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Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Collection of contributions received



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Topic note

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world has committed to eradicate hunger and eliminate all forms of malnutrition by 2030. The **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition** (2016-2025) proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on 1 April 2016 calls for accelerated global action to achieve this goal.

The UN General Assembly Resolution places the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition in the context of follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). It tasks the co-convenors of ICN2, FAO and WHO, to organise the implementation of the Decade through an inclusive and participatory process, working “with existing institutions and with available resources”. The UNSCN is supporting this effort by initiating an online discussion to collect the ideas of all relevant actors. Specifically, and taking the ICN2 outcomes as a framework, the UNSCN wants to know what elements you believe should be taken into consideration in the development of the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

We would therefore like to invite you to share your views on how best to maximise the potential of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. You may want to consider the following questions:

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?
2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?
3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?
4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

This consultation is part of a wider discussion to help elaborate the Work Programme for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. We invite you to circulate this opportunity to the appropriate stakeholders in your country and networks to guarantee that all actors are able to engage and be connected in a meaningful way.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to this exchange.

Christine Campeau
Technical Officer, UNSCN

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

The Decade is a global effort driven by Members States of the United Nations and convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and including other UN bodies and entities such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN).

Contributions received

1. Claudio Schuftan, PHM, Viet Nam

Welcome Christine Campeau!

1. The experience from past 'decades' has not been too good. We need to do better --a challenge. Significant difference will only come from public interest CSOs and social movements pushing MS to commit to action plans and then hold them accountable for it on, at least, a year-to-year basis. Changes will NOT come from above... Moreover, it is time we begin talking about food-and-nutrition-security and NOT food security and nutrition...
2. Critical is to refocus the decade on the HR framework clearly identifying claim holders and duty bearers and doing a capacity analysis of what the expected roles are that pertain to both groups. A massive HR learning process will be the only thing that will lead to this. A process of empowerment of claim holders to organize, mobilize and demand needed changes is key. Without this, we can anticipate little happening or just token steps 'to keep up with the Joneses' and save face in front of the intl community. Moreover, it is not for us to top-down decide priorities! It is the claim holders suffering violations of their right to nutrition to lead in deciding priority actions.
3. This is a push or pull question. Only pulling from claim holders will move the decade ahead. UN and other intl agencies can do little to push MS to commit. History is clear about this. Forget about private sector actors being involved in empowering claim holders: counterintuitive to them.... This is why so many of us are skeptical about the SUN Initiative with its well exposed conflicts of interest. As said, CSOs have the crucial role in monitoring progress made in the progressive realization of 10 year plans to fulfil the right to nutrition. Annual benchmarks of processes-set-in-motion have to be set so that CSOs can assess progress, stagnation or retrogression on an annual basis with something like shadow reports.
4. CFS, UNSCN and others' (including the CSM) contribution to the decade is very important, BUT along the lines of what I say above. If shy on this, we will be discussing the same shortcomings by the end of the decade.

This is my personal opinion.

Claudio in Ho Chi Minh City

2. Emile Hounbo, Agricultural University of Ketou (UAK), Benin [first contribution]

Original contribution in French

Le sujet en question est d'un grand intérêt pour l'humanité, surtout pour l'Afrique subsaharienne reconnue comme l'une des régions les plus touchées au monde par la malnutrition. Vu que la nutrition est au coeur de la formation du capital humain nécessaire au développement, il est important d'aborder le sujet avec une démarche techniquement valide. Un simple recueil d'avis et de propositions d'activités ne donnerait pas un bon résultat à mon avis. Il en sera de même pour des actions planifiées uniformément à travers toutes les régions. Car, la nutrition a un fondement socioculturel et économique. Elle mérite donc d'être abordée différemment selon les réalités socioculturelles et économiques des diverses régions du monde. A cet effet, des études socioéconomiques préalables - ne serait-ce que des études sommaires ou au moins une revue documentaire sur le sujet - sont indispensables pour définir des actions pertinentes, planifiées, avec indicateurs valides et mesurables jusqu'à l'échéance des dix (10) ans fixés. Je suggère que dans le meilleur des cas la démarche de planification stratégique soit adoptée, avec la participation des parties

principales prenanter du système de nutrition de chaque région (ou pays) afin de révéler objectivement les vrais goulots à attaquer suivant les régions. C'est ce qui permettra de parvenir à de meilleurs résultats; soit le recul sensible de la malnutrition au bout des dix (10) ans. C'est dire que des moyens financiers et techniques sont nécessaires à mobiliser pour que des résultats tangibles soient obtenus. Des moyens doivent être déployés à plusieurs niveaux: planification des actions, définition des indicateurs, mise en oeuvre des actions, suivi-évaluation et évaluation finale du programme.

English translation

The subject in question is of great interest to humanity, in particular to Sub-Saharan Africa, recognized as one of the region most affected by malnutrition at global level. Given that nutrition is at the heart of building of the human capital necessary for development, it is important to deal with the subject with a valid technical approach. In my view, just a compilation of opinions and proposals for action will not produce a worthwhile result. It will be the same for actions planned uniformly throughout all the regions, because nutrition has a sociocultural and economic foundation. Therefore it should be approached differently according to the sociocultural and economic realities of the different regions in the world. To this effect, initial socioeconomic studies – even if only summary studies or at least a documentary review of the subject - are indispensable in order to define the relevant actions, planned with valid and measurable indicators covering a fixed period of 10 years. I suggest that the best option would be to adopt the strategic planning approach with the participation of the main parties involved in the nutrition system of each region (or country) with the task of revealing objectively the true bottlenecks to deal with in each region. This will enable better results to be achieved; i.e. the measurable reduction of malnutrition at the end of 10 years. That means that financial and technical means must be mobilized in order to obtain tangible results. Means should be deployed at different levels for: planning of actions, definition of indicators, implementation of actions, follow-up assessment and final evaluation of the program.

3. Emile Hougbo, Agricultural University of Ketou (UAK), Benin [second contribution]

Original contribution in French

J'avais oublié d'ajouter que la nutrition présente aussi une dimension institutionnelle. C'est pourquoi je parlais de système de nutrition dans chaque région (ou pays). Les institutions à la charge de la constitution et de la gestion des stocks alimentaires sont parties intégrantes de ce système. Elles influencent de fait la nutrition des populations dans leurs espaces de compétences. C'est le cas par exemple de l'Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire (ONASA) au Bénin.

English translation

I forgot to add that nutrition also presents an institutional dimension. This is why I mentioned a system of nutrition in each region (or country). The institutions in charge of building and managing food stocks are an integral part of this system. In fact they influence the nutrition of the population in their area of jurisdiction. Such is the case, for example, of the Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire [National Food Security Office] (ONASA) in Benin.

4. Thomas Amougou Obama, Croix Rouge Camerounaise, Cameroon

Original contribution in French

Bonjour à tous les membres.

Ma contribution en ce qui concerne le thème de la discussion repose sur mes observations personnelles des interventions des UN au Cameroun sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire en générale.

1- L'attente particulière en dehors de l'approche participative énoncée dans le libellé, réside sur le transit des interventions d'urgences aux interventions de développement global.

En effet la majorité des organisations UN qui interviennent au Cameroun apportent essentiellement des réponses d'urgences localisées aux zones de crises (Extrême Nord et Est), or les bénéficiaires ne représentent qu'un léger pourcentage de la population vulnérable à la faim observée dans tout le pays.

2- Il est important ici de soutenir les organisations locales, nationales et internationales qui à l'aide des moyens financiers, matériels et humains limités accompagnent les producteurs et les communautés villageoises à améliorer le potentiel de production local.

Au Cameroun il existe un groupe GTSA (groupe de travail sur la sécurité alimentaire) qui regroupe tous les acteurs (administration, ONG, privé) impliqués à la sécurité alimentaire. Le constat ici laisse clairement entrevoir un manque de synchronisation des interventions sur le terrain, chaque organisme particulièrement les organismes avec des bailleurs exigeants du coup il est difficile de mesurer l'impact des interventions groupées.

En apportant des fonds de fonctionnement propre aux groupes de travail sur sécurité alimentaire il est possible d'organiser des interventions groupées et orientées selon les plans de développement locaux.

3- Le souci ici repose sur les orientations que les bailleurs donnent aux interventions à la sécurité alimentaire aux organismes financés. Nous observons généralement un total déphasage avec la politique de développement local du secteur agricole donc interventions non mesurables en termes de développement. Ainsi il serait important pour les bailleurs d'être un peu plus flexible dans le processus de validation des projets financés en donnant plus d'opportunité aux organismes de concorder avec le plan de développement local.

4- Les interventions contre la faim et la malnutrition reposent à 60% sur les sensibilisations (bonne pratiques agricoles, hygiène et diversification alimentaire, accompagnement psychosocial) des bénéficiaires, c'est montrer ici la pertinence des formations/informations des bénéficiaires mais aussi des éducateurs à s'adapter à des nouvelles approches de sensibilisation/vulgarisation. Ainsi les autres forum/mouvement peuvent aider à travers des transferts de compétence sur la facilitation des processus de mise en œuvre à accompagner les différents organismes dans la mise en œuvre des activités de sécurité alimentaire.

English translation

Hello all members!

My contribution, in relation to the subject of discussion, is based on personal observation of UN interventions in Cameroon to do with food security in general.

1- The particular expectation, besides the participative approach set out in the text, resides on the switch from emergency interventions to interventions for global development.

Indeed, the majority of UN organizations intervening in Cameroon contribute essentially localized emergency responses in crisis areas (Far North and East), yet the beneficiaries do not represent more than a small percentage of the population vulnerable to hunger observed in the country as a whole.

2- It is important here to support the local, national and international organizations which, with the help of limited financial, material and human resources, assist producers and village communities to improve the potential for local production.

In Cameroon there is a group called GTSA (groupe de travail sur la sécurité alimentaire, [Food Security Working Group]) which assembles all the actors (administration, NGOs, private) involved in food security. The conclusion here is that there is a clear lack of synchronization of interventions in the field, involving each organization, in particular those with demanding sponsors, thus it is difficult to measure the impact of grouped interventions.

By contributing their own operating funds to working groups on food security, it is possible to organize grouped and targeted interventions according to local development plans.

3- The worry here concerns the orientation that sponsors give to the food security interventions of the financed bodies. We observe, in general, a total lack of synchronization with the local development policy of the agricultural sector therefore interventions that are not measurable in terms of development. Thus, it would be important for the sponsors to be more flexible in the process of validation of projects funded, by giving more opportunities to the organizations to tie in with the local development plan.

4- The interventions against hunger and malnutrition are 60% dependent on the creation of awareness (good agricultural practices, health and food diversity, psycho-social support) in the recipients; this is to show here the relevance of training/information to recipients but also the need for instructors to adapt themselves to the new approaches of awareness/popularization. Thus the other fora/movements can help, through transfers of competence in the simplification of the processes of implementation, to support different organizations in the implementation of food security activities.

5. Thomas Herlehy, Independent Agricultural Consultant, USA

1. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition could make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in Africa by highlighting and documenting the nutritional status of the population there, especially farming households in rural areas. While infant mortality rates are slowly declining in most, if not all, African countries (with the notable exception of Somalia, and perhaps others where data may not be available), more attention should be given by governments, especially policy makers, about the under-nutrition or malnourished status of their children. Since future economic development depends so much on future generations and their ability to lead healthy lives, contributing to the growth of the economy and making intellectual contributions to solve local problems, nutrition must come to the foreground for policy makers. More attention needs to be given to reduce and eventually eliminate stunting and poor brain development in the children of Africa. Publicizing the issue, documenting the issue, working with Ministries of Health, Agricultural and Education, the UN, especially the FAO, can help shine a strong light on this perplexing and pernicious issue and work with all stakeholders to resolve it.

2. Among the critical activities that need to be included in the Work Program for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition in order to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets are: First, promote the broad and deep dissemination of bio-fortified crops as alternative crops to what is currently being grown, for example, promote iron-fortified beans, Vitamin A enhanced maize and sweet potato, zinc-fortified rice, and so forth. These are crops which HarvestPlus and the CGIARs like

CIP, have developed and which are being tested locally and, in some cases, like Zambia with Vitamin A maize, are being scaled out now. Second, develop and broadly publicize among the vast majority of people what good nutrition really means in terms of a well-balanced diet with protein, minerals and vitamins from animal sourced foods, fruits and vegetables, legumes and other crops. This should be done using multiple forms of media, such as television (for urban consumers) radio (for all consumers), through mobile phone platforms, including through SMS text and VOIP activities, newspapers, and so forth. Such nutritional information activities must also be done as part of schools' curriculum, so that children learn what a good, balanced diet is and why it is so important to their improved health, welfare and intellectual development.

3. In order to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors, widespread publicity, using data-driven monitoring and evaluation, of improvements must be done. Governments and international and local NGOs can play a critical role in working on such a national even continent-wide nutritional information campaign. The private sector, especially seed companies, must be encouraged to work with HarvestPlus and the CGIARs to commercialize and make broadly available to farmers the seeds and vines of bio-fortified crops. Food processing companies should be encouraged to use bio-fortified crops in making foods and beverages for mass consumption, including as part of school feeding programs in pre-schools, elementary and middle schools.

I look forward to following this dialogue. But more importantly, I look forward of being part of the solution to the malicious and persistent problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition in children in Africa. Thank you.

6. Kate Godden, United Kingdom

I would like to see stronger collaboration between the nutrition and agriculture communities over the coming decade.

In many countries the SUN (scaling up nutrition) movement has been part of this for the past 5 years or so but further strengthening of linkages will serve to foster nascent mutual understanding and trust. Good nutrition is now seen as a driver for economic development and is directly relevant to small scale farmers and their work productivity - there is an inherent benefit to both communities demanding multi-sector responses.

Intervention wise it would be great to see more focus on female small holders and on dietary/crop diversity activities as these are most likely to improve nutritional status. Biofortification can be a useful tool, but monitoring - particularly with any vitamin A fortified products - must be systematic (thus expensive) to prevent toxicity or other negative impacts.

Kate Godden,

Principal Nutrition Adviser,

UK

7. Brenda Shenute Namugumya, Wageningen University, Uganda

UN Decade of action for nutrition should focus on fostering and strengthening multisectoral linkages and actions by stakeholders to improve nutrition outcomes. Focus on health specific or agriculture specific interventions alone may not result in sustainable change especially when malnutrition has been observed where there "seems" to be plenty of food as is the case in some regions in Uganda; and also considering that most health systems in Africa are not equipped to manage/treat all forms of

malnutrition and their consequences. Social development, education, local administration, environment, trade, finance sectors among others have a crucial role to play, yet they are often not part of the policy processes where nutrition is discussed/addressed.

Engaging with these sectors calls for: 1) Strengthen the multisectoral governance systems for nutrition to ensure all stakeholders/actors (nutrition experts and "catalysts") are on board and understand the nutrition agenda; 2) Build and strengthen capacity of cadres across the system (from top to frontline workers, and within academia and outside) to create a mass that will respond to the demand for nutrition services; 3) Advocate and lobby the different levels of governments to prioritise nutrition in the development agenda as well as in implementation (it is not enough to have policies in place, these need to be implemented); 4) Empower households/communities (put nutrition back into the hands of the people) to have a progressive pronutrition behaviour change; 5) Strengthen and invest in measuring of progress - what is working, how can this be scaled up, what is cost effective and within means of government.

8. Lawal Luqman, The Federal Polytechnic Ede, Osun State, Nigeria

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition in an attempt to eradicate all forms of malnutrition and hunger must involve all groups of people (under- five, adolescent, prisoner, aged, pregnant, lactating mothers, refugees, market people, etc.).

1. Awareness or campaigns is a major and insurmountable tool in eradication of malnutrition. It should be bring to the grassroot and this should not be in black and white only but it should be put into ACTION.

2. The need for all to participate in agriculture especially in Nigeria is very crucial to eradicate hunger and in case of the refugees, the government and NGOs should be able to provide nourish food. All bodies including UNICEF, WHO and others must also make it a priority.

In conclusion, working with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned ministries is important.

9. Francis Njuguna, New KCC, Kenya

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is a move in the right direction simply because malnutrition is an obstacle to a health nation and development and this is even more significant in less developed and developing nations.

One important aspect of UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is that it is highly significant and in line with new sustainable development goals aspects of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition.

Nutrition is rapidly gaining recognition as a key area of national focus, in Kenya for example the government has adopted a high impact nutrition interventions across the country, implemented a nutrition policy and a mandatory food fortification in the recent past not to mention other interventions by other stakeholders like humanitarian communities and development partners.

The subject issue here is maximising the impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, this calls for a change of approach to harmonise all this interventions for a common goal which is in this case the subject of the matter; stakeholders should work together and their interventions should not target emergencies but address the root cause.

Regards,

Francis Njuguna
Dairy Technologist
KENYA

10. Ibiyemi Olayiwola, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuata, Nigeria

I would like to congratulate all actors involved on this effort on nutrition and suggest the UN to kindly include the nutrition of the elderly as an important issue in scaling up.

Every government must be able to develop policy to promote elderly health and nutrition.

Prof Ibiyemi Olayiwola
Professor of human nutrition
Department of nutrition and dietetics.
Federal university of Agriculture Abeokuata Nigeria

11. H el ene Delisle, University of Montreal, Canada

English version

I would suggest that the following initiatives be pursued in order for the Decade of nutrition to have much impact:

1. **Support research** in order to generate the scientific evidence where it is lacking while important, and notably on the effectiveness of nutrition interventions based on food systems coupled with behaviour change communication. In the absence of such evidence, donors are unlikely to fund such programmes.
2. **Strengthen capacity and workforce in nutrition:** It is of foremost importance and it has to be done in close collaboration with local universities for sustainable institutional strengthening. The priority is to train community health workers in nutrition and toward this purpose, a cadre of public health nutritionists/dietitians has to be trained at university professional bachelor level and decentralized throughout countries. There is also an urgent need to demonstrate the positive impact of nutrition capacity strengthening efforts on the population's nutritional health as evidence thereof is lacking. This brings us back to the previous item on research for generating scientific evidence.
3. **Assess the impact of distinguishing between nutrition « specific » and nutrition « sensitive » actions:** The nutrition-specific actions are essentially all in the health sector, whereas most nutrition-sensitive actions are in non-health sectors or multisectoral at best. The nutrition-sensitive actions are likely more effective and sustainable since they address underlying or fundamental causes of malnutrition. We can therefore question the relevance of this distinction and assess whether it is counter-productive.
4. **Better define « nutrition »:** This may appear as a futile exercise and yet « nutrition » would benefit from a clearer definition. Indeed, food science and technology, agro-biology, biochemistry and metabolism are often considered as nutrition, which gives the wrong impression that nutrition is well taken care of. At present, "nutrition" is a holdall with ill-defined boundaries. It should not be called "nutrition" unless there is an explicit link with man and his food. The specific focus should be on **public (health) nutrition** and there would be value in going back to the definition of the « new » nutrition (although it is not new) given by Geoffrey Cannon and Claus Leitzman. In their definition, they emphasize the societal and

environmental dimensions of nutrition, beyond its health dimension. This could impact positively on capacity building and training of human resources in nutrition for the benefit of the population.

French version

Je suggère que les initiatives suivantes soient poursuivies pour maximiser l'impact de la décennie d'action des Nations-Unies sur la nutrition.

1. **Appuyer des travaux de recherche** pour produire l'évidence ou les données probantes qui font défaut sur l'efficacité de divers types d'intervention à visée nutritionnelle encore insuffisamment investigués, en particulier les approches s'appuyant sur les systèmes alimentaires et combinées à la communication pour les changements de comportements. Car à défaut de cette évidence scientifique, il est difficile de convaincre les bailleurs de fonds d'investir dans ces approches.
2. **Renforcer les capacités en nutrition**: c'est indispensable et ce doit être fait avec les universités locales pour renforcer celles-ci et pour la pérennité. Il faut en priorité former des agents communautaires à l'action en nutrition et pour ce développer un corps professionnel de nutritionnistes/diététistes de santé publique au niveau de la licence universitaire à déployer de manière décentralisée dans les pays. Il faudrait aussi par la recherche démontrer l'impact positif de ce renforcement des capacités en nutrition sur la santé nutritionnelle des populations, ce qui n'est pas démontré! Et on revient là au point précédent sur la recherche pour générer l'évidence scientifique nécessaire.
3. **Vérifier l'impact de la distinction des interventions spécifiques ou sensibles à la nutrition**: Les interventions « spécifiques » sont essentiellement du ressort de la santé, alors que les interventions « sensibles » à la nutrition sont le plus souvent dans des secteurs autres que la santé ou à tout le moins intersectorielles. Or ces dernières sont les plus prometteuses et pérennes comment elles agissent au niveau des facteurs sous-jacents ou fondamentaux des problèmes nutritionnels. On peut donc se demander si une telle distinction n'est pas contre-productive...
4. **Mieux définir la « nutrition »**: Ceci peut apparaître comme un exercice futile et pourtant, la nutrition gagnerait à être mieux définie. En effet, on parle de nutrition alors qu'il s'agit par exemple de science et technologie des aliments, d'agro-biologie, de biochimie ou encore de métabolisme. Ceci donne l'impression erronée que le champ de la nutrition est fort bien pourvu. La nutrition est actuellement un « fourre-tout » aux contours trop flous. Il ne peut s'agir de nutrition s'il n'y a pas de lien direct avec l'alimentation de l'être humain. On devrait se concentrer sur la **nutrition (de santé) publique** et on aurait intérêt à retourner à la définition de la « nouvelle nutrition » (même si elle n'est pas nouvelle) par Geoffrey Cannon et Claus Leitzman, laquelle insiste sur les dimensions sociales et environnementales de la nutrition, au-delà de sa dimension santé. Ceci pourrait avoir un impact positif sur les initiatives de renforcement des capacités et de formation des ressources humaines en nutrition.

Hélène Delisle, Ph.D.
Professeur émérite
Département de nutrition, Faculté de Médecine
Pavillon Liliane-Stewart, Université de Montréal
Canada

12. Alexandr Kaigorodtsev, East Kazakhstan State University, Kazakhstan

The problem of hunger in developing countries is very serious. In this regard, the world community needs to work together to improve the efficiency of agriculture as a result of implementation of innovative technologies. One such technology is the production of genetically modified foods. However, the expansion of production of such products should be preceded by research on their safety, to put an end to disputes about whether they are harmful or useful.

Sincerely,

Alexander Kaigorodtsev (East Kazakhstan state University)

13. Jessica John, Trinidad and Tobago

A good day to all

The Decade of Nutrition is an initiative for me that is personally welcomed as the avenue whereby greater emphasis is can be placed on the issues of food sovereignty in our region. Additionally, concerning critical activities that need to be included in the Work Programme, I refer to one of the pillars of food security specifically the use and utilisation of foods: maternal and child health from a nutrition standpoint is one of the crucial areas that warrants the investment of all stakeholders.

14. Pat Vanderkooy, Dietitian of Canada, Canada

1. Improving nutrition and food security of the people in (my) country within the next ten years: Income security is the biggest barrier, because most people have physical access to food retail - this will require public policy, especially to improve incomes for households dependent on income from government sources (e.g., social assistance, disability pension). However, Canada also has vulnerable populations and geographic regions where food insecurity exists in part due to lack of physical access to food - particularly among Indigenous Peoples and in northern and remote communities. Distribution infrastructure and access to more local/country foods are barriers. With respect to local food, there must be assessment of the relative value and feasibility of food produced locally vs food produced in the best 'locale'. Geographic regions with ideal growing conditions (soil, climate - including effects of climate change, water) must be protected for agricultural use, especially in urbanized areas where there is tremendous pressure from urban sprawl (requiring governments at all levels to commit to land protection).
2. Critical activities - intersectoral dialogue in every country, at all levels of government, with citizen engagement, with value placed on upholding food sovereignty. Countries need national food policies that consider all the costs and benefits - health and environmental impacts, agriculture and economy. Trade targets for export cannot be prioritized at the expense of population health and biodiversity - not sustainable at the global level. Plant-based diets are more easily sustained - the world needs to seriously consider how population consumption habits will change, and some producers and processors will need to transition from animal-based industries.
3. A personal opinion - there is increasing unease about monopolies in the agri-food sectors - how can we commit globally to limiting private sector monopolies to achieve balance and a reasonable degree of protection for food sovereignty among citizens? What global indicators might be monitored? Who could develop and enforce global food policy?

4. Protection of human rights and the environment must become entrenched beyond "movements" - these are not optional, they are essential for a globally sustainable food system! If this awareness can be raised in the next decade, with universal agreement among governments, then that will be one mark of success. Food and water are not simply "commodities" - they are not optional, they cannot be replaced by other "products" - and so ownership of and access to food and water must be fair and secure, a shared public responsibility to protect the right to food and water, with dignity and equity, not by charity.

15. Isaac Bayor, affiliated with the University of Notre Dame-USA, Ghana

In order for progress to be made, I think the UN should enhance and consolidate its "delivering as one" framework, particularly in Africa. In Africa, particularly the most rural and deprived communities where I have worked before, the issue of food security and nutrition is beyond the food aspect of the equation. There are thorny issues of Sanitation and hygiene that impede of household's ability to absorb vital nutrients. In most of the poor communities in Ghana, for instance, the issue of insufficient nutrition is both an issue of lack of nutritious food and lack of water, sanitation and hygiene. Lack of potable water and sanitation impedes on families ability to absorb vital nutrients.

What I expect to see in my region is:

1. An enhanced richly textured integrated program that brings together the various expertise of the UN to jointly deliver on the UN action on FSN. I was privileged to be part of a joint UN program on Human Security in Northern Ghana which, produce tremendous results. All the dimensions of Food availability, Access, Utilization, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene but be prioritized and tackle almost simultaneously.
2. There should be advocacy targeting national governments to ensure that there is integrated and cross-sectoral planning by the various governmental department. Despite the clear link between food security, nutrition, and hygiene promotion, most governments departments in Africa unfortunately, still work in Siloe. If the UN agencies deliver together as one and the government departments who are supposed to own these interventions sill continue to operate in silos then there will be a little impact in the long run. My proposal is that institutions must be supported to have the capacity to also jointly plan, budget, implement, and monitor together.
3. I will also like to see that, the campaign for food security and nutrition should go beyond household's consumption of food. I suggest there should be activities targeting open-market food vendors in villages in Africa (both cooked and uncooked food). There are two sub-issues to be addressed here - a. to tackle the problem of poorly prepared food which, most school and other school children highly patronize in the villages. It should be noted that, in most African communities local food vendors who sell cook food on the streets and other open places serve as an important source of food consumption by mostly children. However, these vendors have little or no idea of basic nutrition and hygienic practices. b. to tackle the issue of food waste. It is shocking to see the amount of food that is wasted in the open-market by these food vendors in the midst of scarcity of food in rural villages in Africa.

16. Lydia Browne Browne, Grenada Food and Nutrition Council, Grenada

It is necessary to scale up agricultural practices through technology and climate smart practices, an effort to attract youths, to achieve food security and sustainability in developing countries and in particular the Caribbean.

There is need to increase the work force in Food and Nutrition. Though there is an increase persons receiving degrees in the area of nutrition and /or Public Health, they are not sufficiently employed/utilized; there is a growing need for work and workers in this sector. Building capacity in the region for conducting impact analysis of nutrition interventions and research in nutrition that would lend support by donor agencies and validate the need for increase workforce.

17. Masresha Tessema, Wageningen University and Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the nutrition program is coordinated by ministry of health and co-chaired by ministry of agriculture and education. There are three sub-technical committee under national coordination body: program implementing, food fortification, and research. National multi sectoral coordination is progressing and functioning, however sub national level is not progressing very well.

Commitment and policy environment is crucial to bring those change significantly. Food and nutrition need multi sectoral coordination at high level. There should be accountability and monitoring mechanism for implementing sectors.

All the programs or activities should be supported with operational researches, and strong evidence; they program should be context specific and should meet countries need. Activities includes: increasing the productivity of agricultural system, making agricultural more nutrition sensitive, promotion of the mechanism to reduce post harvest lost, develop value chain, the equitable food distribution system, mandatory food fortification, promotion of food diversification, and bio-fortification. Activities need to be accelerated are: start of small scale food processing technology for reduction of post harvest lost, start of mandatory food fortification, strengthen bio-fortification program, promote consumption diversified food, strengthen coordination mechanism among nutrition sensitive and specific sectors, and strong monitoring and evaluation. The funding should come from multisources: might Government, Donor, private, and industry.

18. Wilma Freire Zaldumbide, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

Original contribution in Spanish

Por muchos años hemos hecho el compromiso de alcanzar metas nutricionales, sin haber logrado sino modestos avances, sobre todo en los grupos de población más necesitados. La diferencia entre los avances científicos y la solución de los problemas es abismal, lo cual nos dice que hay urgencia de pasar del conocimiento a la acción. Se han celebrado muchas reuniones en donde los expertos plantean diversas formas de actuar que no se traducen sino en contados casos de implementaciones exitosas. La pregunta es por qué?. Creo que la comunidad internacional debe volver a analizar con muchas modestia experiencias exitosas. Brasil nos ha mostrado que en menos de una década logró disminuir la desnutrición en forma exitosa, al igual que Perú y Colombia. Uno de los aspectos fundamentales para el éxito es el nivel de compromiso y competencia de profesionales locales de la salud y nutrición que en forma silenciosa han cumplido con sus tareas haciendo que los niños acudan a las unidades de salud, asegurando colaciones escolares saludables, regulando la venta y propaganda

de productos ultraprocesados, mejorando las condiciones sanitarias y el acceso a agua segura. Muchos de los expertos deben darse la oportunidad de conocer las realidades locales desde la perspectiva de los propios actores para poder entender por que se es exitoso en unos casos y no en otros. No podemos seguir fomentando la dependencia del desarrollo tecnológico que solo alcanza a unos pocos y que muchas veces es más costoso que los logros alcanzados. La solución esta en manos de la misma gente que una vez empoderada sabe que es lo que se debe hacer porque hay otros factores que a los nutricionistas no les interesa conocer. Debemos fortalecer la capacidad del sector salud y darle más sustento a la producción local. Por años la OMS hizo extraordinarios aportes en esta linea pero ahora estamos más en una visión reduccionista pensando que la solución esta en la entrega de un producto cuando el problema de la mala nutrición y sus determinantes es tan complejo. Más aún cuando las fuerzas externas al problema, con todo el poder que tienen nos condiciona a consumos masivos de productos y bebidas ultraprocesados y son capaces de someter gobiernos, niveles políticos, comprar académicos, como ha salido a la luz en los últimos años, en que se conoce que desde los años 60 y aún más antes, las transnacionales al igual que las tabacaleras han tenido tanto poder que han sido capaces de, através de la pseudociencia, modular las recomendaciones que se han hecho sobre grasas y azúcares.

Los países cuentan con profesionales de excelencia que deben ser convocados a compartir no solo su experiencias sino también a elaborar recomendaciones. Ese conocimiento podrá dar verdaderos frutos en el diseño de propuestas viables y masivas para largos segmentos de la población. Naciones Unidas, como organismo multilateral que fue creado por los países, debe facilitar estos intercambios al igual que lo hace con donantes, ONG's y otros organismos, algunos de los cuales tienen sus propios objetivos.

English translation

For many years we have committed ourselves to fulfil nutritional goals, although progress has been limited, especially for those most in need. The gap between scientific developments and problem solving is huge, so we urgently need to turn expertise into action. Many meetings have been held in which experts propose different interventions that, with very few exceptions, are not successfully implemented.

Why? I think the international community should take another close look at successful experiences with due modesty. Brazil has shown that undernutrition can be successfully reduced in less than a decade, just like Peru and Colombia did as well. One of the key factors for success is the level of commitment and competence of local health and nutrition professionals, who have discretely fulfilled their duties by bringing children to health units, ensuring healthy school snacks, regulating the sale and advertising of ultra-processed products, and improving sanitation and access to safe water. Many experts should have a first-hand knowledge of local realities to understand the reasons behind the success or failure of an intervention. We cannot continue fostering dependency on technological development, as it only reaches a few and is usually more expensive than the actual accomplishments.

The solution lies in the hands of the same people who, once empowered, know what must be done, as there are other factors that nutritionists are not interested in knowing. We must strengthen the capacity of the health sector and provide more support to local production. For years, the WHO made extraordinary contributions in this field but nowadays we have adopted a more simplified approach by which the solution lies in the delivery of a product, despite the problem of malnutrition and its causes are highly complex.

Moreover, when external parties, with all their power, induce the population to a massive consumption of ultra-processed food and drinks and are able to subjugate governments, at all political levels, and bribe academics. A case which was made public in recent years, involved multinational

corporations like tobacco companies, so powerful in the 60s -and even more before- that they were able to tailor recommendations on fats and sugars on a pseudo-scientific basis.

Countries do have excellent professionals who should be invited not only to share their experiences, but also to formulate their recommendations. This knowledge can yield real results in the design of feasible and large-scale proposals for large segments of the population. United Nations, as a multilateral organization established by member countries, should facilitate these exchanges, just as it does with donors, NGOs and other agencies, some of which have their own objectives.

19. Lindy Fenlason, independent, United States of America

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

- focused attention/validation of nutrition as an essential global issue requiring urgent action
- acknowledgment and action that collegial and consistent with being on the same playing field.
- acknowledgement and participation/contribution on the forms of malnutrition across the malnutrition spectrum
- continue to increase evidence and evidence-based programming here at home while also providing technical guidance and resources in other country settings (but not simply exporting protocols and standards without acting on what happening in the US)

2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

- data!!!! Tracking prevalence and trends in malnutrition forms as well as evidenced base around initiative that can be taken to scale.
- building local nutrition leadership capacity: clinical and community provision and programs that are nutrition specific and/or nutrition sensitive, governance (dietetics, nursing, public health, ag, research, M&E, knowledge management, policy.
- recognizing obesity fully as the urgent form of malnutrition that it is. Conveying that message clearly and relevantly to the public and other stakeholders

3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

-so many other sectors are tied to nutrition. Open the door, provide consultations, and examples for these sectors to make public statements and focused action commitments, creating unified messaging and translating that into action (steps in integrated programming and demonstration of proof of principles), even if quite small to begin. And then consider how nutrition can reciprocate- reinforcing the unifying messages.

20. Christine Nyaga, Independent, Kenya

Intersectoral collaboration and coordination is key in efforts to end malnutrition in sector. I would like to see more engagement with not just ministry of Health but all relevant ministries, civil organisations and the private sector coming together to address all issues related to Food Insecurity in Kenya.

21. Lukiya Birungi, Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN) Society, Uganda

I would first of all like to applaud the United Nations for the Decade of Action on Nutrition. I expect to see a huge difference in the way malnutrition is fought globally, regionally and country-wise because with the engaged and “in-your-face” backing of the UN in the struggle to do away with malnutrition, I believe most governments (especially those that weren’t involved as much before) will be more open to considering taking part in interventions that show participation in this Decade of Action on Nutrition. Granted it might just be for show, but that will still be better than no commitment or participation at all.

The activities I believe require acceleration and taking into serious account especially in my country:

- Commitment (/action) to implementing policies put in place. Uganda has of the best written policies but implementation is minimal, at best, and non-existent, most times. Holding governments accountable will go a very long way in ensuring we see some action.
- Right information in the right hands: Nutrition has received some good publicity of late but unfortunately the information is mostly in the hands of those who are already aware. Also the public is very skeptical about the little that has leaked out to them. Communication tactics that simplify the information passed but at the same time pass on information relevant to the people to which the messages are being passed. This concept of generalized information needs to change especially for countries like Uganda where certain individuals use the platforms to pass along information that doesn’t work for everyone.
- Urbanization, increasing income, growing populations and climate change: we tend to focus a lot on the “old” issues: poverty, diseases, poor sanitation and so on. The new problems are not being put into contest or they are being totally ignored. While making policies during this decade of action, we have to put into account these problems of the 21st century in catering to how we will see about the future diets.

22. Christine Campeau, facilitator of the consultation, UNSCN

This is a great start to the discussion. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. I see a number of themes emerging.

One is the fact that policy decisions need to be evidence based. Linked to this is the importance of connecting decision makers with the academic community, empowering local institutions to be agents of change. Examples of academic groups working to make that connection include the Global Nutrition Report and its Independent Expert Group, International Union of Nutritional Sciences and World Public Health Nutritionists Association. The value of disaggregated data and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were underlined in order to ensure that the nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions are having the desired impact and reach the most marginalized communities and households.

A strong case was made for rights based policies. As Pat Vanderkooy, Dietitian of Canada pointed out, it is our shared public responsibility to protect the environment and human rights “with dignity and

equity, not by charity". We need to raise awareness about the importance of good nutrition through broad-based campaigns with target groups ranging from primary school curriculums to education of the elderly. Civil society actors continue to be the biggest advocates for nutrition but we all have a role to play. The more informed people are, the better equipped they are to organize, mobilize and work with their governments and businesses towards the necessary changes in their food systems and to safeguard their rights.

There have also been some references on the need to build the economic case for investing in nutrition. According to the 2015 Global Nutrition Report, every US \$1 spent on high impact nutrition actions such as exclusive breast-feeding yield at least US \$16 in return. This support can be catalyzed by foreign assistance but, ultimately, nutrition needs to be a national priority supported by domestic finances to ensure long-term, sovereign growth. Thomas Herlehy, Independent Agricultural Consultant expressed it well when he wrote: "future economic development depends so much on future generations and their ability to lead healthy lives, contributing to the growth of the economy and making intellectual contributions to solve local problems".

The importance of working together has also been emphasized. The GTSA (Groupe de Travail sur la Sécurité Alimentaire, [Food Security Working Group]) in Cameroon and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement were mentioned as success stories that demonstrate the benefits of working across sectors and stakeholder groups towards a coordinated response to malnutrition.

Moving forward, I'm very interested to hear more about what you see as the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, both duty bearers and right holders. How do you think we can accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors to address all forms of malnutrition and how you see these activities being funded? Comments are of course welcome on all aspects and expectations for UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Thank you again for the thoughtful contributions, and I look forward to continuing the conversation.

23.JC Wandemberg, Sustainable Systems International, Ecuador

Dear Christine,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views. To best maximise the potential of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition there must be a simultaneous focus on eradicating corruption. This is the most critical activity that needs to be included in the Work Programme. Without this simultaneous fight against corruption all efforts will be significantly diminished to say the least.

Thank you,

JC Wandemberg Ph.D.

24.Renuka Jayatissa, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

It is important to invest more on research and targeted interventions to achieve global targets. Especially multi country studies to explore different approaches to find out feasibility of implementation of targeted interventions in different settings. Uses of locally available food items to improve practices and to improve food based approaches rather than supplementation should be explored more and more which will help to develop Best practice models in different regions and to sustain the systems.

