



THE CELAC PLAN FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER 2025

Summary:

This document seeks to fulfill a part of the 13th point of the II CELAC Summit Declaration, held in Havana, Cuba. During that summit, held in 2014, CELAC countries adopted the Caracas Declaration and Action Plan of the Authorities of Social Development for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty. In its first chapter, the Action Plan refers to food and nutritional security, and its second point indicates that "...we ask FAO, with the cooperation of ALADI and ECLAC, to present to CELAC a project for the creation of a Food Security and Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan, to be debated during a technical meeting of government representatives and then presented in the II Meeting of Ministers of Social Development and Hunger and Poverty Eradication." The current document presents a draft of the Food Security and Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan.

Santiago, 2014

I. Background

The creation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, in Spanish), has revitalized governance instances and presents an opportunity to strengthen regional integration. It dates back to the Latin America and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), convened in 2008 with an agenda of integration and cooperation and its own format. The consolidation of CELAC was formally established during the Unity Summit held in 2009 in Mexico, and in 2010 in Venezuela; it had its founding meeting, with Chile assuming the position of Pro-Tempore President (2012), succeeded by Cuba (2013) and later by Costa Rica, which currently holds the Presidency.

Its first declaration clearly states the commitment to "...promote food and nutritional security", as well as cooperation mechanisms between CELAC and FAO. In July 2013, the 1st Meeting of CELAC Ministers and Authorities Responsible for Social Development for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, held in Caracas, resulted in the Latin American and Caribbean Hunger and Poverty Eradication Program, with clear guidelines based on the four pillars of food and nutritional security (access, availability, utilization and stability), which was endorsed during the Habana Summit in 2014.

During the latest Summit of Heads of States and Governments, the Action Plan was approved as a guide for CELAC during 2014 in order to assess progress in different aspects. The first chapter of the Action Plan deals with Food Security and Nutrition, and hunger and poverty eradication, and its second point indicates that "...we ask FAO, with the cooperation of ALADI and ECLAC, to present to CELAC a project for the creation of a Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan, to be debated during a technical meeting of government representatives and then presented in the II Meeting of Ministers of Social Development and Hunger and Poverty Eradication."

Taking into account the scope, diversity and differences among the social, economic and political projects of the region, the present document elaborated by FAO, ALADI and ECLAC is based on the following conceptual and strategic guidelines: i) the declarations of the former Summits, which aim to reduce the asymmetries in terms of development between countries of the region, ii) the efforts to strengthen regional integration projects and the political commitment to the fight against hunger and extreme poverty, iii) a fundamental Human Rights perspective, iv) the Directives emanated from CELAC regarding social matters, orienting the proposals according to the four pillars of Food Security and Nutrition: availability, access, utilization and stability; v) best practices from various public policies that governments are currently implementing with great positive impacts on vulnerable families and; vi) gender issues, indigenous peoples and strengthening civil society, organizations and social movements, considered as all-encompassing guidelines for all actions.

The objective of the current document is to present a preliminary version for the Project for a Food and Nutrition Security and Hunger Eradication Plan 2025, which will be discussed in several occasions before the meeting of Ministers in Caracas, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in November 2014.

II. Guidelines of the Caracas Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty

The elements contained in the Caracas Action Plan constitute an effort by the CELAC states to establish social policy guidelines to be implemented in the region, which incorporate priority elements for social development under a comprehensive view. The guidelines were adopted at the Second Summit of CELAC held in Cuba in January 2014, and contain, among other items, those related directly to Food and Nutrition Security.

Pillar 1: Coordinated food security strategies through the formulation of national and regional public policies to face the challenges of food security, with a gender approach and incorporating a human rights perspective, in particular the Human Right to Food:

- Reach a consensus on regional priorities regarding food needs by researching food chain and food sale protocols, to implement guidelines that will allow for the eradication of hunger.
- Promote the sharing of success stories and legal frameworks that allow for complementarity and solidarity in the exchange of food among member countries of CELAC.
- Instruct FAO to perform the necessary actions to properly conceptualize and define food sovereignty, as soon as possible.
- Promote public policies that foster rural development and sustainable food production.
- Promote regional policies that encourage the practice of breastfeeding as the first act of food security.

