



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE
AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

My Ref No: 18570/46/145


9 July, 2004

Dear Sir,

**Revised Reporting Format for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the World
Food Summit Plan of Action**

I have the honour to refer to your Note Ref. G/ESA – 3 dated 16 March 2004 and to attach herewith the revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Yours faithfully


Ambassador R. Janhangeer
for Supervising Officer

**Ms Margarita Flores
Secretary, Committee on World Food Security
Food and Agriculture Organisation
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00100
Rome, Italy**

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**REVISED REPORTING FORMAT
FOR
THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD
FOOD SUMMIT
PLAN OF ACTION**

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Country: **Republic of Mauritius**

2. Reporting institution or unit: **Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources:
*Level 9, Renganaden Seeneevassen Bldg, Corner Jules Koenig &
Maillard Streets, Port Louis***

3. Contact Person
 - (a) Name and Official Title: **Mrs. M. Nathoo Principal Assistant Secretary
(alternate Mrs. S. Ramdenee)**

 - (b) Telephone: **2119319/2104123** E-mail: **moa-headoffice@mail.gov.mu**

4. Institutional arrangements established for the follow up of the WFS Plan of Action (if any):
 - **Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources,**
 - **Agricultural Services,**
 - **Central Statistical Office &**
 - **Agricultural Research & Extension Unit**

FOOD SECURITY AND RELATED INDICATORS²

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
1. Food security indicators									
• Availability									
Average per person dietary energy supply (kcal)						2480			MOH
Food production index									
Food self-sufficiency ratio									
Cereal supply per person	139.3	133.8	138.0	139.8	141.9	135.9	132.4		Central statistics office (CSO)
Animal protein supply per person									
Value of food imports/export earnings (%)	12.5	11.9	11.3	10.8	10.1	9.7	13.4		CSO
Debt service ratio	9.0	6.8	7.0	7.6	7.9	9.7	8.5	7.2	CSO
Value of gross investment in agriculture (in USD) ¹	630	675	790	864	692	648	827	795	CSO
• Stability									
Food price index									
Index of variability of food production									
Ratio of national food reserves to domestic food consumption									
Export earnings instability									
• Access									
Rate of growth in real GDP per person/per year (%)	4.5	4.4	4.9	1.4	7.5	4.1	1.1		CSO
Gini index of income distribution	0.387 ²					0.371 ³			CSO
Percentage of population living below national poverty line (%)									
Percentage of population living on less than \$ 1 a day (%)									
Percentage of income spent on food (%)						27.8 ³			CSO
Consumer price index ⁴	72.4	77.2	82.4	88.1	91.8	96.8	103.0	107.0	CSO
Estimated number of undernourished people									

² Please refer to explanatory notes of these indicators at the end of this document.

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
Percentage of population undernourished (%)									
Percentage of children under 5 that are underweight (%) ⁵¹	13.5	13.5	12.0	13.8	15.3	15.0	14.3		Ministry of Health (MOH)
Percentage of children under 5 that are stunted (%)									
Percentage of children under 5 that are wasted (%)									
2. Social indicators									
Life expectancy at birth (age)	70.2	70.4	70.5	70.9	71.7	71.8			CSO
Under-5 mortality rate (%) ⁵¹ ⁶¹	24.2	22.3	21.4	21.7	18.0	16.8	17.8		MOH
Net school enrolment in primary education of children aged 5-12 (%) ⁷¹	98.6	97.9	97.7	97.4	97.5	97.4	96.5	96.6	CSO
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education (%)	97.1	97.4	97.6	97.6	96.8	97.1	97.5	97.5	CSO
Adult literacy rate ⁸¹					84.3				CSO
Total number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel per 100 000 people ⁵¹	497	523	506	504	496	483	537		MOH
Infant mortality rate (%) ⁵¹ ⁶¹	22.1	20.3	19.3	19.5	15.9	14.3	14.9		MOH
Maternal mortality rate (%) ⁶¹	0.29	0.50	0.21	0.34	0.20	0.25	0.15		CSO
Adult morbidity rate (%) ⁹¹	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.9		CSO
Adult male mortality rate (%) ¹⁰¹	7.8	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.8		CSO
Adult female mortality rate (%) ¹¹¹	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0		CSO
3. Infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS indicators									
Death rate from infectious diseases (%) ⁵¹	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.3		MOH
Death rate from HIV/AIDS (%) ⁵¹	0.08	0.06	0.09	0.08	0.16	0.08	0.12		MOH
Percentage of population orphaned (%)									
Percentage of child-headed households (%) ¹²¹					-				
Average age of household head (age) ¹³¹					47.8				CSO