25. Gode Doukoua, Federation Nationale des Associations des Consommateurs de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire

Original contribution in French

La cote d'ivoire est un pays agricole par excellence malheureusement l'accent est plutot mis sur les cultures de rente, pour contribuer de efficace a l'eradication de la faim et l'elimination de toutes formes de malnutrition dans la decennie a venir elle doit :

1. Mettre un accent particulier sur la production de la culture vivriere,
2. Reduire progressivement l'importation des produits cerealiers notamment du riiz, dont l'importation fait sortir d'énormes devises et investir davantage dans le vivrier,
3. Regler en amont l'acces aux terres cultivables,
4. Mettre en place des mesures d'incitation a la production du vivrier,
5. Reduire drastiquement la depense de l'exterieur en ce qui concerne les produits de grande consommation,
6. Mettre en place une veritable politique de transformtion et de conservation de nos produits agricoles,
7. Lutter efficacement contre la problematique endemique de la vie chere par des mecanismes innovants.

English translation

Ivory Coast is, above all, an agricultural country, where unfortunately the production focuses mainly on cash crops; thus in order to contribute effectively to the eradication of hunger and the removal of all forms of malnutrition in the next decade, it is necessary to:

1. Introduce a especial emphasis on the production of food crops,
2. Gradually reduce the imports of cereal products, in particular rice, the import of which costs an enormous amount of foreign exchange, and to invest more on food crop production,
3. Regulate upstream (from customers to suppliers) the access to arable land,
4. Set up incentives for the production of food crops,
5. Drastically reduce external expenditure on mass-consumption products,
6. Implement an genuine policy aiming at the transformation and conservation of our agricultural products,
7. Effectively fight against the endemic problem of the high cost of living by means of innovative mechanisms.

26. Peterson Kato Kikomoko, Kyambogo University, Uganda

Thank you Christine Campeau and the UNSCN for starting this discussion.

I expect to witness increased domestic and donor funding for nutrition, and with these, increased accountability. I also expect to see more concerted engagement by State and Non-State actors. Increased funding and accountability will facilitate effective delivery of nutrition services be nutrition specific or nutrition sensitive. Increased participation will spread the reach on nutrition services; even in the hard to reach areas that are usually underserved.

Aspirations that are not backed up by adequate funding and competent human resources to roll out necessary activities are often unattainable. For me, I think it will be critical to mobilise funds at global and national level. Much needs to be done in Uganda but a move by the government to increase funding for health and nutrition and also employ key persons specifically for nutrition will go a long way in augmenting other services. Funding for nutrition can be improved through public private partnerships, engagement of different stakeholders, minimising duplication of activities, improved transparency and accountability by all actors.

All actors State and Non-State have roles to play. Probably delineating roles by the different actors and then undertaking advocacy aimed at holding each actor to account may improve the quality of commitments.

27. Dhanya Praveen, Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad, India

First of all thank United Nations for the Decade of Action on Nutrition and for for the opportunity to express our views. In India, poverty eradication is our major challenge. The Article 47 of the Constitution of India states that, “the State shall regard raising the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and improvement in public health. We have **National Mission on Sustainable agriculture (NMSA)** under National Action plan on climate change, **and National Food Security Mission (NFSM)** as the key missions to ensure food security. However our nutrition program also needs to be carried out in a mission/campaign mode as the “Global Nutrition Report 2016” once again demonstrates India’s slow overall progress in addressing chronic malnutrition. Despite having **National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)** and **National Food Security Mission for pulses (NFSM-P)** Even though we Have Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) since 1975 and national coverage of the mid-day meal scheme since 1995, the efficacy of this programmes needs to be frequently revisited through time tested monitoring and evaluation techniques through multi-sectoral coordination. As in today’s world food consumptions pattern has changed, hence Policy level interventions such as providing tax benefits to restaurant that cater focused attention on nutritional stuffs will help in larger reachability and meeting objectives of UN-DAN.

28. Reynaldo Apaza, Bolivia

Original contribution in Spanish

La nutrición es vital, ya que condiciona el potencial de desarrollo socio-económico de un pueblo o estado; además el crecimiento, aprendizaje, condición física y mental de todas las personas a lo largo de su vida. En nuestro Estado plurinacional de Bolivia se trazó la meta de poner fin a la pobreza y el hambre declarando el derecho a la alimentación adecuada y la lucha de la SOBERANÍA Alimentaria, la cual establece ejes estratégicos que vinculan la producción de alimentos, la buena nutrición, el acceso al agua, entre otros.

En el mundo se vive una crisis alimentaria que es causada por la degradación y la explotación excesiva de las áreas productivas de los alimentos por un lado, el monopolio en la comercialización de semillas (MONSANTO que pasó a manos BAYER) acompañada de la especulación de insumos agrícolas en el precio de los alimentos.

Relacionado a la Salud y a la Nutrición el pésimo consumismo de alimentos procesados causados por las grandes empresas transnacionales provocando enfermedades metabólicas dentro de una obesidad bien marcada y una desnutrición que no se erradica, sin embargo estos espacios nos ayudan a abrir grandes oportunidades para fortalecer ideas para construir una sociedad diferente.

Tenemos que fortalecer la voz de la conciencia con un aspecto más crítico por todo el daño causado a la naturaleza (la madre Tierra) y a nosotros mismos al tener un régimen alimentario totalmente inadecuado impulsado por las grandes empresas (Nestlé) fortalecidas por la publicidad que por las diferentes vías llegan a nuestro hogar; para hacer realidad estos cambios nosotros debemos conducir la economía y los gobiernos deben adoptar políticas de servicio a favor de los pueblos, distribuir la riqueza para erradicar la pobreza, concebir el desarrollo de manera integral con una universalización de los servicios básicos principalmente en las áreas rurales, efectivizar los derechos colectivos y ampliar la democracia más allá del ámbito de las instituciones políticas. y finalmente el compromiso de todos y de cada uno de nosotros como funcionarios públicos, privados, individuales y colectivos, principalmente en la toma de decisiones hacia el objetivo de todos del Vivir bien.

English translation

Nutrition is vital as it determines the socio-economic development potential of a country, as well as growth, learning and physical and mental condition of all people throughout their life. In our Plurinational State of Bolivia the goal of ending poverty and hunger was set by proclaiming the right to adequate food and the strategy to achieve food SOVEREIGNTY linking food production, adequate nutrition and access to water, among others.

There is a global food crisis caused by the degradation and overexploitation of food production, a monopoly on the marketing of seeds (MONSANTO is now owned by BAYER) and the speculation of agricultural inputs in food prices.

Regarding health and nutrition, the disastrous consumption of processed food, fostered by large transnational corporations, leads to metabolic diseases and obesity and prevents the eradication of undernutrition. However, these forums offer great opportunities to reinforce the ideas to build a different society.

We need to strengthen our self-awareness and take a more critical approach: by having a completely inadequate diet, driven by large companies (Nestlé) -supported in advertisements reaching our homes through different channels-, we are damaging nature (Mother Earth) and ourselves. To turn the tide, we must drive the economy, and governments must adopt public policies targeting the population, distribute wealth to eradicate poverty, take a holistic approach to development by guaranteeing basic services (mostly in rural areas), fulfil collective rights and extend democracy beyond political institutions. And finally, we need our commitment as public officials, private employees, individuals or groups, to make decisions aimed at living better.

29. Cecilia Gamboa, Ministry of Health, Costa Rica

Original contribution in Spanish

El Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición es la gran oportunidad que se tiene actualmente para colocar a la Nutrición en una posición prioritaria en los países. La Nutrición como la Seguridad Alimentaria deben de buscarse los mecanismos para posicionarlos en el más alto nivel político. Deberían buscarse fuentes de financiamiento para fortalecer estos temas, ya sea asignando un porcentaje de las leyes existentes para realizar acciones concretas en nutrición. Es importante que las diferentes agencias cooperantes apoyen estos temas de manera coordinada y articulada con los países para evitar duplicidad de esfuerzos. Todos los movimientos e iniciativas en nutrición y seguridad alimentaria deben trabajar más articuladamente para que se potencialicen esos esfuerzos.

Es importante que se conozca por parte de los tomadores de decisiones de los países que la inversión en nutrición puede brindar muchos ahorros económicos a los países para que esto sea un tema de mayor interés para los políticos y gobernantes.

English translation

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is the great opportunity we have now to put nutrition high on the agenda in the countries. We must seek ways to position both Nutrition and Food Security at the highest political level. Funding should be sought to strengthen these issues, by allocating a percentage of existing laws to take concrete action in nutrition. It is important that the various cooperating agencies support these issues in a coordinated and articulated manner with countries, to avoid duplication of efforts. All actions and initiatives on food security and nutrition should work with better coordination, to ensure that these efforts are reinforced.

It is important that decision makers are aware that investing in nutrition can result in significant economic savings for the countries. Hence, this should be a topic of great interest for politicians and rulers.

30. Bibiana Muasya, Crown the Child Africa, Kenya

In order to achieve the global nutrition targets by 2025 it is vital for intergration to be embraced in Nutrition and food security. UN should include in programming a more intergrated approach to tackling malnutrition. This should be done in consultation with the public and private actors as a concerted effort with a clear cut goal.

In my opinion Poverty is a key impediment to tackling malnutrition. Economic empowerment should be considered as part of the key activities in the intergration. In food security a wholistic approach should be sort. Stating with climate smart interventions that help to conserve water to provide a condusive environment for crops and livestock production. When all these fundamental nutrition sensitive programs have been layered nutrition specific interventions will be dealt with as well. The key is to support the safety nets.

31. Jacques Diouf, Senegal

Original contribution in French

1. Quelles sont vos attentes de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et comment pensez-vous qu'elle peut faire une différence significative pour améliorer la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire de la population de votre pays dans les dix prochaines années?

Nos attentes de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies particulièrement au Sénégal devraient prendre en compte les maux qui divertissent les politiques économiques et sociales ci-après:

- les politiques hydrauliques ne favorisent pas la mise en place de points d'eau dans les exploitations familiales et leur sécurisation
- la politique d'exploitation des ressources naturelles des eaux de surface et nappes souterraines sont restés à l'état d'opportunités c'est à dire faiblement rentabilisées.

Annuellement ces eaux gonflent les lits des fleuves et des lacs, une partie est déversée dans les Océans.

Grâce à la coopération les maladies tropicales ont été amoindries voir éliminées certes, mais aujourd'hui d'autres maladies font jour.

Les cataracts, les tensions artérielles, les rhumatismes, les hépatites et malnutrition des enfants de 0 à 5ans étalent leurs parures cyniques dans toute l'espace des pays au sud du Sahara.

- L'urbanisation s'accélère partout et réduit les surfaces cultivables qui doivent nourrir les villes.
- le système éducatif propose le cumul de diplômes académiques pour des emplois qui se raréfient d'année en année.
- Le boom démographique fait grandir les possibilités d'une explosion sociale captée d'abord par les agresseurs, le surpeuplement des prisons et la grogne d'une opposition radicale grandissante et menaçante pour la stabilité nationale.
- Le départ des bras valides vers les agglomérations urbaines et le regroupement des enfants dans les foyers culturels dénote le manque d'attrait des campagnes au Sénégal tellement elle manque de bien être sociale.
- Même les paysans poussent leurs progénitures à aller tenter leur chance en ville surtout lorsqu'ils sont des candidats malheureux aux examens et concours.

A ces maux s'ajoutent les phénomènes ci-après:

- L'insécurité alimentaire des ménages vulnérables
- la malnutrition chronique et aigüe présente dans la plupart des régions.
- la désertification des régions centrales continue de favoriser la transhumance du bétail vers le sud
- la déforestation des régions du sud-est par la coupe frauduleuse du bois d'œuvre et la transhumance du mouton.
- L'importation du riz qui a fini de s'imposer comme céréale de consommation de base dans les campagnes.
- Le manque de formation des paysans, le mirage des villes, le sous équipement agricole ne favorise pas un saut qualitatif du paysan longtemps tributaire des cultures sous pluies au Sénégal.

Les causes sous-jacentes de ces phénomènes sont:

- le non-respect de la consigne qui fait de la terre un jardin à protéger.
- Une économie orientée jusqu'en 2016 vers les cultures de rentes : l'arachide, le coton et la pêche et tout dernièrement le riz sans ingrédients.
- Un système éducatif considéré comme moyen d'accéder à la caste privilégiée de la fonction publique
- Absence de fixation des décisions de bonnes pratiques de vie sociale de tout bord

Posologie

- former les paysans et équiper autrement les Agriculteurs
- Ne pas abuser de la confiance faite aux tracteurs en pays sous-développés
- absence d'ateliers de fabrications de pièces détachées et dépannage des machines agricoles ne sont pas à la portée des exploitations familiales
- Éviter de mettre toute sa confiance sur les grandes Entreprises de l'Agro-business, elles étaient là pendant et à l'aube des Indépendances (SIP ,SIMDR , ONCAD) cas du Sénégal)

Pourraient intervenir au cours de cette Décade:

Les Alliances Contre la Faim et la Malnutrition sont formées d'organisations de producteurs. Elles ont un profil qui conviendrait pour intervenir à côté du Mouvement SUN.

Elles seraient le bras pragmatique pour booster la production à grande échelle dans les secteurs de l'agriculture; de l'élevage, et de la pêche.

La production en quantité de céréales et d'autres produits alimentaires serait le levier de la bonne nutrition.

Le Mouvement SUN met le focus sur le plaidoyer ce qui me semble insuffisant. Nos décideurs ont toujours légiférer pour la nutrition sans parvenir à éradiquer la malnutrition chronique et aigu ni satisfaire les besoins de sécurité alimentaire des populations:

A cela s'ajoute les lenteurs administratives de mise en œuvre des politiques de nutrition et les difficultés de coordination des secteurs qui interviennent directement ou indirectement sur la nutrition.

Faire du plaidoyer en faveur de la nutrition est certes un bon procédé mais l'urgence dans nos pays souhaiterait des interventions spécifiques qui règlent les déficits alimentaires en céréales et micronutriments.

Fort de tout cela nous attendons de cette décade une redynamisation des Alliances pour booster la grande production de céréales, de produits horticoles et aquacoles qui feront la différence sur tout ce qui a été promis par les systèmes des Nations Unies pour éradiquer la Faim et réduire l'extrême pauvreté, objectif des OMD. Enfin, redynamiser autour des Alliances le plaidoyer pour l'institutionnalisation du droit à l'alimentation dans les pays de l'axe de la CEDEAO trop en retard sur la concrétisation de ce droit.

Bonne Lecture

De Jacques

Coordonnateur ASCFM/Sénégal

English translation

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Our expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition in particular in Senegal must take into account the wrongs that pervert economic and social policies, below:

- The irrigation policies do not promote the positioning of water sources on family farms and their protection.
- The policy for exploitation of natural surface water resources and groundwater aquifer has been left at an opportunistic stage, that is, inefficiently exploited.

Annually these waters churn up the beds of river and lakes, discharging part into the oceans.

Thanks to cooperation, tropical illnesses have been reduced and admittedly even eliminated, but today other illnesses are surfacing.

Cataracts, high blood pressure, rheumatism, hepatitis and malnutrition in children from birth to the age of 5 spread their cynical tapestries everywhere in the Sub-Saharan countries.

- Urbanization is accelerated everywhere and reduces the arable land that should feed the towns.
- The Education system encourages the accumulation of academic diplomas for jobs that are scarcer year by year.

- The demographic boom increases the possibilities of a social explosion dominated by the aggressors, the overpopulation of prisons and the discontent of a growing radical opposition which is a threat to national stability.
- The departure of the labor force towards urban agglomerations and the gathering of the young in cultural hotbeds show the lack of appeal of the countryside in Senegal, so much does it lack in social well-being.
- Even the farmers push their children towards trying their luck in towns, especially when they are unfortunate candidates in exams and contests.

To these troubles the following phenomena are added:

- Food insecurity of vulnerable households
- Chronic and acute malnutrition is present in most of the regions.
- Desertification in central regions continues to encourage the migration of livestock towards the South
- Deforestation of the Southeastern regions by the fraudulent felling of softwood lumber and migration of sheep.
- The import of rice has ended by imposing itself as the cereal for base consumption in the countryside.
- The lack of training for peasants, the allure of towns and the shortage of agricultural equipment does not stimulate a qualitative leap by small farmers, for long dependent on rain fed crops in Senegal.

The underlying causes of these phenomena are:

- Non-compliance with the guideline that makes the land a garden to be protected.
- An economy directed, up to 2016, to cash crops: groundnuts, cotton and fishing, and recently organic rice.
- A system of education considered as a means of access to the ranks of the privileged civil service
- A lack of firm decisions about good practices in social life on all sides.

Posology

- Train the peasants and equip farmers differently
- Do not abuse confidence in tractors in under developed countries, considering the lack of workshops for manufacturing spare parts and repairing agricultural machines which are not within reach of family farms;
- Avoid trusting everything to the big agro-business companies, they were there for and at the dawn of the independence movements (SIP, SIMDR, ONCAD), in the case of Senegal.

Could intervene in the course of this decade:

The coalitions against hunger and malnutrition are constituted by producers' organizations. They have a profile that would be appropriate for intervening alongside the SUN [Scale up nutrition] movement. They would be the pragmatic arm for boosting large scale production within the sectors of agriculture: stock rearing and fishing.

The mass production of cereals and other food products would give leverage to good nutrition.

The SUN movement puts the focus on appeals, which seems to me insufficient. Our decision makers have always made laws for nutrition without getting as far as eradicating chronic and acute malnutrition nor satisfying the food security needs of the people:

To that are added administrative delays in implementing nutrition policies and the difficulties of coordinating the sectors that directly or indirectly intervene on nutrition.

To make appeals in favor of nutrition is surely a good procedure but the urgency in our countries would require specific interventions that will solve the food deficits in cereals and micronutrients. Based on all that, we await from this decade a re-dynamization of the coalitions to boost the greater production of cereals, horticultures and fish farming that will make the difference, in particular that promised by the United Nations systems to eradicate hunger and reduce extreme poverty, the objective of the MDG [Millennium Development Goal]. Finally, re-dynamize through the coalitions the appeal for institutionalization of the right to food in the countries of the ECOWAS region, too slow in making this right a reality.

32. Oumourana Traore, Medicus Mundi Andalucia, Burkina Faso

Original contribution in French

1. Quelles sont vos attentes de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et comment pensez-vous qu'elle peut faire une différence significative pour améliorer la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire de la population de votre pays dans les dix prochaines années ?

REPONSE1

Nos attentes sont essentiellement l'amélioration des conditions des ménages sur le plan nutritionnel à travers une interaction sante/agriculture/environnement/bonne gouvernance. Cette approche au niveau du Burkina doit avoir une forte implication du GENRE dans toutes les étapes. Je parle en fonction de mes 16 ans expériences au niveau communautaire au BURKINA FASO dans le domaine de la sante/Nutrition.

2. Quelles sont les activités essentielles qui doivent nécessairement être présentes dans le programme de travail visant à la mise en oeuvre de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition afin de garantir la réalisation des objectifs mondiaux en matière de nutrition à l'horizon 2025 ? Sur quelles activités faut-il mettre l'accent dans votre pays pour atteindre plus rapidement ces objectifs ? Comment financer ces activités ?

REPONSE2

Les activités essentielles pour le Burkina Faso seront entre autres,

- les activités sanitaires a travers les préventions et la prise en charge précoce des enfants de moins de cinq ans a travers le dépistage continue.
- les activités de planification familiale car dans nos communautés l'absence de planification familiale et la taille des ménages constitue l'une des causes fondamentale de la malnutrition
- Les activités WASH
- les activités agricoles a travers l'aménagement des baffons, l'appui et encadrement des paysans et paysannes sur les techniques agricole et la conservation des denrées.
- l'accès des terres aux femmes rurales pour l'agriculture ne doit pas être occulte,
- les activités environnementales a travers la plantation des arbres bénéfiques pour la population .fruits et /ou feuilles riches en protéine.

La question de financement passe sans doute par l'engagement l'ETAT burkinabè et les partenaires techniques et financiers sans oublier la population bénéficiaire.

Comment financer ces activités ?

- L'état doit avoir un budget annexe NUTITION sans le confondre au budget santé.
- renforcer la contractualisation avec les organisations à base communautaire
- appui des partenaires techniques et financiers
- poursuivre les cadres de concertation nutrition avec tous les partenaires et l'Etat pour le SUIVI/EVALUATION

3. Que peut-on faire pour accélérer et améliorer la qualité des engagements des différentes parties prenantes ? Quel(s) rôle(s) les acteurs publics et privés sont-ils appelés à jouer pour surveiller la mise en œuvre ?

- Le renforcement des cadres de concertation nutrition périodique avec tous les partenaires et l'Etat peut permettre d'accélérer et améliorer la qualité des engagements des différentes parties prenantes.
- Les enquêtes de couvertures également au niveau national.

Quel(s) rôle(s) les acteurs publics et privés sont-ils appelés à jouer pour surveiller la mise en œuvre ?

- Rôle dans la bonne gouvernance
- Rôle dans le suivi évaluation des activités terrains
- Rôle dans la coordination des activités par le secteur publique
- Rôle dans la mobilisation communautaire
- Rôle dans la mobilisation des ressources humaines et financières
- Rôle surtout dans la prise en compte du GENRE à tous les niveaux.

4. Comment d'autres instances pertinentes, telles que le CSA et l'UNSCN, peuvent-elles contribuer et comment d'autres mouvements (par exemple, des droits de l'homme, de l'environnement) peuvent-ils participer aux activités de la Décennie ?

Le CSA, l'UNSCN et d'autres mouvements peuvent jouer un rôle de plaidoyer, de suivi-évaluation et de mobilisation des ressources et d'appuis techniques.

English translation

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Our expectations are essentially the improvement of conditions within households in terms of nutrition, through an interaction between health/agriculture/environment/good governance. This approach in Burkina Faso must have a strong involvement of gender in all stages. I am talking based on my 16 years of experience at community level in Burkina Faso, in the area of health/nutrition.

2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded? How could these activities be funded?

The essential activities for Burkina Faso will be, among others:

- Sanitary activities through prevention and the early care of infants of less than five through continuous screening.
- Family planning because in our communities the absence of family planning and the size of households is one of the main causes of malnutrition.
- WASH [Water, Sanitation, Hygiene] activities.
- Agricultural activities through the development of inland valleys, support and training of peasants (men and women) in agricultural techniques and the conservation of foodstuff.
- Access to land for rural women for agriculture should not be overlooked.
- Environmental activities through planting trees of value for the population: fruits and/or leaves rich in protein.

The question of funding goes without doubt through the involvement of the Burkinabe State and the technical and financial partners without forgetting the beneficiary population

How could these activities be funded?

- The State should have a separate budget for nutrition without mixing it with the health budget.
- Strengthen formal engagements with community based organizations.
- Support from technical and funding partners.
- Maintain the frameworks of consultations regarding nutrition with all the partners and the State for the follow up/assessment.

3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

- Strengthening the periodic nutrition consultations frameworks with all partners and the State will enable speeding up and improvement of the quality of undertakings by the different parties participating.
- Surveys likewise of national coverage.

What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

- Role in good governance.
- Role in the follow up assessment of field activities.
- Role in the coordination of activities by the public sector.
- Role in community mobilization.
- Role in the mobilization of human and financial resources.
- Role, above all, in taking into account gender at all levels.

4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

CFS, UNSCN and other movements can play the roles of advocates; following up assessment and mobilization of resources and technical support.

33. Luis Fernando Medina Leguízamo, Colombia

Original contribution in Spanish

FAO y otras organizaciones internacionales podrían trabajar mancomunadamente con los gobiernos de cada país con el fin de lograr la utilización sostenible, razonable, equitativa y justa de las tierras y los recursos de producción de alimentos con enfoque de autoabastecimiento y seguridad alimentaria local. Más que una guía para gobiernos insto a trabajar en un mandato internacional.

English translation

FAO and other international organizations could work together with the governments of each country to achieve a sustainable, reasonable, equitable and fair use of land and food production resources, focusing on self-sufficiency and local food security. Rather than developing guidelines for governments, I urge to work in an international mandate.

34. Mariela Contreras, Consultant, Honduras

It is important that governments are held accountable and include nutrition as a priority in their agendas. A way this can be done is by engaging them in platforms such as the SUN movement. Then, it will be much easier that governmental budget is allocated through Ministries that are in line with implementing nutrition sensitive and specific interventions at the local levels.

It is also vital that the roll out of nutrition interventions are in line with conceptual frameworks that include immediate determinants of undernutrition such as inadequate dietary practices and illnesses, but also less commonly targeted underlying factors such as inadequate women's care to thus promote adequate nutrition in vulnerable populations.

It is time that agriculture interventions are linked more with nutrition priorities. Examples of these are biofortification with the aim to decrease undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable populations. I also hope that donors prioritize not only undernutrition but also overweight and multiple micronutrient deficiencies as they are common ailments in today's low and middle income countries.

35. Román Jiménez-Vera, Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, Mexico

Original contribution in Spanish

Buen día a todos, reciban un cordial saludo desde México. Hasta ahora, la seguridad alimentaria y la buena nutrición han sido temas de importancia en el gobierno de muchos países. En México se han creado muchos programas, todos incluyentes y con gran difusión entre la población. Sin embargo, no han tenido el impacto deseado debido a que la población, y el ciudadano en particular, no quiere cambiar y mejorar su vida y su entorno. Los habitantes que viven en el campo ya no trabajan la tierra, no la hacen productiva; tenemos muchos cuerpos de agua y tierras fértiles que no están siendo trabajados. El ciudadano que antes hacía producir el campo, lo ha dejado de hacer y se ha convertido en cliente de los programas sociales. Veo difícil que las personas vuelvan a cultivar la tierra y los

cuerpos de agua. Se puede comenzar a inculcar otra vez el cuidado de la naturaleza a los nuevos ciudadanos, probablemente una acción a largo plazo, por algo hay que comenzar. Es importante promover la formación de hogares sostenibles, donde todos cooperen en la producción de alimentos, ya que de esa manera, probablemente se vuelva a cultivar los campos.

English translation

Good morning, best regards from Mexico. So far, food security and nutrition have been important topics for the governments of many countries. Mexico has developed many programmes, all of them inclusive and widespread among the population. However, they have not achieved the desired outcome as citizens do not want to change and improve their lives and environment. The rural population no longer work as farmers, and many water bodies and fertile lands remain untapped. Farmers have become customers of social programmes. I doubt people will farm land and water bodies again. Fostering nature protection can be a suitable long-term initiative for new generations. Promoting the development of sustainable households, where all the family members contribute to food production, is important. In this way, land would be probably farmed again.

36. Simeon Onya, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria [first contribution]

It is imperative that Nigeria government first and foremost eradicate corruption, and encourage local production of goods and services especially agricultural products for which we have comparative advantage to produce in terms of weather, soil and vegetation and de-emphasize high expenditure on foreign consumption of things we can locally produce. Also small and medium scale farmers should be encouraged through the provision of improved inputs, subsidy and new production innovations. Non-farm activities should also be encouraged among the rural farmers in rural Africa to supplement their farm income and eradicate poverty.

37. Komlan Assignon, Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique, Togo

Original contribution in French

A la question 1, mon espoir est de voir une décennie avec une faim 0, qu'il y ait une meilleur redistribution des vivres au niveau mondial car la nourriture ne manque pas dans le monde, c'est la redistribution qui est injuste. Pour mon pays le Togo, que les décideurs politiques consacrent plus de ressources financières à la production agricole.

A la question 2, le programme des institutions des NU doit nécessairement comporter un volet restructuration, information et formation des groupes professionnels de production agricole surtout des les pays en développement et singulièrement en Afrique.

Au Togo, il faut mettre l'accent sur la professionnalisation de l'agriculture, la maîtrise de l'eau, la mécanisation et que le gouvernement respecte la location de 10% du budget national à l'agriculture tel que c'était décidé au sommet de Nairobi au Kenya.

Question 3 : il faut une franche volonté politique des décideurs et libérer les organisations de la société civile afin qu'elles jouent pleinement leur rôle de veille et de contrôle de l'action politique.

Question 4 : Ces organisations citées doivent jouer le rôle de plaidoirie et d'éveil auprès des instances politiques et surtout sensibiliser les peuples de l'occident pour éviter le gaspillage alimentaire,

proposer des voies de redistribution efficiente à travers le monde de sorte que ceux qui en ont trop cèdent à ceux qui ont peu ou pas du tout.

English translation

To question 1, my hope is to see a decade with zero hunger, that there may be a better re-distribution of food supplies at global level because there is no shortage of food in the world; it is the distribution that is unjust. For my country, Togo, may the political decision makers dedicate more financial resources to agricultural production.

To question 2, the program of UN institutions must necessarily include a dossier on restructuring, information and training for groups of agricultural production professionals, above all in developing countries and especially in Africa.

In Togo, the emphasis should be on professionalization of agriculture, water control, mechanization and respect by the government for the allocation of 10% of the national budget to agriculture as agreed at the Nairobi Summit, in Kenya.

To question 3: a straightforward political will is needed from the decision makers and freeing of the civil society organizations so that they can fully play their role of watching over and monitoring political activities.

To question 4 : The mentioned organizations must play the role of defence and alertness towards political developments and in particular to make the West aware of the need to avoid food waste, to propose efficient re-distribution channels throughout the world so that those who have too much give to those that have little or nothing at all.

38. Temitope Ajayi, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

I thank the UNSCN for this innovation. The challenges I see in Nigeria on food security and malnutrition are; lack of large scale farming and mechanization, diseases and pest, which makes food unavailable and expensive and the lack of education nutrition to the masses.

The UN should partner with stakeholders in the country to facilitate the following:

- Sensitization of the masses on effect of malnutrition and importance of eating right by involving the media, health workers and schools.
- Support for young people who are into agriculture in order to operate large scale farming. For example; I see a lot of graduate and undergraduate student in my school that are into farming using the school land.
- Agricultural institutes and schools should be actively involved in the area of research, extension services, and viable seeds of different plant species should be made available and affordable.
- The UN Decade of Action should collaborate with the Government in order to provide land for people willing to go into agriculture, such land will be monitored to ensure that agricultural activities is actually taking place on them.

The bodies the UN Decade of Action can partner with in order to facilitate and monitor the project includes: Agricultural research institutes (Nigeria have a lot of them), Nutrition and health centres, schools, media houses, financial institutions and the government.

39. Diana Lee-Smith, Mazingira Institute, Kenya

It is necessary to develop a more accurate definition of "food system" and then a typology of food systems in order to ensure sound evidence and future policies. The original thinking on food systems implicitly used the industrial model of food supply and distribution, whereas the majority of food consumed in places like sub-Saharan Africa is produced on small farms. In order to compare and analyze the range of food systems found globally, the analytical categories of farming systems have to be merged with food systems thinking and a typology developed that will make it possible to classify the types actually found around the world. Once these systems can be classified they can then be measured and compared according to a variety of variables. The changes going on in the transformation of food systems (often referred to in the literature and discussions) can then be more accurately assessed, and more useful data presented for policy analysis.

Currently, there is much discussion about the "supermarketization" of food systems in areas such as Africa, but less is presented and understood about small farm subsistence food systems as they transition into market food systems and what variables are key to understanding the impacts of different agriculture policies on food access and nutrition for different populations. I believe this question will open up new categories and a classification of food systems that will help illuminate what is happening to populations living and working in different climatic and farming systems, as well as under different conditions of economic development, infrastructure and urbanization.

40. Ana Vasconcellos, FNDE, Brazil

I consider necessary the formation of a global network of nutrition protection in order to articulate civil society, researchers and experts to foster debate on the regulation of food and water market. Industry and supermarkets are managed by global companies, but the civil society network is not as organized and not focused on regulatory aspects. You can no longer rely solely on the participation of civil society in the CODEX Alimentarius, where their positions are limited by the interests of countries and companies that act there in an associated way.

You need to expand your network and build a global agenda protection nutrition, the environment and life. Decisions and resolutions of this forum should be the subject of worldwide publicity and guidance to nutrition policies of countries in the aspects of food produced according to health and environmental justice. Reactions and possible agreements resulting from this process should be monitored with a view to social progress resulting from improved nutrition of people and environmental recovery of the planet. You need to expand your network and build a global agenda protection nutrition, the environment and life.

Decisions and resolutions of this forum should be the subject of worldwide publicity and guidance to nutrition policies of countries in the aspects of food produced according to health and environmental justice.

Reactions and possible agreements resulting from this process should be monitored with a view to social progress resulting from improved nutrition of people and environmental recovery of the planet.

41. Saul Lopez, Venezuelan society of agronomists, Venezuela

Original contribution in Spanish

1. En Venezuela, la evolución de las políticas agropecuarias ha sido determinada por un fuerte sesgo antiagrícola con el control de tipo de cambio, control de precio, baja provisión de infraestructura rural y servicios agropecuarios de calidad enmarcadas en una economía de capitalismo rentístico

que se ha acentuado en los últimos años. Lo que ha redundado en que haya una dependencia del 97 % de la renta petrolera en nuestra economía, que en el contexto mundial con la caída de los precios del petróleo ha afectado la disponibilidad de alimentos, debido a la falta de divisas para importar los alimentos necesarios para satisfacer a la población. Sin embargo, no es únicamente un problema de disponibilidad de alimentos, sino de acceso, estabilidad y utilización que son las otras dimensiones de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. El entorno de la crisis alimentaria incluye; altos niveles de escasez de alimentos (promedio de 80 %, datos del BCV), una inflación acumulada de alimentos de 2430 % (BCV, 2015), tensión social con más de 350 saqueos registrados (Observatorio de conflictividad social, 2016), crisis institucional y finalmente el hambre. A pesar de las circunstancias desfavorables, tenemos altas expectativas sobre las acciones nutricionales concretas en el próximo decenio 2016-2025, considerando que al establecer este programa en el país se dará un salto importante al desarrollo agroalimentario, donde los pilares fundamentales serán: la equidad social, sostenibilidad ambiental y viabilidad económica considerando la planificación estratégica, la investigación e integración de los actores políticos y sociales. En el programa deben estar contempladas las actividades de educación alimentaria, formación de personal que sean agentes multiplicadores de la información en las zonas más vulnerables en cuanto a seguridad alimentaria se refiere, promover leyes que protejan a los consumidores y mejorar la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos.

2. Los sectores privados deben involucrarse en las acciones nutricionales para tener una población más sana y se puede realizar planteando a las empresas de alimentos disminuir algunos impuestos, o garantizar adquirir cierta cantidad de mercancía para los comedores escolares, si mejoran la composición nutricional de los alimentos. Finalmente es importante sumar a otras organizaciones, fundaciones, observatorios, entre otros, que realicen un trabajo académico y social de relevancia en los distintos países para que puedan ser apoyados y formados por la UNSCN. En Venezuela el gobierno no está permitiendo la apertura del canal humanitario, ni acciones de organismo internacionales como WFP o Hunger Free que ayuden a mejorar las condiciones de inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional que es muy grave. Aquí es donde los contactos con las ONG y Fundaciones son claves en la prosecución de los programas y acciones.

English translation

1. In Venezuela, the evolution of agricultural policies has been determined by a strong anti-agricultural bias characterised by the exchange rate and price control, the reduced provision of rural infrastructure and low-quality agricultural services framed in a rental capitalism economy, progressively intensified in recent years. As a result, the Venezuelan economy has a 97% dependence on oil revenues. In the global context of oil prices decline, this reliance has affected food availability due to the lack of foreign currency required to import food products satisfying the population demand. However, food availability is not the only problem: the other dimensions of food and nutrition security (access, utilization and stability) are also an issue. Some of the features of our food crisis: high levels of food shortages (80% average according to the Central Bank of Venezuela), a cumulative food inflation rate of 2430% (Central Bank of Venezuela, 2015), social tension with more than 350 recorded lootings (Observatory of Social Unrest, 2016), institutional crisis and hunger. Despite these unfavourable circumstances, we expect a lot from the specific nutritional actions in the next decade 2016-2025. By implementing this programme in Venezuela, agricultural development will take an important step forward based on the following key pillars: social equity, environmental sustainability and economic viability taking into account strategic planning, research and integration of political and social actors. The programme must feature nutritional education activities, train the staff to ensure information is disseminated in the most

vulnerable areas in terms of food security, promote laws to protect the consumers, and improve food quality and food safety.

2. The private sector should get involved in nutritional interventions with the aim of improving the health of the population. To do so, tax reduction or the guaranteed purchase of a fixed amount of food for school canteens can be proposed to food businesses, provided they improve the nutritional composition of their products. Finally, it is important to involve other organizations, foundations and observatories, among others, undertaking a relevant academic and social work in different countries so that they can be supported and trained by the UNSCN. In Venezuela the government is preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as interventions of international organizations like WFP or Hunger Free that would help to improve the serious food and nutrition insecurity situation. To do so, networking with NGOs and Foundations is key in pursuing these programmes and actions.

42. Mohamed Moloud, Mauritania [first contribution]

Original contribution in Arabic

في بلدي كل التناقضات : موارد ضخمة وعدد قليل من السكان , نقص التغذية وسوء التغذية , والحكومات المتعاقبة تتحدث دائما عن برامج طموحة ليس أقلها تحقيق الإكتفاء الذاتي في مجال الغذاء , وحقيقة أن ذلك ممكن , ويجب ان يتحقق , كيف نصدق أن بلدا يتمتع بـ 500 ألف هكتار صالحة للزراعة , ونهر جاري, ومياه جوفية وسطحية مختلفة , ولا يتجاوز عدد سكانه 3 مليون نسمة لا يمكن أن ينتج حاجاته الغذائية؟

كيف يمكن أن نصدق أن بلدا صغيرا يمتلك أكثر من 20 مليون رأس من الماشية والحيوانات الأخرى يعتمد في استهلاكه للألبان على واردات من كل أصقاع الدنيا , ولا يستفيد من ثرواته الحيوانية التي تهدر منتجاتها باستمرار في الوقت الذي يسجل فيه انعدام الأمن الغذائي لأكثر من 638 ألف شخص حسب برنامج الغذاء العالمي

كيف لنا أن نصدق أن بلدا يطل على واحد من بين أغنى الشواطئ البحرية في العالم , وينتج سنويا مليون طن من المنتجات السمكية , يصدر معظمها إلى الخارج , يمكن أن يوجد فيه مواطنون يؤساء يعانون انعدام الأمن الغذائي ويحتاجون إلى تدخل المنظمات الدولية؟

English translation

In my country you can find all the contradictions; ample resources, a few number of people, food insecurity and malnutrition. The different governments talk always about ambitious programs that at least achieve self sufficiency in food and actually this is true and should be achieved. How can we believe that a country that has 500,000 hectares of arable lands , a river, different underground and surface water, its population don't exceed three million and cannot produce its food needs.

How can we believe that such a small country that own more than 20 million of livestock and other animals depend in its milk consumption on imports that come from all parts of the world and do not benefit from its animal wealth that squanders its production while there are more than 638,000 persons suffering from food insecurity according to the WFP.

How can we believe that a country that overlooks one of the richest marine shores in the world and produces one million ton of fish products annually most of which is exported to other countries can have miserable citizens who are suffering from food insecurity and need the intervention of international organizations.