Pillar 2: Timely and sustainable access to safe, adequate, sufficient, culturally relevant nutritious food for all people, especially the most vulnerable, in order for them to develop and fully maintain their physical and mental faculties:

- Encourage, when appropriate, government food purchases from family farmers to meet the demands of governmental food programs in schools and care centres for vulnerable populations, among others.
- Ensure, through common public policies, access to safe water as a right, for human consumption and agricultural as well as agro-ecological use, to ensure food security, sustainability of land and the preservation of biodiversity, in accordance with the laws of each country.
- Strengthen the development of family farming, building capacities for risk management as well as the adoption of improved technologies to increase agricultural and livestock food production throughout the region.

Pillar 3: Nutritional wellbeing and assurance of nutrients for all vulnerable groups, respecting the diversity of eating habits.

- Create a regional school-feeding program that includes nutritional supplements in schools and regular check-ups of the children's nutritional situation.
- Build national and regional reference frameworks for nutritional education and support networks for their implementation.
- Promote programs and networks of food protection for vulnerable groups as spaces for the distribution of raw or prepared food for populations in extreme poverty and social vulnerability, with the support of social organizations and communities.

Pillar 4: Stable production and timely attention to socio-natural disasters that can affect food availability

- Create study and implement a Latin American and Caribbean Food Supply Programme to face socio-natural disasters, based on the experiences and capabilities in the region, including the protection of smallholder farmers, with special emphasis on the specific vulnerability of small island countries.
- Implement prevention and risk management for disasters that may affect food availability.
- Establish a regional information system that complements existing sub-regional early warning systems for disasters of socio-natural origin that may affect food availability.

III. Diagnosis: Food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean and the actions and measures implemented by countries

One year after the deadline set for the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goals, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) reached the MDG-1 target of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Despite this, 37 million people in the region are still undernourished, corresponding to 6.1% of the population. While important advances have been made, there is still the need to make progress by strengthening political commitment to eradicate hunger.

According to FAO's flagship publication "The State of Food Insecurity in the World, (SOFI)", Latin America and the Caribbean has reduced the number of hungry people in the region by 5.5 million, from 2008-10 to 2012-14. The total reduction in hunger since 1990-92 -the year set as a basis for measuring the MDGs- reached 31.5 million people. Thus, Latin America and the Caribbean reached the first of the goals in terms of reducing hunger.

Fourteen countries in the region have already reached the target of halving the prevalence of hunger or currently have hunger levels lower than 5%. This is the case for Argentina (<5%), Barbados (<5%), Brazil (<5%), Chile (<5%), Cuba (<5%), Guyana, Mexico (<5%), Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay (<5%) and Venezuela (<5%). Additionally, four countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras and Suriname) have advanced above 90%, mainly in Bolivia with a progress of 97% towards the MDG target being particularly noteworthy.

The cases of Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which show greater degrees of progress in the established target to reduce hunger, are the most prominent in the region and are important examples of how decisive actions to eradicate hunger yield the desired results (see Appendix 1).

In terms of poverty, the latest ECLAC¹ estimates for 2013 indicate that the number of people in situations of poverty has remained stable at 164 million (27.9% of the inhabitants of Latin America), while extreme poverty increased by two million people in the region when compared to the year 2012, up to 68 million people (11.5% of the population).

