



Friday, 17 October 2008  
9:30 - 12:30  
Green Room: Building A, Room 122

## High Prices and Food Security: Issues and Policy Responses

### Background

By the time of the 34th Session of CFS there will have been extensive coverage of the issue of high food prices in the media. Public and civil organizations around the world will have presented their views on the causes of and ways to deal with the issue in various fora. For example, the topic was examined by Heads of State and senior decision makers at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy held in Rome in June and at the G8 meeting in Japan in July 2008.

The CFS in October will thus be geared to discuss the impact of and especially responses to high food prices (threats and opportunities) by focusing on the theme "High prices and Food Security: Issues and Policy Responses" during plenary<sup>1</sup>, in two side events<sup>2</sup> and during this Special Event.

### Special Event

The Special Event is seen as an opportunity for a wide spectrum of stakeholders to discuss their views and lessons of experience on measures already taken to strengthen the benefits and attenuate the threats of high food prices on national and household level food security. It is not designed to analyse the causes and impacts of high food prices which, by October 2008, will already have been better understood and well documented.

Following previous recommendations by CFS Members and the Independent External Evaluation (IEE), the CFS will be structured towards focussed, though informal, discussions on appropriate actions to counter malnutrition and hunger. The intention is to include major stakeholders and external expertise into the debate to provide a broad range of views and perspectives.

### Objectives

The Event will focus on the effectiveness of short, medium and long-term responses to high food prices. Specific objectives include:

- Encouraging CFS members and other stakeholders to debate this topical world food security issue in a structured manner;
- Contributing to a better understanding of the pros and cons of various responses to high food prices that have been taken throughout the world.

This will be done by focussing the debate on responses at two levels:

- Government responses to high food prices, including policies and programmes (ie, safety nets, input subsidies/vouchers, trade measures, etc.) and the strengths and weaknesses of these;
- Household level consumer and producer responses to high food prices.

### Structure, method and expected output

Participants are encouraged to review the CFS Assessment document and other background material and come prepared to make succinct and focused interventions with respect to the following guiding questions:

- 1) What has been the impact of high food prices in your country/region, or from your organizations perspective?
- 2) What measures have been taken, are these sustainable and how can they be improved, e.g. through regional and international efforts?
- 3) How can high food prices be used to re-launch agriculture, or how can this threat be turned into an opportunity?

The Special Event will be conducted as a structured and fully participatory discussion, involving all participants. It will be opened by the Chair and moderated by Mr Brian Perry who will pose a series of probing questions to the three panelists (Ms Lindiwe Sibanda, Mr Nicolas Bricas and Mr Luc Maene, representing NGOs/civil society, research and the private sector, respectively). Discussion will be broadened to involve all participants, before the facilitator, aided by contributions from the panel, synthesises the key outputs from the event. A summary statement will be included as an annex to the CFS final report.

Additional information regarding the moderator and panelists is available on the reverse side.

More information: [http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/Bodies/cfs/cfs34/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/Bodies/cfs/cfs34/index_en.htm)

<sup>1</sup> See CFS 2008/2: The Assessment of the World Food Security and Nutrition Situation with Special Focus on the Impact of High Food Prices.

<sup>2</sup> One from Nutrition and another from a CSO/NGO perspective.



## COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

34th Session, Rome, 14 - 17 October 2008

### BRIAN PERRY

His long research career focused on the resolution of animal health issues affecting developing countries, in particular through integrating quantitative veterinary epidemiology and agricultural economics to inform policy on disease control and poverty reduction. After 20 years in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), he retired from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya in 2007. He is now Visiting Professor of Tropical Veterinary Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, UK, Honorary Professor in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK, and Honorary (Extraordinary) Professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Professor Perry holds a PhD in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the Edinburgh University.

### NICOLAS BRICAS

Researcher and Food Socio-Economist at CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement) in Montpellier, France. He is an expert in food policy and food-processing policy and his main research areas include: consequences of urbanisation on food habits and on food processing enterprises development in Africa; food consumption surveys and market studies; processing, marketing and promotion of local products for urban markets; design, monitoring and evaluation of research-action projects. Nicolas Bricas holds a Degree in Agricultural Economics and Development Economics as well as in Food Sociology and Food Anthropology from the University of Paris I.

### LINDIWE SIBANDA

As Chief Executive Officer for Southern African Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Network (FANRPAN) based in Pretoria, she is responsible for the facilitation of the development of tools and processes that promote harmonization of policies at regional level in 12 southern African countries. This is achieved by reviewing policies, legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and governance processes. She has extensive experience in multi-country programme coordination; strategy planning; workshop facilitation; leading and management of multi-disciplinary consultancy teams; organisational restructuring and functional analysis for Public Institutions. Dr. Sibanda holds a PhD in Agriculture and Animal Production from the University of Reading, U.K.

### LUC MAENE

Director General of the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA). Agricultural engineer and expert in soil science, he joined the Belgian Administration for Development Cooperation and was stationed first in Tunisia, then in Malaysia. During that time he lectured in soil science and soil conservation and was responsible for research in these fields. In 1982, he joined the United Nations as the Team Leader of the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok. In 1987, he joined IFA, first as its Executive Secretary responsible for Agro Economic and Technical matters, later as its Deputy Secretary General, Secretary General and finally Director General, a post he currently holds. Dr. Maene was awarded a Doctorate honoris causa in Agriculture by the University Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2006.

### SPECIAL EVENT

#### Informal Multi-stakeholder Forum:

#### High Prices and Food Security: Issues and Policy Responses