43. Simeon Onya, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Nigeria [second contribution]

According to USAID 2011, malnutrition is an underlying cause of more than one out of three child deaths in poor countries each year and major contributor to the burden of diseases worldwide and as such should attract emergency responses and intervention in tackling the problem. The programme should prioritize the production of foods that are eaten by the vulnerable population especially in the North east of Nigeria, promote agricultural activities that support employment generation and not the ones that displace labour, encourage small scale agricultural processes that promote women participation and access to innovative technologies while incorporating micro-nutrient rich crop varieties that will improve on the nutritional wellbeing of the vulnerable ones.

44. Mohamed Moloud, Mauritania [second contribution]

Original contribution in Arabic

أرى أن هذا العقد سيمر كغيره من العقود إن لم تبادر الجهات المعنية إلى تبني خيارات جديدة واستراتيجيات مختلفة.

لقد أخفقت سياسات وبرامج عديدة , و إن كان العمل الدولي المشترك قد حقق بعض الإنجازات خاصة في مجال الأمن الغذائي , إلا أن المنظمات المعنية بالغذاء تشير إلى تراجع هذا الإنجاز المحرز.

لا يمكن لعقد الأمم المتحدة للعمل من أجل التغذية أن يحدث فرقا ملحوظا في تحسين التغذية والأمن الغذائي لسكان بلدي , إلا إذا تغيرت المقاربات , وتم انتهاج سياسات مختلفة في هذا المجال , صحيح أن بلدي يتمتع بموارد معتبرة إذا أحسن استغلالها أشرت إلى بعضها سابقا , لكن الوضع خطير , حيث أشار برنامج الغذاء العالمي إلى أنه تدخل (سنة 2015) لصالح 638 ألف شخص يعانون من انعدام الأمن الغذائي (عدد السكان لا يتجاوز 3 ملايين نسمة) , وتعاني 15 % من السكان من انعدام الأمن الغذائي باستمرار , ويعاني 10% من الأطفال دون سن الخامسة من سوء التغذية الحاد , ونصف السكان لا يحصلون على مياه نظيفة صالحة للشرب , حسب برنامج الغذاء العالمي .

English translation

I can see that this decade will pass just like the other ones if the concerned entities did not take the lead to adopt new options and different strategies.

Many programs and policies have failed even if the joint international efforts have realized some achievements especially in the field of food security, but the organizations concerned with food point to the decline of such realized achievement.

The UN decade for action for nutrition can never achieve a remarkable difference in improving nutrition and food security for the people in my country unless things change and new policies are followed in this field. It is true that my country has good resources if they are well utilized as mentioned before, but the situations is serious. The World Food Programme indicated that the year 2015 has witnessed 638,000 persons suffering from food insecurity (the number of population do not exceed three million inhabitants). In addition 15% of the population suffers from continuous food insecurity and 10% of the children below five years old suffer from severe food insecurity. Half of the population does not have access for clean potable water, according to the WFP.

This is the situation in spite of the previously mentioned resources and in spite of the existence of a food security sector and other sectors that are concerned with agriculture, cattle breeding, marine fishing and others.

I can see that having a different strategy that focuses on farmers in the field and that supports them and provides them with guidance is sufficient to achieve the aims. They are not asking for many things, just guidance and performance improvements. The potentials are sufficient and the army of unemployed youth can make a difference when we invent new ways of dealing with the aforementioned. Next time, I will provide you with my suggestion in this field.

45. Mohamed Moloud, Mauritania [third contribution]

Original contribution in Arabic

تحقيق أحلام معها وانصرمت الأجال وانقضت , والخطط والإستراتيجيات السياسات من الكثير إعدادا تم الماضية العقود خلال والمدراء الوزراء مكاتب من تدار فالمشاريع , الإخفاقات كل أسباب أهم من الشديدة والمركزية البيروقراطية أن أعتقد , الأهداف أن يجب العقد هذا اختلاف إن (والمنتجين المزارعين) المصلحة أصحاب من المباشرين المعنيين عن وبعيدا الميدان من وليس في , المتاحة والفرص لهؤلاء الحقيقية الحاجات من انطلاقا والبرامج السياسات ورسم بهم والإتصال المنتجين على بالتركيز يكون محاور خلال من التغذية وسوء الجوع ضد المعركة نبدأ أن يجب رأيي وحسب , وجيزة فترة خلال الأهداف نبلغ أن يمكن بلدي فرص بخلق وانتفاء والتحسيس التوعية بحملات ومرورا , مختلفة بطرق الغذاء وانتاج والصيد بالزراعة بدء , متكاملة عديدة المشاريع وإدارة الأعمال كزيادة المختلفة بالفرص الوعي ونشر الشباب على التركيز من بد ولا , أخرى قطاعات في مختلفة عمل في مسابقة تنظم أن يمكن (وأخواتها الفاو) المعنية المنظمات طرف من مسابقة تنظيم أقترح الإطار هذا وفي الناشئة والشركات تحفيز للفائزين ويمكن , التغذية وسوء الجوع ومحاربة الغذاء إنتاج تحسين أجل من مبتكرة بمشاريع الشباب ويتقدم سنويا بلد كل المشاريع من مزيد ابتكار في الشباب ويساعدون الفائزون يدعم أن يمكن كما الإنتاجية الأنشطة في الإنخراط من مزيد على الشباب مستويات في المرصودة الموارد من صغيرة نسب اقتطاع يمكن المقترحة الأنشطة مختلف ولتمويل , منتجة تنافسية أجواء وخلق خلال من المجتمعية الإنتاجية الأعمال دعم على وحثهم والمستثمرين المالية المؤسسات إشراك يمكن كما , المانحين ومن عدة فرص عن بحثا والمحيطات البحار في يغرقون الذين الشباب آلاف إن , فوائد بدون قروض الأحيان بعض وفي , ميسرة قروض . ذويهم وبين أرضهم على للحياة فرصا وجدوا إذا المقيتة المغامرة تلك على يقدموا لن للحياة

خطط تنفيذ على وتشرف تخطط المتطوعين من شبكة على بالإشراف بالغذاء المعنية الأخرى والمنظمات الفاو تقوم أن يمكن كما الحصول وتيسير التمويل عن بالبحث المنظمات من عليا هيئات وتقوم والبيروقراطية الإدارة تعقيد عن وبعيدا منطقة كل في إنتاجية ابتكار على تركيز ولكن , وتقييماتهم الخبراء آراء إلى تنظر جديدة استراتيجية في للتفكير نواة المنتدى هذا يكون أن ويمكن , عليه عنهم والتعبير الناس من أكثر واقترابها الحكومية الهيئات عن وابتعادها بانفصالها فقط سيكون نجاحها سر أن أعتقد جديدة طريقة حقا وتمثيلهم

English translation

During the previous decades, a lot of policies, strategies and plans were developed. Time has passed and all the dreams to achieve objectives have gone. I think that bureaucracy and the extreme centralization are the most important reasons behind all the failures. Projects are managed from the offices of ministers and managers not from the field and away from the direct concerned stakeholders (farmers and producers). The difference in this decade should be to focus on producers, contacting them and developing policies and programs that stem from their real need and from the available opportunities. In my country, we have to reach the target during a short time. In my view I see that we need to start our fight against hunger and malnutrition through many integrated axes starting from agriculture, fishing and food production through different means. This also includes awareness campaigns and then creating different job opportunities in other sectors. We need to focus on youth and on spreading awareness with different opportunities such as entrepreneurship, project management and start-ups . Within this framework, I suggest that we need to organize a competition by the competent organizations (FAO and the similar ones). A competition can be organized every year in a different country and the youth can then submit innovative projects for the purpose of improving

food production and fighting hunger and malnutrition. The winners can encourage the youth to be more active in joining the productive activities. The winners can support and help the youth in being innovative about more projects and they can create productive and competitive atmospheres. In order to provide funding for the different proposed activities, a very small amount of the resources earmarked in different levels and from donors can be deducted. Financial institutions and investors can also be involved and urged to support productive community actions through soft loans and in some cases they can provide interest free loans. The thousands of young people who drown in the seas and oceans in search for life opportunities will not resort to this despised adventure if they find life opportunities on their lands and among their relatives.

The FAO and the other organizations concerned with food can supervise a network of volunteers that plans and supervises the implementation of productive plans in each area and away from the complications of management and bureaucracy. Higher authorities in such organizations can search for funding and make it easily accessible. This forum could be a nucleus for thinking about new strategies that build on the views and assessments of experts, but focuses on creating a new methods and I guess the secret of its success will be to have it separate and away from the government organizations and make it close to people in order to really reflect their cases and represent them.

46. Clemens Goldson, Yos Marketing and Manufacturing, Jamaica

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is a welcome move. Inviting comments from the global community is a wonderful way of seeking to get everyone involved in a matter that should be of concern to us all.

NCDs are a global problem spread by ignorance and poor communication. Addressing the problem requires an improvement in the way we communicate. Vulnerable populations must be reached and informed of the importance of nutrition in physical and cognitive development and in the prevention of NCD.

One great problem is the assumption that foods available to children must be safe or they would be banned in the same way that cigarettes are. Unfortunately this is not so and so foods that may result in harm to children by causing poor cognitive and physical development or exposure to development of an NCD is as readily available as foods that lead to healthy outcomes. Foods that have been proven to be unhealthy should not be offered for sale to children and should at the very least carry a label warning of the danger they pose.

Many corporations now report a triple bottom line so we can see their impact on people and planet. Their posture with respect to NCD should be included in measuring their impact on people. Of particular interest would be the sale of products harmful to children's health in places used primarily by children such as schools and amusement places for children.

Good nutrition has several positive impacts on people and countries and so must be promoted by every possible means.

Information, clear, concise and readily available is the chief means of combatting the misinformation and ignorance on which poor nutrition thrives. The UN, FAO and WBG must use the several channels of communications available to them to bring current information on how nutrition impacts national development, physical development, cognitive development and the achievement of the SDG.

The United Nations must seek to reach ordinary citizens in the many countries it serves. It should work with sister agencies such as FAO, WHO and the WBG to show how poor nutrition impacts their areas of operation.

WHO has had the health promoting schools drive for 20 years now without any meaningful impact in many countries. The urgency of the NCD problem has not been communicated to many organizations or to ordinary citizens. Most parents are unaware of the danger most treats sold in stores and in schools pose to their children. Teachers in many schools practice unsafe eating and so set a poor example for students. If health promotion in schools is to be effective then teachers and parents must become actively involved in teaching children what are good nutritious choices.

Teachers should be required to eat nutritious meals and maintain a BMI within 10% of the recommended normal. Schools should not permit unhealthy foods to be sold within their boundaries. Information on nutrition should be included in student's instruction from the earliest age and throughout their school life. Given the stated benefit of good nutrition such an approach will be good for people and planet.

The Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 states that: Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes – are the biggest cause of death worldwide. More than 36 million die annually from NCDs (63% of global deaths), including 14 million people who die too young before the age of 70. More than 90% of these premature deaths from NCDs occur in low- and middle-income countries, and could have largely been prevented. Most premature deaths are linked to common risk factors, namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol.
(http://www.who.int/nmh/events/ncd_action_plan/en/)

Physical exercise has been identified as a risk factor above. The benefits of physical exercise is not taught in schools and no time is set aside for physical exercise in the school day in most schools on the island of Jamaica. If not in schools then where should the value of exercise be taught? Putting exercise into the curriculum is a matter of will rather than cost. What plans exists to make exercise a part of the school day? Music, marching band, games and exercise drills are all ways in which physical exercise may be introduced into student's daily learning activities. Music has been suggested since it is liked by children and offers other benefits than physical exercise. (see <http://www.nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/> for other benefits of music in schools)

Unhealthy diets is also a factor in NCDs. Since 1995 the WHO has been promoting Healthy Schools. Why is this initiative not evident in schools in Jamaica. What has prevented it from being implemented?

WHO's Global School Health Initiative, launched in 1995, seeks to mobilise and strengthen health promotion and education activities at the local, national, regional and global levels. The Initiative is designed to improve the health of students, school personnel, families and other members of the community through schools (http://www.who.int/school_youth_health/gshi/en/)

Why has this initiative not worked? What will be done to improve outcomes?

One notable failure is communication beyond the education community. Teachers may know of the initiative and realize its value but they have not been motivated to implement it. Parents, children and

communities are unaware of its existence and of its purpose. If the Decade of Action on Nutrition is to be successful then parents, communities and children must be included in the communication loop.

This report includes not only the four major NCDs (the focus of the UN meeting), but also mental illness, which is a major contributor to the burden of disease worldwide. This evaluation takes place in the context of enormous global health spending, serious concerns about already strained public finances and worries about lacklustre economic growth. The report also tries to capture the thinking of the business community about the impact of NCDs on their enterprises.

Five key messages emerge:

- *First, NCDs already pose a substantial economic burden and this burden will evolve into a staggering one over the next two decades. For example, with respect to cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer, diabetes and mental health, the macroeconomic simulations suggest a cumulative output loss of US\$ 47 trillion over the next two decades. This loss represents 75% of global GDP in 2010 (US\$ 63 trillion). It also represents enough money to eradicate two dollar-a-day poverty among the 2.5 billion people in that state for more than half a century.*
- *Second, although high-income countries currently bear the biggest economic burden of NCDs, the developing world, especially middle-income countries, is expected to assume an ever larger share as their economies and populations grow.*
- *Third, cardiovascular disease and mental health conditions are the dominant contributors to the global economic burden of NCDs.*
- *Fourth, NCDs are front and centre on business leaders' radar. The World Economic Forum's annual Executive Opinion Survey (EOS), which feeds into its Global Competitiveness Report, shows that about half of all business leaders surveyed worry that at least one NCD will hurt their company's bottom line in the next five years, with similarly high levels of concern in low-, middle- and high-income countries – especially in countries where the quality of healthcare or access to healthcare is perceived to be poor. These NCD-driven concerns are markedly higher than those reported for the communicable diseases of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.*
- *Fifth, the good news is that there appear to be numerous options available to prevent and control NCDs. For example, the WHO has identified a set of interventions they call "Best Buys" There is also considerable scope for the design and implementation of programmes aimed at behaviour change among youth and adolescents, and more cost-effective models of care – models that reduce the care-taking burden that falls on untrained family members. Further research on the benefits of such interventions in relation to their costs is much needed.*

It is our hope is that this report informs the resource allocation decisions of the world's economic leaders – top government officials, including finance ministers and their economic advisors – who control large amounts of spending at the national level and have the power to react to the formidable economic threat posed by NCDs. (<http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Js18806en/>)

Health Professionals, International Agencies, Educators, Public Officials Businesses and some NGOs all understand the threat that NCDs pose.

It is time that Parents, Communities and Children be included in the communications loop. They are the ones who can make the decade successful by changing their behaviour and to do so they must be given compelling reasons. Ignorance and misinformation are the main reasons why some behaviours still exists and information is the best way to dispel these.

47. Jeevananda Reddy, Formerly Chief Technical Advisor WMO/UN, India

[A] Suggestions – critical activities that needs to be included in the work programme for the implementation of UN Decade Action on nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets:

Food and Nutrient security Bill was passed in 2013 by Indian Government by integrating all activities that come under food and nutrition security. This bill carries several components of food and nutrient supplements to needy. However, with the change of governance at centre and state level, these are not moving as speculated in the bill. This needs implementation in true spirit. Under PDS [public distribution] system the government though introduced minor millets, the state governments are not coming forward to implement this in terms of production, procurement and supply under PDS. This must be implemented. The minor millets are considered as pollution free foods.

UN agencies must put pressure on India Government to discourage in supplying polluted food such as wheat and rice under PDS system. Also, put pressure on controlling adulterated food supplies, which are common all over India.

Food production in quantity alone is not the parameter to achieve food security but there are several other factors involved, namely food wastage – FAO reported it is around 30% but my calculation it is around 40 to 50% in India --, better storage facilities, minimum transport losses. To achieve this governments must encourage locally produced foods under food and nutrient security schemes.

Environmental groups must play a role in eradicating polluted food production and consumption as well adulterated food production and distribution in which they create awareness among people. Government must discourage mono-crop system of agriculture under high chemical inputs and under intensive irrigation systems as this will hamper linking of animal husbandry under farming systems that will be a major input to nutrient security aspect.

Some of the background information is presented in brief in [B] and supporting references are given under [C].

[B] Background in brief

The following article of mine Titled “2nd Green Revolution must be a sustainable system” was published on 11 August 2016 edition of newly started Hindi Daily News paper from Meerut “NEWS FIRST TODAY” in page 8 under “Editorial & Opinion”.

2nd Green Revolution must be a sustainable system

Dr. S. Jeevananda Reddy Agricultural Scientist

The traditional agriculture was soil and climate driven farming system that encompasses the animal husbandry. It provided socio-economic, food and nutrient security with the healthy food. Those were the “Golden Days” in the history of farming. It was an environment-friendly system and was highly successful & sustainable. No pollution, no worry about seeds and fertilizer adulteration as they used good grain as seed and compost of farmyard manure and green manure as fertilizer.

Following growth in population the food production balance got disrupted and in order to find a solution to evergrowing problem, 60s saw the chemical inputs technology and genetically modified seed technology entering India in the form of much eulogised Green Revolution Technology. With the help of those technologies, food security was achieved up to an extent. But, it came at huge costs with disastrous impact on environment. The Green Revolution increased the production substantially in terms of quantity but failed to achieve the quality of traditional agriculture in terms of food and fodder. The technology includes high yielding seeds, chemical inputs (fertilizers & pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc) and irrigation. However, newly developed high yielding seeds used in ‘Green

Revolution' created new problems hitherto unknown to farmers. Use of chemicals in the crop management caused the cost of production jump several folds. Here entered government's input subsidy, a huge component.

Studies on paddy/rice production figure of 70s & 80s in Andhra Pradesh revealed that the traditional paddy under irrigation yielded 1300 kg/ha; by adding high yielding seed this increased by 500 kg/ha; and by adding chemical fertilizers the yield level rose further by 2000 kg/ha. That means total yield achieved was 3800 kg/ha under farmers' fields. This was far less than research station yields of 5000 to 6000 kg/ha. The present average yields of farmers' field are 2600 – 2800 kg/ha as the yield curve flattened since 1984-85. Only increase in area under irrigation contributed to additional increase in production after 1984-85.

Studies clearly reflect that high yielding seeds introduced during and after the Green Revolution were tailored to chemical fertilizers under irrigation. This severely affected dry-land agriculture that constituted around 60% of the cultivated land. This led dry-land farmers migrating to urban areas as the dry-land agriculture with high input costs became unsustainable and non-remunerative.

Forty years later, genetically modified (GM) seed entered into Indian agriculture system. Most innovations in this have been profit-driven rather than need-driven. Global seed industry is controlled by four western MNCs hands and at the same time GM seed industry is in one MNC's hands. The GM technology responds to the need of GM companies to intensify farmers' dependence upon seeds protected by the so-called intellectual property rights, which conflicts directly with the age-old rights of farmers to reproduce, share or store seeds. In fact, to get overnight profits, the Indian seed companies changed their high yielding seed into GM seed and ensured that nonGM seed is "not sold in the market". This has resulted markets flooding with spurious/ adulterated GM seed varieties under different names.

One such GM Seed, Bt-cotton, is in use since 2002-03. Use of chemical fertilizers and irrigation increased the area under cotton under GM seed and reduced the area under non-GM seed without much yield advantage. The Bt-cotton area during 2002-03 to 2010-11 increased from 0.04 Lha to 17.95 Lha in Andhra Pradesh and at the same time area under non-Bt-cotton reduced from 8.03 Lha to 0.22 Lha. At all India level area under cotton increased from 7.667 Mha to 11.161 Mha. During the same period the yields increased from 212.5 to 545.7 kg/ha in Bt- and 229.1 to 919.5 kg/ha in non-Bt at Andhra Pradesh level. At all India level cotton yields increased from 302 in 2002-03 to 554 in 2007-08 and there onwards declined to 475 kg/ha in 2010-11. That is, the productivity has been stagnant for the past five years. The yield increase is associated with the high yielding cotton seed, both GM & non-GM, to chemical inputs and irrigation.

Newer technologies were portrayed as a solution to all human problems, especially the problem of hunger and poverty forgetting their impact on the environment. However, the use of chemical inputs reduced the quality of food and created bad impact on environment. This "western profit driven" chemical input technology was found to be more dangerous on longterm, over the short-term gains. It has destroyed the environment drastically- soil degradation & salinization, health hazards to human, animal & plant life with air, water, soil & food pollution. The pollution related health hazards necessitated the introduction of drug manufacturing industry and establishment of hospitals who in turn cause air and water pollution, turning this into a vicious circle. Even with all these ill effects, the yield growth curve has flattened after 1980-85.

In fact, the chemical input technology is like "scratching the head with fire". When this technology was introduced nobody knew that this technology is going to create such environmental catastrophe. Even the Nobel Prize awarding organization was not aware of this while awarding Nobel Prize to Norman Borlaug.

We must not forget the fact that GM technologies also work under chemical inputs -irrigation only and thus the above discussed impacts apply to GM seed technology also. In addition, GM seed technology presents several other impacts on biodiversity, contamination, re-generation, herbicide-tolerant weeds, new pests-diseases etc. Because of some of these, in USA & China GM crops were not permitted to grow in some zones. In India GM crops are grown everywhere including prohibited zones. There are several other aspects like food safety and ethics. India has no mechanism to study such aspects. Thus, with the GM seed technology, the cure has become more dangerous than the disease

To achieve sustainable agriculture, therefore, the governments must change the policy on agriculture. The policy must include low input costs, pollution free quality food technology such as organic inputs under cooperative farming setup. This not only brings down the cost of production but also reduces drastically man hours spent on procuring basic inputs by individual farmers, improves the utilization of natural resources and thus helps to reach sustainable agriculture.

In fact progressive farmers with traditional wisdom have developed technologies and achieved far higher yields than the research station yields and received national and international awards/rewards and recognition but neither the government nor the scientists showed any interest, though there is a mechanism in government departments, to stabilize that technology and provide packages to farmers to achieve environmental friendly progress in agriculture. The states and central governments must allocate sufficient funds to collect traditional inventions of progressive farmers and integrate these in traditional technology to achieve the 2nd Green Revolution that safeguards the environment and provide food safety, biosafety, food & nutrient security; and protect the farmers from committing suicides and provide socio-economic security.

Also, as proposed in new Food Security Bill, distribution of locally produced foods can be given under PDS by which the food subsidy component will come down substantially. This shall also reduce wastage and loss in FCI storage facilities and transportation.

Dr. S. Jeevananda Reddy

“Climate Change” is not “Global Warming”

Dr. S. Jeevananda Reddy, Agrometeorologist

Weather & Climate: Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get. Weather & climate respectively refer to short-term & long-term events in the atmosphere. Averages and extremes in climate in terms of meteorological parameters such as temperature, precipitation, wind, relative humidity, etc for individual stations can be seen in normal books published by meteorological departments using 30 year period. Thus, temperature is only one parameter of weather and climate. Meteorological parameters do not act independently but they interact with each other in the atmosphere. Change in one parameter has an impact on the other parameters. They vary with climate system. The major components of climate system are the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the cryosphere, the land surface and the biosphere. General circulation patterns relating to wind systems are superposed on the climate system. These play vital role on local and regional weather and climate. Thus, weather and climate vary with space and time.

Climate Change: Changes in climate are not new. They were there in the past and will be there in the future. These are inbuilt variations in nature. However, with the increased interference of humans on nature, the natural variations are being modified at local and regional scales. The combination of these is known as climate change. However, climate change has turned in to political satire of “global warming and carbon credits”, which carry billions of dollars to share that is evident even from the 2015 Paris Agreement.

(A) Natural variability consists of (a) irregular variations that include intra-seasonal & intra-annual variations and (b) systematic variations expressed by fluctuations or cyclic variations of different durations. These are beyond human control and thus needs to adapt to them. That is exactly what our forefathers did in the case of water resources and agriculture.

(B) The man-induced variations have two parts. They are changes through (a) greenhouse effect and (b) non-greenhouse effect. The former has two components, namely (i) global warming since 1951 through anthropogenic greenhouse gases -- Carbon Dioxide from fossil fuel use, and (ii) impact of aerosols from volcanic eruptions. The later is ecological changes associated with the changes in land & water use and cover, which are defined by (i) "urban-heat-island effect" and (ii) "rural-cold-island effect".

Global Warming: The global average annual temperature is derived from the data series over land and ocean but they present non-uniform distribution with both space and time. Same is also the case with the Carbon Dioxide. Systematic measurements over oceans started only since 1990 and prior to that the ships used to take observations enroute. Contamination and covering with filth of the ocean waters steadily increasing. From 1973 onwards though satellites started measuring the data but officially the data is available since 1979. For the same period balloon data series are also available. As this data series showed lower annual average temperature over that of ground based measured data, this data was withdrawn from the internet. To show there is significant increase in global temperature due to global warming, some organizations that are maintaining the ground based data lowered the past data and raised the current data. With all these the past 20 years the trend showed a hiatus-pause.

In the global [land & ocean] temperature anomaly data series of 1880 to 2010, the trend component presented an increase of 0.6 °C per century. Over this trend superposed a 60-year cycle wherein the sine curve varied between - 0.3 °C to and 0.3 °C. According to IPCC from 1951 more than half of the global average temperature anomaly is associated with anthropogenic greenhouse gases effect (B/a). Global warming is part of this (B/a/i). Even if we assume global warming component as 50%, the trend associated with it is only 0.3 °C per century. Even this is basically because of lowering the past data and rising current data. Also, the data is corrupted by having met network concentrated in urban areas and thus overemphasizing urban-heat-island effect and by having sparse met network in rural areas [which is more than twice that of urban areas] and thus underemphasizing rural-cold-island effect. This is not the case with satellite data. Thus, so far the Global warming component is less than 0.15 °C only. It is insignificant when compared to intra-annual and intra-seasonal changes in temperature and thus has little impact on nature. The global warming component was attributed to cause sea level rise, ice melts, glaciers retreat, impact crop production, cause extreme weather events, rainfall-monsoon changes, etc, etc. There is no way we can we expect these with that meager change in temperature.

Destruction of Nature: Nature is being destroyed by both natural disasters such as cyclonic activity, earthquakes, volcanic activity, tsunamis, etc; and activities to meet human greed such as wars, oil-gas-water extraction, physical destruction of ecologically sensitive zones & destruction of natural water flow systems, etc. Many a times such destruction and their associated changes in nature are attributed to global warming. The reality is quite different. Let me present few cases in this direction.

(i) Flood Disasters: Droughts and floods are common to India for that matter world over. Each year one part or the other in India experiences the floods and droughts. The severity of destruction changes with the time of the year, the terrain, with the population growth, and growth in infrastructure. However, with the violation of existing local, state and national laws the destruction is aggravated. This is the case with flood disasters in Uttarkhand in June 2013 and Jammu & Kashmir in 2014; November-December 2015 floods in Chennai in Tamil Nadu & Nellore in Andhra Pradesh; September 2000 floods in Hyderabad in Telangana. All these disasters are associated with the apathy of government agencies as they were unable to control the illegal construction activities along the river

beds and converting rainwater channels, rivers, water bodies in to concrete jungle. Now governments are putting the blame on global warming as it cannot defend against such onslaught by politicians and bureaucrats to protect themselves for wrong doings.

(ii) Heat & Cold waves: Heat & cold waves are also common to certain parts of India in summer & winter in association with the Western Disturbances, part of General Circulation Pattern. The high pressure belt over Nagpur region defines the impact zones.

(iii) Himalayan Glaciers Melt: IPCC pronounced in its AR4 Report stating that the Himalayan Glaciers will melt by 2035. Same way Al Gore concluded that Greenland will be ice free in five years. When we questioned UN Secretary General through a letter the veracity on such pronouncements in 2009, these conclusions were withdrawn but only after they received Noble Prize. Government informed to Indian Parliament after Paris meet in 2015 that 86.6% of 2181 of Himalayan Glaciers are not receding.

Natural Variability: Water is a natural resource, fundamental to life, livelihood, food security and sustainable development; it is also a scarce resource. India has more than 17.11% of the world's population, but has only 4.6% of world's water resources with 2.3% of world's land area. Precipitation and snow melt provide the fresh water; though they are renewable, they are highly variable with space and time; climate change plays vital role in the year to year water availability over different parts of India.

At national level the variability of southwest monsoon precipitation [June to September] appears to be very low – coefficient of variation is 9.9% -- but as we go smaller areas like state or met sub-division they are higher – Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema & Telangana sub-divisions, respectively they are 22.2%, 28.8% & 23.5%. The rainfall in July, August & September months over Telangana met sub-division vary highly between 25-50 mm and more than 400-425 mm in a month. This is the type of temporal variability we experience. In the case of special variation, the drought proneness reaches as high as 60% of the years in rain shadow zone of Western Ghats like Anantapur-Bellary-Sangly zone to zero percent in good rainfall zones. Without understanding these, people make statements like “unusually extreme”.

Destruction of Western Ghats and Himalayas, more particularly foot-hills, will have disastrous effect on climate, more particularly on precipitation. For example, with the removal of hillock in the Santacruz Airport for the expansion of runways, reduced the rainfall by about 300 mm; but subsequently with densely built tall structures all around brought the rainfall to more or less to the original condition.

Earth's climate is dynamic and always changing through the natural cycle. What we are experiencing now is part of this system. All India Southwest monsoon precipitation, that constitutes 78% of the annual, since 1871 to date followed a 60-year cycle. By 1987, two cycles have been completed. The third cycle started in 1987 and will continue up to around 2046 in which the first 30 years form part of better rainfall period [this will end by 2016] and the next 30 years form part of poor rainfall period [starting from 2017]. The frequency of occurrence of floods in the northwestern Indian rivers followed this pattern. Hurricanes and Typhoons also follow this cyclic pattern but in opposite direction. Same is the case with ocean temperatures in Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

However, this is not applicable to individual states or regions. For example, Andhra Pradesh a southeastern part of Indian States receives rainfall not only in southwest monsoon season but also in the northeast monsoon season [October to December] and as well cyclonic storms in summer [pre-monsoon season, April-May]. Both the monsoons rainfall presents a 56-year cycle but in opposite pattern. The frequency of occurrence of cyclonic activity in Bay of Bengal followed northeast monsoon 56-year cycle pattern. The annual rainfall presents 132 year cycle in which in the 66 year below the average cycle part [prior to 1935] present 12 years with excess rainfall [>110% of the average] and in 24 years with deficit rainfall [< 90% of the average]; in the 66-year above the average cycle part [from

1935 to 2000] present 24 years with excess rainfall and in 12 years with deficit rainfall. The current below the average part of 66 years cycle part will be similar to prior to 1935, started in 2001. Water availability in the Krishna River basin presents similar pattern in terms of surplus & deficit.

Agro-climate studies: Because of these scenarios, there is a need to carryout detailed agro-climate analysis at individual station level and region level to develop adaptive measures and as well development of water resources like interlinking of rivers, construction of dams and application of micro-irrigation, etc. In fact such analysis provides basic information such as drought proneness, sustainable growing period and sustainable period for planting.

Dr. S. Jeevananda Reddy

Formerly Chief Technical Advisor WMO/UN

48. Rosalie Ntula, Freelance, Ethiopia

Greetings-

Please find below my answers to your questions

1. Expectations

1.1 I expect the un decade of action on nutrition to consider all the components of the food system because nutrition is a discipline that is affected or that affects all the components/ different steps in the food system i.e. food production, food purchasing power, food marketing, food selection, food education, food consumption, food absorption and utilization and food discharge.

1.2 Addressing all the current and futuristic challenges encountered in all the different steps of the food system will significantly improve nutrition and food security of the people within the next ten (10) years.

1.3 These challenges are: land and water scarcity / conflicts, natural disasters, lack of will to work the land, lack of will to consume healthy food products, health conditions, manpower shortages, motivators/drivers, wars, unemployment, youth unemployment, drought, lack of knowledge of consequences of poor diets, etc...

2 Critical activities among others but not limited to:

2.1. A clear definition of healthy diets, which includes cultural and traditional attributes, should be set and discussed with mothers, during before and after pregnancy by paid health workers.

2.2. A revision of the school curriculum to include food and nutrition as a class should be done.

2.3. Awareness campaigns can be led and policy-makers informed on a regular basis.

2.4. Nutrition strategies and plans of action should be drafted, implemented and monitored.

2.5. Funding of those critical activities can be done through the voluntary contributions of citizens, which will in return be paid back five (05) years later. Records of the contributions should be kept.

3. Commitments

To accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors, there should be monitoring and rewarding of the actors, done by the United Nations different relevant organs.

4. Relevance of forums in the decade

Forums and other relevant movements should continue consultations such as this one, meetings, seminar, workshops, and remain informed. If knowledge and time allow they can also train relevant stakeholders.

Thank you.

Regards.

R. M. Ntula

49. Christine Campeau, facilitator of the discussion, UNSCN

Dear all,

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to the conversation. We have covered a lot of territory; however, let me try to summarize some of the issues that have been addressed.

It's been emphasized that - for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to achieve longstanding results - we need to be forward thinking and adaptive to the constantly evolving nutrition landscape. Emerging issues include modifications in dietary patterns, urbanisation and the effects of climate change on food availability. We have also heard that these pressures cause the greatest stress to those who are most vulnerable, and that this needs to be considered when designing and implementing policies. Attention has also been drawn to the potential to make significant gains in malnutrition by addressing food waste and post-harvest losses.

A recurring theme has been the complexity of malnutrition, as well as the need to involve multiple stakeholders. The UNSCN will do its part to support the UN "delivering as one" by helping to strengthen policy coherence, enhancing dialogue and identifying linkages to foster joint nutrition action, partnership, mutual accountability and advocacy on nutrition.

Isaac Bayor from Ghana suggested government departments and institutions be supported in order to build capacity to jointly plan, budget, implement, and monitor nutrition related goals. This would help avoid duplications and would ensure that policies are translated into actions that are routinely monitored, evaluated, reassessed and improved.

Wilma Freire Zaldumbide from Ecuador reminded us of the need to learn from nutrition success stories, such as from Brazil, Peru and Columbia. While solutions need to be context specific, peer-to-peer exchanges are one way to assess how the right policies implemented in the right countries can successfully reduce under nutrition in less than a decade.

On a similar theme, we have heard that nutrition programs must also be designed with and able to inform a wide range of actors. By building the capacities of front-line workers, food vendors and local practitioners, we ensure that individuals are equipped to regulate against unsafe practices, uncover bottlenecks and create a demand for improved nutritional services. Building the knowledge amongst journalists is important in this respect, as the media has an important role to play in amplifying key messages and promoting healthy eating.

Contributors have also reminded us of the need for stronger collaboration between the nutrition and agriculture stakeholders to reshape the global food system for better nutritional outcomes. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) called for "strengthening sustainable food systems". The Decade takes that one step further by placing its support for the improvement of diet quality through sustainable food systems at the center of global action.

As our online conversation continues, it would be good to hear more about the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, as you see them. We know the longstanding issues so tell us what commitments you expect from whom to go beyond business as usual. How best, for example, can the Decade support women and girls' nutrition?

We very much look forward to the next round of comments in the coming few days.

50. Jackson Tumwine, International consultant in the field of food security and nutrition, Uganda

Thank you all for your contributions.

As for Uganda, I would suggest three key areas of human resource capacity, having a full implementation team in place and engaging high level decision makers.

1. Support Uganda to strengthen human resources in the nutrition secretariat for strategic oversight and coordination: In Uganda, the task of operationalize multisectoral nutrition through Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) at national scale is a monumental undertaking that involves attention to many components of the system. The oversight and coordination of all the necessary activities – involving interactions, advocacy and negotiations with a large number of government and non-government stakeholders and organizations – requires the full-time effort from a Multisectoral Nutrition coordinator located in an institution that enables effective oversight and coordination.
2. Support the country to create a full-time implementation team to support cascading and on-going support to sub-national levels: The task of orienting and training the 115 districts and lower local government levels, and supervising and supporting them in a responsive fashion over time, requires a mobile implementation team dedicated to those functions. Currently, Uganda does not have such a team but the Country has recognized the need.
3. Effectively engage high level decision makers in government and partner organizations in addressing critical bottlenecks, through candid reporting from the technical secretariat, the use of real-time progress markers and the establishment of clear lines of accountability.

The rationale for singling out these three actions from the much larger set of challenges facing the country is that all or most of the other challenges can be addressed if there are dedicated staff and clear procedures in place to do so. The most compelling lesson from our project is that the task of building and maintaining a MSN system is much too large for the human resources currently dedicated to it. And the most encouraging lesson from is that it is well within the power, the resources and the good will of the partners in the country to alleviate this constraint. In addition to these high leverage, strategic actions, which might apply to other countries, there are some additional specific actions needed in Uganda. Some of these can be initiated or accomplished while the three strategic actions are being pursued, but all of them would be addressed in a more effective and sustainable manner if the MSN coordinator and implementation team could be put in place in a timely manner.

Specific Actions:

1. Put in place formal procedures on how things should be done. This is best done by having MSN implementation guidelines to be used at all levels (national and district implementation teams)
2. Need to have a phased work plan for the implementation of Uganda Nutrition Action Plan
3. Cultivate a culture of collaborative decision making/planning for activities and how to communicate internally (within districts, Sectors and Government, CSOs, development partners) and externally with global nutrition agencies such as SUN.

4. Need to conduct institutional capacity assessment for the implementation of MSN at the national and sub national levels
5. Build strategic partnership with all development partners supporting MSN in the country including agreement on key strategic directions for moving forward the country MSN nutrition agenda.
6. Continuous capacity building of all stakeholders involved in MSN implementation at all levels, in the areas of strategic capacity, adaptive management, documentation and sharing of experiences

I'm sorry, I focused more on Uganda, in the next sharing, I will attempt to pay attention to the global picture.

Thank you,

Jackson

51. Simeon Onya, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria [third contribution]

You can not talk about nutrition without first addressing the problem of food insecurity. The vulnerable group (both women and children) in the poverty ridden society hear no language of balance diet; they are after getting their daily meal to survive first. Hence, agricultural programmes of the country should be reviewed and government should be able to develop the political will to achieve increase food production, organise food policy that will incorporate small scale farmers into government programmes. A sustainable solution that encourages and create incentives for people to produce more food for themselves is also advocated; this, i think can be achieved through subsidizing the basic inputs (such as fertilizer, improved seeds and seedlings) and timely dissemination of innovative technologies to the small scale farmers that are scattered all over the country.

52. Victor Owino, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Austria

In order to maximise the impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, food security and food production systems, and availability of methodological capability to monitor progress and evaluate programme effectiveness will be very important. The IAEA can make contribution by providing comparative advantage in the deployment of objective, specific and sensitive nuclear techniques to evaluate nutrition and nutrition-sensitive programmes. The following specific issues will require attention.