While there are differences between countries and sub-regions (see Appendix 2), for the year 2010, all countries considered had poverty levels above 10%, except for the cases of Argentina and Uruguay. Honduras (67.4%), Nicaragua (58.3%), Guatemala (54.8%) and Paraguay (54.8%) have the highest levels of poverty, while the average of the region is close to 35%. Extreme poverty, meanwhile, affects 43% of the Honduran population and about 30% of the populations of Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

In this context, although the region has made important advances both in poverty reduction and hunger eradication, the truth is that many countries in the region require more and better public policies aimed towards the goal of achieving food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Food and Nutritional Security has been strengthened in recent years within the regional agenda. In Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, and in the countries that comprise it, the problems of hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty have been given high relevance in the political debate,

¹ ECLAC. 2013. Social Panorama of Latin America 2013.

since the region has achieved significant levels of food availability, and the challenge now involves achieving food security in all its dimensions— availability, access, utilization and stability.

A first milestone in terms of food security includes the national and regional initiatives to create political and legal frameworks to support public interventions in terms of food and nutritional security. This is reflected at the regional level in the action plans and statements related to food security made by different integration organizations such as UNASUR, OAS, Petrocaribe, SICA and CARICOM. At a national level, 7 countries have framework laws on food and nutritional security, and 17 countries have policies, strategies and programs for Food and Nutritional Security.

On a more specific level, the countries of the region also implement a wide range of public programs that affect the four dimensions of Food and Nutritional Security (FSN). These initiatives –including those that do not specify FSN as part of their objectives– have effects on production, social, health and commercial aspects, so they are an important part of each country’s strategy to fight hunger.

In terms of *food availability*, among a wide range of public initiatives, countries in the region have specialized programs to support the development of family farming. Although they all have their particularities, most have in common the provision of financial support, technical assistance, access to inputs and the construction of productive infrastructure. Also, many of them have programs to facilitate the marketing of food produced in the domestic market, where states have a leading role both through public procurement as well as through the promotion of public-private partnerships to improve the food supply and income of small farmers.

In terms of *food access*, 21 countries have Conditional Transfer Programs (CTP), in order to guarantee a minimum level of income for the most vulnerable while using conditions to reinforce the creation of human capital in the recipients of the program. Furthermore, all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have, in one form or another, school feeding programs that seek to ensure adequate nutrition for children in the region.

In terms of *utilization*, public actions to tackle malnutrition, overweight and obesity have also gained prominence in the public agenda, and countries in the region have established laws designed to regulate the advertising of unhealthy foods and restrict their sale in educational spaces, so as to promote healthier consumption habits to prevent rising obesity and overweight.

Finally, in terms of *stability*, several countries in the region have public institutions to maintain food stocks in order to face emergency situations; likewise, early warning disaster systems have been established to minimize their impact in terms of production and on the livelihoods of the populace.

IV. Purpose of the Project Plan

*Contribute to “reach concrete results that will generate significant improvements in the quality of life of the inhabitants of the region, aimed at the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, to guarantee food security and nutrition, with a gender approach and respecting the variety of eating habits, to face the challenges of food security and nutrition and move towards the eradication of hunger and the complete fulfillment of the Right to Food, especially for all vulnerable sectors”.*²

² Corresponds to paragraph 13 of the Declaration of the Second Summit of CELAC, held in Havana (2014), which adopts the Caracas Declaration and Plan of Action of Authorities of Social Development to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. The first chapter of the aforementioned Action Plan 2014 of CELAC deals with Food and Nutrition Security and Hunger and Poverty Eradication.

V. Rationale and assumptions

The Project Plan is based on the assumption that the solution to hunger can be reached by strengthening and articulating policies that countries already have in place and that have demonstrated their impact in the fight against hunger, especially through the “twin track”³ approach, respecting the unique characteristics and processes that each country is undertaking, including the specificities of the states of the Caribbean subregion.

It incorporates an integral vision, considering the multidimensional character of Food and Nutritional Security and the diversity of conditions present in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the domestic dynamics of countries and their organizations. Based on the former considerations, the following focus points and all-encompassing elements have been determined:

- a. Gender and intergenerational perspectives
- b. Indigenous peoples and traditional communities
- c. Governance processes and social organization
- d. Global challenges for the eradication of hunger and poverty
- e. Access to clean drinking water
- f. Sustainable production

All actions and concrete measures proposed by this Project Plan will seek to strengthen inclusive governance in these aspects, promoting an adequate participation of the civil society, social movements and organizations, strengthening their organizational mechanisms as a motor for effective action and their participation in governance processes, as well as the definition of national and regional processes, recognizing the active participation of indigenous peoples according to their needs and characteristics. An effective gender approach and a human right to food approach will also be considered at all times.

