On the fourth issue:

Consultations, seminars and trainings should be conducted on a regular basis at all levels and communities.

*Chinara Abdyraimakunova*

## Chinara Abdyraimakunova, МОФ "Инициатива Розы Отунбаевой", Kyrgyzstan (second contribution)

**On the policy.**We suggest to elaborate the Food Security Program for a five-year period. This period should include round tables, seminars, conferences, as well as research work on food safety. The number of round tables, seminars, conferences, in my opinion, should depend on the number of participants involved in the Food Security and Nutrition Program, and on the amount of funds raised. On the following topics: agricultural products, fishery, seafood, forestry, food consumption, farming households, and statistics. Scholarships for project participants for one, two, three, four or five years.

**On funding.** We suggest to submit issues on funding of the Food Security and Nutrition Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for consideration to the republican state budget. Fundraising, private sector organizations, input from stakeholders can be used to raise funds.

**On the role of stakeholders.** We believe that the best way to achieve the goal set before the Food Security and Nutrition Program is through involvement of different civil society sectors. Furthermore, it’s necessary to establish the Association “Citizens for Food Security and Nutrition”. Discussion should involve ministries, committees, farmers, entrepreneurs, food producing companies, food processing companies, food storage companies, transportation companies and food merchandising companies. The research project should include participation of the following (specific) groups of food consumers as beneficiaries: Young families, Young families with babies, Young families with toddlers, Young families with children of preschool age, Young families with children of primary school age, High school children, Students of vocational educational institutions, Universities students, Pensioners, Elderly people, and People over 72 y.o.

**On capacity development.** Topics suggested for training programs, opinion exchange and discussion:

a). Current food security legislation;

b). Statistics on the need of basic food products per capita;

c) Need for production of healthy agricultural products;

There are registered organisations in the Kyrgyz Republic for conducting conferences, workshops and seminars. These organizations carry out their statutory goals and objectives in consistence with the accepted obligations.

**On the road map.**

1. To include participation in conferences abroad for experience exchange.

2. To conduct round tables and seminars on the topics:

New challenges of food security in current conditions:

a) on a global scale

b) on a national scale

c) at the regional level (oblast, district)

Environment and food security reality.

To organize discussions with the local community, where there is no internet access, in order to focus attention and take their proposals into consideration and for inclusion in the country road map.

In addition, we suggest to include monitoring work in the road map: GMO-free production of branded products; products grown with organic fertilizers; greenhouses for growing agricultural products; disposal of food waste; food consumption in urban areas; food consumption in rural areas; food consumption in mountain areas; food consumption in the valley; food for export; imported food. As well as monitoring of soil, seeds, air, and irrigation water for crop production.

## David Michael, Wondu Business & Technology Services, Australia

FSNP seems to have a major gap, no mention of adaptation. At least I could find no mention of it. It's of critical importance. Refer to my paper on food security and risk management produced for the Australian based National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility:

<https://www.nccarf.edu.au/content/australian-food-security-climate-change-risk>

## Hafiz Mumindjanov, FAO, Turkey

Land degradation is still remains an important issue in Kyrgyzstan. The FAO has contributed in addressing that issue by demonstrating the methods of soil defense and sustainable agriculture and helping to develop a National Strategy for their implementation and widespread. Adoption of this Strategy by the Government and its implementation will help in solving food security and nutrition problems. Therefore, I recommend taking this issue into account when discussing the National Programme. Thank you.

## Akylbek Rakaev, Kyrgyz Sheep Breeders Association, Kyrgyzstan

Let me express my observations on the subject under discussion: a general side note why a particular project / program at a certain stage face difficulties with implementation. When I first read the FSNP of the Kyrgyz Republic at the web-site of the Ministry of agriculture I noticed that this document differ substantially from all the other locally developed documents under discussion or other consensual documents. I would say that the Program was adopted without extensive discussion with various stakeholders: various state institutions, academies, private and civil sectors, and also with residents of rural areas. In my opinion, this is a partial reason of difficulties.

1. **Policy**: mentioned “complexity” and “duration of planning” are insufficient “definitions” of issues related to food security and nutrition. Food and nutrition are eternal and basic/fundamental issues. And this is due to the fundamental human rights to adequate food (UDHR, 19480). Therefore, it is not a matter of time limits. If there is a specific purpose then there is a specific time frame. It is a case when life itself defines proper time-bounds that depend on ambitious goals set and availability of funding. Restructuration, reorganization, harmonization with modified program objectives should be made after identification of any failures, difficulties or environmental changes under implementation.