1. Ensure improved soil quality – replenish lost nutrients including, through inter-cropping in addition to known methods that work.
2. Guarantee water availability for cropping, livestock and fishery
3. Address land availability and farming systems
4. Design safer food processing and storage, and affordable distribution systems, especially so in the case of landless populations
5. Identify and promote crops and livestock that work and are acceptable in specific contexts keeping in mind circumstances related to shifts in food preferences, gender sensitivity and climate change
6. Ensure that food production guarantees dietary diversity and that food processing and preparation at the household level maximise nutrient bioavailability from foods

7. Create factors that enable farming and food access such as subsidies to farmers and price subsidies on basic foods
8. Empower farmers, including women to enable better bargaining for farm produce prices; encourage cooperatives around focal crop/livestock production/fisheries and communal approach to food production, pricing and marketing
9. Include income generation activities to avoid food being sold for subsistence e.g. in some African contexts cotton was a key cash crop that was grown alongside food and households did not need to sell food to meet their basic needs
10. Design behaviour change communication and social marketing strategies to help communities adopt new dietary patterns or revert to hitherto abandoned indigenous eating practices
11. Ensure gender equity in all aspects
12. Develop capacity and methods/tools to objectively monitor and evaluate the impact of 1-11 above and conduct good social research to understand why people eat the way they do and understand the underlying causes of dietary behaviour changes.
13. Multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral working teams will be needed at levels to achieve the above

53. Erick Boy-Gallego, HarvestPlus/IFPRI, United States of America

To significantly improve nutrition and food security, nationally representative and standardized dietary intake data from high disease and undernutrition countries would be indispensable. An assessment of such data vis-a-vis the data on coverage of other nutrition interventions within these countries would be central to for the development of concerted plans and action to improve nutrition and food security outcomes. Such information would help the governments of high-burden countries to understand the 'state of the nation' or baseline status of their populations, and help prioritize and target actions required to address malnutrition.

Another necessary step towards the eradication of hidden hunger at scale is the improvement of foods most widely eaten by poor people around the world. Staples like wheat, maize, rice, cassava, beans, and sweet potato provide needed dietary energy; however, they are often lacking in essential micronutrients, particularly after milling and other industrial processing methods. There are several effective strategies to improve micronutrient status of populations. Among those commercial food fortification and supplementation are the most effective ones, yet they are often inaccessible to the most vulnerable farming households in rural areas and/or unsustainable for most countries without passing additional costs to consumers (in the case of fortification), or without significant help from international donors (in the case of supplementation). Biofortification, a process by which the density of vitamins and minerals is increased in food crops through plant breeding, agronomic practices, or by genetic engineering is a complementary strategy to fortification and supplementation, as it targets rural households, who may not have easy access fortified foods and/or supplements. Moreover, unlike supplements, which are targeted to certain segments of the population, biofortification improves the daily supply of essential nutrients for all household members. Since biofortified crops are also bred to be high yielding and resistant to pests, diseases, and climate change, they also bring with them the added advantage of improved harvests. In short biofortification pragmatically links agriculture and nutrition.

Biofortification programs are targeted at countries with persistent micronutrient malnutrition and high consumption of locally grown staple foods. National biofortification programs are sustainable because after crops have been developed and officially released for planting, improved seeds and planting materials are delivered in direct partnerships with governments and through the already

existing delivery platforms Biofortification is a truly intersectoral and interdisciplinary approach that involves a wide range of stakeholders: the public and private sectors, plant scientists, nutritionists, economists, civil society, and more, depending on particular context or each target country. Improving the vitamin and mineral nutrient content of foods that people already produce and consumer in significant quantities through biofortification is not only culturally acceptable but also politically attractive, and the cost-effectiveness of this approach justifies the investment.

Alongside the promotion of dietary diversity, nutrition education, women's empowerment, and other essential actions, biofortification is an approach governments are integrating into their policies to achieve their commitments to the Scaling Up Nutrition and 1,000 Days movements.

A WHO Cochrane review committee is currently reviewing the scientific evidence and country experiences of scaling up biofortification (Read more: <http://www.who.int/elena/titles/biofortification/en/>). We are hopeful that biofortification will soon become one of WHO's globally recommended complementary strategies to tackle malnutrition, and more specifically to tackle *micronutrient* malnutrition (also known as hidden hunger) caused by lack of essential vitamins and minerals.

Finally, we are very encouraged by the inclusion of fortification in the Framework for Action adopted by the Second International Conference on Nutrition. Biofortification is one means of fortification by which foods can be enriched sustainably, letting 'nature do the work' for the most part.

Erick Boy
HarvestPlus

54. Chinara Abdraimakovna, Initiative of Roza Otunbayev, Kyrgyzstan

Original contribution in Russian

Здравствуйте уважаемые коллеги. Я хочу выразить благодарность организаторам за предоставленную возможность обмена мнениями по актуальным в настоящее время вопросам.

По первому вопросу:

В эпоху глобализации вопросы продовольственной безопасности, несомненно, являются наиважнейшими. Положительное влияние будет в том, что все компоненты продовольственной безопасности на высоком уровне будут определены и учтены, это- производство (сельское хозяйство, животноводство), просвещение в области правильного питания, использование, также экологические аспекты.

По второму вопросу:

Глобальные климатические изменения в целом ставят все новые вызовы. Изменение климата, резкое похолодание, аномальная жара или выпадение осадков снега в летний период, , ливни, заморозки и др. влияют на урожайность, плодоносимость сельскохозяйственной культуры. Производители сельхозпродукций нуждаются в дотации. Необходима Правительственная поддержка фермерских хозяйств в льготном и безпроцентном кредитовании, финансировании, маркетинге, межправительственные договора. Использование органических удобрений. Борьба с деградацией пастбищ, соблюдение норм и требований использования пастбищ. Распространение использования капельного орошения, повышение урожайности с использованием традиционных, натуральных, органических удобрений.

Разработка госпрограммы и ее мониторинг, в которую необходимо включать пропаганду правильного питания, начиная с рождения, питание матери и ребенка. В этом направлении

добавить экономический компонент, т.е. полезность, рациональность, сбалансированность и комплексность вопросов .

Введение в школьную программу «Продовольственная безопасность и экология» , как предмет . Увеличить посадку деревьев, в т.ч. плодовых деревьев -создание зеленого пояса.

Необходимо освещать весь процесс по средствам массовой информации, для того чтобы все слои населения, а не только глобальном уровне, были информированы о важности продуктовой безопасности, которая напрямую влияет на здоровье и бюджет семьи, общества, страны.

По третьему вопросу:

Необходимо увеличить темп мероприятий по обучению, освещению и пропаганде здорового образа жизни В т.ч. вопросы ожирения человека, сахарный диабет, подвержение стрессам, алкоголизм, табакокурение. Финансирование мероприятий - осуществление за счет госбюджета и донорских средств. Включить в международные проекты (по направлениям) компоненты, касающиеся вышеназванных мероприятий.

По четвертому вопросу:

Консультации, семинары, тренинги должны проводиться на регулярной основе на всех уровнях и сообществах.

Чинара Абдыраимакунова

English translation

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank the facilitators for the opportunity to exchange opinions on the most topical issues.

As for the first question:

There is no doubt, that in the era of globalization, food safety issues are crucial. The positive effect is that all the components of food security at high level will be identified and addressed, it means: production (agriculture, livestock), nutrition education, utilization, and environmental aspects.

As for the second question:

Global climate change, in general, pose new challenges. Climate change, drastic frosting, heat waves or snowfalls in summer, heavy rains, frost etc. affect yields and crop productivity. Agricultural producers need subsidies. Government support to farmers is required in regard to soft lending and interest-free loans, financing, marketing, inter-governmental agreements. Organic fertilizers usage. Fight against pasture degradation, observance of standards and usage requirements for pastures. Mainstreaming drip irrigation usage, increasing yields using traditional, natural, organic fertilizers.

State programme design and monitoring, that should include promotion of proper nutrition since birth, maternal and child nutrition. The economic dimension should be added here, i.e. usefulness, rationality, sustainability and complexity of the issues. To integrate Food Security and Environmental Studies into the school curriculum as a separate subject. To plant more tree, including fruit trees – to create the “green belt”.

This whole process should be covered by the media, in order to inform all sections of population (and not only at the global level) about the importance of food security, which directly affects the health and the budget of families, the society, and the country.

As for the third question:

It is necessary to accelerate activities on training, coverage and promotion of healthy lifestyles, including such issues as obesity, diabetes, exposure to stress, alcohol, smoking. Financing should be covered by the state budget and donor funds. To include the components related to the aforementioned activities into international projects (activity-specific).

As for the forth question:

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

Chinara Abdyraimakovna

55. Bibhu Santosh Behera, Ouat Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Respected UNEP/FAO Members

Greetings from India.

This is our Innovation on "Village Knowledge Centre" at Grass root level to impart Knowledge from Ground level. Please share this innovation to make your world Knowledge Savy and strengthen your farmer friends.

Regards

Bibhu Santosh

Independent People's Scientist

Green College, Muniguda, Rayagada

Attachment: <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Bibhu-Knowledge%20Scientist.docx>

56. Bill Butterworth, Land Research Ltd, United Kindgom

There is nothing more important, nothing more effective, nothing more economical and long-lasting than educating the farmer in how to manage his ever-changing circumstances and environment to achieve sustainability for his family.

Bill Butterworth

The Director

Land Research Ltd

57. Claudio Schuftan, PHM, Viet Nam [second contribution]

I could not disagree more with Erick (and I guess with IFPRI). Although he mentions diet diversification passing by, he puts an unwarranted emphasis on biofortification and less so on fortification. This moves the focus totally away from the social, economic and political determinants of malnutrition -- which is where the Decade should put most of its emphasis.

Sustainable solutions are not from the supply side.

I wonder what the other contributors think.

Claudio in Ho Chi Minh City

58. Grocery Manufacturers Association, United States of America

Introduction

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA)¹ thanks the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) for the opportunity to comment on maximizing the impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

The Decade of Action will impact a number of issues of interest to GMA, particularly regarding the role of the private sector in contributing to improving nutrition. To truly achieve the Decade of Action's goals, we believe all facets of society, including the private sector, have an important role to play in helping people everywhere achieve and maintain healthy diets and lifestyles.

Given the complex nature of nutrition and health, it is essential that all stakeholders work together to develop holistic, sustainable solutions. We believe that real progress can be made by constructive, transparent engagement between governments, the private sector, and civil society.

GMA welcomes the international effort through the Decade of Action to place nutrition at the heart of sustainable development, and we agree food security and nutrition are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Industry stands ready to continue working collaboratively with governments, consumers, and other stakeholders to help provide the products and information people need to eat healthy, balanced diets.

In fact, GMA is deeply committed to and has actively undertaken industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives that contribute to improving nutrition. Our initiatives include actions to:

Provide consumers with a greater variety of products, including through reformulation;^{2,3}

Label products with fact-based and easy to understand nutrition information on the front of packages, supplemented by a robust educational and media campaign to help consumers interpret this information and make informed dietary decisions;⁴

- Limit marketing to children and in schools;⁵ and
- Promote balanced diets and healthy lifestyles,⁶ as in our support and active participation in U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign.⁷

1 Founded in 1908 and based in Washington, D.C., GMA is the voice of more than 300 leading food, beverage and consumer product companies that sustain and enhance the quality of life for hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the globe.

2 GMA Health and Wellness Survey: <http://www.gmaonline.org/issues-policy/health-nutrition/providing-innovative-and-healthy-choices/product-reformulation/>.

3 GMA infographic: http://www.gmaonline.org/file-manager/Health_Nutrition/GMA-health-and-wellness-survey-infographic-fullsize.jpg.

4 GMA Facts Up Front: <http://www.factsupfront.org/>.

5 Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative: <https://www.bbb.org/council/the-national-partner-program/national-advertising-review-services/childrens-food-and-beverage-advertising-initiative/>.

6 See Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation: <http://www.healthyweightcommit.org/>.

7 GMA press release: <http://www.gmaonline.org/news-events/newsroom/first-lady-michelle-obama-addresses-grocery-manufacturers-association-scienc/>.

To maximize the contributions of all stakeholders and achieve the goal of eradicating hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition worldwide, GMA suggests further work to:

- **Improve the evidence base regarding effective interventions:** While the evidence of the cost of malnutrition is well-established, industry and governments need to better understand how to identify factors that most influence healthy diets and lifestyles, implement effective interventions, and measure success in actually changing consumer behavior and improving health.
- **Integrate comprehensive approaches to foster healthy diets, lifestyles, and sustainable food systems:** Effective nutrition interventions must take into account total dietary consumption, as well as lifestyle factors. Public policies should take into account differences in patterns of consumptions and should align with other priorities across the food chain (e.g., food safety; food waste; access to markets) and, ultimately, support sustainable development.

Industry Contributions to Improving Nutrition

The food and beverage industry has a long and successful history of engaging on nutrition and health issues at national, regional, and global levels. In fact, key public health initiatives, such as the development of salt reduction strategies, could not have been achieved without constructive engagement between health authorities and our industry. We believe it is critical for work on the Decade of Action to incorporate the knowledge, expertise, and resources of all relevant stakeholders, including by acknowledging and building upon the success of industry commitments, some examples of which are described below.

Product Innovation

GMA has documented efforts by U.S. food and beverage companies to reformulate and innovate products and provide clear nutrition labeling and consumer information. In 2014, GMA published cumulative results (2002-2013) of these efforts by 69 member companies representing about \$245 billion in annual U.S. sales (roughly half of U.S. food and beverage sales). Highlights include:

- 94 percent of companies reported nutritional improvements in over 30,000 products and sizes, with reductions in saturated fat, trans-fat, calories, sugar and carbohydrates and sodium;
- 81 percent of companies reported providing enhanced front-of-pack labeling information; and
- 77 percent of companies reported sponsorship of national and local initiatives to improve nutrition education and encourage regular physical activity, investing over \$300 million in these activities between 2002 and 2013.

A separate study in 2014 by GMA demonstrated a 16 percent reduction in sodium in member company products purchased between 2008 and 2013, with decreases appearing in those food categories that contributed the most to sodium intakes in the United States.

To further demonstrate the impact of industry initiatives, GMA offers the example of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation (HWCF). Founded in 2009, the HWCF is a partnership between industry, non-governmental organizations, and educators whose aim is to reduce obesity, especially childhood obesity. HWCF members voluntarily pledged to collectively remove one trillion calories from their products (against a 2007 baseline) by the end of 2015.

HWCF focuses its efforts on families and schools and promotes ways to help people achieve a healthy weight through energy balance – calories in and calories out.

A study published in 2014 by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) found that by 2012 HWCF participating companies had collectively cut 6.4 trillion calories, exceeding their 2015 goal by more than 400 percent. Companies achieved this calorie-reduction goal by taking a variety of actions, including innovating lower-calorie products, reformulating products where possible, and reducing portion sizes.

Researchers at the Hudson Institute evaluated the impact of HWCF’s commitments on product sales. The study concluded:

- 82 percent of participating companies’ sales growth was driven by lower-calorie products - over four times the growth rate rate for higher-calorie products;
- Lower-calorie products’ sales increased \$1.25 billion vs. less than \$300 million for higher-calorie products; and
- Lower-calorie products accounted for ten of the 15 new products with sales of over \$50 million.

Nutrition Information and Education

GMA supports fact-based nutrition labeling that helps consumers make informed choices about balanced diets. Facts Up Front (FUF) is a voluntary initiative created in 2011 by the Washington, DC-based Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) and the Food Marketing Institute (FMI). FUF is a simple and easy-to-use labeling system that puts key nutrition facts on the front of food and beverage packages – displaying the calories, saturated fat, sodium, and sugar in each serving.

Almost 90 percent of U.S. grocery sales by GMA members use FUF. GMA members have made significant investments to develop the FUF consumer website (www.factsupfront.org), consumer research, and stakeholder outreach including media campaigns and ongoing consumer education efforts. To continue to improve consumer understanding, GMA and FMI are extending the reach of consumer education efforts through key partnerships with groups such as Share our Strength. Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters program, in support of its goal of “No Kid Hungry,” will feature FUF in training materials for teaching basic nutrition, shopping, and cooking skills to individuals in low-income areas in the United States.

A study published in September, 2015⁸ in the Journal of Consumer Affairs reflects the Facts Up Front communications campaign evaluation survey. The publication provides further support that Facts-Up-Front icons are visible, easy to understand, and helpful to the consumer. Additionally, two important articles on front-of-pack nutrition labeling were published in respected journals in spring 2014. The first article, published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

(JAND)⁹, is based on consumer research GMA commissioned the International Food Information Council Foundation to conduct in 2010 to examine consumer comprehension, ease of understanding,

8 Kees, J. and Fitzgerald, M. P. (2015), [Who Uses Facts Up Front? A Baseline Examination of Who is Using Standardized Front-of-Package Nutrition Disclosures](#). Journal of Consumer Affairs, 50: np.

9 Smith Edge, Marianne et al. [The Impact of Variations in a Fact-Based Front-of-Package Nutrition Labeling System on Consumer Comprehension](#). Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 114: 843 - 854.e8.

and interpretation of nutrition information in the uniformly formatted, voluntary front-of-package labeling system that was under consideration by GMA and FMI. The research and subsequent JAND article finds that robust front-of-package labeling can significantly improve consumers' ability to identify and understand a food's nutrition information, and to make informed choices about their purchases. Several articles in respected journals have found that fact-based front-of-package labeling like FUF significantly improves consumers' ability to identify and understand nutrition information and make informed choices about their purchases.¹⁰

GMA strongly supports efforts to improve and expand nutrition education. As noted above, GMA and FMI are extending the reach of consumer education efforts through key partnerships with groups such as Share our Strength. In addition, GMA is a founding member of the U.S. Nutrition Labeling Education Consortium (NLEC), a consumer-focused public-private partnership aimed at coordinating efforts to strengthen public information and education on food, menu, vending, and other nutrition labeling in the United States. NLEC is designed to bring together representatives from the food and beverage industries, health professional organizations, consumer organizations, and others, including potentially government liaisons to coordinate efforts for stronger consumer nutrition labeling education.

We note there are significant evidence gaps in understanding how label format impacts consumer behavior. GMA supports the development of science-based global standards in the Codex Alimentarius, for example to establish dietary reference values for individual nutrients. Where science-based standards exist, GMA urges countries to work toward regulatory coherence wherever possible, so as to avoid unnecessary divergences.

GMA believes that all public health policies must be based on scientific evidence. International recommendations and national-level policies not based on science undermine international norms and standards, including those set by the Codex Alimentarius, and impose direct and indirect costs that could limit improvements to public health. Furthermore, interventions that isolate individual products or nutrients and fail to address total dietary consumption and lifestyles (including ways to encourage less sedentary behavior) are unlikely to impact meaningfully the incidence of obesity and NCDs.

Consumers must be encouraged to adopt a balanced diet – eating a wide variety of foods in the right proportions to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight. Focusing on total diets rather than individual ingredients or specific foods is consistent with consumer behavior and thus more likely to be effective over time. There is no agreed scientific basis to classify individual foods as “healthy” or “unhealthy” according to their nutritional composition. Rather, there is sound science supporting categorization of “good diets” and “bad diets,” based on consumption of nutrients from all sources.

Responsible Marketing

The 2010 WHO Set of Recommendations on the Marketing of Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children formally recognized industry-led self-regulation as an effective means of reducing the impact of food marketing on children. U.S. companies have voluntarily taken concrete steps to help drive changes in the marketplace and improve the types of products advertised to children. In 2006, the U.S. Council of Better Business Bureaus (BBB) and leading

10 Kees, J., Royne, M. B. and Cho, Y.-N. (2014), Regulating Front-of-Package Nutrition Information

Disclosures: A Test of Industry Self-Regulation vs. Other Popular Options. Journal of Consumer Affairs, 48: 147–174.

U.S. food and beverage advertisers created the Children’s Food & Beverage Advertising Initiative (CFBAI).

Under CFBAI’s Core Principles¹¹ participants commit that in advertising primarily directed to children under age 12 (“child-directed advertising”) they will depict only healthier or better-for-you foods. The participants agree to CFBAI oversight and to be held accountable for failure to comply with their commitments. CFBAI extensively monitors covered media for compliance and requires participants to submit detailed self-assessments annually. Each year CFBAI publishes a compliance and progress report.¹² It has found outstanding compliance every year.

Since December 31, 2013, participants may advertise only foods that meet CFBAI’s category-specific uniform nutrition criteria in advertising primarily directed to children under age 12.

CFBAI’s uniform nutrition criteria replaced and are stronger than previously used company-specific nutrition criteria.

Conclusion

GMA is committed to working collaboratively to achieve the goals of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. We appreciate the opportunity to consult on maximizing the Decade of Action’s impact, and we hope our comments demonstrate the depth and breadth of industry’s commitment and experience.

Submitted by:

Melissa A. San Miguel

Senior Director, Global Strategies
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Washington, DC

59. Kuruppacharil V. Peter, World Noni Research Foundation, India [first contribution]

India next to Brazil legislated access and availability of food as a right of its citizens (1250 million) by an act of Parliament in 2013 (FSA-2013). It has a time tested food distribution system in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Chattishgarh. The mid day meal scheme implemented in above states through primary schools (Anganvadi) is lauded and appreciated. One egg/day/student or one banana/day/student enriched the nutritive value of the food served mostly rice based. Recently millet based food packets are supplied free of cost. Efforts are made to make available clean drinking water. Immunisation against polio is done by recording infants in the locality and administering anti-polio vaccine. There are classes on personnel and family hygiene. Open defecation is seldom and toilets are made available. Despite all the above measures India houses the largest population of anaemic, wasted and underweighed women and children. Protein deficiency is rampant. Mosquito transmitted diseases like chicken guinea and water borne dysentery are common.

¹¹ CFBAI’s Core Principles and other program materials are available on CFBAI’s website at www.bbb.org/kids_food.

¹² A Report on Compliance and Progress During 2013 (Dec. 2014), available at <http://www.bbb.org/globalassets/local-bbbs/council-113/media/cfbai/cfbai-2013-progress-report-dec-2014.pdf>.

In India we have the grass root level Panchayat system of governance. The ward councillors need to be empowered and made responsible for the nutritional and food security of the people around.

60. Albert Fosso, Namibian Horticulture Trust, Namibia

Dear all,

In order to maximize the impact of the UN Decade on Nutrition:

UN should team with work in partnership with government.

Develop and implement projects in a more sustainable way.

UN already lost the fight on food security and nutrition, they should work with NGOs very active in the field.

At each country UN should build a technical team where most important stakeholders are represented.

Best Regards,

Albert Fosso Founder (Trustee)

www.nhtnamibia.com

61. Florence Egal, Food Security and Nutrition expert, Italy

While the present interest in nutrition (including the Decade) is most welcome, sustainable responses to all forms of malnutrition will in my view require a local approach involving all actors. The food and health sectors should be held accountable for jointly supporting local authorities to make this happen, and donors to co-fund their efforts.

The illusion that standard interventions can provide a response should not be encouraged any further. Clearly common principles should guide the process of developing and implementing local strategies, but applied to specific contexts will result in local specific and pragmatic strategies, which will draw on the array of tools and interventions developed in the last decades.

There is no question that evidence is needed to help policy-makers make appropriate decisions but this evidence should be practice-based and take on board the experience of local actors. Multi-disciplinary teams from local centers of expertise would be best placed to review and document promising practices and assess their impacts on health, jobs and social equity, diets and environment (the different dimensions of sustainable development).

Regarding funding, local strategies to address all forms of malnutrition would help articulate needs and resources. Relevant government institutions could then explore how best to pool existing resources and ensure convergence of relevant programmes and projects, in collaboration with civil society actors. Centers of expertise could reorient their activities to support and learn from local processes. And last but not least the private sector should play an active role in removing constraints and supporting solutions.

One of the challenges to address is the inconsistency, contradictions and asymmetry of laws, regulations and procedures at local level. Lawyers and institution experts are needed to revisit this context.

Another one is the conflict of interest underlying some of the so-called "nutrition interventions".

As the saying goes, nutrition is way too important to be left to nutritionists, health to health staff and food to the food sector. Unless people and local institutions become real actors in local development processes, it is highly unlikely that the Decade will achieve its intended purposes.

62. Tricia Callender, Spanner Strategies, United States of America

I am so glad to see the United Nations focus on Nutrition and Food Security. One tool that I think is being under-used is digital platforms. This is especially important when trying to reach food insecure youth. Though there is a digital divide between developed and developing nations, the digital divide is being closed rapidly. Rather than us finding food insecure youth, and citizens generally, we could find effective ways to listen to what they are already saying and map it in order to attack trouble regions more effectively. This would not require a bespoke platform, but simply a way to comb through social media (which people are already on and using heavily) to unearth messages and recommendations from the people living it, about how to help solve the nutrition problems. We must take better advantage of the egalitarian potential of digital platforms in order to promote an egalitarian world.

You could partner with other like-minded agencies in order to pool resources effectively to get things done. When I was at UNICEF we worked with UNDP and UN Women on inequalities initiatives, focusing on digital. People want to tell you their situation and how to change it. They want to be included in the problem solving. By partnering, we managed to create the largest and most successful online consultation platform in UN history. I say that to say, without that feedback the SDGs would have looked a lot different.

Whatever change does happen has to feature a healthy helping of people living in poverty and food insecurity in the conversation, the most effective, fastest and cheapest way to do that is through digital means. More focus needs to be concentrated in this area.

Dr. Tricia Callender

President and CEO of Spanner Strategies

www.spannerstrategies.com

New York and Johannesburg

63. Veronica Kirogo, State Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya

Dear Moderator,

My name is Veronica Kirogo from Kenya and I am working at the State Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

In the past couple of decades there has been a lot of emphasis on nutrition-specific interventions in addressing malnutrition, yet only limited impact has been realized as evidenced by the prevalence of stunting in Kenya which stands at 26 percent. Similarly, the focus on increasing productivity, commercialization and competitiveness of agricultural commodities has not resulted in improvement of food and nutrition security in Kenya particularly at household level. However, there are some interventions either by the government or partners that may have resulted in improved nutrition and food security, but with limited opportunities for sharing of experiences, lessons learnt or best practices, replication of these success stories is difficult.

My expectation for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is the need to focus on documentation and dissemination of successful food and nutrition security interventions for replication. There is also need for a standardized tool for advocating for increased budgetary allocation on the food and nutrition security sector. Seventy five percent of the Kenyan population is youth; therefore food and nutrition security programmes that specifically target this category should be formulated as they have the potential for feeding the future. The use of mobile telephone technology in dissemination of food and nutrition messages would ensure wide coverage since the majority of Kenyans have mobile phones.

Developing countries should be encouraged to establish or strengthen a food and nutrition security council in order to harmonize coordination, funds mobilization and implementation of programmes, prioritize activities and pool resources. The activities would be funded jointly by the government, partners and private sector. There is a need to focus more on nutrition-sensitive technologies since they are sustainable and more often homegrown solutions.

64. Luty Gomezcaeres Perez, Corporación Universitaria del Caribe, Colombia

Original contribution in Spanish

Colombia es un país que tiene un problema principal y es la corrupción, lo que impide que la buena voluntad de muchos se haga evidente. No podemos confiar en las entidades que se encarguen de ayudar en lo concerniente a la alimentación de nuestro niños, por lo tanto una ayuda sería que organizaciones sin animo de lucro, pero no las ong nuestras, hablo de entidades con Rotary internacional u otra, se encarguen de los programas de alimentación. Con comunicación directa con el alto gobierno, porque ya una vez intentaron hacerlo y los mandos medios no dejaron que eso prosperara, porque para todo piden dinero. Solo así podemos garantizar que la comida en nuestro país le llegue a quienes la necesitan.

El control de los programas deben tenerlo organizaciones internacionales. El gobierno debe entregar ese dinero a una entidad que responda en donde no haya intervención de ellos.

English translation

Colombia has a major problem: corruption, which impedes the prevalence of the goodwill of many people. We cannot rely on public institutions to improve child nutrition. We need help from non-profit organizations to take charge of nutrition programmes. I am not referring to Colombian NGOs but to organizations like Rotary International or others. Direct communication with senior government officials would be necessary, as several previous attempts failed due to the corrupt behaviour of middle-ranking officials, who are asking for money for whatever reason. This is the only way to ensure that food reaches those in need.

Programs should be monitored by international organizations. In addition, public funds should be assigned to these entities to work in areas which are not covered by government interventions.

65. Onoja Ifeoma Uzoamaka, Expert in maternal and child health nutrition, Nigeria

My name is Onoja Ifeoma Uzoamaka, I am an expert in the area of Maternal and Child Health Nutrition.

My contribution towards this is that:

1. In Nigeria, effort should be geared towards the creation of jobs for the unemployed
2. enforcing intake of key nutrients like folate, iron amongst the pregnant women
3. re-enforcing the promotion of exclusive breast feeding

4. encouraging agriculture, and
5. involving the political leaders in creating an enabling environment for nutrition works to thrive (security, easy access to health facility and improving in feeding of the vulnerable groups).

66. Rengalakshmi Raj, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, India

Dear madam/ sir

Of the three components of nutrition, protein and micronutrient deficiencies are critical. Here attention is needed at the production domain to produce nutrient-dense foods. This is in the context of the recent studies among different production systems and its nutrient profile, showed that organic and sustainable production systems help to produce products with high nutrient contents, especially micronutrients and vitamins. Hence focus on supply side issues needs equal attention.

Regards
Rengalakshmi

67. Barrie Margetts, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

I would very much echo the comments of Claudio and Florence. It is also important to ensure that any community based approaches also take all forms of malnutrition, and not ignore food systems that are driving obesity. As Corinna Hawkes said at the recent WPHNA congress on World Nutrition in Cape Town, we need to think about diet quality, and not be driven by reductionist science that favours single nutrient interventions using supplementation or fortification without addressing the underlying causes. Key to changing the approach is building capacity, of all involved.

68. Khairul Zarina Mohd Yusop, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Dear Moderators,

First and foremost, I would like to thank for this opportunity to exchange opinions on how to maximize the impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Herewith, please find below the comments on behalf of the Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia.

Thank you.

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next 10 years?

Despite significant progresses on nutritional status of the population since the first Rome Declaration on Nutrition in 1992, there is still a lot more to be done to improve and strengthen the global nutrition as multiple threats of malnutrition. The burden of NCDs continues to rise in Malaysia. Although the causes are complex, unhealthy diet is one of the major risk factors. On the other hand, under-nutrition continues to be a problem in certain segments of our population. Tackling the double-burden of malnutrition is central to ensuring the achievement of the global nutrition targets, the diet-related global targets on NCDs and the recently endorsed SDGs, which will lead to a more resilient, equitable,

economically stable and healthy population. The declaration of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition will help better garner all the commitments from all sectors to end all forms of malnutrition.

2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

Some of the critical activities that need to be included in the UN Work Programme are the integration of nutrition considerations in all development policies, making agriculture more nutrition-enhancing and advocating for school/urban farming. It is also important to give focus on strategies for behavioural change in transforming unhealthy eating habits and lifestyle which contribute to obesity problem among the population. To emphasise on nutrition promotion for the first 1000 days of life, effective strategies to address stunting and obesity problems among children also need to be highlighted.

Malaysia has reviewed its National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia (NPANM) for the time frame of 2016-2025 to be in line with the global targets in addressing the current nutrition situation of our population. The strategies of a whole-society and whole-government approach to address unhealthy eating and inactive living have been incorporated in this plan. Life-course approach has been implemented for nutrition programmes and activities in the country. In order to transform the population to eat healthily and be more active, the implementation of 'soft' and 'hard' policies towards this agenda are given greater emphasis.

The increase prevalence of overweight and obesity among school children is an emerging issue in Malaysia. Several strategies and activities to halt this problem have been identified such as the implementation of the Policy Options to Combat Obesity in Malaysia, the revision of the School Canteen Guidelines by banning unhealthy food item to be sold in the school canteen, expansion of nutrition promotion activities and strengthening monitoring and surveillance system for school children. Obesity and NCD problems are advocated to all school children, parents and teachers through the empowerment of Parents-Teachers Association (PTA).

To support the ICN2 Framework of Action towards Sustaining Food Systems for Healthy Diets, Malaysia has elevated the component of food and nutrition security as one of the objectives in the NPANM III, 2016-2025. Thus, to reshape food system to promote healthy diet needs a coherent policies from all stakeholders throughout the supply chain. Close collaboration with the food producers or food industries as well as the agriculture sectors are crucial in ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability of safe, nutritious and healthy foods in a sustainable and resilient way. Government should take the leadership to mobilise all the relevant stakeholders.

3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

To accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from various actors, continuous engagement and involvement of the relevant sectors should be ensured. Trans- and multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination is needed to successfully tackle malnutrition in all its forms. Coordination and commitment among different stakeholders are crucial. Strong and continuous inter and intra-sectoral coordination and engagement are essential at all stages, from the formulation of the policies and specific plan of actions as well as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Accountability and ownership of the activities/ programmes are very important to ensure all activities are being implemented.

Therefore, the roles of non-health sectors have to be clearly defined and well explained in the various nutrition and nutrition-related platforms. The integration of nutrition objectives and consideration into their policies is pivotal. Strong political commitment such as the Cabinet Committee on a Healthy Environment chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister will strengthen and mobilise the collaboration and involvement of various sectors in achieving nutrition agenda and targets.

4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

Other relevant forums such as The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) can significantly contribute to the Decade in line with their functions which providing and strengthening strategic guidance and advocacy in nutrition at the highest level. They can also facilitate dialogues as well as engaging the relevant stakeholders/sectors for strengthening nutrition action and mainstreaming nutrition into development policies.

69. Lal Manavado, University of Oslo affiliate, Norway

Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Before we proceed, I would like to ascertain what precise result of “UN Decade of Action on Nutrition” we intend to maximise. There would be a general agreement on undertaking suitable action to achieve this result, if it represents a significant increase in the number of people to whom a sustainable and adequate supply of wholesome food is made available at an equitable cost. This submission outlines a generic strategy for the purpose easily adapted to suit the local conditions.

If we intend “not to leave anyone behind”, it is necessary to change the modern food systems not only into a source of sustainable and an adequate supply of wholesome food available to everybody, but also making their use just and fair to all. This is not identical with increased agricultural production, but requires a holistic examination of what changes in and around the food systems are necessary.

Every social practice is governed by a set of norms. Some norms are common to several practices including the use of food systems. A food system is an array of tools designed and used by the people in order to satisfy their nutritional needs. Its use represents a social practice in use, even when a rare subsistence farmer may operate it from beginning to the end for his sole benefit.

However, before we take a look at the food systems, it is important to consider their operating ambience, i.e., the other practices in the society, for they may influence its structure and operation both directly and indirectly. Some of the most important among those are the political, legal, educational, trade, communications and transport practices of a country.

Politics determine the policies that govern these and the other practices like agriculture that are involved in constituting a food system. When it is possible to implement those policies with sufficient skill, their success depends on their appropriateness and adequacy. These depend on the competence of their formulators.

Their incompetence would result in policies that would result in inadequacies in a food system. However, inappropriate and inadequate policy formulation is not necessarily a consequence of frank incompetence, but it may also be due to a too rigid adherence to the notion of institutional autonomy, which manifests itself as ‘thinking in silos’. Sometimes, one’s desire to wield an unlimited power within an institutional domain may lead to the same undesirable result.

But, inappropriate and/or inadequate policies may also arise from incompetence due to corruption, nepotism, rigged elections, gaining and/retaining power by force, belief in some untenable political doctrine, etc. Unfortunately, there is little one could deal with this not uncommon problem at

international level apart from mild verbal criticism or printed and signed resolutions of dubious effectiveness.

When it is possible to enhance the requisite competence, policy formulation should strive towards the greatest possible policy congruence in the areas relevant to achieving the optimal output from the food systems in use. The following non-exhaustive list may provide some pointers towards areas for further enquiry:

1. Environment policy that protects and promotes the ecosystem services as well as aiming at environmental regeneration.
2. Agriculture education and training appropriate to a country's food culture, hence to its climate and geography, and with respect to its real need for employment, i.e., whether labour- or capital-intensive agricultural methods would provide the highest number of jobs.
3. Legal policy, which when implemented would result in laws that demand and require policy congruence with respect to the food systems that will not leave anyone nutritionally behind.
4. A health policy that promotes balanced nutrition in line with the local food culture as a remedy against the spreading of NCD's and deficiency diseases.
5. Trade policy that supports and promotes the local food systems, and resorts to 'free trade' only insofar as it supplements but not competes with the local food systems, or promote NCD's and deficiency diseases.
6. Communications policy that favours the use of waterways and railways extensively for transport while not forgetting the need for road networks.
7. Transport policy to encourage haulage by waterways and railways rather than by road transport.
8. Legal policies that lead to making laws to guarantee land tenure to farmers, sole forest harvesting rights to the original inhabitants of the area, fishing rights of small-scale fishermen, limiting large-scale harvesting of the seas, lakes, rivers, etc., by capital-intensive equipment, etc.
9. Across the board policy assessment to cut down on weapons expenditure, prestige projects with a view to channelling resources to agriculture, health and education.
10. An employment policy that takes into account the principle of non-discrimination, economic reality, achievable employment possibilities, etc.

Assuming that those policies are appropriate and adequate, their contribution to the success of a food system depends on how skilfully they are implemented. It is axiomatic that any tool may fail to serve its purpose for two main reasons, viz., problems related to its usage or to the defects in the tool itself. These may be called usage and structural problems respectively.

Assuming that a food system is structurally adequate, its optimal usage requires an adequate number of people to run it, which in turn depends on having access to a sufficient pool of its potential operators to renew its aging counterparts. Diminution of this pool is becoming a growing problem in many countries today as fewer and fewer young people take to agricultural pursuits.

Meanwhile, a food system may be ineptly used, or misused as any other tool and there is no a priori reason to assume that food systems are an exception. Therefore, maximising the impact of the "decade" will have to involve steps to ensure that the people's access to food is not adversely affected either by those problems related to usages of food systems, or from the defects in them.

Once we have traced those possible inadequacies and rectified them, we should then ascertain whether we need to take steps to change the output of the food systems in use today. If this should be required, we should next ascertain the extent of the qualitative and the quantitative changes in the

output of the food systems concerned. Finally, we can identify the optimal means of achieving our objective, and use them.

Achieving this requires understanding the generic structure of a food system. We can visualise it as a chain of generically identical sub-systems spanning the gap between a real producer of food and an end-user of his produce. Some of the sub-systems are used within the others, for example, storage and transport systems. This represents a recursive use of a system. Here is a list of some generic components of a food system (For more information, please see the end note.):

1. Yielder system that actually generates food or animals. It may be a forest, body of water, or a farm. It may be entirely dependent on natural ecosystem services, or partially depend on man-made substitutes, eg. irrigation, manuring.
2. End-user system that consists of two sub-systems:
 1. Procurement system where food is procured for use, for instance harvesting one's own food or by purchase.
 2. Preparation system which may contain two sub-systems, viz., a refiner system to remove the inedible, clean and trimmed or cut, and then passed onto the culinary system where is made ready to eat.
3. Storage system which may vary from the family fridge or a farmer's grain bin to a very large modern storage facility.
4. Transport system may range from a man's back to ocean-going grain carriers.
5. Preserver system is intended to ensure the longevity of perishable items. It may resort to drying, salting, conserving, freezing, etc.
6. Selling system resulting from the division of labour introduced by social evolution. It has given rise to several sub-systems:
 1. Packaging system purported to serve customer's convenience.
 2. Commercialised procurement and preparation systems directly linked to a selling system. This may range from street sausage stall to a famed restaurant.
 3. A combination of procurement, refiner, storage and selling systems as seen in ready-cut meat and vegetable packages.
 4. A combination of procurement, preparation, storage and selling systems involved in industrial food manufacture and sales.