Finally, a special emphasis on the intergenerational link between the different actions included in the plan will be considered, as to support the most sensitive target groups such as early childhood, youth and the elderly, recognizing that most countries are going through a process of demographic transition towards an aging population, which is even more evident in rural areas.

This Project Plan adopts the agreed-upon outlines endorsed by the Caracas Action Plan to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, through pillars that seek to focus the actions on this matter. The Project Plan is open to the incorporation of new elements in a process of ongoing review within the CELAC Plan, considering the new challenges of the Post 2015 Development Agenda in the definition of regional priorities.

VI. Lines of action

The establishment of the lines of action consider a political approach to the fight against hunger, which has been endorsed in several multilateral forums and has led to the promotion of a common agenda on food security as one of the major challenges of today’s society, considering the need for South-South Cooperation as a driving force behind hunger eradication, consolidating strategic alliances with the appropriate social participation on a solid basis of information and communication,

³ The focus of the “twin track” approach, promoted by the FAO worldwide to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty, is the implementation, by States, of policies to deal with complex social situations both through immediate and emergency interventions coupled with long term strategies that require structural changes to succeed. Thus, the purpose is to alleviate hunger and extreme poverty while facing their root causes to thereby eradicate these afflictions in a consistent and durable manner.

with a results based management approach that includes permanent monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and the defined actions of this Plan.

Pillar 1: Coordinated food security strategies through the development and management of national and regional public policies to meet the challenges of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability), with a gender perspective and incorporating a human rights approach, in particular the Human Right to Food

- ***Line of Action 1: Strengthening institutional frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)***

During the last decade, Latin America and the Caribbean has stood out in the global context by implementing a “political approach” to food security, where, instead of isolated sectorial interventions; structural policies and institutional actions have been put in place, to build public systems of food and nutritional security, programs and multi-sectorial actions, creating instances for the participation of the civil society and their social organizations, policies and action plans with integral capacities, as well as the constitutional recognition of the Right to Food and the implementation of framework food security laws.

These advances reflect a regional political commitment at the highest level, in the framework of the Hunger Free Latin American and Caribbean 2025 Initiative as well as different governance bodies at regional, sub-regional and national levels, that has increased the playing field and actors involved in the fight against hunger and poverty, including various ministerial authorities, parliamentarians from across the region gathered in the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, Human Rights Advocates, civil society organizations and social movements.

In this sense, having already succeeded in fostering political commitment as well as policies, action plans and legal and institutional frameworks, the region now shares the common challenge of putting these initiatives into operation through the effective mobilization of resources, as well as strengthening the principles and critical features of each governance scheme: participation, interagency coordination, monitoring and evaluation, accountability, funding and technical support.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Raise the Human Right to Food to the highest legal status in the countries;
- ✓ Encourage countries to establish or strengthen the legal policy framework for achieving the Right to Food;
- ✓ Strengthen the implementation of legislative FNS initiatives through effective resource mobilization and give visibility to the mobility of available resources aimed at FNS within the associated institutions;
- ✓ Encourage countries to establish or strengthen greater and more inclusive governance on FNS and poverty eradication;
- ✓ Promote the exchange of successful experiences and legal frameworks which allow for complementarity and solidarity in the exchange of food, production inputs, technologies and knowledge among CELAC member countries.
- ✓ Encourage and reinforce social participation in the development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies of FNS.
- ✓ Create or strengthen intersectoral committees at the national level for monitoring and permanent evaluation of policies, programs and actions carried out.