2. **Funding:** funding gaps can be explained by the structure of UN organizations. The FAO is always short of finance. Because all the finances are at IFAD, all duties on food assistance are at WFP, all the research work is at GFAR, and technical assistance and statistics are at FAO, i.e. the functions are fragmented. But sometimes funding gaps are a good part. Leaving aside the external conditions, the State and the private sector (large businesses) should contribute to cofunding. Science and direct beneficiaries – rural population also participate in the FSNP in other forms. But only under conditions of coordination, joint development and implementation of the program and reception of various forms of “benefits”.

3. **Role of Stakeholders**: it would be better if the Ministry of agriculture is responsible for overall effectiveness of the program despite of negative public opinion. Food security and nutrition should become a fundamental mission of the ministry and the Government instead of export-oriented strategy and supply functions of agriculture. Food security and nutrition issues are not reflected in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development to full extent. Although this program is the main policy paper of the country's development for the foreseeable future. The FAO has internally developed strategy of partnership with civil organizations, private sector and academies. And the process of strategy development has straightened after appointment of Mr. José Graziano da Silva as a new General Director of the FAO. And it is necessary just to implement these strategies. The Ministry of agriculture should be helped in work with farmers and stock-breeders, redirecting the strategy towards partnership and cooperation, or at least become a neutral platform. As soon as the rural population experience honest policy and protection of their interests it will become much easier to ensure food security and improve nutrition quality.

4. **Capacity Development**: As a KSBA workers, using our achievements and experience of participation at various global and regional platforms (CSM for CFS/UN), jointly with other stakeholders, such as NGO’s, academies, we could develop a “mechanism for participation of civil/farm organizations” in a discussion of proposed government regulations, laws, programs and projects, especially regarding the FSNP issues within rural/regional/national communication platforms. There is another unused tool in the area of FSNP, such as community councils, established in all government ministries and agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic. The capacity of specialists of the Ministry of agriculture and the Minister of agriculture is essential. It is necessary to organize participation of the management of the Ministry at the UN Committee on food security and their accountability.

5. **Road map**: The road map requires a detailed review, because the program is facing new challenges in changing conditions. Since, there is no methodology for discussion and inclusion of more intelligent and relevant changes, the road map should be left to a more extensive discussion, and only after making changes and finding a consensus among all stakeholders.

With respect,

*Akylbek Rakaev,*Kyrgyz Sheep Breeders Association (KSBA), Kyrgyzstan

## Keigo Obara, FAO, Turkey

Kyrgyz Republic made a significant improvement in reducing the population suffering from undernourishment (a person who is not able to acquire enough food to meet the daily minimum dietary energy requirements), but deficiency of micronutrient remains a major issue. When healthy food becomes less accessible for households due to social or economic reasons (reduced income, increased market prices of food etc.), people shift to less nutritious diets. Micronutrient deficiency is therefore not necessary a consequence of lack of food, but it results from a complex combination of factors. Food Security and Nutrition Programme should continue to take a broad-based approach to prevent and reduce micronutrient deficiency by addressing its multiple causes across all four pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability), rather than placing the issue only within utilization pillar. This requires strengthening the evidence base related to micronutrient deficiency in all relevant sectors.

## Alexandr Kaigorodtsev, East Kazakhstan State University, Kazakhstan

Dear participants of the “Food security and nutrition programme for Kyrgyzstan in action. How to implement policy in the most efficient way?” online consultation.

Let me express my opinion on agenda items:

1. Policy:

Food security is one of the global problems affecting interests of all countries and peoples. Timescale of country-specific food security strategy depend on severity of the food self-sufficiency problem of each country and its capacity to solve this problem. Post-Soviet countries are not able to quickly reach the FAO’s specified threshold requirements on food security. Therefore, the strategy should be developed for a long period, for example, up to 2025 with breakdown into three-year periods during which it is necessary to achieve an intermediate objectives. It is understood that intermediate target indicators will be lower than the threshold level of food security, but they should not be called a National standards of food consumption, as it was in Kazakhstan. These standards were at an average of 2 times lower than physiological standard of consumption.

2. Funding:

Farming enterprises, especially those using innovative technologies, need government support, in particular in the form of subsidies for elite seeds keeping and highly productive livestock. Kyrgyzstan should not repeat the mistake of Kazakhstan in this matter, when subsidization of elite and super elite seeds keeping was abolished. Now we are considering returning to subsidization.