V. Advertising system whose existence is supposed to be justified because it informs the public about the food items available for sale.

I have purposely avoided until now agricultural research and technology which has become an increasingly important adjunct to the yielder systems in use. Their basic purpose is twofold, viz., to understand how to improve the output of yielder systems with reference to some man-made standard, and then to develop technical means of achieving it.

Apart from steps to increase the physical mass, colour, etc., of the yield itself, this activity manifests itself as a supplement to the natural ecosystem services, on which agriculture historically had depended. Irrigation, use of fertilisers, biocides, etc., are examples of this. This adjunctive system is likewise prone to the shortcomings described earlier.

Obviously, the inept use of a yielder system would manifest itself as a lowered output, but it is not necessarily due to not using the most modern cultivars or breeds of livestock. In fact, their supplanting the traditional varieties could entail a price the farmers could not afford, may be unsuited owing to the local conditions, or users may not be skilled enough to manage them.

Introduction of high-yield cereals that depend on an extensive use of fertilisers and biocides during the “Green Revolution” of the 1960’s is a classic example of this. It represents use of inappropriate materials and methods in agriculture. It represents an inept use of an adjunctive system.

Even when the physical components of a yielder system are adequate and suitable for a given locality, its users, i.e., farmers and labourers may fail to put them into their optimal use owing to their lack of knowledge and skill. This is not synonymous with their lack of familiarity with the most modern means of agriculture, but rather their lack of know-how and skills in tried and proven one’s compatible with their own food culture. Its resolution requires appropriate agriculture education and training.

Inept use of any other sub-system would result in waste of food. It is worth remarking that ‘targeted advertising’ of industrial food has reduced the sales of fresh fruits and vegetables leading to their wastage due to spoilage in shops. It is heartening to note that wastage of food has now begun to receive the attention it merits.

Unskilled use of adequate storage facilities, Inefficient running of otherwise ample transport and adjunctive systems as well as the commercialised sets of sub-systems of a food system (wastage of food in restaurants, ready to use packaging, and in industrial food factories) and the domestic wastage of food, all contribute to this undesirable result.

Now we come to the misuse of some component of a food system. This may appear to be a controversial postulate at the first glance, but it is not. We invented food systems, and the sole justification of its invention is that its use is believed to enable the people to secure an adequate and balanced diet in a sustainable fashion at an affordable cost.

Nutrition is one of our most important fundamental needs, while money is only a secondary tool whose justification in this instance, is in that it enables us to use the food procurement system, replacing the barter system of yore. So, the use of yielder system to grow cash crops or to use seller system to earn foreign exchange by selling a national dietary ingredient likes pea nuts (eg. Senegal and Camerouns) while malnutrition is a problem, represents a misuse of a part of a food system.

A familiar insidious misuse of a seller system involves dumping surplus produce in another country’s food market, and thereby undermining the long-term well-being of its own yielder system. Another misuse of the seller system is its encroachment into foreign food markets to sell products of dubious nutritive or gastronomical value claiming it to represent free trade.

Now we come to the situation where all the operators possess adequate know-how and skill while the food system fails to yield the intended result. Obviously, this arises from some structural problem in it. As a food system is under the dual control of political authorities and private sector to varying degrees, and it consists of several sub-systems, there are several opportunities for structural problems.

Consider now, political authorities opting to implement a policy of promoting modern agricultural practice, but not able or willing to implement a commensurable policies in communications and energy. As a result, yields will be adversely affected. This is an often seen example of policy incongruence due to reductive planning.

Using the same example, the authorities may promote the same agriculture policy when it is totally unsuitable to the local climatic, geographic and economic conditions. This will have the same consequences as those which arise when the operators lack the requisite know-how and skill. It represents a case of inappropriate policy.

The same result would obtain if policies concerning the other components of a food system should display the same flaw. Huge grain losses due to inadequate transport and storage systems in the Soviet Union are the classic example of policy inappropriateness.

Meanwhile, transport system is frequently in private hands motivated by the desire for profit. Even when the communications are adequate, means of transport may not always have sufficient capacity or speed. Its effect on the final output of a food system is clear, and represents a drop in the output due to sub-system incompatibility. The end-user will experience the same result if it should occur in any other sub-system of a food system.

Holistic and congruent policy formulation and their efficient implementation, addressing the problems related to inept use of food systems and their misuse, and overcoming the political obstacles to leave advising on decision-making in competent hands, and a willingness to confine oneself to decisions that leaves no one behind rather than opt for 'cutting edge' in agriculture and other areas then, are the most significant ways of making our food systems help us to move towards our objective.

I do not believe that we need more research or any other fancy technology to feed the current global population adequately, rather we need to take a pause for breath and rational evaluation of the tools already at our disposal. I am convinced that some of the 'cutting edge' tools can be discarded with real benefit to the hungry millions and our environment.

On the other hand, what we need to do is to rearrange our food systems in line with our national needs with respect to a given food culture, and cease to think of food in terms of mere commodity open to every kind of commercial speculation. We should always recall that none can live without food, and money is merely just one of the tools that could be used to procure it. It is the inherent value of food that gives a value to the tokens that represent

Everybody knows the size and profits of food advertising including colourful packaging. But now is the time to understand that it is the end-user who foots that expenditure when buying food. It is time to think its effect on the affordability of food especially to people

Finally, enhancing the competence to build and run just and fair food systems need a pool of competent young people to replace aging agricultural population everywhere. However, youth's attitude to agriculture is undeservedly negative owing to irrational social values propagated by entertainment industry, 'media', education, etc. I think we need a radical change in the social perception of the value of agriculture and food, for without a wider public appreciation of its vital importance not much can be achieved.

Best wishes!

Lal Manavado.

End note:

For a more comprehensive and a justifiable description of a food system, do please see:
<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/node/992>

70. Rocco Renaldi, International Food and Beverage Alliance, Belgium

International Food and Beverage Alliance Comments for the Online Consultation on "Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition"

The International Food & Beverage Alliance thanks the FAO and the UNSCN for the opportunity to provide comments on the development of the Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

We welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming 2016-2025 as the Decade of Action on Nutrition as a call for global action in tackling the critical issues of poverty, malnutrition and NCDs.

We believe nutrition has a central role to play in achieving global well-being. We also believe that business has both an incentive and a responsibility to be part of the global effort to reduce malnutrition and improve nutrition.

We recognize the important and unique role the food and non-alcoholic beverage industry has to play in global nutrition and have been doing our part to help consumers worldwide achieve healthy and sustainable diets. We are formulating and innovating products that support the goal of improving diets – reducing key nutrients of public health concern, adding nutrients to reduce micronutrient deficiencies and promoting food components and food groups beneficial for good health, such as fibre, whole grains, fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy. We are providing nutrition information to consumers to help empower them to make informed dietary decisions tailored to their needs and lifestyles; restricting marketing to children; and promoting balanced diets and healthy lifestyles in our workplaces and in the communities we serve.

As food and beverage companies that both depend on food production for its raw material and seek to deliver nutritious foods and beverages to consumers, IFBA members are committed to sustainable agriculture and the transition to a sustainable food future – innovating more food choices by using fewer natural resources. More effective management of inputs to agricultural production (soil health, land use, water, pest management, etc.) is critical to support improved environmental impacts. Adoption of new technologies and practices will also help to optimize efficiencies, reduce post-harvest waste and improve overall sustainable production. Companies are also working with their suppliers and smallholder farmers, including female farmers, to promote sustainable supply chains, helping to increase farmer knowledge and yields, improve their livelihoods and build thriving communities.

The lack of water, sanitation and hygiene is one of the greatest obstacles to poverty alleviation and economic growth in many countries. All people must have access to a safe food and water supply. IFBA members are committed to ensuring that consumers and the communities in which IFBA companies operate have safe and affordable water supplies. We are investing in innovative processes and new technologies to promote efficient and sustainable use of water for economic development and supporting programmes worldwide that provide access to safe and clean water and improve sanitation and hygiene behaviours.

Achieving the full impact of nutrition on health and the sustainable development goals requires a whole-of-society approach and collaboration among governments, civil society and the private sector. Experience has shown that collaborative multistakeholder actions represent not only one of the most cost-effective ways to address public health challenges, but are, in fact, the only way to tackle these global complex issues. We have committed our resources and expertise to do our part.

Critical activities to be included in the Work Programme

- **A successful decade:** For the purposes of defining and prioritizing the appropriate interventions, we believe it is important that the drafters of the Work Programme define what a successful decade will look like.
- **A holistic approach:** Nutrition crosses all sectors and all stakeholders. Success in addressing the challenge of malnutrition depends not only on food security and agriculture, but also on education, health and social development.
- **Government leadership:** Achieving collaborations that engage non-State actors requires a systematic approach, a sustained alignment of efforts based on an agreed set of actions and an enabling environment, led by governments.
- **Clearly defined roles and responsibilities:** Clear rules of engagement and defined expectations, roles and responsibilities of each non-State actor is critical.

- Evidence-based strategies and policies: Interventions must be supported by strong scientific evidence of what works and why. We need to understand what types of policy initiatives are likely to be most effective and cost-effective.
- A flexible set of interventions: Given the unique needs of different countries, the Work Programme will require a comprehensive set of interventions, capable of being modelled to meet countries' needs.
- Best practice models: We must all work to identify and share good practice from around the world and increase access to knowledge and innovations that will inform and enhance the effectiveness of the interventions. A database of case studies and best practice models could be gathered and analyzed to determine the appropriateness or scalability of certain interventions in different settings and regions. Public-private partnerships and commitments that have already been developed, for example, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the SUN Business Network, offer the potential for further scaling.
- Behaviour change: Promoting change and raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition among all consumers through public education campaigns and in schools and communities is critical and will require a collective effort by all stakeholders.
- An accountability framework: With clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, specific indicators, and a robust mechanism to monitor policy development and implementation and assess the effectiveness of the interventions. We all share a collective responsibility to address this global challenge and believe all stakeholders must have a hand in the development of accountability mechanisms.
- Interim targets: We recommend the Work Programme include interim targets and a commitment to conduct updates, say every 3-4 years throughout the Decade to ensure ongoing progress and to allow for an accelerated process if necessary.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders and exploring new collaborations as we all work to end hunger and eradicate malnutrition worldwide.

71. Ikenna Ejiba, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Greetings.

My contribution is as follows:

1. We expect that this Action on Nutrition should target vulnerable groups especially in the rural areas in low income countries like Nigeria. With the right amount of commitment, significant progress can be achieved.
2. The work plans should include actions against climate change with respect to mitigation and adaptation; while increasing awareness, and involving local community people in these processes; thereby making the people (beneficiaries) look forward to the expected future outcome.

In addition, issues of climate change-induced migration should be included, as evidence now suggests that nutrition and food security of households left behind are affected significantly.

Also, post-harvest losses of especially perishable farm produce constitute a problem in rural many rural communities in Nigeria. In other words, providing storage and preservation facilities would help minimize these losses. Therefore, funding through co-operative societies in these domains will be effective at the community level.

3. Making the actors be more involved in the process of implementation will help to improve commitment. Setting-up of monitoring and implementation committees by public and private actors at the local and community levels to monitor progress at intervals, and report feedback with regard to implementation.
4. All relevant forums can contribute momentarily through meaningful suggestion(s) on particular courses of action based on the feedbacks from the monitoring process.

72. Christina Krause, Food Fortification BASF SE, Germany

Fortifying staple foods in one of the most cost-effective interventions to tackle vitamin and mineral deficiencies, also called 'hidden hunger', and thus, contribute to sustainable development.

In order to improve nutrition for people at the base of the pyramid, affordable nutritious foods need to become accessible. It is critical to work together in multi-stakeholder alliances: local food producers can gain expertise how to fortify their food, and public authorities can standardize food fortification levels and assess the quality of the products. Lastly, the awareness of consumers about nutrition including adequately fortified and certified foods can be strengthened best among multiple stakeholders.

If all relevant stakeholder groups collaborate effectively, food fortification programs can contribute to an improvement in nutrition for all income groups in a sustainable and impactful way. Such local multi-stakeholder alliances are a critical need to administrate food fortification programs. Forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, can support such institution building by strengthening private and public actors' networks and encourage donors to support partnership interventions. Looking at the technical implementation, private sector businesses can support local food producers by using their expertise on food fortification and thus enable food producers to fortify their staple foods. This is an important contribution to a sustainable improvement of nutrition that is cost-effective and scalable.

73. Christine Campeau, facilitator of the discussion, UNSCN

Dear all,

We are thrilled with the engagement we have seen over the last few weeks. Over 70 contributions from all regions and stakeholder groups and, according to the FSN Forum, more than 10,000 visits from almost every country in the world—all in less than one month. We're also starting to hear how you expect to contribute to the Decade; examples included IAEA's offer to help evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition programmes and the commitment from the Grocery Manufacturers Association to limit marketing to children in schools.

Khairul Zarina Mohd Yusop from Malaysia emphasized the rise of non-communicable diseases in her country, mostly due to unhealthy diets. The National Plan of Action for Nutrition for Malaysia has incorporated a whole-society and whole-government approach to tackle the problem. Clement Goldson from Jamaica raised the idea that unsafe food should be regulated in the same way as cigarettes are, and stressed the need for better labelling and awareness raising.

We all agree on the universality of the problem and, broadly, on solutions. Examples shared in the discussion show that, despite the progress in reducing malnutrition—specifically undernutrition—progress has been too modest and uneven across regions, populations groups and gender. Meanwhile, the number of overweight people has increased enormously in virtually all countries worldwide demonstrating that the several forms of malnutrition are still on the rise.

Several of you noted the role our food systems play in providing sustainable, healthy, diverse diets and suggested that increased production is key. You've specified that this increase would need to focus on quality production to be able to address micro-nutrient deficiencies and would be geared towards lowering the consumption of ultra-processed foods. The global food system—in other words, the types of foods produced and how they are processed, traded, retailed and marketed—is failing to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient-rich food for all in a sustainable way. Fixing food systems, so that they are sustainable and promote healthy diets will be vital to improving nutrition.

Food is only one part of the equation to ensure better nutritional outcomes for all, as it also includes care and universal health systems. Lal Manavado from Norway noted that the success of food production hinges on a local context (e.g. social, trade, transport, politics, education, communication) that is able to support and absorb the supply of wholesome food produced. Rosaline Ntula from Ethiopia echoed this point, highlighting the need to address nutrition in every component of the food system, from production, marketing, purchasing power, consumption and uptake.

We have heard that different forms of malnutrition can be found in the same country, the same community, the same household and even the same person. With less than a week left for this discussion, I'm looking forward to hearing more excellent examples of your plans to contribute to the success of the Decade.

74. Aqleem Abbas, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan

Action of the UN on Nutrition will never reach rural areas, when there would be illiteracy. Even action of the UN on nutrition will never work in whole country, when the country is governed by corrupt politician and ferocious dictators. There will be no any improvement in nutrition and food security within the next ten years. Secondly the winner in today's election particularly in developing nations is the one who spent money, in other words who is land lord. So how can an institution work in such situation for the food safety in such places. Moreover, terrorist are killing people and in such violence how will the UN program for nutrition will work? In short, UN should first take serious steps to remove the corrupt politician and ban the terrorist organizations, then its program on food safety will do work. First safety of humanity is important than safety of food and vice versa. For the implementation of the UN action on Nutrition, the United Nations must hire the honest Academician rather than the government who can extend the knowledge of nutrition and food safety. Most of the governments are not even honestly complete their own five year plan particularly the governments of developing nations.

75. Georges Bazongo, Tree Aid, Burkina Faso

Original contribution in French

Merci pour ce thème très intéressant et qui cristallisent les passions et mobilisent beaucoup d'acteurs à travers le monde. Pour apporter ma contribution, je vais me focaliser sur les éléments de questions posés:

1. Cette question pour ma part fait appel à la solidarité et à l'humanisme des pays qui ont atteints un niveau élevé de production d'aliments variés comme l'Europe et les pays Américains. En effet il faut que les excédents alimentaires ne soient plus détruits pour maintenir les prix ou favoriser la hausse des prix sur le marché, c'est ce que nous avons vu pour le lait en France, pour les viandes de boeuf aux USA, bien d'autres exemples. Bien que le marché guide les

activités du monde, il faut privilégier le bien être de son semblable. Ca semble impossible mais sans cela, la pauvreté et la maladie ne seront jamais vaincu.

2. Me basant sur mes expériences, l'accent doit être mis sur a) la diversification alimentaires en produisant beaucoup de produits de qualité nutritionnelle comme les légumineuses, les produits maraichers, les viandes et les poissons. Ces aliments sont sources de valeurs nutritives pour les ménages. Aussi il faut investir dans: b) le transports et la distribution des produits en AFrique et à l'intérieur des Etats comme mon pays le Burkina Faso, de façon absolu, il y a une bonne production à travers le pays mais certaines provinces se trouvent démunies et ont un accès limité aux produits de bonne qualité même avec l'argent en main. c) Un autre point important est que les acteurs de développement, notamment les projets et les ONGs doivent sensibiliser et former sur la préparation des mets de qualité et la consommation primordiale des produits nutritifs comme les viandes et les produits maraichers au lieu de 'nencourager que la vente sur les marchés urbains, ce qui menacent la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des ménages ruraux pauvres. d) travailler à valoriser la produits forestiers non ligneux tant pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle mais aussi cela servira à créer des revenus et à protéger les ressources forestières. Cet aspects alimentaires n'est pas beaucoup pris en compte ni appuyés dans les projet de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. e) Enfin, il faut vulgariser les semences améliorées et certifiées jusque dans les hammeaux les plus reculé et surtout faciliter les processus de certification pour rendre accessible ces semences, créer des boutiques communales d'intrants agricoles et de lutttes phytosanitaires. Pour financer ces activités, il d'abord que les budgets des Etats finances ces actions comme une source de souveraineté nationale et il faut diminuer les budget des armées pour cette "guerre" contre la faim et la malnutrition. Ensuite interviendra la solidarité international notamment faire contribuer les grosses industries qui vivent des matières premières agricole africaines.
3. Pour accélérer le processus, il faut d'abord une volonté politique d'investir dans le secteur suivi d'une décision d'accorder une part significative des budgets dans la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, ensuite il faut travailler à disposer de personnes compétentes et connaissant bien le sujet pour travailler dans les services d'accompagnement compétents. Et ces deux points sont du ressort des pouvoirs public car il faut éveiller les consciences sur les valeurs des productions nationales et la capacités à produits locaux et non s'attendre toujours à des suppléments alimentaires pour encore créer des dépenses externes et non durables. Le privé quant à lui doit réinvestir une partie de ses bénéfices pour le développement de l'agriculture locale et apporter du soutien aux politiques locales.
4. Le CSA et l'UNSCN peuvent travailler à mobiliser les Etats sur la part de leur budget à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au lieu de les mettre dans des actions urgentes. Ces deux structures peuvent travailler à renforcer les capacités des acteurs sur le sujet et appuyer la mobilisation du secteur privé pour participer à la mise en oeuvre des activités car une population saine est un client consommateur permanent.

English translation

Thank you for this very interesting topic which brings coherence to strongly held views and mobilizes many actors around the world. To make my contribution, I am going to focus on the essentials of the questions raised:

1. This question, in my view appeals to the solidarity and humanity of countries which have achieved a high level of varied food production, such as Europe and the American countries. Indeed, food surpluses should no longer be destroyed in order to maintain prices or favor a rise in market prices, such as we have seen in the case of milk in France and beef in the USA and in many other examples. Although markets steer the way the world works, the wellbeing of our fellow men should take precedence. This may seem impossible, but without it, poverty and disease will never be conquered.

2. Based on my experience, the emphasis should be put on: a) food diversification, producing many highly nutritional products, like pulses, vegetable products, meat and fish. These foods are valuable sources of nutrition for households. It is also necessary to invest in: b) transport and distribution of products in Africa and throughout the interior of countries like mine, Burkina Faso, in a thorough going way, there is a good overall production across the country, but certain provinces are deprived and have limited access to good quality products, even if they have the cash ready to hand; c) Another important point is that the actors for development, in particular projects and NGOs, must promote awareness and give training in the preparation of quality dishes and the essential consumption of nutritive products like meat and vegetable products instead of only encouraging their sale to the urban markets, which threatens food security and nutrition in the poor rural households; d) work to create value for non-ligneous products from the forest not only for food security and nutrition, but also because this will help create income and protect the forest resources. These aspects of food provision are not much taken into account or supported in the food security and nutrition projects; e) Finally, it is necessary to disseminate improved and certified seeds even to the most remote villages and especially facilitate the certification processes to make these seeds accessible, create communal shops for agricultural inputs and pest control products. To fund these activities, the State budgets should finance these actions as a form of national sovereignty, if necessary by reducing the budget for defense and using it for this "war" against hunger and malnutrition. Next, international solidarity will intervene, in particular, to get the big industries, which use African agricultural raw material, to contribute.
3. To accelerate this process, there must first be the political will to invest in the sector followed by a decision to grant a significant part of the budgets to food security and nutrition, followed by working to have people who are competent and knowledgeable in the subject to provide the appropriate accompanying services. And these two points are within the jurisdiction of public power because it is important to raise awareness of the value of national products and local production capacity instead of always waiting for food aid in order to create still more external and non-sustainable expenditure. The private sector, for its part, must reinvest some of its profits in developing local agriculture and provide support for local policies.
4. CFS and UNSCN can work to mobilize the States regarding the share of their budget for food security and nutrition instead of treating them as emergencies. These two entities could work to reinforce actors' capabilities on the subject and support the mobilization of the private sector to participate in the implementation of activities because a healthy population is a permanent consumer client.

76. Alexandr Kaigorodtsev, East Kazakhstan State University, Kazakhstan

English version

Dear Member!

For the purpose of ensuring food security in Kazakhstan it is necessary to expand existing practice of implementation of investment projects on import substitution and development of new export-oriented sectors in agrarian and industrial complex in the following directions:

- development of network of greenhouse facilities and vegetable storehouses;
- development of production of fruit and vegetable cultures using technology of drop irrigation;
- creation of network of feedlots of cattle with the developed export infrastructure;
- creation of network of points on slaughter of the cattle;

- the organization of meat-processing complexes with production of meat products in a vacuum package;
- development of network of dairy farms;
- development of production in deep conversion of thin wool;
- recovery of network of poultry farms;
- development of infrastructure of export of the Kazakhstan grain.

Alexander Kaigorodtsev, professor of the East Kazakhstan state university of S. Amanzholov.

Russian version

Уважаемые участники!

В целях обеспечения продовольственной безопасности в Казахстане необходимо расширить существующую практики реализации инвестиционных проектов по импортозамещению и развитию новых экспортоориентированных секторов в АПК по следующим направлениям:

- развитие сети тепличных хозяйств и овощехранилищ;
- развитие производства плодоовощных культур с применением технологии капельного орошения;
- создание сети откормочных площадок КРС и МРС с развитой инфраструктурой экспорта;
- создание сети убойных пунктов;
- организация мясоперерабатывающих комплексов с производством блочного мяса и крупнокусковых нарезок в вакуумной упаковке;
- развитие сети молочно-товарных ферм;
- развитие производства по глубокой переработке тонкой шерсти;
- восстановление сети птицефабрик;
- развитие инфраструктуры экспорта казахстанского зерна.

Александр Кайгородцев, профессор Восточно-Казахстанского государственного университета им. С. Аманжолова.

77. Laura L. Dawson, Food Physics and Body Dynamics LLC, United States of America

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

WHO page with definition of nutrition: <http://www.who.int/topics/nutrition/en/> on 9/25/2016
States: "Nutrition is the intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. Good nutrition – an adequate, well balanced diet combined with regular physical activity – is a cornerstone of good health. Poor nutrition can lead to reduced immunity, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and reduced productivity."

Here in the United States [USA], we have a bit of a blind spot when taking stock of our own population's nutritional needs. We see large numbers of children who are obese, have elevated cholesterol levels, along with adults who have bulging gut tissue related to uneducated food and beverage choices. These are only the more visible, obvious nutrition related challenges our US population faces.

According to the agreement, "...governments to exercise their primary role and responsibility for addressing undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under five years of age, anaemia in women and children - among other micronutrient deficiencies. It also commits them to reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related noncommunicable diseases in all age groups.

While these matters do impact populations in rural and low-income regions in my home country, there is currently little-to-no open political discourse to address nutrition. It is my personal and professional desire to see an increase in access to healthy locally grown foods as much as is feasible, with a necessary amount of trade to add nutrient rich foods grown elsewhere. This required a new body of legislative action, the Food Safety Modernization Act designed to assure acceptable quality standards for imported foods are met, as well as our own exports meet similar standards worldwide.

While robust agriculture crops and worldwide trade are mutually essential, so is a proper nutritional education program, taught from grade school levels all the way through college. We have reduced these program in lieu of science and math, although health enhancing nutrition is definitely a science all of its own.

Additionally, we have more land than many of the countries of the world, which in unused, yet owned privately. This includes 'yards' as the area of dirt in front and behind most homes is referred. While we have become accustomed to enjoying supermarket and farmers' market foods both meats and produce, these foods will become less available as regulations for safely and securely delivering foods from farm to market become more stringent in efforts to reduce food borne illnesses.

Many Americans have sufficient areas to 'farm' some of their own vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, reducing hunger and improving food security. However our focus is not on this valuable resource, yet.

In closing, academically certified nutrition education in schools, community centers, colleges, is one area for expected change over the next decade.

This along with increase in both urban, rural small food gardens, formerly call Victory Gardens during World War I and World War II. Currently the USDA NIFA and other agencies are encouraging small farms.

Incentives in these two directions need to be legislated, allowing public and private partnerships.

2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

"Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action adopted by the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in November 2014.....The Framework for Action commits

governments to exercise their primary role and responsibility for addressing undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under five years of age, anaemia in women and children - among other micronutrient deficiencies. It also commits them to reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related noncommunicable diseases in all age groups.”

To accomplish works, population assessments similar as those statistics in the USA for child nutrition, which of course does not include adult hunger challenges as reported on google searches performed on October 1, 2016 [<http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-h...>]

Food Insecurity

- 13.1 million children lived in food-insecure households in 2015.[i]
- Twenty percent or more of the child population in 30 states and D.C. lived in food-insecure households in 2014, according to the most recent data available. Mississippi (27%) and New Mexico (27%) had the highest rates of children in households without consistent access to food.[ii]
- In 2014, the top five states with the highest rate of food-insecure children under 18 were Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona, Alabama, and Arkansas.[iii]
- In 2014, the top five states with the lowest rate of food-insecure children under 18 were North Dakota, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Virginia.[iv]

Household adult databases of similar style are contained within the Women’s Health Organization of the USA. In ‘Quick Health DATA Online’, each State, County-by-County household’s physical composition data was collected. Although it is an enormous amount of health data, the focus during collection of that data was on not on nutrition and its role pertaining to health achievement and wellness. Since the format is already set, it may be feasible to include additional nutrition related sort files to aggregate such information with the least amount of cost and effort.

A statistical health related measures based on these populations, their geopolitical cultures, and economic structures would then need to be address, since nutrition needs can and do vary based on these demographics.

Then this aggregated data may be shared and milled into other Regions and Populations for design of legislation and incentives, trade and distribution systems.

3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

First and foremost in the USA, political discussions must begin to appear in the forefront of the public’s mind, followed by their elected officials. While children’s school lunches changed dramatically in the recent 5 years, there are mindsets, economics, and cultures to consider when changing food access and costing groceries.

It would appear our media is often driven more by pharmaceutical interventions, rather than by nutrition first, followed only when necessary, by medication. It is a mind shift that will require diligent

efforts, education, and documentation including health studies to prove the value of food, quality of informed choice in selecting and preparing foods, over medicine.

We are beginning to see an edge of this shift in the USA related to the studies performed by the National Center for Integrative Health, where herbal supplementation is being included more often in research as well as the most recent microbiome studies/probiotics.

There are antidotal and empirical studies on record in oriental medicine and other traditional medical models, where food choices were the pharmacy (farmacy) of the past. For that reason, I believe these medical models are being included in the World Health Organization's Traditional Medical Strategies through 2023. [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/92455/1/9789241506090_eng.pdf?u...]

4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

The Committee on Food Security [CFS] and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition [UNSCN] may best serve the entire Model of Change expected to occur as a result of a Decade of Action in Nutrition, as an information hub and research testing data base.

As is common in the models of change already in place worldwide related to food, it is time to create a data bridge from food to consumers, of data which can assist in making informed personal nutritious choices.

Choices by farmers and value added food handlers, can benefit in planning crop planting, based on the human needs/choices data, while at the same time, and as a direct result of climate or other environmental issues these foods may and likely will evolve. This will make a back-flow of foods available for consumption, which will need to be tested and observed, through a database, possibly the same one used at the consumer driven level, thereby keeping a continuous food chain flow, without impacting populations with hunger issues in the midst rapid fluctuations in food availability.

This will likely be the area in which health care providers are most valued, particularly those who have extensive training in the use of food to benefit the human healing experience. Professions like acupuncture, and other traditional medicine models where food is a tool to achieve health and wellness. People in the areas of Academics in Agriculture, from field specialist to IT technicians and Traditional Health Professionals, including acupuncturists, herbalist, microbiologists, chemists, naturopaths, etc., will be the Professions most reliable to manage a Nutrition HUB allowing a bridge from Ag to Consumer, thereby nutrition exchange to occur.

78. Dr. Amanullah, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan

Dear Sir/Madam

Food adulteration is one of the biggest issues especially in poor countries where there is no check and balance by the government. Food adulteration does not only decrease the nutritional value but it also causes different hazardous diseases to humans and causes deaths. I suggest the FAO to help the poor nations in this regard and make uniform guidelines how to decrease food adulteration and increase food quality, thanks.

Dr. Amanullah

79. Claudio Schuftan, PHM, Viet Nam [third contribution]

This time I will respond to the postings of the Belgian Food and Beverage Alliance and BASF, both, I would think, with an 'axe to grind' (or a vested interest?).

We all have, including most contributors, an 'axe to grind'; but ours is in the public interest... We have in common that we are critical of, but not private sector bashers. We look at what is happening with conflicts of interest (CoI) in public private partnerships (PPPs), in free trade agreement (FTAs), in multistakeholder platforms (the latter praised and called for by the two postings I comment on)... and what is the common denominator? An increasing interference in public decision-making. That is not acceptable to us defenders of the public interest. Unless the multiple CoI issue is addressed face-on with no more 'go-arounds', PPPs, multistakeholder platforms and FTAs are to remain in quarantine.

To the Alliance, I further say that "behaviour change promoting change and raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition among all consumers through public education campaigns" over-and-over puts the responsibility on the individual when we all know that the advertising and price structure of ultra-processed foods is the real culprit of over-nutrition and associated NCDs that the industry wants us to ignore. Furthermore, claiming that "Experience has shown that collaborative multistakeholder actions represent not only one of the most cost-effective ways to address public health challenges, but are, in fact, the only way to tackle these global complex issues" is a gratuitous assertion not backed by facts. If you do not believe me, look at the SUN Initiative.

To our BASF colleague, I further say that claiming that "fortifying staple foods is one of the most cost-effective interventions to tackle hidden hunger" may be true but the key question is how sustainable (except for iodine), as opposed to community-based, food-based interventions together with stern economic disparity reduction measures resolving the problems of poverty. BASF also not only thinks that "promoting consumer awareness regarding nutrition" is key --see my comment above--, but also thinks "it can be done best by the (critical, they say) engagement of multiple stakeholders (in the said platforms?)" --see my comment above. Moreover, together with many, I do not see that "building local multi-stakeholder alliances can be supported by Fora such as UNSCN which can help strengthen private and public actors' networks". Well, this is not exactly the role of a UN body committed to the objectives of the Decade and is not "an important contribution to a sustainable improvement of nutrition that is cost-effective and scalable". If you do not believe me, look at the ample literature on food sovereignty by La Via Campesina.

Claudio Schuftan, Ho Chi Minh City

80. Apio Benardate Okiria, FHI360, Uganda

Greetings.

The following is my contribution to the subject of discussion.

What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next 10 years?

1. I expect funding of the Uganda Nutrition Fellowship in this decade. That NGOs implementing Nutrition especially directly commit to a program that builds capacity of recent graduates in soft skills. These young nutritionists bring on board great enthusiasm and creativity towards achieving goals.
2. I expect increased advocacy in nutrition both funded and voluntarily. This advocacy should mostly involve rallying the public so as to drive demand for nutrition services from the government. Public demand I believe enables achieve political attention from which we could get champions for nutrition

with minimum efforts.

3. I expect the government of Uganda to strengthen and sustain the multi sector approach for Nutrition that has seen integration of nutrition into sector activities initiated by USAID Uganda. This integration has achieved evidently, if consistently strengthened has potential to reduce rates of malnutrition in the country. Of course, effectively and efficiently. Less money wasted, more to save!

How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

They should create or support platforms like the Uganda Nutrition Fellowship more extensively in various countries as a contribution to building capacity of future nutrition leaders who would take up the nutrition agenda further even after the decade.

Apio Benardate Okiria,
Uganda Nutrition Fellowship.
USAID FANTA project.

81. Ateca Kama, National Food and Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji

Declaring the Decade is a great start to maximising concerted efforts in nutrition. It provides an overarching platform for nutrition interventions and advocacy. However, we need to localize global concepts and contexts to suit the needs of our smaller island nations; and we'll need technical support and expertise.

Fiji is currently revising its Fiji Food and Nutrition Policy, that will be operationalized by the Fiji Plan of Action for Nutrition 2016-2020. We have already gleaned from international documents to provide the framework for interventions, with the focus being children U5. Some of the activities are funded by the Government, while others will be taken care of by donor funds.

82. Dhanya Praveen, Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad, India

As part of supporting the UN Decade we would like to focus on technical support in evaluating the efficacy of national and state governments schemes on nutritional improvement of children, lactating mothers, and old aged populations in our country.

83. Patrick Webb, Tufts University, United States of America

In the context of discussion regarding the high priority needing to be placed on enhancing diet quality for all, allow me to point members to the new report on Food Systems and Diets: Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century. This was prepared by the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Development. First launched at FAO in Rome in September, it had a North America launch yesterday in Des Moines in the context of the World Food Prize. It is free to download here: <http://www.glopan.org/foresight>. Also attached to this message.

The key message is that poor quality diets now contribute the greatest share of risk factors to the global burden of disease. This means that a lack of diversity, adequacy, key nutrients, safety, etc. underpin not only undernutrition but diet-related NCDs that often go hand-in-hand with overweight and obesity. No

country in the world is immune to one or other form of malnutrition; hence every country in the world needs to place a high policy priority on addressing diet quality issues to achieve nutrition (and health) goals.

Cheers

Patrick

Attachment:

http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/ForesightReport_web.pdf

84. Manuel Castrillo, Proyecto Camino Verde, Costa Rica

English version

Hello everyone. Measures taken from the beginning of the Decade of action on nutrition, will be achieved to the extent that real commitments are taken by strategic stakeholders. Political and economic factors are vital from the field nationally and globally. The mechanisms of international trade must establish reasonable fees to facilitate the access of food to countries and sensitive areas and high risk. International speculation of prices and availability of infrastructure affect access and distribution of food, besides the waste remains an element important to consider.

In the nutritional field there are plenty of options to provide basic diets and containing the necessary nutrients to the population in general - with an emphasis on children and women in gestation -. According to is what is raised in the statement.

Interaction with other areas is vital, and undoubted, but synergies get lost or diluted in the coordination, in the case of the problem of landholding, health centres, assistance (extension) agricultural, soft loans and access to markets for small producers, whose role in a local production of robust and constant, will give options to the communities and will boost growth (sustainable) based on resources available in the locations, reducing the ecological footprint, benefiting everyone. Agricultural assistance should provide knowledge regarding the nutritionally necessary and vital foods that can be planted by farmers, according to their land and climate conditions.

Actually, financial resources are plenty! If they are not used to buy weapons and to allow land concentration and market manipulation. Supermarkets and fast food chains can contribute to campaigns and make more social use of foods not eaten, weight - without beating or consumed -, industrial producers must continue to innovate on food without so many harmful additives and here the universities and research centers can provide guidance.

Then we find more, to a situation of will political and of sensitivity human (Moral?) - lack of resources or instruments - and therefore, think that the goal could - and should - be done before.

Best regards!

Spanish version

Hola a todos. Las medidas tomadas a partir de los principios de el Decenio de la Acción sobre la Nutrición, serán logradas en la medida que los actores estratégicos involucrados asuman compromisos reales. Los factores políticos y económicos, son vitales desde la esfera nacional y global. Los mecanismos de comercio internacional deben establecer cánones razonables para facilitar el acceso de alimentos a países y zonas sensibles y de alto riesgo. La especulación internacional de precios y

disponibilidad de infraestructura afectan el acceso y distribución de alimentos, además el desperdicio sigue siendo un elemento importante a considerar.

En el campo nutricional existen multitud de opciones para brindar dietas básicas y que contengan los nutrientes necesarios para la población en general - con énfasis en los niños y las mujeres en gestación - . según se planteado en la declaración.

La interacción con otras esferas es vital - e indiscutible -, pero se pierden o diluyen las sinergias en la coordinación, sea el caso del problema de tenencia de tierras, centros de salud, asistencia (extensión) agrícola, créditos blandos y acceso a mercados para los pequeños productores, cuya función en una producción local robusta y constante, dará opciones a las comunidades e incentivará crecimiento (sostenible), con base a recursos disponibles en las localidades, disminuyendo la huella ecológica, beneficiando a todos. La asistencia agrícola debería aportar conocimientos en cuanto a los alimentos nutricionalmente necesarios y vtales que se pueden sembrar por los agricultores, según las condiciones de sus tierras y clima.

Realmente, recursos financieros sobran !! Si no se utilizara en tanto armamento y se permita la concentración de tierras y manipulación del mercado. Las cadenas de comidas rápidas y supermercados pueden contribuir con campañas y hacer un uso más social de los alimentos no consumidos - sin vencer ni consumidos -, los productores industriales deben seguir innovando en alimentos sin tantos preservantes dañinos y aquí las universidades y centros de investigación pueden dar la pauta.

Entonces nos encontramos más, ante una situación de voluntad política y de sensibilidad humana (Moral ?)- que falta de recursos o instrumentos - y por lo cual, pienso que la meta podría - y debería - lograrse antes.

Saludos !