- **Line of Action 2: Facilitating Intraregional Food Trade**

A proposal for a Regional Food Strategy must be put in place, one that allows the supply (availability) of selected products in favorable conditions of access for the most vulnerable populations. This strategy should consider the national dimension (national policies and programs) as well as the regional dimension, establishing instruments such as agreements on the facilitation of trade, South-South cooperation agreements of a regional scope and/or among countries, using intraregional food trade as an instrument to ensure the right to adequate and healthy food for a region free of hunger, taking into consideration that: (a) the region as a whole has a surplus in terms of food production; (b) the most important foods in terms of a caloric diets are the most traded; (c) in the region some countries are net exporters and other net importers and; (d) that despite a wide range of agreements and regional and sub-regional trade integration agreements, regional food supply comes mainly from outside Latin America and the Caribbean.

The design of the Plan should strengthen an intraregional trade policy and should be conducted according to rules of the World Trade Organization in its content

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Strengthen knowledge and create conditions for overcoming the obstacles and/or restrictions to intra-regional trade: tariffs (negotiation margins); non-tariff measures (exchange and harmonization of national rules to stimulate production, phytosanitary measures, food safety, technical standards, etc.) and operational measures (funding, infrastructure, transportation, logistics, private/public administration, etc.), so that the commercial exchanges between the states and the operators is fluid and facilitates the creation of trade flows;
- ✓ Strengthen intraregional trading of inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers;
- ✓ Promote the flow of information concerning the supply and demand of foods that are key to the FNS strategies implemented by the countries of CELAC;
- ✓ Encourage purchases between countries as well as between countries and family farming organizations;
- ✓ Agree on regional priorities about food needs by surveying distribution chain protocols and the sale of food, to implement guidelines to eradicate hunger.

- **Line of Action 3: Food Waste and Losses (FWL)**

According to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security, food waste and losses refer to the “the decrease in total food mass originally intended for human consumption, regardless of the cause, and at all stages of the food chain, from harvest to consumption.” Thus, losses and food waste impact both food security and nutrition and the sustainability of food systems.

The HLPE distinguishes three levels where food loss and waste can happen, and proposes interventions accordingly. On a micro level, food waste and losses occur throughout the food chain, associated with poor planning, transport, storage conditions, the conditions of the sale points (temperature, humidity, among others), food handling, losses within homes, etc. On an intermediate level, the lack of equipment or best practices, the organization, coordination and inadequate communication among the actors of the food chain (for example, a transformation that renders the product useless further down the food chain), insufficient infrastructure and economic conditions that are incorrectly adapted throughout the food chain (non-marketable product, etc.). A systemic

cause at the macro level, meanwhile, is the absence of a favorable environment to support the coordination between actors, investment and improved practices.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Generate information and communication campaigns to raise the awareness of each of the actors in the food chain and consumers regarding best practices to avoid food losses and waste, improving the clarity of labeling in terms of expiration date and storage; the proper application of best agricultural and veterinary practices during the primary phase of production and best manufacturing and hygienic practices in food processing, as well as any other practice or action to help prevent or reverse FWL.
- ✓ Development and training in processes and strategies for the conservation of harvest products, particularly small-scale agriculture for personal consumption or for sale; taking into account the different forms of usage and non- traditional consumption of products.
- ✓ Promote policies and programs that strengthen the safety and quality of food produced by family farmers.
- ✓ Promote reduction of FWL, which generally involves the improvement of infrastructure, particularly transport, energy and market facilities; generating actions to raise awareness in these sectors.
- ✓ Promote the development of and facilitate access to equipment, new technology and innovation that contribute to reducing food losses in every at all stages of the food chain.
- ✓ Include the issue of FNS and how to avoid food losses in all education levels, especially for those directly involved with food.
- ✓ Encourage South-South Cooperation in the aforementioned items.

• ***Line of Action 4: Food Supply Program***

The crisis of 2008-2009 and the rise in food prices have led many countries to revise previous measures as well as create innovative strategies to ensure the FNS of their populations. Some examples are the food supply strategies, the revitalization of supply companies, supply centers, the creation of food stocks, government purchases of products from family farming, among other measures.