With best regards,

Kaygorodtsev Alexander, PhD, Professor of the East Kazakhstan State University

## Kanat Tilekeyev, co-facilitator of the consultation, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

**Funding:** Participants have again emphasised that the lack of financial resources and the rational use of them is the main constraint for the program implementation.  (Matraim Jusupov, Yrysbek Abdurasulov). The main source of the funding is proposed to be the government budget. (Botir Dosov, Chinara Abdyraimakunova, Akylbek Rakaev)  
Establishment of a strong tax base is a pivot point of FSNP implementation. (Yrysbek Abdurasulov) Fundraising, private sector organizations, input from non-state stakeholders can be used to raise funds in addition to the main budget. (Chinara Abdyraimakunova)

Involvement of stakeholders in financing FSNP is difficult, but at the same time, is the appropriate task. Donors can target specific FSNP tasks (according their mandate) with appropriate technical support. Academia and Civil society organizations can contribute in the form of expertise, knowledge, information and human development. Private sector involvement needs incentives for attracting capital. (Botir Dosov, Akylbek Rakaev)

It is advisable to attract donors' fund for implementation of complex large-scale projects by combining small projects related to food security and nutrition at local level. (Matraim Jusupov)

**Road Map:** Efficient and sustainable functioning of M&E is an important factor in the efficient implementation of FSNP. M&E system set at the stage of program or project planning. These questions are addressed by the Kyrgyz Government. (Botir Dosov)

The introduction of knowledge exchange platform for FSN issues is needed (conferences, round tables, workshops). Set up the exchange of information with the local communities to focus their attention to FSN issues and include them in the country level decision-making process. It is needed to include monitoring and evaluation work in the road map. (Chinara Abdyraimakunova)

It is important to include changes in to the Program and the Roadmap according to new challenges and conditions that would require a new round of discussion among stakeholders. (Akylbek Rakaev)

## Arindam Banerjee, co-facilitator of the consultation, Ambedkar University Delhi, India

**Policy:**The discussion has underscored the need for a combination of shorter (3 year) targets and longer goals in the FSNP. The implementation of the Programme should be accompanied with annual assessments, regular monitoring and evaluations, and appropriate changes based on that (Yrysbek, Botir). The FSNP needs to integrate associated aspects like agriculture and rural development, poverty alleviation and employment generating interventions within its policy structure to be effective on the ground (Guljahan, Dirck, Botir).

Another lacking in the FSNP is that the Programme has not engaged with the question of adaptability to climate risks (David).   
At the micro-level, the programme would benefit by working closely with families/households not only as the latter is the crucial site where nutrition decisions are taken but also because any development of sustainable and healthy local agriculture would require structured exchange of ideas and experience at the level of the farming families (Aida). Provision of farming services and developing agricultural infrastructure will also go a long way in raising the purchasing power in rural areas (Guljahan)

Role of Stakeholders: Implementation of the programme with the participating of various stakeholders is an important issue as reflected in the consultation. Useful suggestions have emerged pertaining to the issue of effective coordination among stakeholders. The role of smooth coordination can be played by the Food Security Council, restructured suitably to incorporate nutrition issues (Guljahan) or by a wider body like a Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), which coordinates between various government ministries, institutions and the private sector actors (Dirck). This coordination is very necessary to maintain continuity in policy implementation even when government officials responsible for FSNP are deployed to other responsibilities.

The scientific research community has been identified as an important stakeholder in a food security policy implementation (Botir). In this regard, the detailed exposition of the status of research by various scientific agencies, which are part of the Kyrgyzstan National Agricultural Researches System (NARS), is an important contribution (Alisher). This helps in understanding the existing pool of knowledge in farming, livestock, veterinary sciences and irrigation, using the same for the FSNP, and identifying further challenges and gaps in research.

**Capacity Development:** The need for more vigorous research in the areas of food security and nutrition is noted in the discussion (Aida). It will be helpful to analyze a lot of data that is generated and collected, but often inadequately used. Building research capacities for this purpose should be focused upon.

## Marlen Tynaliev, co-facilitator of the consultation, FAO KG, Kyrgyzstan

Dear participants and visitors of the online forum!

That is the time when our online forum on food security and nutrition (FSN) came to end. In this connection, I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the organizers and on my own behalf for your contribution that you have made during a whole month.

We have received valuable ideas and suggestions not only from Kyrgyzstan, but also from other countries of the world, thanks to which, I saw new possibilities for improving the quality of work required to ensure the effective implementation of program activities. I am sure that the ideas expressed in the online discussions will be taken into account by the relevant government bodies at all stages of its planning, development and implementation of the new program for FSN. We thank all participants for their creative and constructive ideas and wise organizational advices.

Sincerely,

Marlen

1. FAO/IFAD/WFP (2015) The State of Food Insecurity in the World. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress, FAO, Rome [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. National Statistical Committee, Information bulletin of the Kyrgyz Republic on food security and poverty, 2016, available online: http://stat.kg/media/publicationarchive/a088fb17-45ea-4cf2-9e70-e253d44ea998.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)