Attachments:

http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Facilitating%20innovation%20platforms%20to%20trigger_0.pdf

http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/GU%C3%8DA%20PARA%20LEGISLAR%20SOBRE%20EL%20DERECHO%20A%20LA%20ALIMENTACI%C3%93N_0.pdf

85. Isabelle Rousseau, France

Original contribution in French

Je pense qu'il faut favoriser l'alimentation d'origine végétale, surtout dans les pays ou une partie de la population souffre de mal nutrition. Je pense par exemple à la spiruline, un aliment intéressant sur le plan nutritionnel, car très complet. La permaculture est aussi un enjeu majeur pour atteindre l'autonomie alimentaire. Cette autonomie est la seule solution pérenne pour les pays en voie de développement.

Pour les pays plus aisés la diminution de la consommation de produits carnés est également un enjeu pour des raisons plus éthique et écologiques.

English translation

I believe that it is important to promote food which is vegetable in origin, in particular in countries where a part of the population suffers from malnutrition. I am thinking for example of spirulina, an

interesting food in terms of nutrition because it is most complete. Permaculture is also a major challenge for the achievement of food autonomy. This autonomy is the only durable solution for developing countries.

For the more affluent countries, reducing the consumption of meat products is, for more ethical and ecological reasons, equally an issue.

86. Obasi Igwe Oscar, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria

1. My expectations are that it will lead to increased production and marketing of safe food with emphasis on regional comparative advantages. Nigeria is still import dependent on major food items and it should be reversed. This as adversely affected the economy.
2. Critical activities to be included in the work programme are expansive food production using improved varieties/breeds and technologies; safety measures in crop/animal selection, production, processing, packaging and sales; capital investment in agric and agro- allied sectors; human capital development; enlightenment and education of women and girl child who are mainly households' food preparers; funding of relevant research in these area.
3. Quality of commodities can be accelerated via establishing and ensuring that universally accepted standards are maintained in the food system. Government regulatory bodies should be involved while private advocates and monitors sustain the crusade for quality nutrition.
4. Other relevant fora and movements can be involved through funding of research, supporting advocacy, enlightenment of girl child and women, aids and grants, enforcing sanctions as well as evaluating projects and programmes over time to ensure expected target are achieved.

87. Bruno Kistner, Asian Roundtable on Food Innovation for Improved Nutrition, Singapore

On expectations in improving nutrition and food security in Asia:

One key issue in human nutrition is that science is still too open for wide interpretation. It has been established through the animal health science but also through successful feeding programs by the WFP in refugee camps and crisis feeding that only a well-balanced nutrient portfolio shows desired results in improving the health status of targeted populations. The argument of too high cost is not valid, the cost to provide all essential B-vitamins to 100 mio people is estimated at approx. 15 mio US\$ per year.

Given the significance of the first 1000 days it is important that adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers receive foods that have a balanced nutrient portfolio. If dietary diversity is too expensive the cheapest and most effective way is fortification of locally accepted foodstuffs.

ARoFIIN is currently studying the existing information on the nutrient gap between actual intake and the WHO recommendations for targeted population groups. With this data we will discuss with the food industry what nutritional interventions are possible.

Governments and the UN can contribute to allow accessibility and distribution of these foodstuffs and approve locally acceptable, highly fortified low cost food solutions.

On critical activities:

Educational programs on the importance of dietary variety is essential, i.e. home gardening for rural populations and the increased use of vegetables and fruit for urban populations. For policy discussions an important aspect is how fruit and vegetable can become more affordable to increase usage in the food portfolio.

Policy makers, health authorities and the food industry need to engage in discussions aiming to widen the access to dietary diversity but also to fortified foods.

When mandated food fortification is discussed we need to realize the the past iron / folic acid fortification strategy of many countries was not successful. Reconstitution of rice and wheat to its original nutrition content before milling is essential.

On quality of commitments

15% of the processed food supply is provided by the multinational food companies, 85% by small medium enterprises.

If business cases to support the fortification of foodstuffs can be created the commitment to provide more healthy food choices can be increased. The UN should work with the food industry to discuss, develop and support the free access to nutritious food solutions.

88. Megan Wilson-Jones, WaterAid, United Kingdom

WaterAid thanks FAO and the UNSCN for the opportunity to input into the development of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition work programme.

As articulated in the concept note, the Decade of Action on Nutrition should act as an umbrella for the various initiatives and stakeholders involved in nutrition, unifying different voices and serving as a platform for coordinating and strengthening networks and collaborations across different actors and importantly across different sectors. The Decade of Action on Nutrition should encompass key principles to guide its work, including that of country ownership, the universal nature of malnutrition, shared responsibility, integration and collaboration, equity and sustainability.

Our submission focuses on four recommendations for the work programme:

1. Greater prioritisation of the prevention of undernutrition through improving the environments in which people live: The proposed principle focus areas, or 'pillars' for the Decade of Action on Nutrition fail to adequately address prevention of malnutrition, particularly with regards to improving the environments in which people live. Given that 50% of undernutrition is associated with infections caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), greater focus and attention on the underlying causes of malnutrition, particularly WASH, is missing from the proposed framework, yet will be fundamental to improving undernutrition. Pillar 5 suggests that this covers recommendations 50, 51 and 52 of the ICN2 framework for action, however although improving WASH in healthcare facilities is a key component of building strong health systems, universal access to WASH requires action outside of the health sector to ensure every household and community realise their rights to water, sanitation and hygiene. This broader role that the environment plays in contributing to undernutrition needs to be more clearly articulated and prioritised within the principle focus areas of the Decade of Action.

2. Place multi-sectoral collaboration, relationships and networks at the centre of each of the 6 pillars/principle focus areas: The Decade of Action can play an important role in facilitating links among a broad set of stakeholders across multiple sectors, particularly health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, and social protection, while also linking with the climate

change agenda. The Decade should advocate for and support countries to build and strengthen institutional mechanisms and structures for nutrition that allow cross-sectoral working and coordination across ministries, and for the more systematic integration of nutrition into nutrition-sensitive sectors, including through building capacity on nutrition in these sectors. The success of these coordination mechanisms requires high-level political support, such as through the President or Prime Minister's office, along with human and financial resources to ensure its functioning.

3. Improving data, evidence and accountability: Weaknesses in nutrition-related data and spending, particularly that which is disaggregated by various parameters, is an important barrier to scaling up equitable access to nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions. Supporting the strengthening of information systems to better collect, analyse, track and share data, making it accessible for all, is essential to maximising the impact of investments, directing limited resources and improving accountability. Better documenting and sharing of lessons, including through more operational research, will also be essential to building the knowledge base of what works, and filling in current gaps in knowledge.

4. Building political will and the critical role of advocacy: The challenge will be to translate this global momentum around nutrition into concrete actions and SMART commitments, both in terms of policy and financial commitments, at regional, national and local levels. An ambitious advocacy agenda should enhance the profile of nutrition as an underlying determinant of sustainable development, linking to other SDGs, while developing high-level champions, including parliamentarians, as a way to leverage national and international financing for nutrition.

I attach our recent report 'The Missing Ingredients: are policy-makers doing enough on water, sanitation and hygiene to end malnutrition.'

89. Sylvia Szabo, Save the Children, United Kingdom

Save the Children Comments for the Online Consultation on "Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition"

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Putting in place the resources required (financial and non-financial) to meet global, national and local commitments for nutrition to ensure that no child is left behind. Commitment by all governments to meet their international obligations relating to the right to food, health, development and survival with effective policies, funding and implementation. Rallying all stakeholders, including civil society, around a common cause in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), World Health Assembly (WHA) targets, Scaling up for Nutrition (SUN) and The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) commitments, and human rights standards. Contribution of the UN Decade of Action to effective accountability mechanisms in order to monitor and ensure progress towards SDG2, including the requirement for the goals and targets to be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and the endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which

activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

Emphasis should be placed on initiatives which will contribute to eliminating exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination in all its forms. Illustrative but not comprehensive examples of specific activities and policies which should be considered include:

- Establishing universal child-sensitive social protection that includes specific nutrition objectives.
- Ensuring universal health coverage to eliminate inequalities.
- Developing and implementing policies to keep girls and boys in school beyond primary education.
- Activities around integrated water, sanitation and hygiene, and nutrition response.
- Developing and implementing policies that build resilience, promote livelihoods and address malnutrition, especially in the most marginalised areas.
- Establishing innovative partnerships to share experience and knowledge in how to address malnutrition.
- Establishing social accountability mechanisms at the local level and learning in and across supported countries.
- Citizen-led data collection funded through innovative strategic partnerships with ICT businesses could help fill data gaps and that enhance accountability.
- Activities that enable development and implementation of policies for control of overweight and obesity at all levels and across social strata.
- Promoting and supporting mothers to start breastfeeding their newborns within the first hour of birth, to breastfeed exclusively for six months, and to continue breastfeeding—with complementary foods—for two years or beyond.

With 16 million adolescent girls giving birth each year, urgent attention is needed to keep girls in school, delay the age of marriage and increase access to family planning. Targeting women and girls with initiatives to improve their nutrition only when they are pregnant is often too late to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, because this often misses a crucial part of the first 1,000 day window. In addition, adolescent girls are more likely to die during childbirth than older women, or to be left nutritionally depleted by pregnancy. Their babies are also more likely to die or be born with nutritional deficits. The infants who survive have a greater risk of growing up to be stunted mothers or fathers. Therefore:

- Governments, donors, academics and NGOs should invest in platforms (including but not limited to schools) to reach adolescent girls

The frequency and impact of extreme weather events are set to rise in the future, with increasing impact on people's food and nutrition security, therefore:

- National governments, with the support of the international community, should deal with chronic malnutrition as a long-term priority within integrated humanitarian and development action that strengthens the resilience of vulnerable population groups.
- Governments of countries vulnerable to environmental shocks should invest in and manage well emergency food reserves, in order to reduce food price volatility and ensure that countries can quickly deal with food shortages.

3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

Commitments and activities to address malnutrition for all should begin with the moral and legal imperative for the right to food and nutrition – drawing upon the right to food, health, development and survival.

For those governments without national nutrition targets in place, these should be developed taking into account national trends and context and harmonising relevant frameworks (such as WHA targets, SDGs, ICN2 commitments). The second ‘Nutrition for Growth’ summit is the right place to announce national nutrition targets. Appropriate finances must be in place.

In order to ensure progress against malnutrition for all, all actors should adopt a ‘leave no-one behind’ approach – an appropriate policy and programme response based on the national context accompanied by robust accountability mechanisms.

All actors should collect, analyse and share nutrition data disaggregated by, at a minimum, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location. Sample sizes for disaggregated groups should be large enough to enable effective monitoring of outcomes, collected on a regular and systematic basis, and to make results accessible to all, while protecting the privacy and safety of people. This should be a core part of SDG accountability as part of the ‘leave no one behind’ agenda, with capacity development to ensure its realisation.

Governments should support regular data collection and quantitative data analysis to assess the burden of acute malnutrition, nutrition and infection (including malaria and HIV) as well as examine trends and patterns regarding health-seeking behaviors.

4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

Existing networks like the SUN Civil Society Network can play a key role in coordinating and delivering adequate nutrition for all with appropriate support. Involving human rights, equity and environment movements are key to the sustainability and success of efforts and should be brought in at all levels to ensure active engagement across the board. CFS and UNSCN can be used as mechanisms for tracking efforts and supporting cross learning. CIVICUS can be a key stakeholder in supporting civil society space, direct citizen participation and social accountability. Where there are no effective governance structures, alternative means must be sought to ensure that these basic needs are met.

Comments provided by:

- Claire Blanchard – Head of Advocacy & Nutrition, Global Theme on Health and Nutrition, Save the Children International
- John Engels - Director, Advocacy, Communications & Knowledge Management, Saving Newborn Lives, Save the Children US
- Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera, Humanitarian Nutrition Adviser, Save the Children UK
- Sylvia Szabo, Nutrition Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children UK
- Giorgiana Rosa, Senior Health Advocacy & Policy Adviser, Save the Children UK
- Katherine Richards, Senior Nutrition Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children UK

90. Jackson Tumwine, International consultant in the field of food security and nutrition, Uganda [second contribution]

Qn.1 What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Yes, it's a great opportunity to:

- Bring together all initiatives and efforts by different stakeholders in Uganda to address the problem of food and nutrition insecurity and its consequences
- Identify alignment gaps in the policies, initiatives and efforts implemented by different stakeholders
- Develop and implement a common vision to improve nutrition and food security of the country
- Map existing policies, strategies, plans and frameworks and make commitments to address food and nutrition
- Identify challenges and opportunities for developing a coherent national framework to address the problem of food and nutrition insecurity
- To develop a national road map for a harmonized and aligned food and nutrition frameworks etc...

Then how could it make a difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

The UN Decade on Nutrition and the Framework for implementation in my view, addresses key issues of food and nutrition security. It could make a difference in Uganda by helping the country to address system level requirements- which would help to enable functionality of the systems, structures and implementation which are critical in the success of the UN Decade on Nutrition. These system level requirements include: strategic capacities and adaptive management at national & sub-national levels; Common understanding; Common communication; Coherent and authoritative policies & strategies & guidelines; Consensus on actions; Common results framework; High-level commitment, system commitment and leadership at all Levels; Clear roles & responsibilities; consistent incentives & accountability; coordinated M&E, operations research, learning platforms; Community, NGO, Partner & Private Sector alignment; capacities, facilities, tools equipment; consistent financing; and Coordination

Qn.2 What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

High Level global/regional activities

- Map existing global, regional and national policies, strategies, plans, frameworks and commitments related to food and nutrition;
- Identify alignment gaps between the global, regional and national frameworks;
- Identify challenges and opportunities for alignment of the global, regional, and national policy frameworks at country level;
- Facilitate the development of global, regional and national road maps for alignment and implementation of food and nutrition frameworks.

Country level activities to be accelerated

- Identify alignment gaps between the global, regional and national frameworks
- Map out all initiatives and efforts by different stakeholders in Uganda to address the problem of food and nutrition insecurity and its consequences
- Identify alignment gaps in the policies, initiatives and efforts implemented by different sectors and stakeholders
- Map existing policies, strategies, plans and frameworks and make commitments to address food and nutrition
- Identify challenges and opportunities for developing a coherent national framework to address the problem of food and nutrition insecurity
- Develop a national road map for a harmonized and aligned food and nutrition frameworks
- Effectively engage high level decision makers in government and partner organizations in addressing critical bottlenecks, through candid reporting from the technical secretariat, the use of real-time progress markers and the establishment of clear lines of accountability in the implementation
- Strengthen human resources in the nutrition secretariat for strategic oversight and coordination
- Create a full-time implementation team to support cascading and on-going support to sub-national levels.
- Develop a phased work plan for the implementation of the program which will also inform development partner's interactions and support.
- Conduct institutional capacity assessment for the implementation at the national level
- Build strategic partnership with all development partners supporting MSN in the country including agreement on key strategic directions for moving forward the country nutrition agenda.
- Continuous capacity building of all stakeholders involved in MSN implementation at all levels, in the areas of strategic capacity, adaptive management, documentation and sharing of experiences

How could these activities be funded?

- Government
- Development partners in the Country supporting Nutrition
- Implementing Agencies such as UN bodies

Qn.3 What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

- Securing high level decision makers commitment and support for strategic policy direction
- Integrating nutrition in the national development plan which policy and programme implementation
- Integrate nutrition in the country policies for all sectors, strategies and programmes and develop performance indicators for sectors and stakeholders- seek commitment
- Integrating nutrition indicators in the national development plan which will be translated in the 5 years' District Development plans- this will inform district planning and budgeting/resource allocation and implementation

- Integrating nutrition indicators in the local Governments reporting indicators-this will ensure that all relevant Local Government Sectors and Departments include nutrition in their ToRs etc

What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

Public sectors

Government designated coordination entity Level

- Create enabling environment for the implementation-policies, guidelines, contribute human resource etc.
- Resource mobilization both financial and technical for implementation, operationalising/ cascading to the entire country
- Host learning platforms to share the progress, challenges and next steps etc
- Strengthen the coordination amongst the sectors of the mainstream ministries and decentralised levels
- Put in place formal network in place with high commitment and guidance
- Review of the current nutrition interventions and draw lessons to inform on going nutrition policy development, identify funding needs and mobilise resources
- Undertake Functional/Institutional capacity assessment of nutrition coordination and implementation mechanisms at national and decentralized levels;
- Continuous efforts to strengthen human resource capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate food and nutrition programmes.
- Strengthen the Linkages between sectors and decentralised local government structures to ensure smooth implementation and reporting of the progress, challenges and bottlenecks and how to overcome such bottleneck in in the implementation. There is need to promote vertical and horizontal communication which might help to overcome a number of challenges during implementation

Sectors level

- Efforts should continue to target all the eight sectors that signed UNAP to ensure that nutrition is a priority in their sector development plans and strategic plans to ensure that sectors track and report on nutrition indicators and implementation progress.

District/local government level

- Ensure that nutrition indicators are integrated in the districts five years' development plans and Districts nutrition action plans
- Ensure that NGOs and CBOS working in the respective districts contribute to the district nutrition action plans
- Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of nutrition activities districts
- Resource mobilisation for district implementation and monitoring
- Host district nutrition learning platforms

Development Partners

- To promote and identify funding sources for nutrition agenda
- Promote Joint resource mobilization, allocation and support
- Contributing to the development partners consolidated fund for nutrition

- Provide policy guidance on alignment of nutrition programs to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Nutrition commitments of the UN
- Promotion of multi-sectoral approach, a shift from approaching nutrition from traditional sectors to include all nutrition specific and sensitive sectors in the funding arrangements and support

International NGOs and civil society organizations

- To support, and amplify the voice of the populations suffering from malnutrition
- engaging in social mobilization and awareness-raising efforts in close collaboration with the media
- Ensure effective representation of the grassroots and support and hold governments and other stakeholders to be accountable - delivering on nutrition agenda
- Help to ensure alignment of CSO programs and policies behind national priorities
- Bring the grassroots voice to inform national policies and plans that reflect needs and realities on the ground
- Support sub national level efforts in the implementation of the nutrition agenda for the country
- Help to design interventions based on community driven demands and lessons (bottom up approach) to reduce on the challenges on voltage drop

Private sector

- To adhere to regulation by the Government for quality standards of final products to customers to meet their nutrition needs;
- improve fortification program to meet nutrition requirements
- Train and increase processors and capacity for internal monitoring of fortification processes
- Support the Government in the implementation of nutrition interventions.

Qn.4 How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

UNSCN

- To promote cooperation among UN agencies in support of community, national, regional and international efforts to end malnutrition and its consequences
- Support the implementation of the UN Decade on Nutrition at all levels

CFS

- Promote intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. This will allow input and lesson learning from national, regional and global level to be heard
- Ensure that the voice of other stakeholders is heard in the global debate on food security and nutrition
- Exchange of information on nutrition with food security constituency and bringing food security considerations to the attention of the nutrition constituency
- Include nutrition considerations in CFS work streams
- Support member states to include nutrition in the CFS work agenda and keep on trucking new nutrition issues as they emerge

- Provide synergies with other initiatives addressing nutrition

Human rights bodies

- Raise national, regional and global awareness on the right to food and nutrition and other key international human rights norms
- Support country, regional, global levels efforts promoting right to food and nutrition
- Support countries in developing guidelines on the right to food and nutrition and its obligations at the national level
- Support strengthening of countries capacities and contribute to the process of monitoring the realization of the human right to food and nutrition

Environment

- Include nutrition a shared vision
- Ensure that climate change and adaption are nutrition-sensitive
- Include nutrition considerations in all climate change mitigation efforts
- Ensure that finance, technological and capacity building on climate change are nutrition sensitive
- Ensure policy coherence on climate change and nutrition

91. Helen Medina, US Council for International Business, United States of America

The United States Council for International Business (USCIB) would like to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the opportunity to submit comments on the Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. USCIB promotes open markets, competitiveness and innovation, sustainable development and corporate responsibility, supported by international engagement and regulatory coherence. Its members include U.S.-based global companies and professional services firms from every sector of the economy, with operations in every region of the world. With a unique global network encompassing the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Organization of Employers and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD, USCIB provides business views to policy makers and regulatory authorities worldwide, and works to facilitate international trade and investment.

It is indisputable that nutrition provides a vital foundation for human development and is central to meeting one's full potential. Nutrition is also important from an economic point of view. Hunger and under-nutrition weaken the mental and physical development of children and adolescents. This in turn lowers the work capacity and income potential of adults and leads to huge social and economic costs. According to estimates by a 2013 FAO report, hunger and under-nutrition cost the global economy an estimated 2-3 percent of global gross domestic product, equivalent to \$1.4-2.1 trillion per year.

So what is the private sector doing on nutrition? For starters, the private sector is a key actor in providing nutrition from investing in agriculture; to improving the social, economic and environmental practices in farming and the supply chain; to mobilizing, innovating, and finally delivering agricultural products and food. As an employer, the private sector also has a vital role in increasing the livelihoods of society as a way to address poverty, malnutrition and under-nutrition. But that's not the whole picture. It's far from it and more can be done. One stakeholder alone can't solve complex nutrition challenges.

The importance of good governance policies and regulations that support private sector involvement in agriculture should not be underestimated. Access to finance and empowering women is also crucial

for improving nutrition around the world. Women are often the family's primary caretakers and they tend to invest in their children's health. It's therefore important for governments to promote policies that help women become farmers, traders and entrepreneurs. Promoting trade and investment in agriculture is also crucial for combating global hunger. There is significant evidence from UN reports that demonstrate increased trade, particularly in the agriculture and food industry, raises the standard of living in developing countries and improves the performance of national economies, all of which are necessary for healthy societies.

Additionally, multi-stakeholder partnerships should be encouraged. More and more of these types of approaches are widely recognized as necessary to increasing the scope of financial and human resources in order to tackle nutritional challenges on a large scale. The private sector often partners with governments and researchers to innovate and create new tools for farmers that improve nutrition. It is essential for all stakeholders to work together and develop a global food system that improves people's nutrition in a sustainable way. We are committed to public-private partnerships that support nutrition strategies and to preserving natural resources to continue to grow food which is necessary for nutrition.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda provides a terrific opportunity for the private sector to demonstrate the central role it plays in nutrition and society. While government has been successful in outlining a visionary mission for global development, businesses have the unique ability to bridge the capacity gap to reach the impact and scale necessary to meet the SDGs and in particular those that relate to nutrition. Partnership between the public and private sectors, at both the global and at national levels, is vital in creating an effective strategy and successfully implementing it to achieve these goals.

USCIB has been at the forefront of this initiative. Last year USCIB launched Business for 2030, an online platform showcasing business engagement with the SDGs. We invite you to review what business is doing to meet the 2030 goals including those related to nutrition.

92. Celeste Naude, Cochrane Nutrition, Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Cochrane Nutrition Comments for the Online Consultation on "Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition"

Cochrane Nutrition fully supports the UN Decade for Action on Nutrition to catalyze and sustain intensified and concrete actions to fix our food systems, end hunger and malnutrition and ensure that high quality, diversified and more sustainable diets can be accessed by all people, especially vulnerable groups. We welcome the opportunity to provide comments for this online consultation initiated by the UNSCN.

The UN Decade for Action on Nutrition has the potential to foster and strengthen the political will, accountability and inter-sectoral collaboration needed to translate the commitments of ICN2, the SDGs and the Global Nutrition Targets into effective actions in the form of policies, programs, and partnerships, accompanied by feasible implementation plans, to improve nutrition and food security.

Critical activities for inclusion in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets

Cochrane Nutrition would like to raise three activities related to use of evidence and research approaches:

1. Activities that emphasise the value of using synthesised evidence for translating knowledge into effective, implementable and scalable actions to reach nutrition targets.

Finding and implementing effective, scalable and sustainable solutions to address the complex, multi-sectoral nutrition burden is challenging for all stakeholders, particularly since decision-makers often have to deal with diverse and competing interests. Readily prepared syntheses of quality-appraised evidence, such as systematic reviews, deliver valuable support to decision-making by integrating findings from many studies to give a clearer and more comprehensive picture than any single study can produce.

Global synthesised evidence can be combined with national, sub-national or local evidence on service use, practice, costs, policy and organisational factors to inform decisions on what actions are effective and how to best implement and deliver these actions. Training of all stakeholders and organisations in using synthesised evidence can facilitate evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM). EIDM involves using research evidence with expertise, resources, and knowledge about contextual health issues, local context, and political climate to make intervention, policy and program decisions. This systematic and transparent inclusion of research evidence in decision-making can strengthen nutrition actions, promote the provision of effective and efficient nutrition interventions and services, and support a more responsible use of financial and human resources.

2. Activities that support methodological research innovations to advance our knowledge on the 'how' questions - how do we implement an appropriate combination of actions (nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive) at scale, in an equitable way in different contexts?

We know a lot about the multi-faceted aetiology of malnutrition and about effective nutrition-specific interventions options. But many questions still remain about how best to address some of the complex emerging and underlying drivers of malnutrition, especially when different forms of malnutrition coexist as is the reality in many countries. Furthermore, we face challenges on implementation and delivering impact, especially for prevention. Low intervention coverage and poor quality of implementation continues to contribute to poor nutrition outcomes in developing countries, and delivery itself needs to be improved. The effects of interventions depend on the extent to which they are implemented, as well as the dependability of their implementation. These two factors are enormously dependent on the capacity of 'coalface' workers, the quality of frontline facilities and organisation of intervention delivery platforms. To address these complex questions requires developing and applying innovative research approaches for both primary research and evidence synthesis. The ongoing work in this area needs support and growth to generate the required knowledge for solutions and actions to enable countries to reduce their nutrition burdens.

3. Activities that support and improve the quality of primary nutrition research and evidence synthesis

Nutritional epidemiology research has expanded over the last 50 years, and the number of trials and observational studies in nutrition has increased exponentially. Generally, this growth has not led to better quality or more useful research results, and duplication, as well as redundant efforts have characterized many research initiatives. Although there have been several activities to enhance nutrition research prioritization, design, management, reporting and interpretation, many of these aspects still need to be improved. A strong interdependence between nutrition and the complex biological, physical and social systems that affect nutrition outcomes contributes to the difficulties of executing nutrition studies and synthesizing this evidence. As we answer nutrition research questions, there is a need to better understand and consider potential biases, as well as interactions with other systems, to improve nutrition research in general.

Cochrane Nutrition would also like to emphasise **three research areas**:

1. Activities to ensure that policies and programs to improve nutrition include cost-analyses.

Understanding *cost implications* of interventions is a very important dimension for analysis of program delivery and implementation, and a key tool for policy and prioritization.

2. Activities and mechanisms to assist countries to ensure that public policies are coherent from food production through to consumption, and across sectors to meet people's nutrition needs and promote safe and diversified healthy diets. Food system policies and interventions, particularly in trade and markets, should be designed in consultation with both food system stakeholders (e.g. agriculture, post-harvest, retailers, consumers) and health stakeholders to ensure they seek to balance health and nutrition with profitability and are coherent with health policies.

3. Activities to address the knowledge gap on effective actions to fix our food systems. The current knowledge base on food system interventions is sparse and more focussed research is needed to identify the 'best buys' within the different types of food systems, from industrial to rural, that enable all people to access healthier foods. More focus is needed on interventions that reduce commercial exploitation of people's biological, psychological, social, and economic vulnerabilities enabling healthier diets.

Actions to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors; Roles of public and private actors in monitoring their implementation

Greater emphasis on the **role of civil society** in monitoring implementation, improving governance and accountability of policies and commitments is needed. As consumers in food systems, an informed civil society can help to create the demand needed for healthier food systems.

Actions and contributions from other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN

Supportive forums can provide the platforms needed to identify and pull together a **critical mass of nutrition champions** (in districts, countries and regions) to identify gaps, coordinate actions, strengthen collaborations, and monitor impacts within the shared framework of the ICN2 outcomes, the SDGs, and the Global Nutrition Targets. Once identified and committed, the critical mass of all stakeholders can collectively work with the relevant forums to **build leadership**, advocate for and create demand for enabling environments, more resources and better governance to support the multi-level changes required for improved nutrition. The forums are also in a position to promote knowledge sharing across borders and to build the leadership needed to put nutrition on the agenda and keep it there – **strong and active nutrition champions within all sectors** (private, civil society, academic, government, NGO etc.) can be identified and can be instrumental to build the coherence needed across sectors. Supportive forums can assist nutrition champions with **prioritization** of actions and competing interests.

Cochrane Nutrition looks forward to further engagements, and is committed to partnering to implement the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Daniela Küllenberg de Gaudry, Cochrane Germany

Celeste Naude, Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University, South Africa; Co-director: Cochrane Nutrition

Solange Durão, Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa; Co-director: Cochrane Nutrition

on behalf of Cochrane Nutrition, <http://nutrition.cochrane.org/>

93. Sonia Boland, Australian Government Department of Health, Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on how we might best maximise the potential of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Please find comments from Australia below.

United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Online consultation on the work programme for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Comments from Australia

Australia supports the need to focus global attention on the double burden of nutrition and the United Nations General Assembly's proclamation of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. Critically, the Decade of Action on Nutrition presents the opportunity to accelerate actions to implement the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on how we might best maximise the potential of the Decade of Action.

Foremost, the Decade of Action on Nutrition should be used as a catalyst to accelerate actions to implement the Framework for Action, which provides an agreed set of policy options and strategies for Member States to consider implementing in line with national circumstances and priorities.

To achieve this, better coordinated actions across all relevant sectors will be fundamental. A successful Decade of Action will therefore support coherent and strategic alignment of issues within the Framework of Action to bring to life the multi-dimensional nature of nutrition action. It will be important to break down some of the sector silos that have been hindering accelerated action on nutrition. It is also important to help actors identify roles and responsibilities, but also to show where collective action across sectors can drive nutrition outcomes and how the various inputs across food and health systems can come together to deliver results.

The Decade of Action is also an opportunity to encourage and develop international partnerships on nutrition. We acknowledge the important role that the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization will play in leading this work.

Member States should also initiate opportunities to exchange information and share technical resources. Private-public partnerships, as well as collaborations between governments and NGOs, should also be explored. It should be recognised that malnutrition has many underlying causes requiring coordinated action supported by strong leadership at all levels. Mechanisms such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement may assist in this regard.

The Framework for Action focuses on the need to build on existing commitments, goals and targets. By focusing on how to accelerate existing commitments and strengthening existing mechanisms, creation of parallel or duplicate structures can be avoided. For the purpose of accountability, we note the Framework for Action adopts the existing global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition and for noncommunicable disease risk factor reduction to be achieved by 2025. Consideration could also be given to developing an additional set of indicators – including progress indicators – by which development practitioners in all nutrition-sensitive sectors can measure their impact on nutrition and know whether their efforts are likely to lead to future positive impacts on nutrition.

The Decade of Action presents an opportunity to summon resources to drive research and targeted, evidence-based interventions to address the double burden of malnutrition and obesity and its related chronic conditions, particularly in developing countries. Availability of robust data on nutrition is essential for surveillance, policy making, program targeting and accountability. The Decade of Action

should consider how to build the capacity of countries to undertake data collection and analysis. Additionally, where appropriate, the agriculture and health sectors should be encouraged to cooperate in the development of data collection techniques. The cooperation between these two sectors could lead to data that can inform nutrition-sensitive agriculture policies and inform the development of food security policies.

The following list provides some examples of additional aspects that would be important to consider in the Decade of Action:

- Promotion of nutrition outcomes through **nutrition-sensitive approaches in key sectors** (such as agriculture, social protection, financial inclusion, WASH and education) should be a key strategy for achievement of nutrition objectives.
- A focus on the **first 1,000 days** is necessary to make an impact on child stunting in particular. This demands special efforts to boost the nutrition of **vulnerable women of reproductive age**, along with promotion of maternal, newborn and infant care practices such as pre-natal health checks, breastfeeding and diet diversity.
- **Building resilience to malnutrition** – closing the gap between development and humanitarian support – will be an important contribution to the achievement of nutrition outcomes. Nutrition-sensitive sectors have a large role to play in this.
- Promotion of the **role of trade in improving food supply**, which has an impact on nutrition. Research by FAO and OECD has shown that open, efficient and reliable international agricultural and food markets help manage risks and allow food to move to where it is needed, particularly in times of crisis.

We look forward to working with the WHO to implement the Decade of Action on Nutrition and to realise achievement of global nutrition-related objectives.

94. Mohamed Moloud, El Shaab Newspaper, Mauritania [fourth contribution]

Original contribution in Arabic

الشباب بها يقوم مشاريع لمتابعة بلد كل في مجالس على ويشرف , بالتغذية المعنية والمنظمات للفاو يتبع , الإقتراضي المنتدى بهذا شبيهه مجلس تشكيل أقترح المناطق في مجالس على يشرف , المتطوعين من بلد كل في الوطني المجلس ويكون , والوسائل , اللازمة والخبرات التمويل عن لها ويبحث , عليها ويشرف من يزيد وكذلك , الفقر على للقضاء فرصة يتيح , معتبر مالي مردود لتحقيق بها الإشتغال للشباب يمكن لمجالات مواضيع المثال سبيل على وأقترح , الداخلية الغذاء مجال في البلدان إنتاجية :

- 1- رقعة توسيع امكانية مع , الصحراوية وشبه الصحراوية المناطق في وخاصة , التمور لإنتاج المختلفة المناطق في , الأنسجة طريق عن : النخيل زراعة -1 ... الإنتاج وسريعة , للأمراض مقاومة تكون والفسائل , الأنواع أفضل بانتقاء الطريقة هذه تسمح . العالم من واسعة مناطق في التقنية بهذه النخيل زراعة
 - 2- صديقة متجددة طاقة تنتج مربحة مشاريع فيو الشباب بتشغيل العملية هذه تسمح : الحيوانات ومخلفات , العضوية النفايات من الحيوي الغاز إنتاج مشاريع -2 . الزراعي الإنتاج لزيادة استخدامه يمكن السماد أنواع أفضل من عضويا سمادا وتنتج , للبيئة
 - 3- العملية هذه في وغيرها البيئة مشاريع من الإستفادة ويمكن , النباتي الغطاء واختفاء للتصحر المعرضة المناطق في خاصة واسعة مناطق تشجير مشاريع-3 وبيع , النمو سريع مثلا الباولونيا شجر زراعة يمكن , الإنتاج وزيادة الغذاء توفير على القدرة وبالتالي الدخل وزيادة الشباب لتشغيل فرصا ستوفر التي الأشجار هذه من جيدة تعبر التي الأخشاب .
- وسوء الجوع على للقضاء استغلالها يمكن التي الفرص من تزيد أنها إلا , مباشرة غير أوبصفة , مباشرة الغذاء بإنتاج صلة ذات المشاريع من العديد يوجد الغذاء إنتاج و , التغذية

ومتوفرة كثيرة والموارد , الغذاء إنتاج لزيادة البعض ويتطوع إمكانيات فيها تسخر الجوع على للقضاء سنة إلى الدولة رئيس يدعو أن مثلا يمكن بلدي في القطاع هذا في المسؤولون يتطوع معينة لمنطقة الدولة في قطاع كل تخصيص خلال من المشاريع هذه لتمويل على الحصول ويمكن , ذلك لتحقيق الميزانية من الملايين عشرات أرجع فترة قبل الوزراء أحد أن نذكر , إنجاز لتحقيق كافية أنها أعتقد , الموارد من مثلا 5% نسبة تخصيص وكذلك , للمساعدة الذين الخاصة والمؤسسات المواطنين إلى إضافة هذا , ذكر ما لتمويل المطلوب من أكثر سنوفر مماثل بمبلغ وزارة كل تبرعت فإذا , فيها تنفق ما يجد لم لأنه للتطوع نداء تطلق سامية شخصية أو الزراعة وزير حتى وربما , الدولة رئيس بتدخل , قصده ما وهو العليا السلطات من مهم إعلان كل بعد عادة يتبرعون للأغذية العالمي اليوم بمناسبة السنة هذه فرق إحداث أجل من .

English translation

I suggest that a council or a board similar to this virtual forum be formed. This board shall be affiliated to the FAO and to the organizations concerned with nutrition and shall supervise boards in every country in order to follow up and monitor projects undertaken by the youth. The national board, which is comprised of volunteers from each country, shall also look for the funding and expertise required for these projects. I suggest that youth should be engaged in some topics where they can achieve a good financial return that helps in eradicating poverty and increase the country's productivity in the field of food. These topics are:

1. Planting palm trees: through tissues in the different areas of dates production specially in the desert and semi-desert areas. This is in addition to the possibility of expanding the area of planting palm trees using this method in larger areas in the world. This method allows for the selection of the best types and the seedlings can fight diseases and have a higher rate of production.
2. A bio-gas production project from organic waste and animal residues. This process allows the employment of youth in profitable projects that produce eco-friendly renewable energy. It also produces organic fertilizers from the best types of fertilizer that can be used to increase agricultural production.
3. Afforestation projects for large areas, especially the ones that are prone to desertification and disappearance of vegetation cover. We can also take advantage of the environmental projects which will provide employment opportunities for youth and increase income and consequently this will increase the ability to provide food and increase production. The fast growing paulownia trees can be planted and the timber of these trees can be sold.

There are many projects that are directly or indirectly related to food production, but they increase the opportunities of eradication of hunger and malnutrition as well as increase food production.

In my country, the President may call for a year of eradication of hunger where all the potentials will be deployed and some people will volunteer to increase food production. There are plenty of resources that are available to realize this goal. Funding for this project could be attained through allocating a certain area for each sector in the country where the officials of this sector volunteer to help and allocate, for example, 5% from the resources. I guess this will be enough to realize the goals. I remember that one of the ministers has returned a sum of tens of millions from the budget as he did not find the channels to spend this money on. If each ministry donates a similar amount we will be able to provide funding for the above mentioned tasks. This is in addition to the citizens and private institutions that give donations directly after each important announcement from the supreme authorities. This is what I meant by the intervention of the Minister of Agriculture or a

dignified official who will call for volunteers in order to make a difference in this year on the occasion of the World Food Day.

95. Jean Philippe Pancrate, Perfect Union, France

Do we need evolution or revolution? MAPEX is an effective tool with the potential to make a significant contribution in the area of development assistance. A global partnership for development rooted in a commitment to excellence, thanks to MAPEX, would be truly innovative.

MAPEX, a methodology for excellence in project management, places good governance at the heart of sustainable and balanced development for all. Action should no longer be taken in haste, but rather on the basis of a real strategy of excellence for sustainable development. Actions should not be based

on generosity alone; they should be well founded and intelligible, while remaining people-centred. We are at the dawning of a new era of partnership reflecting values and common sense. One way to explain this is through the example of climate change. The consequences of the actions of so-called developed countries are extremely harmful for populations, in particular the most vulnerable ones. Companies from so-called developed countries cut down trees that represented the livelihoods of local people, without replanting them. Consequently, even if development assistance is provided, it is irrelevant in the face of those companies' actions. If there are no trees left on the Earth, how will the peoples of either the North or the South breathe or live? None will be spared. It must be emphasized that climate change has devastating consequences, such as rising sea levels, melting ice, disease, hurricanes and the death of animals, that affect everyone.