The creation of these national supply companies (CONAB-Brazil, EMAPA-Bolivia, the Ministry of Popular Power for Food of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, among others) along with the development of other programs that promote access to financial services, technical assistance and inputs, have enabled great advances in the development of the productive systems of family farmers.

These companies have a great potential for promoting articulation between the final consumers and society in general and food markets, playing an important role in improving social inclusion; allowing for the integration of rural and indigenous communities, while recognizing their productive capacity. They also open new markets for these small-holder farmers and guarantee the purchase of their production, reducing the distortions of the system (the burden of intermediaries, above all) and improving profits through fair pricing mechanisms.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Strengthen the link between public food procurement in the member countries and family farming;

- ✓ Strengthen national food supply companies and centers as mechanisms for providing access to food for the general population and which strengthen family farming;
- ✓ Promote cooperation and exchange among countries which have supply strategies in place, such as the aforementioned supply companies and centers.
- ✓ Improve national systems linked to logistics and better sanitary practices in food processing.

Pillar 2: Timely and sustainable access to safe, adequate, sufficient, nutritious and culturally relevant food for all people, especially the most vulnerable, in order to develop and fully maintain their physical and mental faculties

- ***Line of Action 1: Conditional Transfer Programs (CTP)***

Currently, 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean implement this type of social protection programs in the region, helping to provide basic levels of consumption and facilitating access to social services in health, education and nutrition.

While each national experience responds to varying degrees of severity in terms of food insecurity and poverty, each with different goals and institutional dynamics, the CTPs in the region share the dual challenge of honing their implementation mechanisms and instruments and seeking full coverage of their target population, while strengthening their impacts on food security and nutrition. On the other hand, they must effectively express themselves with broader systems of social protection and promotion, contributing not only to the relief of poverty but to its total eradication.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Encourage countries to seek universal coverage of CTPs for the poor as well as the extremely poor, linked to other systems of social protection;
- ✓ Encourage South-South Cooperation in this field and promote the exchange of policies, experiences and best practices to strengthen these programs;
- ✓ Continue refining the CTPs, seeking to strengthen processes that advance the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations;
- ✓ Promote dialogue among states to exchange experiences regarding national social programs related to the eradication of hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty;
- ✓ Improve mechanisms for monitoring national and regional policies through the South - South Cooperation platform.

- **Line of action 2: Labour market**

A significant number of rural families in the region derive their income –the total or a fraction- from one or more salaried jobs throughout the year, which may have very different characteristics: occasional, temporary and –increasingly rare- permanent jobs, to which should be added "piecework" (by task or product).

Employers, meanwhile, are also very diverse and can be small or medium-sized family farms; agricultural, livestock and forestry enterprises, traditional or modern; domestic market oriented or geared towards agricultural exports; in primary production or agro-industrial processing; as well as sectors of the rural economy other than agribusiness, such as trade, construction and other services, although sectorally agriculture remains the main rural employer.

The promotion of decent work, in the broad sense of social protection, is one of the public policy lines of action that has become particularly important in the fight against poverty and food

insecurity. In this sense, the actions aimed at improving working conditions must take into account gender considerations, child labor and migration processes.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Promoting policies to strengthen decent labor and reduce informality in labor relations, fostering access to social security through improved contractual conditions, especially in rural areas;
- ✓ Help improve mechanisms to comply with the labor laws of each country.
- ✓ Promote intergenerational incentive schemes for incorporating youth into the rural labor market to strengthen family agriculture.
- ✓ Strengthen the training and formal technical and agricultural education and trades; either at the higher education or tertiary level.

- ***Line of Action 3: Family Farming***

Among the many policy instruments in the region, the strengthening of food and nutrition security and the support of family farming stands out. These policies have demonstrated the importance and great potential that the sector has in relation to: i) strengthening and revitalizing the regional and territorial economies, reducing inequalities; ii) contributing to the management of natural resources (water, biodiversity, among others); iii) strengthening national strategies for food and nutritional security in relation to the production and diversity of food and; iv) occupancy of territorial spaces in a balanced and sustainable manner, contributing to the solution of problems related to overpopulation in large cities. (As a reference of applied policies in the region, the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR, REAF, is a great source of information).