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
Rate of population with ^{5/} HIV/AIDS infection (%)	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10		MOH
4. Economic and Trade									
Proportion of total imports by value, excluding arms, from developing countries and from LDCs admitted free of duties ^{1a}									
Average tariffs imposed on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries ^{1a}									
Agricultural support estimate as percentage of GDP ^{1a}									
Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity ^{1a}									
Share of primary exports (value) of total exports earnings ^{1b}	31.8	28.8	27.9	24.3	19.2	25.7	28.1	25.7	CSO
Share of manufactured exports (value) of total exports earnings ^{1b}	66.0	69.1	69.5	73.7	78.5	71.5	66.7	67.3	CSO
Terms of trade ^{1b}	99	101	108	100	96	90	94	93	CSO
External agricultural income terms of trade									
5. Sustainability of natural resources									
Proportion of land area under forest cover (%)	31.0	31.0	31.0	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.6	30.4	Ministry of Agriculture
Proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity (%)									

a/ Applicable to developed countries

b/ Applicable to developing countries

Section II: Priority Food Security Issues and Implementation of the WFS Plan of Action

Challenges

1. Mauritius as a net-food importing country has, inter-alia, the following main challenges as regards food security issues are concerned:

(i) Improving food security through securing imports and increasing domestic food production in view of reducing its food import bill

(ii) Malnutrition: under nutrition in vulnerable groups, over nutrition in majority of population

(iii) Maintaining strategic stocks of livestock herd, and planting material/ seeds in case of emerging situations.

2. Other issues: -

- Harmonisation of Agricultural trade in the Region
- Vagaries of Nature affecting agricultural production
- Labour shortages resulting from ageing population in the agricultural sector; and the new generation shifting towards service sectors, such as ICT and also towards Manufacturing.
- Declining livestock activities.
- Fodder quality decline.
- Sugar sector- Increase sugar productivity, lowering cost of production
 - Maximise on the economic exploitation of by-products

Areas for improvement

- Agro-industrial Sector-Development with a view to export.
- Delocalisation of agricultural production.
- Export of high value crops.
- Increase local fruit production from 15kg to 50kg by 2010 through expansion of planted area from 250Ha to about 1000Ha.

- Boosting up of livestock sector and development of livestock products as the country has been granted disease free status.
- Reinforce collaboration at regional and international levels for exploitation of extended land area and ocean resources.

Report and Country brief on Mauritius proposed by the UOM Report and endorsed by FAO/TCP Department (October 2003) confirm that access to food is not a problem in Mauritius compared to African Countries south of the Sahara where about-200 million people are chronically hungry.

Rather than food security, we have in Mauritius incidence of poverty, which is being taken care of, by the Government since 1996/97. **Households** falling under the **category of poor**, are not properly nourished. Under-nutrition, therefore, is a problem.

National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation launched in 2001 by Government

Rather than National Alliance against hunger for Mauritius, there is a **National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation**, which provides a framework for poverty alleviation within which all stakeholders such as Government, NGO's, Civil society and Private Sector operate in a coordinated manner. Actions taken at the levels of various stakeholders are as hereunder:

(A) Ministries

(i) Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources - 5 year Strategic Plan for the Non Sugar Sector

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, in its five-year programme of 2003 - 2007 has come up with a comprehensive medium term strategic plan for the non-sugar sector development. This strategic plan is intended to pave the foundation for restructuring the food-crop sector with the view to ensuring that the sector plays a more important role in the new agricultural economy.

(ii) Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Financial Services - Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups

The Trust Fund assists vulnerable and needy groups to improve their living conditions through implementation of community based projects by NGO's. At the household levels, the Trust Fund helps the poor to increase their revenue through micro-credit

schemes in sectors, amongst others, farming and food processing. The additional income improves food security at the household level.

(ii) Ministry of Health and Quality of Life - Calories Per Capita

The food and nutritional requirements of the 1.2 million population is expected to be higher during this decade as a result of population and income growth. Food consumption increased from 2,665 Kcal per capita in 1980 to 2,943 in 1993 reflecting the growth in per capita income, resulting in the incidence of non-communicable disease, a major challenge for the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. People are being sensitized towards inter alia, healthy life and eating styles. **Malnutrition** (over nutrition and under nutrition are being addressed).

(iii) Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizen Welfare & Reform Institutions – Pension & Support Schemes

This Ministry has a number of schemes to promote the social welfare of the population including the national pension scheme, the basic invalid's pension, the basic widow's pension scheme, the orphan's pension etc. There is also an income support scheme to provide rice and flour to certain vulnerable groups.