We must therefore work together to ensure that actions are taken in the form of projects. We must all see ourselves as stewards of the Earth and act to protect it. To do so, we must move forward together, being sure to include the most deprived in particular. The goal is to live in a world that provides prosperity for all. Therefore, actions must be devised in terms of projects. That involves considering the life cycle of a project, which comprises several stages: design, implementation and evaluation. When doing so, it is desirable to focus more on preventive measures than on curative ones. We have therefore carried out upstream work to develop a methodology that strengthens the first stage of the project: the design. Why? The reason is simple: when a project is well designed from the beginning, it has every chance of success. We offer a toolkit that makes it possible to take better-informed decisions concerning assistance. More than a simple assistance application, what is needed is a process for developing true projects of excellence. That involves taking the time to select and prepare actions in accordance with strict eligibility criteria and conditionalities.

Attachment:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/UN%20JOURNAL%20M APEX%20AIDE%20AU%20DEVELEOPPEMENT.pdf>

96. Rachma Nurbani, the SMERU Research Institute, Indonesia

Dear Christine,

I would like to propose the issue of caring arrangement at household level and its relation to children nutritional status.

My concern is based the fact that most of the intervention of nutrition program are based in household level, yet many challenges is ahead due to prevailing gender norms and changing pattern of caring arrangement in the society lately.

Taking example from Indonesia context, herewith my thought:

Despite convincing macroeconomic performance over the last decades, various national nutrition indicators highlighting nutrition crisis in Indonesia. With more than one third of the children aged five suffered from stunting, Indonesia is among the countries in the world with highest stunting prevalence in the world (IFPRI, 2013). According to UNICEF, 80 percent of world's stunted children are living in 14 countries, including Indonesia (UNICEF, 2013). Data of Basic Health Survey released by Ministry of Health released in 2013 also shown that as many as 19.6 percent of Indonesia children aged under five years suffered from underweight, 21.1 percent wasting, and 37.2 percent stunting (Risksedas, 2013). If referring to World Health Organization (WHO) standard, Indonesia faces very severe wasting and stunting problem, dan medium severe underweight problem. A worrisome nutrition figures can also been seen from micronutrient deficiency on children which prevalence considered high in Indonesia, with 28.1 percent among children aged under five years suffering from anemia, and 29

percent among children aged five to twelve years. While a better nutrition performance were shown by other countries in lower income group than Indonesia, including the surrounding nations in South East Asia such as Phillipine, Vietnam, and Myanmar.

The increasing national welfare has bring about social transformations that some how contribute to the way people eating in recent days, including children. With changing in caring arrangement due to rising numbers of working women and reduced time for care, the way children eating has been evolving in recent years (Nurbani, 2015). As shown by expenditure for consumption data released by National Statistics Agency, people are now spending largest share of their food expenditure on prepared food (BPS, 2013). As for children, there is a widespread concern about children's snacking habits (IDS, 2015; SMERU, 2016 forthcoming). Parents are now seeking for a more convenient way to acquire dietary needs for children, as well as for the other household members (Crepinsek and Burstein, 2004). Prepared and instant food seems to be an alternatives for people to safe time from drudgery cooking activities and all the supporting activities toward cooking—such as shopping, preparing ingredients, washing dish, heating the meal, as well as to safe the money. The change in the way children eating can be a worrisome for Indonesia because apart from its success in maintaining macro-economic condition, this newly middle income country still can not escape from the problem of hidden hunger, especially of those children from poor household.

When talking about caring and feeding of children, then we have to aware about the prevailing gender-norm which become the context. The prevailing gender-norm in Indonesia and many other parts of the world, still put women as the main care giver in household who are the most responsible in assuring children's food intake and nutrition. With increasing number of women participating in economic work, some people believe it will give rise to new problems related to the fulfillment of children food intake and nutrition, especially children from poor household. Economic constraints experienced by poor households has encouraged women of the households to work outside home looking for additional income. While on the other hand, they still have to carry out their responsibility to ensure food intake and nutrition of children at home. Double burden that women experience will affect the quality of care provided to children as can be seen from the children's nutritional status. This also has been exacerbated by the fact that family ties is no longer in the form of extended family but already a nuclear family, especially for those who lives in urban. If in the past women could get support with child care from other family member, it is now becoming increasingly difficult for them to do so. Moreover, the existing government programs and campaign in increasing children's nutrition status are mostly put women as the main key actors in the household without put any attention to the women's labor in providing the care and intra household caring arrangement. Women in particular mother's (instead of carer's) level of education and knowledge in feeding practices are often used as important indicator in assessing children's food and nutrition security status.

Although many advocacy and government institutions share common arguments on the importance of care for future generations and believe that women give significant contribution in children's nutrition status through the caring practices they provided, the government has not given any sufficient support for households—especially poor households, in providing quality care. Caring practice is still perceived as something taken for granted that do need to be intervened by public policy thus a household must find its own way of arranging child care and assuring food and nutrition needs of children.

97. Samuel Oriala, Farm Management Center, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria,

In the face of the seeming insurmountable challenges to sustainable food security in Nigeria, the following measures could suffice to ameliorate and save mankind from the pump of hunger in the next

decade:

- 1) Improve smallholder productivity and market access. Investment should be sealed up to improve access to inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, financial and extension services as well as rural infrastructure including irrigation.
- 2) Promotion of productive social safety nets; This should be done to offset the impact of shocks, secure basic livelihoods and protect poor people from risk and vulnerability. Social safety nets have protective, preventives, promotional and transformational functions with different objectives.
- 3) Harmonization of food security and sustainability policy.
- 4) Keep trade open: Government should eliminate existing harmful trade restrictions and refrain from newly imposed ones so as to reduce food price volatility and enhance the efficiency of agricultural markets.

In conclusion, strong economic performance is not in conflict with great environmental performance. Through innovation Nigerian can achieve agricultural sustainability and food security which in turn ameliorate the rate of poverty and malnutrition.

98. Jennifer Dias, Brooke, United Kingdom

As an organisation with 80 years of experience working on the ground in developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, we urge for a strong focus on the needs and priorities of smallholder farmers who produce nearly 70% of the food consumed in the world. In particular, we believe special attention should be paid to the resource systems they depend upon. We believe that understanding of these systems can be improved through multi-stakeholder engagement and the development of a more comprehensive body of knowledge. While the links between livestock and nutrition are complex and differ across the varied food systems, in a smallholder context, livestock keeping is a fundamental element of food security and nutrition. Livestock's important role goes beyond food production, and also includes, for example, the draught power used to produce, distribute and access food. In the smallholder context, the production of animal-sourced foods and other agricultural products is often facilitated by the use of draught animals. Therefore, nutrition interventions should take this issue into account within the broader and complex nutrition picture.

99. Gabor Figeczky, IFOAM, Organics International, Germany

IFOAM – Organics International thanks FAO for organizing this broad consultation on the Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. IFOAM – Organics International is the global umbrella organization for organic farming movements with more than 800 members in all continents. We are a recognized CSO representing farmers by various UN organizations including CFS, UNDESA, UNFCCC, UNEP and UNCCD.

We welcome the idea to have the coming decade dedicated to action on nutrition. We believe that it is a great opportunity to make a big step towards achieving commitments undertaken by countries in the framework of WHA, Nutrition for Growth, ICN2, as well as SDG 2 and contribute to other relevant targets of Agenda 2030. However, we also believe that, if global agriculture is to stay on the path it has been taking for the past decades will lead to the failure of DoA. As the UNCTAD report titled 'Wake Up Before It Is Too Late' points out, hunger and malnutrition are not supply-side productivity problems: "meeting food security challenges is primarily about empowerment of the poor." A shift is needed "from a conventional, monoculture-based and high-external-input-dependent industrial production towards mosaics of sustainable, regenerative production systems that also considerably improve the productivity of small-scale farmers."

The common goal: dietary diversity

The benefits of a more diverse diet are now widely recognized. Dietary diversity is a strong predictor of micronutrient adequacy and overall diet quality. Increasing availability and access to a nutritionally diverse range of foods within and across different food groups is key to ensure adequate intake of essential nutrients required for healthy, productive lives.

However, to date, the diversity of produce delivered by international trade has mainly benefited wealthy consumers in high-income countries, while poor people in low-income countries continue to be unable to afford the diversity available on these markets. We need to stop the erosion of traditional diets that has started in many places. No government policies should anymore have an explicit focus on monocropping of staple crops or favouring the specialization in major cereal or cash crop production that helps to push out more diverse food cropping at the expense of nutritionally-important foodstuffs. What is needed instead is supportive policies at national level for dietary diversity, combined with locally developed solutions, including integrated homestead food production and greater integration of locally available nutrient dense foods into market systems that can reach urban consumers. Reviving the importance of locally available nutrient-dense foods such as fruits, vegetables, and beans and pulses within food systems and ensuring greater market access are key strategies to achieve a more diversified diet.

Besides being detrimental to nutrition and dietary as well as agricultural diversity, corporate industrialization of agriculture in many developing countries is resulting in massive [land grabs](#), destruction of [biodiversity](#) and ecosystems, [displacement](#) of indigenous peoples, destruction of livelihoods and [cultures](#) and creates financial dependency for smallholders.

NSA as the real challenge

Some developing countries, which are just about to start putting nutrition on their national agendas, might be tempted and misguided to tick the task by turning to the simplest solutions sometimes driven by donors. Public-private partnerships need to be critically viewed in this respect, too. In our opinion, nutrition-specific actions will remain a much easier and more popular target for donors. Therefore, while it is imperative for DoA to keep both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in any portfolio designed to improve nutrition to address malnutrition both in the short and the longer term, the main challenge lies in the latter. If DoA is to make a real mark on the nutrition scene, it should stimulate and enable countries in the form of clear guidance as well as targeted resources to walk the hard way of designing nutrition-sensitive policies, schemes and investments.

Focus on Actions!

Last but not least, instead of an often followed events-based approach for a UN Decade, we believe DoA should be action-oriented. It should define a roadmap of actions for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, which should form part of an overall transformation towards truly sustainable agriculture and food systems based on the idea of ecological intensification. Awareness raising programmes and campaigns on the importance of dietary diversity and 'good food' adjusted to local conditions should be an essential part of such a roadmap.

Ifoam – Organics International will work in its full capacity to make DoA a true success and we offer collaboration to all organizations and entities wanting to join us on the pathway outlined above.

100. Simone Welte, Welthungerhilfe, Germany

Welthungerhilfe welcomes this online consultation and appreciates this possibility to comment and to contribute to a successful Decade of Action on Nutrition in the follow up of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

Achieving Zero Hunger and tackling all forms of malnutrition need a strong political will and must be on top of the political agenda. Coherent action in the context of the Decade, from all actors, such as UN agencies, governments, civil society, academia and private sector is key. We recognize the UN Decade as a unique opportunity to jointly contribute to sustainable and healthy diets and lifestyles.

All action under the Decade must be based on human rights and existing human rights obligations and commitments, particularly the right to adequate food, and recognizing human rights principles such as non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

To allow the Decade to have a real impact on the lives of the people who are most affected by malnutrition, it needs to be a people's decade. Governments need to set up and support processes at country level that enable the most affected groups to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and programs in the context of the Decade. These processes should be coordinated with those put in place in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), based on its mandate, has an important role to play in the coordination and orientation of action between a range of actors, improving policy coherence and monitoring progress on the Implementation of the Decade in line with the Right to adequate food. The report of the CFS's High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on "Food systems and nutrition" to be endorsed by the CFS 44 can provide guidance on national and international policies on nutrition.

The monitoring of the implementation of CFS decisions and policies at country level will be a critical activity to be implemented in the work program for the implementation of the Decade as a contribution of the CFS to verify progress, identify successful policies, failures and challenges and hold governments to account on their commitments and human rights obligations with regard to nutrition. As drivers of the Decade, member states should convene and support inclusive national monitoring events.

Germany has endorsed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and is a signatory and supporter of the outcome documents of ICN2, the WHA nutrition targets, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to adequate Food. With the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, Germany has recognized its domestic relevance as well as its responsibilities at international level with regard to nutrition.

The recently revised National Sustainability Strategy (NSS) aims to illustrate Germany's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, however, it still lacks relevant indicators which would be important, particularly to monitor the impacts of Germany's policies on food and nutrition security and the right to adequate food on those most affected by malnutrition.

On a national level, Germany faces the growing problem of overweight and obesity. Germany is active in promoting healthy and sustainable diets and lifestyles, but mainly focuses on consumer education for behavior change which do not seem to have a significant impact on overweight and obesity rates in Germany. Within the Decade of Action on Nutrition, the government should set the legal and political framework conditions to promote healthy and sustainable diets. This includes situational prevention measures, e.g. taxes on unhealthy foods, labelling, the removal of persuasive elements from packaging, mandatory regulations for public procurement to ensure that food which is provided in canteens, schools etc. contributes to diversified healthy diets and is from environmentally and socially sustainable production.

On an international level, Germany should move forward towards monitoring and reducing adverse impacts of its policies on food and nutrition security and the right to adequate food beyond its own national borders. This requires closer coordination of public policies in different sectors (agriculture, health, education, environment, trade, finance and others) and at different levels and the definition of clear responsibilities.

Germany is a main donor in the field of sustainable food and nutrition security. The Decade provides the momentum for a significant increase of ODA funding for nutrition. This should be focused on least developed countries and the groups most affected by malnutrition and address the structural determinants of malnutrition.

To conclude, for a successful and lasting international Decade of Action on Nutrition it is necessary to formulate a systematic, detailed and coherent strategy to implement the actions proposed in the ICN2 Framework for Action at different levels. A monitoring system should be set up which allows for meaningful participation of civil society actors, particularly those most affected by malnutrition, and should, at a global level be led by the UN, especially WHO, FAO and UNSCN, and at a national level, by member states.

101. Florence Lasbennes, Secretariat of Scaling up Nutrition Movement

Dear Christine and colleagues

Many thanks for this interesting consultation.

I am delighted to share the contribution of the Coordinator on behalf of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

We look further to continuous collaboration

Best wishes

Florence

Director of SUN Movement Secretariat

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's contribution to the Decade of Action on Nutrition - 16 October 2016

1. What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?
2. What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?
3. What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?
4. How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

- 1) The goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 is as ambitious as it is urgent, but above all, it is achievable. In 2010, when the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was launched, there were 165 million stunted children. Figures released in September 2016 show that that number is now 156 million.

- 2) We have a long way to go: every nation in our world is affected by malnutrition. Poor nutrition stunts cognitive development and educational success, has devastating consequences for the social and economic potential of individuals and undermines the peace and prosperity of societies. With more than 3 million deaths of children under 5 every year as a result of under-nutrition and a rapid rise in non-communicable diseases caused by overweight and obesity, the complex, overlapping and inter-related multiple burdens of malnutrition affect people living in every country in the world, across the socio-economic spectrum. Whilst women and children in the world's poorest countries bear a disproportionate share of the global malnutrition burden, marginalised groups in all countries and communities, are particularly vulnerable. The Decade of Action on Nutrition is timely: it can help communicate the human, social and economic impacts on nutrition and amplify the focus on implementation in countries, for results.
- 3) The Movement's new Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020 – *From Inspiration to Impact*- seeks to accelerate the achievements of results through the strengthening of in-country capabilities to a) improve country planning and implementation, mobilise; b) advocate and communicate for impact; c) collaborate cross sectorally and with multiple stakeholders and d) ensure equity, equality and non- discrimination for all. As such, the members of the SUN Movement will have an important contribution to make towards the goals of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
- 4) Lessons from the SUN Movement's experience to date shows that attention to several areas is needed to improve nutrition. These relate to encouraging an enabling environment for scale up to happen at country level, working across sectors and with multiple stakeholders, aligning with national plans and priorities, increasing access to, and effective use of, financial resources for nutrition, and building on and sharing experiences learned to date. The experience of those countries in the SUN Movement will be invaluable in achieving the goals of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. Their experiences indicate that:
- 5) First and foremost, ending malnutrition is a political choice. With governments accountable for the nutrition of their citizens, political leadership, at all levels, is essential. With nutrition being a cross - sectoral issue, the convening power of the country's top leadership can encourage convergence and collaboration. The involvement of Ministries of Planning and Finance alongside those responsible for improvements in agriculture, social protection, education, water and sanitation, health can leverage impact not just in nutrition but for sectoral outcomes too, in a virtuous circle of development and nutrition wins. The Decade of Action on Nutrition has the opportunity to elevate and sustain a focus on good nutrition at the highest-levels, guided by data and shared learning. The SUN Movement will work to amplify the progress and highlight the challenges faced by those that are scaling up nutrition.
- 6) Secondly, whilst national ownership is essential, efforts to end malnutrition in all its forms will also require innovative alliances and engagement from all stakeholders, young and old, women and men, and from all in society. These alliances will include civil society and social movements, business, parliamentarians and local authorities, the UN system and multilateral institutions - working together *for measurable and scalable impact*. Their partnering will be different in each country, in each community and in each context, and open dialogue is essential. The Decade of Action encapsulates this approach, offering a truly inclusive space for countries to share their progress and challenges, and seek ways to collaborate together to translate dialogue into action for all people everywhere. The SUN Movement will play its part encouraging each national Movement to focus on the issues that will have the best *results* for them, and encouraging the actors at the regional and global level to adapt their support accordingly. This collaboration is being built on 10 guiding principles of engagement that have been developed and adopted by stakeholders in the

SUN Movement are also being adopted by other global partnerships and will help transform our ways of working¹³.

- 7) Thirdly, the alignment of stakeholders with national priorities and plans will increase efficiency, improve efficacy and maximize collective impact. As the Decade of Action galvanizes SMART Commitments that can translate the outcomes of the ICN2 Framework for Action into concrete outcomes, experiences in the SUN Movement indicate that commitments to action must also be aligned, and that all stakeholders must be mutually accountable for achieving results, facilitated by clear expectations, and measurable achievements. The SUN Movement will seek to encourage this alignment, and commitment to SMART actions.
- 8) Fourthly, the type of knowledge required to meet the challenge of ending malnutrition is as much about experience as it is about evidence, building upon what already exists, implementing actions and course correcting as we learn. In the SUN Movement we will encourage and facilitate the sharing of experiences across sectors, countries and stakeholder groups. In doing so, we will contribute to the implementation of national policies, programs and investments under the ICN2 framework in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 9) Fifthly, increased resources are needed, but efficient use of these resources is also required. Improving financing for nutrition is a collective responsibility and will require national government, donors, innovative financing mechanism, business and consumers to act in solidarity behind shared goals to collectively accelerate progress. But financing is also linked to results. The Decade of Action, through showcasing the results of efforts to improve nutrition can help drive forward further investments, and the SUN Movement will share the learning and experiences of its members, and will mobilise our members to do so.
- 10) Finally, if we are to end malnutrition in all its forms, we must ensure that we leave no-one behind and reach the hardest to reach first. This means we must be prepared to adapt our ways of working to assist those in fragile contexts, failed states, and humanitarian situations and build resilience to climatic, political and economic shocks. And in all countries, we must ensure continued attention to women and children, to marginalised groups, and to those for whom nutrition justice must be served in order to leave no-one behind.
- 11) The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is not an institution programme or fund. It is a voluntary Movement whose stakeholders are bound together by a collective vision to end malnutrition in all its forms. The 57 Member States in the Movement, with the 3 Indian States and the 2,500 civil society groups, 200 businesses, donors, scientists, and UN system agencies will have their own ways of contributing to the Decade of Action on Nutrition. As the SUN Movement we will share our experience and our progress and our challenges in ways that support coordinated action, strengthen collaboration, and monitor impact within the shared framework of the ICN2 outcomes, the SDGs, and the global nutrition targets.
- 12) In conclusion, nutritional status is both a driver and marker of inequity. If the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to be realized, improved nutrition of all people,

¹³ Partnerships Playbook <http://ucx3x320eshgjxppibt1rqq0.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Partnerships-Playbook.pdf> 1. Be country led; 2. Be rights based; 3. Be inclusive; 4. Be transparent about intentions and impact; 5. Be predictable and mutually accountable; 6. Be evidence – based; 7.-Communicate conscientiously; 8. Act with integrity and in an ethical manner; 9. Be mutually respectful; and 10. Do no harm.

everywhere will be essential. The 2030 Agenda is *everyone's* agenda. It guides us towards a better future for us all now, and for future generations, on a healthier planet. The international community is committed to eradicate poverty and hunger, build resilient societies, address climate change and put the world on a path for sustainable development. The United Nations' Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 can be an invaluable contribution to this agenda and an unprecedented opportunity to increase the world's attention to the individual, social and economic impacts of malnutrition. More importantly, it is an unprecedented opportunity to further galvanize action to achieve results so that children, families and communities thrive.

Gerda Verburg

United Nation's Assistant Secretary General
Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Coordinator

Attachment:

http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/161016-%20Decade%20of%20Action%20and%20the%20SUN%20Movement_0.docx

102. Emily Lewis-Brown, Consultant, United Kingdom

Compassion in World Farming is grateful for the opportunity to share our views on how best to maximise the potential of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (DAN). We are pleased that the DAN, as well as SDG2, includes action to eradicate all forms of malnutrition and provides data for obesity-related as well as hunger-related malnutrition.

While Compassion works primarily to improve farm animal welfare, we find that this is consistent with improving nutrition, as well as reducing malnutrition in all its forms.

Overview: Consequently, Compassion would like to present four key related issues:

1. Research shows that animal sourced foods (ASF) from higher welfare farms (e.g. free-range/organic) tend to be of higher nutritional value than intensively farmed ASF[i];
2. Due to limited resources and capacity to cope with pollution, research shows that high meat-consuming diets cannot be accommodated across the world[ii], and grain-based animal farming detracts from the food base[iii] putting the most food insecure at further risk[iv].
3. The recent HLPE report to the CFS finds that "The consensus of expert medical advice is that, in developed and some emerging countries, people should reduce their consumption of a number of ASF, in particular of red and processed meats"[v];
4. Through public policy, education, regulation of the market, and business practices, shifts in consumption patterns can be encouraged to allow contraction and convergence of consumption of foods, particularly ASF, with benefits to malnutrition in all its forms.

Discussion: Compassion in World Farming works primarily on improving Farm Animal Welfare for the 70 billion animals farmed for food each year. Around two thirds of farm animals are farmed intensively[vi], typically bred for very rapid growth and high yield, and are fed concentrated feeds and grains; with extreme confinement, physical mutilations, and other physical and psychological suffering. However, research finds that intensively farmed ASF are of lower nutritional value than ASF from animals that are longer-lived, slower growing breeds, have space to roam and can graze and forage. The iron content was higher in free-range/organic pig-meat, chicken and trout than intensively farmed counter-parts. Similar findings were found for levels of carotenoids and Vitamin E, where data was available for beef, pig-meat, chicken, milk and eggs. And the proportion of Omega-3 to

Omega-6 was consistently better in free-range/organic/slower-growing lamb, beef, pigs, chickens, trout, and with milk and eggs. Other nutrients have not been examined yet.

Many animals, particularly sheep, goats, and cattle, can contribute positively to human nutrition by producing ASF which people can eat, from animals that eat roughage and grass that humans can not eat, and from marginal lands that are not adequate for growing crops for human consumption. Pigs and poultry can be used to re-cycle crop residues and wastes and forage in woodlands and rough pasture.

The shift to intensive livestock farming in many industrialised nations has led to an increasingly heavy dependence upon grain-based concentrated feeds that are high energy, to drive high growth rates and high milk and egg yields. Removed from the land, animals can no longer graze or forage for food, or utilise crop residues and wastes as the excessive breeding and yields renders them reliant on high-energy feed. Thus, they are competing with humans for land and grain that could otherwise be used to feed people. Using human-grade crops to feed to animals is inherently inefficient, as much of the energy inputted into the animal is lost in the process, and only a fraction is available to the consumer. The Earth, her resources and capacity to process pollution must be considered as finite; and industrial farming a heavy burden on our resources: the more ASF that are over-consumed in some populations, the less food is available for under-nourished malnourished people.

Additionally, the use of grade, land and other resources for over-consuming diets can have negative economic impacts on the nutrition of the poor – by inflating grain prices.

Intensive industrial farming has also fuelled over-consumption of ASF and lead to a public health crisis. High consumption of some meats, particularly processed meats, are linked to some cancers, heart disease and some forms of strokes. Ischaemic heart disease and stroke are the two most prevalent causes of death in the world, each twice as common as the third and fourth causes of death[vii].

A reduction in obesity through a reduction in the over-consumption of ASF will bring triple benefits:

1. improve the malnutrition and general health of those suffering with obesity and associated high-meat-diet related-diseases;
2. reduce the impact of these diets on the climate and therefore improve the food production capacity of small-scale rural poor farmers who may suffer malnutrition;
3. free up grain and grain-grade land, phosphorus and other resources for food production for under-nourished malnourished people.

Raising the nutritional status of undernourished people is vital, and while ASF can be an important source of nutrients, ASF are not always the most culturally or economically most suitable option. Supporting small-scale, extensive, mixed farming is important to optimise the contribution that animals can provide to eradicating malnutrition, and government support through veterinary services and insurances is vital. Government intervention to protect access to markets and the livelihoods, and access to land of poor farmers, especially of women, is key. It is important that public policy prevents industrialisation of livestock farming in regions where water, high-grade land and soil, fossil fuels, and high-grade grain are not in surplus.

1 What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Compassion in World Farming is based in the UK, founded by a dairy farmer, and operates in several EU nations, and the USA primarily. Thus, in these countries the primary contribution that the Decade of Action on Nutrition (DAN) can play is to address obesity from the over-consumption of Animal

Sourced Foods (ASF) as this is directly related to several diseases linked with premature mortality, but also a serious driver of malnutrition from over consumption.

Diets high in ASF from industrial intensive farming also have a disproportionately and unsustainably high use of inputs and pollution outputs, degrading the food and farming option space available for others on Earth, especially people and farmers in environments and climates that are marginal for food production. Therefore, addressing overconsumption in the UK, EU and USA will also help provide resource space for addressing malnutrition from undernourishment in the global south. Addressing overconsumption in the UK, EU and USA successfully will also create and demonstrate a set of usable methodologies and approaches for success which can be a role model and rolled out by other nations and regions which are increasingly suffering from this public health and malnutrition crisis, as the western diet, saturated in ASF spreads globally.

The DAN is the best opportunity to open a frank and constructive discussion around over-consumption; starting with defining the issue; agreeing on acceptable terms that can be used in the CFS and other fora. Currently, debate is stifled by taboo and a lack of agreed language on this issue.

2 What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

Funding should be through public finances, rather than business or foundation donations, to maintain impartiality, democracy, and public accountability. An assessment of perverse subsidies, taxes, tax-breaks, policies, market activities, trade agreements, and practices that contribute to malnutrition in all its forms should be undertaken and actions implemented. The true cost, including externalities, of malnutrition in all its forms should also be undertaken, to identify opportunities to lever the action on nutrition. Prevention programmes to reverse the shift to high ASF diets and overconsumption the most effective way of eradicating over-nutrition related malnutrition, as such youth initiatives and school programmes should be considered.

3 What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

The role of private companies and major donor countries and foundations must be very carefully scrutinized and regulated to ensure that the nutrition, food security, and food production capacity of small-scale mixed farming and pastoralists are protected; and that farm animal welfare is not compromised.

How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

Open dialogue, consultations and other means of seeking the input of civil society, scientists, and other knowledge and opinion holders who are dedicated to the eradication of malnutrition in all its forms should be sought through mechanisms such as the FSN forum, and other means as used effectively in The World We Want process for example. For CFS, it is of prime importance that the dialogue about addressing overconsumption related malnutrition is not closed down by member states or other stakeholders. Agreed language will be important to establish in 2016/17 during the production and revision of the HLPE report and the policy recommendations that come from this process.

Conclusion: malnutrition from both under and over nutrition affects approximately half of the world, and obesity related malnutrition is increasing. Fortunately, there are win-wins available: reducing the over-consumption of ASF and moving away from intensive grain-fed farming systems and supporting small-scale extensive mixed farming can help bring about improvements in nutrition and food security for those people who are malnourished through obesity and those who are malnourished through under-nourishment; as well as improving the lives of farm animals significantly.

The development of open dialogue and agreed language will be key to facilitating progress on addressing over-consumption related malnutrition and overconsumption related over-use of resource and food production option space. Managing the influence of large foundations, companies and others who may inadvertently exacerbate malnutrition should be comprehensive; while balancing this with the important and valuable participation of civil society, researchers, and the views, needs, opinions, and preferences of those most affected by malnutrition in all its forms. Again, Compassion would like to thank the organisers for this opportunity to input into this process.

Emily Lewis, October 16th 2016. emily@lewis-brown.net

[i] Pickett, H. 2012. Nutritional Benefits of Higher Welfare Animal Products. Pp1-43.

<https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/5234769/Nutritional-benefits-of-higher-wel...> (For a quick guide to the results, see summary table 3 on page 33.)

[ii] Karl-Heinz Erb, Andreas Mayer, Thomas Kastner, Kristine-Elena Sallet, Helmut Haberl, 2012: The Impact of Industrial Grain Fed Livestock Production on Food Security: an extended literature review. Pp 1-82.

[iii] FAO (2011) World Livestock 2011: Livestock in food security, UN FAO, Rome.

[iv] Karl-Heinz Erb et

al. *ibid* http://www.ciwf.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2012/t/the_impact_of_i...

[v] HLPE, 2016. Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2016. Full report www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe.

[vi] CIWF <http://www.ciwf.org.uk/factory-farming/> accessed 2016.

[vii] WHO data <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs310/en/> accessed Oct. 2016

Attachment:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Maximizing%20the%20Impact%20of%20the%20UN%20Decade%20of%20Action%20on%20Nutrition.docx>

103. Manoj Kurian, WCC-Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Switzerland

Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition- WCC-EAA contribution

A key priority

It is our hope and expectation that the Decade will lift up Nutrition to among the highest of priorities of governments and society. We also expect the decade to mobilise commitment and sustained engagement with governments, communities, civil society, faith-based communities, private and public sector. Our work together should end hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

Human dignity and rights

We consider the right to food and nutrition, as the right to life itself. We also believe in collectively taking the responsibility to ensure that all people can enjoy and benefit from exercising their rights. We are convinced by the interrelatedness and indivisibility of human rights. Be it access to land, water, sanitation, education, markets, decent work and earning living wages or gender justice- malnutrition can only be overcome by protecting the rights and entitlements of all people. We are obliged to respect the dignity of each person in our society and acknowledge, value and uphold even those who are on the margins of society.

Back to the basics

We are convinced that it is only by the dynamic support of local and small-scale farmers, small-scale food producers, fisher folk, herders and local markets, can we bring about sustainable progress in the nutrition status of the community. It is only agricultural systems based on food sovereignty, biodiversity, and sustainable the use of natural resources that will promote resilience and innovation to deliver adequate diets for all.

Working together

We believe that the Decade will bring people across disciplines - (namely- health workers, farmers, fisher folk, agriculture workers, teachers, scientists, development professionals, faith leaders, women, business adolescents and the youth) to work together to hasten the eradication hunger and eliminate all forms of malnutrition. It will be critical to developing targets, milestones, and mechanisms to monitor the progress of the work, especially at the local level.

Our commitment

We will mobilise our communities and leadership to work with all partners to develop and implement the Decade of Action on Nutrition in our context. We will also work with the Decade in the context of the SDG's, the WHO Global Nutrition Targets, and the ICN2 Framework for Action.

We will also work with civil society to encourage and support the commitment of the state to ensure that we all stay on track to achieve this- in a collaborative manner, protecting the people's health, their livelihood their culture; the lands, water bodies and the environment; and the genetic diversity of our resources.

Dr. Manoj Kurian

104. Stella Kimambo, FAO, United Republic of Tanzania

Dear FSN- Moderator,

Kindly find below ideas regarding activities that need to be implemented or accelerated to improve the food security and nutrition of the people of Tanzania

Regards

Stella

FAO Tanzania

Introduction

Tanzania recognizing that malnutrition is a developmental challenge, and a national threat to achieving our national socio-economic objectives, especially of being an industrial knowledge driven Middle Income Country by 2025. Therefore, we expect UN Nutrition Action Plan to interpret well the decade of Food and Nutrition into an evidence-based strategic action plan that also contextualizes adaptation of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional nutrition relevant strategies that a country can state party to take practical steps to ensure nutrition sector policies, strategies, programmes are nutrition sensitive.

Tanzania has gone through demographic, epidemiologic and nutrition transition. Nutrition has, however, contributed to the current and future rate of disease burden. Reasons for the transition are contested. The causal linkages however, may be more complicated especially in recent times, where advances and diffusion in technology have contributed to changes in mortality and morbidity. This level of stunting (50% to

34% (1992 to 2015/16) is categorized as severe in public health significance and is above the 30% average for Africa. Moreover, a double burden of malnutrition has emerged where undernutrition exists together with a rapidly increasing problem of diet-related non-communicable diseases (DRNCDs), especially overweight, obesity, hypertension and type -2 diabetes that have doubled in adults during the last decade.

Q1: What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in Tanzania within the next ten years?

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition should include the following critical activities to the Work Programme,

- Strengthening private sector contribution to improve complex nature of nutrition and health
- Supportive cross-cutting strategies that requires the effective contribution of multiple actors, sectors and administrative levels, such as Social and behavior change communication (SBCC), Community-Public-Private Partnerships(C-PPP) and integrate nutrition and gender.
- Ensure national and global scientific evidence-based sharing of experience and intergenerational transfer of knowledge. contribute significantly towards country's vision of eliminating malnutrition as a problem of public health significance by 2030 as adopted by the UN General Assembly's Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Provide appropriate nutritional guidelines and support to communities during emergencies and disasters;
- Provide evidence base guideline of nutritional care/information and support for disabled people particularly those with impaired vision and deaf.
- Strengthening prevention and management of Diet Related Non-Communicable Diseases (DRNCDs)
- Integrate comprehensive methods that take on healthy diets, lifestyles, and sustainable food systems
- Establishing a multisectoral food security and nutrition information system that can capture both nutrition specific and sensitive interventions
- Provide food based approach guidelines to tackle problem of malnutrition through agriculture related nutrition sensitive interventions
- Support reviewing of education programme curriculum for certificates and diploma level so as to increase food and nutrition scientist who can work at community level
- Develop tools for monitoring and evaluation of nutrition in view of multisectoral approach

Q2; Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets?

- Strengthening private sector contribution to improve complex nature of nutrition and health increase investments in production, processing, storage and marketing of high-value nutritious and healthy products and in the provision of essential basic social services (food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene) for nutrition improvement;
- Advocacy and Social mobilization to sustain political Will and Government commitment to nutrition and to mobilise adequate resources for nutrition.
- Link Research to the programmes and training to assure national and global scientific evidence-based sharing of experience and intergenerational transfer of knowledge.
- Nutrition emergency response action plan to disaster and crisis

- Review the integrated Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition training packages and orient different ministries and agencies nutrition officers and Development partners on the packages
- Advocate and develop guidelines for multiple micronutrients supplements
- Mapping of economic groups in the community and train them on food base approach to tackle the problem of Vitamin A rich foods at lower level
- Promote Evidence based interventions to address micronutrients deficiencies include both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Develop Social and behavior change communication (SBCC) for nutrition through interpersonal communication and mass media communication to support adoption of appropriated behavior and practices for improved nutrition
- Support reviewing of education programme curriculum for certificates and diploma level so as to increases food and nutrition scientist who can work at community level
- Undertake formative research to identify barriers and motivating factors that influence behaviours which increase demand for iodized salt
- Provide evidence based guideline of nutritional care/information and support for disabled people particularly those with impaired vision and deaf.
- Develop advance tools of nutrition indicator that capture impact of Nutrition sensitive interventions on future positive impacts on nutrition status.
- Strengthening prevention and management of Diet Related Non-Communicable Diseases (DRNCDs)
- Integrate comprehensive methods that take on healthy diets, lifestyles, and sustainable food systems interpretation to total dietary consumption.
- Develop/update pre-service IMAM training curriculum and revise in-service IMAM training package (guidelines, protocol, monitoring tools and job aids)
- Develop a comprehensive community outreach and mobilization package to address negative social norms, IMAM barriers, early SAM/MAM detection and treatment
- Conduct advocacy with the Government and Development Partners to ensure adequate funding and prioritization of IMAM in Tanzania
- Review/develop and validate and print comprehensive guidelines (for community, clinical and e-learning) on healthy lifestyles for Tanzania
- Provide technical capacity to strengthening routing nutrition data collection, management and interpretation by health care provides/nutritionist through available health information systems

Q3: What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

The key nutrition implementers: Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies Development Partners; NGOs, the Private Sector; Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations (FBO); the Private Sector, political parties and communities

Government;

Coordinate the overall national response to nutrition including ensuring effective contribution by Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Support the multi-sectoral response to nutrition and ensuring that nutrition is adequately mainstreamed in policies and strategies of the key line ministries (Provide oversight for governance and accountability of all sectors and actors in nutrition)

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA)

To ensure that nutrition is adequately reflected in MDA policies, strategic plans, programs, legislation, regulations and guidelines as well as monitoring the integration of nutrition interventions

NGOs, CBOs, FBOs

Integrate nutrition issues in their programs, projects and activities targeting communities and households; and align their nutritional plans with the government plans at the respective level within the context of the national nutrition action plans.

Professional Bodies

Will issue professional guidance in nutrition, conduct research, set professional standards and participate in the development of nutrition curricula for pre-service, in-service and continuing education; and supporting outreach activities on nutrition in communities

Political Parties

Political parties are in a unique position to promote nutrition improvement, given their reach and influence in mobilizing for social goals Incorporate food and nutrition improvement issues in their election manifestos and campaigns; Advocate for the prioritisation of nutrition in national Support initiatives for improvement of food and nutrition especially in vulnerable groups

Private Sector Institutions and media

Private sector

The private sector will partner with Government in the provision of nutrition-relevant services at all Increase investments in production, processing, storage and marketing of high-value nutritious and healthy products and in the provision of essential basic social services (food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene) for nutrition improvement; Invest in production and marketing of appropriate low cost-labour saving technologies that enhance food and nutrition improvement at community level;

The Media

The mass media will be responsible for advocating and conveying accurate information to the public and create awareness so as to influence positive behavioral changes for nutrition improvement in line with National Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy.

Development Partners

Development Partners, including the UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations need to mobilise technical and financial resources for implementation, capacity development, monitoring and evaluating the UN decade for action on nutrition, also bring in international experience, norms and standards, evidence-based guidance and insights to adjust strategy and promote international cooperation in the implementation of nutrition interventions.

Q4: How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade

- Encourage international platform for partnership on nutrition, opportunities to exchange information and share technical resources.
- Promote cooperation among UN agencies and DPs in support of community national regional and international efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in vicious cycle of malnutrition.
- Effectively engaging in high level decision making, support strong leadership at all level
- Develop a nutrition contingency plan for addressing nutrition needs of populations that are prone to climate change hazards, right to food approach etc.