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Support the implementation of the CELAC 2014 Action Plan, in the specific section on Family Farming (second point of the CELAC 2014 Action Plan).
- ✓ Strengthen and/or develop national policies and programs of government purchases within family farming according to the characteristics of each country.
- ✓ Strengthen and/or develop national and regional policies and programs for the development and promotion of local and regional products, encouraging short circuits.
- ✓ Promote communication and education campaigns to support products from family farming, at regional, national and local levels.
- ✓ Promote cooperation projects and the exchange of ideas in the development, design, implementation and monitoring of public policies in support of family farming with REAF: financing, insurance, rural extension, promoting organizations (cooperatives and the development of social economy enterprises), added source value, market access, access to strategic inputs (quality seeds, fertilizers, etc.), technological innovation, rural housing; based on the initiatives undertaken by the Member States.
- ✓ Training and continuous extension services for family farmers related to food handling, safety and nutrition.
- ✓ Promote research based on the need to strengthen the development of family farming.
- ✓ Develop programs of public awareness and education about the alternatives to disinfecting water for human consumption, garden use and in the food supply chain. At the same time, develop programs of technical assistance to improve water quality and the treatment of wastewater.
- ✓ Promote the construction of infrastructure to facilitate access to water, to contribute to food security, the eradication of poverty and to development.

- ✓ Conduct capacity building programs to secure access and improve water management. Increase awareness and education on the sustainable use of surface and ground water, water harvesting and the use of recycled water in agriculture; aimed at producers, farmers, women, youth and their organizations, ensuring that they take into account the various production systems.

Pillar 3: Nutritional wellbeing and assurance of nutrients for all vulnerable groups, respecting the diversity of eating habits

- ***Line of Action 1: School Feeding Programs***

School feeding programs have a long history in the region and today can be linked to various objectives, such as strengthening the continuity of the nutritional cycle, reinforcing food culture and social participation, creating healthy habits, and, more recently, strengthening access for family farmers to public markets of institutional food supply.

While programs in the region vary in their coverage, frequency, nature of benefits and complementary components; they have promising impacts on education (enrollment, attendance, retention and performance), nutrition, building of social capital (community cohesion, local food culture) and on the local economy, which raises the challenge of creating a specific policy agenda to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks, mechanisms for investment in infrastructure and personnel, as well as their ties to family farming and local markets and the encouragement of healthy eating habits.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Universalize School Nutrition Programs;
- ✓ Link School Feeding Programs to the Public Procurement System of Family Farming;
- ✓ Promote healthy food environments within schools.
- ✓ Incorporate nutrition education into school curriculums.
- ✓ Establish healthy, varied menus within school feeding programs.

- ***Line of Action 2: Nutritional wellbeing***

To address malnutrition in all its forms, it is necessary to identify policies and legislative measures to combat obesity, undernourishment and micronutrient deficiencies, ensuring the health of individuals in addition to encouraging healthy eating habits, and sustainable production of healthy, fresh and nutritious food.

Countries in the region are facing malnutrition in all its forms, while continuing to implement food security strategies; a fact that highlights the need to create healthier and more sustainable food systems increasingly strengthened in their structure, to encourage healthy and diverse diets that integrate local products, thus reducing diseases caused by deficient or excess food consumption, with special emphasis on women of childbearing age, young children and seniors; the most vulnerable groups in terms of nutritional requirements.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Strengthen policies and programs to combat malnutrition related to FNS, throughout the life cycle of individuals, with an emphasis on women of childbearing age, malnourished children (under 5 year of age and schoolchildren) and the elderly.