(iv) Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development & Family Welfare – micro-enterprise development

This Ministry runs courses in Home Economics for young women and young girls with emphasis on food and nutrition. Women also receive training on, inter alia, kitchen-gardening and animal rearing.

A micro-credit scheme was introduced in 2001 to enable **access to credit** to women with the aim of promoting **microenterprise development**. This in turn improves the purchasing power of the household for food and ensures food security.

(v) Ministry of Education and Scientific Research – balanced meal for children of vulnerable group

The Zone D'Education Prioritaire (ZEP) project was launched in 27 schools to allow for the distribution of a balanced meal to children coming from vulnerable households.

(B) Government and International Agencies – access to food

Moreover, a series of *poverty alleviation programmes* have been implemented by the Government alone or jointly with international agencies:-

(i) European Union

‘Anou Diboute Ensame’- is funded by EU. It supports inter-alia, income generating activities among the poor people thus enabling them to have access to food.

(C) NGO’ s – sensitization towards increased food production

There are also various NGOs engaged in activities pertaining to **poverty alleviation and increased food production** namely:

- i. ‘Mouvement Pour L’Autosuffisance Alimentaire (MAA)’. The MAA has implemented a number of successful self-help projects targeted at the vulnerable groups of both Mauritius and Rodrigues such as production of eggs, vegetables and poultry meat.
- ii. ‘Agricultural Youth Clubs (AYC’s)’. These operate in the rural areas and help in kitchen gardening and livestock rearing.
- iii. ‘National Federation of Young farmers Clubs’: The members have implemented various projects for the production of organic compost, vegetables, chicken and milk.

(D) Government and Private Sector – delocalisation of agricultural activities

Moreover, Government is also encouraging the private sector to invest in the region and produce crops and livestock for eventual processing in the island.

Conclusion

The various indicators, e.g. GDP, Dietary Energy Supply, Gini coefficient, Calorie-intake, indicate that **hunger is not a problem, as such in Mauritius, compared to Africa, South of the Sahara**. However, pockets of poverty existing among the population is being addressed in the context of the Millennium Development Goals 2000, within our National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation launched in 2001.

June 2004

SECTION III: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR EACH COMMITMENT AND MEASURES TAKEN

The WFS Plan of Action recommends a variety of actions that countries should undertake to meet the WFS target of reducing the number of undernourished by 2015.

Please elaborate policies pursued and/or action programmes implemented with respect to each commitment, demonstrating, where possible, their impact in terms of contributing to overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction. Countries may focus on those commitments and themes that are most pertinent to them. Countries are also requested to report on what national and international civil society organizations in the private for-profit, academic and non-profit sectors, are doing to address food insecurity and poverty.

Developed countries and international agencies are requested to provide information on their support to developing countries to help them implement the WFS Plan of Action, and to reduce hunger and poverty, including information on how they are coordinating and harmonizing their assistance.

COMMITMENT I

Policies pursued to create an enabling political, social and economic environment. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken by your country with respect to:

- a) Strengthening democratic political systems and broad-based participation;
- b) Improving human rights;
- c) Preventing conflict and creating a peaceful environment;
- d) Enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the outcome of the strategies implemented.

COMMITMENT II

Policies pursued and actions taken to eradicate poverty and inequality and to improve physical and economic access to food by all. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to:

- a) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate income and employment for the urban poor;
- b) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate on-farm and off-farm income and employment for the rural poor, women and minority groups, including land reform, protection of property and use rights and other strategies to ensure access to land and water resources.
- c) Provisions made to develop social safety nets, if any, to meet the needs of the poor, including those affected by HIV/AIDS:
 - > in rural area;
 - > in urban areas;
- d) Measures taken to ensure access to basic education and primary health care.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the impact on the food insecure.³

³ Examples might be social programmes addressed to meet food needs of poor people.

Annex

Notes:

- ¹ In Mauritian rupees million
- ² From Household Budget Survey July1996-June1997 results
- ³ From Household Budget Survey July2001-June2002 results
- ⁴ Base : July 2001-June 2002 = 100
- ⁵ Figures relate to Island of Mauritius only
- ⁶ Per 1000 live births
- ⁷ Children aged 6-11
- ⁸ Latest available figure is from 2000 Population Census and previous one is from 1990 Census = 79.9
- ⁹ Crude death rate-both sexes (per 1000 midyear population)
- ¹⁰ Crude death rate-male (per 1000 midyear male population)
- ¹¹ Crude death rate-female (per 1000 midyear female population)
- ¹² Latest available figure is from 2000 Population Census for age group "under 15 years" and previous one is from 1990 Census = 0.00 (negligible)
- ¹³ Latest available figure is from 2000 Population Census and previous one is from 1990 Census = 47.3