- ✓ Promote campaigns at the regional, national and local levels aimed at promoting healthy habits, encouraging the consolidation of healthy food environments in different areas such as schools and the community.
- ✓ Encourage policies focused on promoting healthy eating environments through information campaigns.
- ✓ Limit or control advertising of ultra-processed food products, usually of low nutritional quality, especially those directed at children, adolescents and the elderly.
- ✓ Ensure nutritional labeling on the front of packaged food products; which respect the guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius.
- ✓ Strengthen and support local producers so that consumers have access to healthy, fresh, nutritious products, recovering traditional ancestral foods with cultural relevance.

Pillar 4: Stable production and timely attention to socio-natural disasters likely to affect food availability

- ***Line of Action 1: Emergencies and natural disasters***

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been repeatedly hit by natural disasters, which have resulted in the loss of lives, property and livelihoods, and thus directly affecting the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable populations.

In this scenario, early warning systems for disasters stand out as an element of risk reduction, which can mitigate the human, material and economic impacts of these events. These should be supported by the development of information systems, in order to establish databases and perform vulnerability analysis as an input for decision-making, public policy design and the development of effective prevention measures for the mitigation of disasters.

Suggested actions:

- ✓ Create a Latin American and Caribbean program of food reserves and supplies to face sociocultural disasters
- ✓ Provide public institutions in charge of public food stockpiles with the necessary legal frameworks and human and financial resources to consolidate them within the state apparatus;
- ✓ Promote the construction of infrastructure to enable the creation and maintenance of food reserves at national and local levels in order to cope with emergencies and natural disasters;
- ✓ Take advantage of the complementarities in the region in order to facilitate the establishment of technical assistance agreements and mutual cooperation, to ensure the availability of food reserves in times of need.
- ✓ Implement prevention and risk management programs as well as disaster management to face events that could affect food security.
- ✓ Establish a regional information system that complements existing sub-regional early warning systems for disasters of socio-natural origin that may affect food availability, which can also enable follow up on all issues related to malnutrition.

VII. Monitoring and communication of the Plan

• South - South Cooperation platform

The main focus of this action is to place under horizontal cooperation the various successes and key lessons learned from the projects supported by the different mechanisms of integration and regional and subregional cooperation, as well as FAO's, creating cooperation networks centered on best practices of laws, rules, policies, programs, and experiences in technologies in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition developed by countries. FAO will make its "Platform for South-South Cooperation for the Eradication of Hunger" website available to CELAC, which can be visited at: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/psan>

The platform will be managed by the countries within CELAC, with the support of FAO, and will be designed to strengthen the process of South-South Cooperation, show the progress of the Plan and facilitate proper communication of their achievements, by (i) the possibility of consulting and incorporating the leading economic and sociological indicators of the Plan (Gini coefficient, poverty, extreme poverty, child malnutrition, malnutrition, population, GDP, etc.); (ii) the incorporation and the possibility to consult the major policies, legislations, plans, programs and actions focused on eradicating hunger in each country, presenting their innovative features; (iii) facilitating the link between the "supply" of cooperation and its "demand" in the region; and (iv) facilitate the systematization of experiences and best practices of the countries.

• Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of goals

The CELAC 2025 Plan to combat hunger and poverty should have goals that reflect the efforts being undertaken by member countries. Indicators should be able to measure these goals and there must be country level information to construct them.

Annexes: (electronica)

- a. Santiago Declaration of the First Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Santiago, Chile. January 2013
- b. Public Policy Action Plan on Social Matters of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Caracas, Venezuela. July, 2013
- c. Declaration of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Havana, Cuba. January 2014
- d. CELAC 2014 Action Plan. Havana, Cuba. January, 2014
- e. Development of Intra-Regional Food Trade and Strengthening of Food and Nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean. FAO, ALADI, ECLAC, Santiago, Chile. June, 2014
- f. A comprehensive review of public policies for family farming, food security, nutrition and public health in the Americas: Bringing the United Nations agendas closer. FAO, PAHO / WHO, ECLAC, IICA. Lima, Peru. May, 2014