- Increased coverage of nutrition sensitive interventions from key development sectors (Agriculture and Food Security; Health and HIV; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Education; Social Protection and Environment and Climate Change).
- Good nutrition is a human right. CFS and the UNSCN can contribute enhance nutrition as a human right in the identification of the policy that explicitly mention the right to health and nutrition. These include among others the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women and the African Charter on Human Rights.
- CFS and the UNSCN greatly expected to contribute to Tanzania’s political agenda of peace and stability and propelling the country into middle income country (MIC) status by 2025. Thus contributes to global security and peace and provides national anchor for the implementation of the global development and normative agendas. Hence, the UN Nutrition Action plan galvanizes both global and national social and development agendas into national action plans for sustainable development
- In this decade, Tanzania expected to become a MIC without the shifts that characterize middle income countries! The pattern of current economic growth is dominated by physical infrastructure (industry, minerals including gas and the service sector with little growth in the Agriculture and Food Security Sector which employ the majority of Tanzanians and more directly related to enhancing malnutrition. Moreover, despite a strong economic growth for over a decade some key areas like poverty reduction, inequality, stunting and uptake of critical services like family planning have not progressed as well as expected. Thus CFS and the UNSCN will ensuring that Tanzania enters MIC status without sliding backwards in its human capital development.
- Technical and financial support to Multi-Sectoral High-Level Steering Committee for Nutrition (HLSCN) at the Prime Minister’s Office to facilitate multi-sectoral coordination and synergy.

Submitted by:

Ms. Stella Kimambo,

National Food Security and Nutrition Officer,

FAO, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

105. Siryebo Mwesigye, Voices of Humanity, Uganda

Hello members

As a young man based in Kampala Uganda, my expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition are high, because I believe the UN has better plans and better ways that it can use to implement it's Programmes of improving nutrition and food security in different countries including the most poorest countries in Africa.

My expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition are, I expect to see some development in poor countries mostly those affected by hunger, at the same time changing the lives of those living in rural areas mostly those who deal in agriculture, improving the markets of agricultural products and finding better ways in which rural farmer can get better training programmes, education and knowledge that they can use in improving their agricultural products and livelihoods.

I believe the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition can really make a lasting difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in my country, because if people feed well, that means they live a healthy life and farmers will also gain from their agricultural products due to the better markets

that will be put in place by the UN programs that are being negotiated by World leaders to improve nutrition and food security of the people in the World, and food security will be improved because farmers will have enough knowledge that they can use to grow better crops that can be stored for future use and they will also practice better agricultural activities to increase their yields. Thank you

Warm regards

Mwesigye Siryebo

106. Andrew MacMillan, Formerly FAO, Italy

Dear Friends,

Almost 2 years have elapsed since ICN 2 produced its Framework for Action. There are just 14 years left to achieve the nutritional goals set by ICN2 and reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030. And here we are still discussing what to do rather than getting on with implementing the agreed Framework.

We seem to be doing well in building political commitment to do more about all aspects of malnutrition but, as so often seems to happen, we are not getting much closer to improving people's lives on a significant scale.

The danger is that we shall spend the Decade endlessly, as in this Forum, discussing what to do and have nothing more than a pretty website to show at the end of it. Many people will have died prematurely because of our repeated failures to translate good intent into practical actions.

I often look to Brazil's example what can be achieved when commitments are translated into determined action and are given the highest political backing. On his first day in office in January 2003, Lula swung into immediate action. He made getting rid of hunger his government's highest priority; launched a multi-component programme; put new institutional arrangements in place (bringing together government, civil society and the private sector) and made the necessary budgetary allocations to get the programme started and sustained. At the heart of the Zero Hunger programme was the recognition that hunger was a consequence of poverty and that direct targeted moves to increase the incomes of the poor by regular and predictable cash transfers would be the main instrument for empowering them to eat better. The Zero Hunger strategy evolved steadily in the coming years, learning continuously from its experience. It has been subject to lots of criticism, but, in a very short period, it made a huge difference to the lives of the poor in Brazil and narrowed the gap between rich and poor.

The UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge was intended to get other countries to follow Brazil's example, with leaders translating their commitments into genuine action. Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) was launched with similar intent, and the UK government used the London Olympics to launch Nutrition for Growth (N4G) as yet another attempt to build political commitment. But, after much fanfare, each of these well intended initiatives runs out of steam and money. There is a real danger that the Decade of Action will not be endowed with a secretariat and the resources needed to achieve the expected results and will have to compete with the remnants of earlier fading initiatives.

It is good that FAO and WHO have been tasked with leading the implementation of the Decade by the UN GA, but, if they are to really make a difference, the Secretariat must be endowed by its two god-parent Organizations with a clear mandate and targets, a high measure of autonomy, dynamic leadership, a multi-disciplinary team of professionals (hopefully drawing in those who have worked well in the earlier initiatives), the backing of a strong technical committee and access to substantial financial resources to "prime" promising activities in committed countries. It is possible that this is

what is envisaged but this is not clear. The Proclamation of the Decade for Action legitimises a huge high-profile effort which will not be possible if the work is embedded deeply in the hierarchies of the two Organization, tucked away in a corner of their bureaucracies.

ICN2 was rightly proclaimed as a success, but its legacy will be small unless the governments that approved the Framework for Action and the launch of the Decade provide FAO and WHO with the authority, resources and staff to orchestrate effective implementation, building on and drawing together – rather than competing with – the various well-intended but under-resourced initiatives set up in recent years with similar goals.

Andrew

107. **Danny Hunter, Bioversity International, Italy**

The forum's fourth question in this consultation - *How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?* – raises important issues and opportunities in the context of relevant environment and biodiversity forums and movements. We are actually in the midst of two relevant UN Decades: Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and Biodiversity (2011-2020) which in many ways are of much relevance to each other. Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides play a significant role in making agriculture, forests and fisheries more nutrition sensitive and among other things can contribute to a global food system more capable of delivering healthier diets.

The first two weeks of December 2016 represents a crucial moment for the world's biodiversity. Ten thousand people, including the 192 Member States and European Union, ministers, observer countries, UN and other international agencies, private sector, civil society and Indigenous groups are expected to descend on Cancun, Mexico for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the world's most important global environment agreement. Both COP13 and the Ministerial High-Level Segment which will also take place will affirm that mainstreaming biodiversity for wellbeing is pivotal to the achievement of the SDGs. It is therefore essential that this vision and political impetus for mainstreaming integrates biodiversity and nutrition considerations and that the nutrition community plays a role in making it happen.

The CBD in recent years has made significant progress in recognizing the links between biodiversity, nutrition and human health, culminating in the first ever decision on this theme in 2014 at COP12 in Korea. This should be warmly welcomed by the nutrition community and furthers the aims of those working at the nexus of agriculture and nutrition and environmental sustainability. More recently, the lead up to COP13 has seen the release of three global reports highlighting the importance of biodiversity, ecosystems and nutrition and human health: the Rockefeller Foundation - Lancet *Commission Report on Planetary Health*; the CBD and WHO-led State of Knowledge Review, *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health*; and the UNEP *Healthy Environment, Healthy People* report. COP13 provides a unique opportunity for the parties to use the findings and recommendations from these reports to articulate a better vision for biodiversity and nutrition.

The question remains though, how can we better ensure that biodiversity and environment forums/platforms and those of the nutrition community work together more during the 'decade' and in a way that helps realize greater gains as we move into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One possible option for greater collaboration could be a role for the CBD in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), also mentioned in the fourth question above, and which happens to be meeting this coming week in Rome.

108. J.B. Cordaro, Private sector consultant, food security, nutrition and food safety and quality, United States of America

**The Decade of Action on Nutrition
Ensuring Safer Food for All People**

The Decade of Action on Nutrition is urged to embed food safety as a critical component at the highest level of importance within its agenda to ensure access to safe, affordable, nutritious food at all times for all people.

Food safety problems: Statistics and human health, social and economic impacts

Unsafe, contaminated food seriously undermines the food systems of every country and thwarts efforts to achieve food security and improve the nutritional status and well-being of vulnerable populations. Unsafe foods are significant and pervasive causes of food insecurity that touch almost every Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), especially SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 17. Unsafe foods contribute to the persistence of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, diseases and premature deaths, especially among women. Unsafe foods impede trade, economic opportunities, and human development for farmers and burden health care systems. Unsafe foods are as significant a silent killer as micronutrient deficiencies, but unfortunately have received little attention from global policy making bodies.

Six food safety challenge areas--physical, chemical and biological hazards; food preparation and handling; and mycotoxins, especially aflatoxins--persist in one form or another among all income levels in every country. Global food safety data from WHO, FAO and other national data sources align to illustrate a gloomy global picture of the safety status of the world's food supply. For example, FAO estimates that up to 25% of key food crops are contaminated by mycotoxins and WHO's global burden of disease statistics highlight why food safety problems must be addressed immediately. The FAO and WHO report that over 4.5 billion people suffer human health, social and economic consequences from unsafe foods annually as illustrated in these compelling facts:

- 600 million people fall ill after eating contaminated food;
- Human and health impacts of cancers, anaemia, stunting and cognitive degradation are linked to 420,000 annual deaths, largely in Africa and among children under 5;
- 33 million healthy years of livelihood are lost and not fulfilled;
- 40% of food borne disease burdens are inflicted on children under 5 years, leading to 125,000 deaths while survivors bear a lifetime of cognitive deficiency from stunting;
- Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the highest number of aflatoxin related liver cancers, especially among women;
- Small holder farmers are unable to break the cycle of poverty as incomes remain depressed from unmarketable and rejected contaminated commodities; and
- Unsafe foods contribute to the global food loss and waste stream, creating environmental stresses and economic consequences.

Unfulfilled linkages among food security, nutrition and food safety

The food safety landscape is more challenging than 20 years ago. Food safety management struggles to keep pace with the growing globalization of the food supply chains. Climate change is introducing new threats from pathogens, adulteration, and mycotoxins, especially aflatoxins, in areas that were previously less at risk as population growth stresses international food trade.

The time to act was a decade or so ago, making immediate action today even more urgent. However, time remains for the Decade of Action for Nutrition to use its mandate as an umbrella platform to involve other UN entities, such as FAO, WHO, IFAD, UNIDO, CODEX Alimentarius, WFP, and SCN as well as multi-sector, multi-disciplinary stakeholders to collaborate in identifying solution pathways for more, safer foods that will enhance nutrition and food security.

Food Safety: the orphan food security pillar

Food safety is essential to alleviate hunger, malnutrition and poverty and is one of the leading indicators to improve food security and adequate nutrition. In other words, where food safety increases, food security improves. Solution pathways exist to raise the food safety bar, manage the harmful impacts from unsafe foods and prevent and address hazards early in the supply chain. Likewise, the use of appropriate agro-machinery, technology, equipment, and good agricultural practices will be critical to improve food safety and ensure adequate productivity. The sustainability of these solution pathways will depend on building institutional and individual capacities and appropriate policy frameworks that ensure adequate amounts of safe and nutritious foods are moved from the farm to the consumers. Food systems and the food safety regulatory framework must include rigorous food safety management and assessment capabilities that detect and pinpoint problems at critical control points. Highlighting the need and value for establishing cadres of trained food safety and quality experts and agricultural extension workers—from the farm to the household—is essential for building and sustaining these systems.

No single entity can achieve the outcomes needed to move the needle towards ensuring more safe food at all times for all people with effective and sustainable progress. Thus, partnerships are essential for sustainable outcomes. National and regional success is dependent upon forging holistic multi-sector, multi-disciplinary partnerships with UN agencies, national governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders including business, to harness their tools, capabilities, innovations and expertise. Bold, global leadership is required to stimulate actions to address food safety challenges immediately. The Decade of Action on Nutrition can simulate actions and policies to enhance the likelihood of achieving the UN Secretary General's goal of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

In sum, unsafe foods are significant and pervasive global challenges that attack the human faces of nutrition, health, well-being and development in the daily lives of billions of people. Unsafe foods impact access to nutrition, better health and improved economic status. Risks are prevalent throughout the food supply chain from production, harvesting, transportation, processing, storage, and manufacturing and at the consumer level. Food contamination is a significant, preclusive barrier to eliminating food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition and thwarts other development efforts.

Conclusion

Food safety presents a global development challenge. Compelling social, economic and human statistics demonstrate that unless the negative consequences of food safety are managed that national development and nutritional improvement will be effectively thwarted and other development efforts will be wasted.

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is encouraged to embed food safety as a priority agenda item that encourages UN agencies and other stakeholders to take the necessary steps to improve the safety of food for consumption and better nutrition, reduce the harmful impacts of unsafe food and help enhance the likelihood of supporting elements of several SDGs.

109. Martin Zervas, Humane Society International, United States of America

Food security is often incorrectly used as a justification for the inhumane confinement of animals on industrial farm animal production facilities, while in reality, the industrialization of animal agriculture jeopardizes food security by degrading the environment, threatening human health, and diminishing income-earning opportunities in rural areas.

Although industrialized animal agriculture may increase production for larger farmers, it simultaneously crowds small farmers out of the market and reduces employment opportunities, demonstrating that economic growth at a national level does not necessarily improve food security. Small farmers who try to directly compete with large animal agribusiness are at risk of being pushed out of the market because they lack the political and economic power of the larger companies, or the ability to exploit economies of scale. For example, rural women in many developing countries tend to engage in smallholder egg and poultry meat production, but increased levels of intensification in egg and chicken meat production have been shown to decrease the number of women involved in poultry keeping.

Protein obtained from plant-based sources such as pulses is, according to the FAO, "significantly less expensive" compared to animal foods. Producing meat, milk and eggs actually takes more away from the world's total food supply than it provides. The FAO's report "Livestock's Long Shadow" estimated an annual deficit of 19 million tonnes of protein when comparing the protein contained in animal feed with the amount of protein yielded from animal source food production.

Animal agriculture also affects food security through its well-documented role in climate change, resource depletion, and public health issues related to overconsumption and non-communicable diseases. Given forecasts for the continued expansion of animal agriculture production globally, and especially in emerging and developing economies, stakeholders should consider increasing plant-based interventions to enhance food security, while also questioning the increasing reliance on meat, milk and eggs in this regard.

110. Christine Campeau, facilitator of the discussion, UNSCN

Dear Colleagues,

As our online consultation draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their valuable contributions. I am delighted with the rich exchange that we've had over the last few weeks.

A number of contributors have highlighted the need to develop a common vision of success to be supported by national roadmaps. Examples received from government ministries show us how this can be done.

Danny Hunter from Bioversity International rightly reminds us that there are two relevant UN Decades in progress: Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and Biodiversity (2011-2020). It will be important to build synergies between these efforts to maximize the impact of both. Diets, with their environmental and health benefits, can provide a link.

This consultation served as another building block in the development of the Work Programme of the Decade. The process of consultation will continue, and we welcome your commitments under the six pillars identified in the ICN2 Framework for Action: sustainable food systems for healthy diets; aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions; social protection and nutrition education; trade and investment for improved nutrition; enabling food and breastfeeding environments; and review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability.

Setting out the Work Programme of the Decade will be an inclusive, continuous and collaborative process, building upon and connecting the independent initiatives of governments and their many partners. As we move further into the Decade, UNSCN looks forward to engaging with you in an effort to translate the selected policy options and strategies into country specific commitments for action, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and various regional strategic frameworks.

While unfortunately we must bring this discussion to a close, I would like to invite you to send any additional contributions directly to FSN-Moderator@fao.org within the next few days. I will do my best to summarise the general themes and specific ideas generated by this online consultation in a single document over the next few weeks, so keep an eye on the FSN Forum page. We may also reach out to you as potential authors for our upcoming flagship publication, SCN News, which will go more in-depth on some of the issues raised.

I thank you again for your support and contributions to this discussion. It has been an extremely rewarding and refreshing process.

Together we can make this Decade a decade of impact for nutrition.

Kind regards,

Christine Campeau

111. Mariela Victoria López, INTI – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial – Lácteos, Argentina

Original contribution in Spanish

Buenos días!

Es un honor estar compartiendo opiniones con personas de todo el mundo en este foro.

Considero fundamental que dentro de las actividades o herramientas que deben incluirse en el Programa de Trabajo para la implementación del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición y para alcanzar los objetivos nutricionales mundiales de 2025, es la Educación Alimentaria. Sin la educación alimentaria y nutricional es muy difícil que las personas puedan realizar patrones alimentarios saludables. La inseguridad alimentaria presente en muchos países y ciudades del mundo impiden también, que las personas se alimenten como deben y de acuerdo a sus culturas.

Desde el colegio, desde las instituciones educativas, estos temas DEBEN estar en la agenda de planificación anual y en las curriculas escolares. La alimentación como eje central del desarrollo humano es un tema que nos involucra a todos los seres humanos en cualquier parte del mundo. ¿Cómo puede ser que esto no suceda? ¿Cómo los gobiernos no se involucran en estas cuestiones que son la raíz de muchos problemas de salud?

Un saludo

Mariela López

English translation

Good morning!

It is a real honour for me to be sharing opinions with people all over the world in this forum

Including food education in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets is of crucial importance. Without food and nutrition education, adopting healthy dietary habits is very difficult for the population. Food insecurity in many countries and cities around the world also prevents people from eating properly and having access to culturally appropriate food.

These issues MUST be included in the annual planning agenda and the school curricula of educational institutions. As a central pillar of human development, food is a topic affecting all humanity anywhere in the world. How is it possible to leave out these topics? Why governments do not get involved in these issues which are the underlying cause of many health problems?

Best regards,

Mariela López

112. JC Wandemberg, Sustainable Systems International, Ecuador (second contribution)

Dear Christine,

A major problem with nutrition is the lack of knowledge of government officials about substances like MSG (Mono Sodium Glutamate), Aspartame, etc. In Ecuador they implemented the infamous "Food Light" red for high sugar, salt or fat, green for low and yellow for medium, this caused much more damage than good, people reduced consumption of milk, yogurt and 100% natural snacks like banana chips because they had RED on fat and SUGAR!!! While saying NOTHING at all about snacks full of MSG, aspartame, etc.

This kind of foolishness, to say the least, should be avoided at all costs, in addition to fighting corruption!!!

Best regards,

JC Wandemberg Ph.D.

113. Stella Kimambo, FAO, United Republic of Tanzania

FAO (2014) report on food losses and waste indicates negative impact of both qualitative and quantitative losses on FSN sector. I expect the coming decade to support food losses and waste reduction strategies in the context of sustainable food systems to enhance food security and nutrition security.

114. Doris Ramirez de Peña, University, Colombia

Original contribution in Spanish

Buenas tardes

La alimentación como respuesta a la promoción y a la prevención de complicaciones de enfermedades crónicas

Debemos estar alertas no solo a promocionar una sana alimentación para no padecer enfermedades crónicas, la cual comienza con la educación en casa enseñándoles a distribuir mejor el presupuesto para la compra de alimentos, diciéndoles el porqué deben incluir algunos alimentos que deben estar en la canasta del mercado en vez de otros que son más costosos y hacen daño, igualmente enseñarles las porciones adecuadas para cada miembro de la familia

Importante no dejar de lado la enseñanza y acompañamiento cuando ya se tiene una enfermedad, pues lo que veo en mi país es que el médico prescribe medicamentos pero en la mayoría de veces no remite a sus pacientes al profesional idóneo en nutrición y en los hospitales no existen Programas Educativos al paciente y sus familias donde mediante talleres de cada uno de los profesionales del equipo de salud pueden aprender a manejar su enfermedad, lo que redundaría en menos costos para el sistema de salud. Lo digo porque lo he comprobado con un programa de Diabetes tipo 2 que he dirigido durante 12 años en Bogotá y otras regiones de Cundinamarca.

Que bueno sería tener ese acercamiento con otros pacientes de otras patologías, que no se limiten solos a formular y que estén actualizados los médicos generales para el manejo de estas enfermedades.

Gracias

English translation

Good afternoon,

Nutrition to promote healthy habits and prevent chronic diseases.

1. We must be vigilant, and not limit ourselves to the promotion of healthy eating habits to avoid chronic diseases. Education at home should be the starting point for these habits: each family member should learn how to optimise the food budget, determine which products to include in the food basket and understand why expensive and unhealthy options should be avoided, and assimilate what are the adequate portions.

2. When you are suffering from a disease, education and support should not be left aside. In my country, the doctor prescribes the medicines but, in most cases, does not refer its patients to nutrition specialists. Furthermore, there are no educational programs for patients and their families in hospitals. Workshops delivered by health professionals could help patients to cope with their disease and, as a result, reduce healthcare costs. This has been my experience with a type 2 Diabetes programme I managed for 12 years in Bogotá and other regions in Cundinamarca.

Forging a closer relationship with other patients suffering from other diseases, broadening the scope of work beyond prescribing practices, and updating the knowledge on disease management would be very beneficial.

Thank you.

DORIS RAMIREZ DE PEÑA
Profesora Asociada
Directora Bienestar
Facultad de Medicina
Universidad Nacional de Colombia

115. Kuruppacharil V Peter, World Noni Research Foundation, India (second contribution)

There is awareness and commitment on the part of Government of India to make nutritious food available to people at affordable prices. Bio-fortification of common cereal based food with pulses is promoted. Nutrition Gardening at homesteads is promoted by providing inputs at homes. Cluster farming is done to create surpluses for marketing for additional income.

K V Peter

116. Mahtab S. Bamji, Dangoria Charitable Trust, India

Dear Moderator

I am sorry for being late in responding. The persistent problem of undernutrition and growing problem of obesity etc in India is a matter of great concern. The latter has also its roots in foetal undernourishment.

Since nutrition security goes beyond food security and demands safe environment, drinking water and women's empowerment, there has to be synergy between departments/ministries of agriculture, rural development, women and child development, human resource development etc. As mentioned by Dr. KV Peter in his communication from India (name not mentioned in the list), India has initiated programmes of pharmaceutical supplementation (iron folic acid, vitamin A) and supplementary feeding to preschool and school children, Impact has been there but not satisfactory. Fortification of salt with iodine is a success story, and this approach has to be enlarged to include double fortified salt with iron and iodine, and other foods like wheat and rice (minerals and B- vitamins) and milk (vitamins A and D). This is being considered

The current *mantra* on the food front is dietary diversification by Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition Security (LANS). We are working on nutritionally promotive and environmentally sustainable agriculture, in villages of Medak district of the South Indian State of Telangana with encouraging results (published) despite the reluctance of small and marginal farmers to diversify from traditional crops like paddy and sugar cane to horticulture, legumes and millets.

Dr.Ms Mahtab S. Bamji,
INSA Emeritus Scientist, Dangoria Charitable Trust,Hyderabad
(Director Grade Scientist, Retd.National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, India)

Rural Centre: Dangoria Charitable Trust Hospital, Village Narsapur, Medak District,
Andhra Pradesh,502313

117. Peggy Pascal, Action contre la Faim, France

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Action Against Hunger welcomes the Decade of Action on Nutrition, as an opportunity to amplify previous nutrition-related commitments and to progress movement towards translating these into action by providing clear guidance to States on how to achieve those commitments and by promoting coherence and coordination across different policy domains and with human rights and multiplying spaces for action.

We believe that the Decade of Action on Nutrition could provide the embedding mechanism which is currently needed to bring together the many fragmented initiatives that are taking place and to create more coherent and better coordinated global nutrition governance.

We would like the Decade of Action to:

- **ADDRESS ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION, promote a holistic approach and put greater emphasis on equity**
- **Bring coherence to the global nutrition governance**
- **Ensure strong political momentum is sustained and nutrition commitments are implemented**
- **Improve Accountability**
- **Support the mobilization of funding**

1) ADDRESS ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION, promote a holistic approach and put greater emphasis on equity

In order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the Decade of Action should be framed around the need to **address malnutrition in all its forms**, from undernutrition (including stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies) to overweight and obesity. The Decade of Action work program should ensure that undernutrition is viewed as an “everyday emergency” which needs to be addressed in both developed and developing countries as well as in humanitarian emergencies. Specific attention should be dedicated to severe acute malnutrition, which must be seen as a public health issue.

Solving the issue of undernutrition requests a twin-track approach. Although treatment of acute malnutrition is a critical action to save lives, nutrition prevention and resilience strengthening activities are essential to having a lasting, extensive impact through addressing direct and indirect causes. To address all these causes, the Decade of Action should **adopt a systemic and multi-sectoral approach**, with the promotion of cross-sectoral integration and coordination. Achieving ‘nutrition security’ is broader than ‘food security’ and means ongoing access to the basic elements of good nutrition – a diverse diet, safe environment, clean water and sanitation, adequate healthcare, and the knowledge needed to ensure a healthy, sanitary and active life – and the term recognizes that nutritional status is dependent on a broad range of factors. Addressing such multiple causes requires cross sectoral integration and coordination amongst a range of inter-related sectors and ministries – including food and agriculture, health, water and sanitation, gender, education, finance, social protection, economic development, environment, trade and investment, planning, information and consumer affairs.

Finally, the Decade of Action should promote a **greater emphasis on equity** and highlight the importance of creating an enabling environment that addresses the profound structural barriers and the needs of vulnerable, marginalized and excluded people.

2) Bring coherence to the global nutrition governance

Within the Decade of Action, we hope the global nutrition governance to be clarified through the consensual adoption of a mapping of nutrition global governance. This document should encompass: a clear identification of the role of each key stakeholder in the nutrition governance, and especially: identification of the role of Decade implementing / technical partners (UNICEF, WFP, IFAD), identification of complementary roles between coordination bodies (CFS & UNSCN) and their role in the DoA, identification of the coordination with “other regional and international platforms”, especially with the SUN Movement, as well as a clear identification of the role of the civil society.

The Decade of Action could also create an enabling environment for greater coherence within the UN system. Currently, global leadership for efforts on malnutrition is split between five UN agencies: UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO and IFAD. This fragmentation can lead to policy incoherence and

acts as a barrier to an integrated, aligned and coordinated approach. Under the leadership of UNSCN and in accordance with its new Strategic Plan, the Decade of Action should provide the framework to allow UN agencies to agree on integrated strategies for tackling malnutrition in all its forms. The adoption of a joint UN nutrition strategy should be part of the Decade of Action work program.

3) Ensure strong political momentum is sustained and nutrition commitments are implemented

To maintain the momentum on nutrition at the international level, WHO and FAO could organize a normative event/moment each year or every 2 years, where every stakeholder/nutrition initiatives get together and prioritize action step. It could be the creation of a political process on nutrition with a dedicated platform for intergovernmental coordination in the context of the General Assembly, with high level meetings on nutrition to be organized during each UNGA, push States to report on their nutrition commitments and provide impulse to the nutrition agenda.

To ensure that global commitments are translated into action at national level, Member States should be urged to:

- **Translate international commitments into national SMART commitments.** National commitments and national targets are essential to prioritize nutrition, guide processes, interventions and resources, and monitor progress in a country's development agenda. Member States should set ambitious national nutrition targets, informed by WHA global nutrition targets and in line with national priorities and contexts, as well as with international human rights obligations.
- Adopt concrete plans for their implementation, mobilize adequate resources and strictly monitor and evaluate progress made through collection of data.

The Decade of Action work program should also encompass a clear identification of each stakeholder's (UN agencies and other regional and international platforms) responsibility in providing technical support to governments for the definition of their national commitments and targets, as well as for their implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

4) Improve Accountability

To bring consistency and harmonization in the accountability framework, a robust monitoring and accountability framework should be defined at the global level, integrating the existing nutrition-related commitment frameworks (ICN2 commitments, WHA and NCD targets, SDGs, Nutrition for Growth), with the definition of an inclusive and transparent accountability mechanism at the international level. Activities to improve accountability and to be included in the work program include:

- Setup of a repository of all nutrition commitments as part as the DoA
- Setup of a participatory mechanism and recognition of the role and contribution of CSOs and social movements in accountability
- Identification of clear links / contribution with the HLPF (High level Policy Form) for the monitoring of the SDGs which are related to nutrition: reporting and monitoring on the SDG2 but also monitoring and taking stock of cross-cutting goals / nutrition contributing sectors.
- Annual reports including clear monitoring of WHA targets & ICN2 framework
- Support to countries to improve their accountability and monitor progress made, through the collection of data, the establishment of policies intelligence unit on nutrition, etc.

5) SUPPORT THE MOBILIZATION OF FUNDING

Even though financial resources alone won't be enough to eradicate undernutrition by 2030 and should be accompanied with political leadership, functioning government programs and services,

strong accountability, etc., this goal won't be reached without significantly more funding. Recent evidence has shown that the financial gap in nutrition funding, although quite big, could easily be breached through the mobilization of all kind of resources, from national governments to external donors and innovative financing mechanisms.

The Decade of Action of nutrition needs to showcase the fact that nutrition is one of the best investments a country can do today, with high economic returns. If we want to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030, **the Decade of Action on nutrition must also be a Decade of Investment in Nutrition.**

The Decade of Action is an opportunity to:

- Call on Member States and external donors to mobilize adequate funding according to a fair-share model (as promoted by the World Bank), for all forms of undernutrition, from the prevention of stunting and wasting to the treatment of severe acute malnutrition. Funding should be adequate in quantity and quality and should be short term – for emergencies -, as well as long term for non-emergency settings.
- Support the organization of a high-level pledging Summit on Nutrition in 2017
- Call on Member States to ensure that all programs in nutrition-contributing sectors (including agriculture, education, health, water and sanitation, and social protection) routinely include nutrition objectives and target groups most affected by undernutrition, including children under five.

Attachment:

http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/ActionAgainstHungerExpectations_DoANutrition.pdf

118. Chavanne Hanson, Nestlé, Switzerland

Nestlé would like to thank the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) for the opportunity to comment on maximizing the impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Nutrition has been the very cornerstone of Nestlé for more than 150 years. It started at the very beginning, in 1867, when the company was founded on the success of an infant cereal aimed at alleviating infant mortality. And to this day, Nestlé still aims to enhance lives with science-based nutrition and health solutions for all stages of life, helping consumers care for themselves and their families.

Nestlé therefore fully embraces the UN Decade of Action, which closely aligns with the company's philosophy of Creating Shared Value for society and enhancing the future nutrition, health and wellness of individuals and families. But to fully maximize the impact of this action, it is important to note that collaboration across sectors is essential. Eliminating hunger and malnutrition are large, complex tasks. But bringing together all areas of society – including the private sector – provides the greatest number of resources and knowledge to ensure the development of workable, sustainable solutions to these multifaceted issues. And Nestlé is committed to working with stakeholders from all of areas of society to help accelerate and meet the Decade of Action goals of eradicating hunger and eliminating all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

In fact, Nestlé is already working in many areas that support these goals. And incorporating learnings and effective aspects of relevant programming and resources, along with the work of other stakeholders, can help create a comprehensive, effective plan that ensures the achievement of the Decade of Action. Some of these relevant initiatives, which are described in detail below, include:

- Providing people with more nutritious products through fortification and nutritional profiling
- Supplying greater nutrition education to children throughout the world
- Ensuring responsible marketing to children that supports good health
- Guiding consumers to more appropriate portions for a healthy diet
- Practicing more responsible resource and water use

More Nutritious Products

Micronutrient deficiency is a common public health problem, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. To address this problem, Nestlé has focused its work on developing foods and beverages designed to provide nourishment, especially for children and women of childbearing age. In 2015, Nestlé delivered 192 billion micronutrient-fortified products to help alleviate deficiencies and also launched a [Policy on Micronutrient Fortification](#), which promotes fortification at levels that improve health without risking adverse consequences from excess consumption.

In addition, Nestlé has further improved the nutritional composition of its food and beverage products by using the [Nestlé Nutritional Profiling System](#), a system based on nutrition science and public health recommendations from around the world. This system was designed to evaluate and constantly optimize the nutritional value of food and beverage products. A food or beverage must meet all the criteria to attain “Yes” status, meaning that it is considered appropriate for consumers as part of a healthy diet. To date, 100% of our children’s products portfolio have obtained “Yes” status, thereby ensuring better nutrition to the youngest consumers.

Greater Nutrition Education

Beyond product development, Nestlé also aims to help children understand the role that nutrition plays in their lives and how to balance good nutrition with an active lifestyle. One way we do this is through the [Nestlé Healthy Kids Global Programme](#), which focuses on nutrition education and physical activity, providing information on balanced diets, positive approaches to food and practical advice on improving eating habits to kids around the world. To date, we’ve activated 84 of these programs, delivering important dietary and health information to over 8 million children across the globe.

Responsible Marketing to Kids

In light of the dramatic rise in childhood obesity over the past decades, the 2011 UN Summit on non-communicable diseases called on the private sector to reduce the impact of the marketing of products high in salt, sugar and fat to children. To support of this call to action, Nestlé participates in a wide variety of industry activities aimed at furthering responsible advertising to consumers such as those carried out by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA). This includes voluntary advertising to children initiatives in the United States, across the twenty seven countries of the European Union, the six countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Russia, India, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand. These industry “pledges” are subject to third party compliance monitoring and recent surveys demonstrate general compliance rates are above 96%. Nestlé’s track record in self-regulation, as a complement to legislation, is excellent.

Better Portion Guidance

At Nestlé, we want to provide consumers with user-friendly information rather than abstract dietary recommendations. [Nestlé Portion Guidance](#) is a voluntary initiative designed to bridge international dietary recommendations (e.g., food guides) and nutrition labelling recommendations to guide consumers to more appropriate portions for a healthier diet. Through product form, pack design, clear illustration and, occasionally, a serving device or dispensing machine, we are helping reframe portion norms, especially in energy-dense categories where regular servings may have increased over time.

More Sustainable Practices

Beyond nutrition, Nestlé also focuses on water, because water scarcity is a very serious issue in many parts of the world and water is, quite simply, the linchpin of food security. To support greater accessibility to safe, clean water, Nestlé is committed to using water more efficiently and facilitate responsible stewardship in catchments where we source water or ingredients, and where we have facilities. Nestlé won the Global Water Awards Corporate Stewardship award for its zero water technology, enabling dairy factories to operate without using local ground water.

Food waste is another a critical, global problem that is closely tied to food security. Nestlé played a key role in developing the first global standard to help companies and governments reduce food loss and waste. Launched at the 3GF Global Green Growth Forum in Copenhagen, the [Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard](#) was developed by the multi-stakeholder Food Loss and Waste Protocol. And the company recently published its own [public commitment](#) to help reduce food loss and waste to support food security.

Measuring Progress

Private sector actions, such as the ones listed above, would be beneficial in helping support the goals of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. But in order to properly monitor the effectiveness of this work, the private sector should be provided with example measures of success for each action, along with interim targets to track progress. These measures will help ensure forward movement and encourage acceleration by our company and the rest of industry, if needed.

Conclusion

Nestlé is committed to working with governments and all parts of society, both private and public, to help accelerate and achieve the goals of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. We thank you for this opportunity to offer consultation on maximizing the impact of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and we look forward to helping make these goals a reality.

Sincerely,

Chavanne Hanson, MPH, RD, LD

Deputy Head for Global Public Affairs

Nestlé SA

119. Lalita Bhattacharjee, FAO, Bangladesh

Maximizing the Impact of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

What are your expectations for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and how could it make a significant difference in improving nutrition and food security of the people in your country within the next ten years?

Many of us who were present at the ICN2 saw how it was a true global effort to get the world's nutrition leaders, technical experts, policy makers and practitioners together and pledge commitments in true solidarity. In terms of commitments to action, countries are at different stages of progress. The ICN2 Framework for Action provided a broad set of policy and programme options that are relevant in addressing the multiple changes of malnutrition from a sustainable perspective.

Bangladesh has been an active adopter of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Initiative and reaffirmed its commitment during the FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition in

Rome in 2014 by endorsing both the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action for the next decade (until 2025) and its targets. Similarly, the Government of Bangladesh also endorsed the six global nutrition targets and their indicators by 2025 at the World Health Assembly in 2012.

In terms of expectations, countries often look to support and learning from lessons and successes elsewhere. This could include: evidence and research for translating policy processes across cross sectoral contexts and domains. From nutrition sensitive policy perspective among other things, there is need to better characterize an enabling environment for agriculture to benefit nutrition, and how these environments can be shaped and sustained. Improving knowledge and perception of undernutrition and its links to agriculture, on the part of agricultural policymakers and programme managers is one of the priorities.

FAO in Bangladesh is providing the programme Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge –MUCH that aims to build a “strengthened enabling environment for eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition”. This will be achieved through five mutually reinforcing outputs focused on improving the Government and other stakeholders’ capacities through the provision of policy advice and technical support, including day-to-day mentoring and specialized training, to strengthen their technical capacities on food security and nutrition (FSN), develop national food security and nutrition policy frameworks, and formulate nutrition investment plans and programs. To this end, the FAO MUCH programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other government partners, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, World Bank and others is providing support in elaborating the country’s National Plan of Action on Nutrition with a balance of both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive strategies.

What critical activities need to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets? Which activities would need to be accelerated in your country to reach these targets? How could these activities be funded?

Bangladesh has recently updated and prepared its food composition tables, proposed a desirable dietary pattern, and developed its dietary and complementary feeding guidelines and improved recipes for infant and young child feeding. In partnership with academia and core nutrition relevant sectors, FAO has technical supported research for the development of these policy tools. To this end, one of the critical activities to be included in the Work Programme for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to reach the 2025 global nutrition targets would be: specific guidance on what constitutes a healthy and diversified diet. Guidelines need to elaborate technical details on type of fat, meat, amount of sugar, type of processed foods, healthy cooking methods and related science base for this input. Developing, disseminating and implementing food based dietary guidelines need to be taken up in a systematic way to influence supply and demand of healthy foods, and thereby, in part, impact the delivery on nutrition improvement outcomes. Issues of environment and climate change also need attention in dietary guidelines. FAO MUCH is providing major technical support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other partner ministries along with other UN agencies and development partners on developing the National Plan of Action on Nutrition (2016 -2025).

Since 2010, Bangladesh has been monitoring the National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008 -2015) and the Country Investment Plan for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (2010-2015) through a set of common FSN outcome and output indicators engaging 13 partner ministries and also monitoring the financial delivery on programmes across agriculture, food security and nutrition. Using the time series record of agriculture, food security and nutrition and its progress between 2007 and 2015, the monitoring reports have been providing accumulated knowledge and analyses over different food security and nutrition dimensions. Financing and financial execution of projects and programmes by the government and development partners and the financial gaps to seek investments are some of the major analyses available in the reports. It also makes recommendations for future commitments in line with the government five year plans and the sustainable development agenda. FAO has been providing technical support to this policy process with funding support from USAID and EU.

A revised Country Investment Plan on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (2016 -2025) is also being planned. FAO through its MUCH Programme will support monitoring the implementation of these policy action plans and investments the implementation of these policies, plans of action and track the commitments towards reaching national nutrition targets in line with global indicators, notably SDG2 among others and WHA targets.

Improved indicators and data for effective food system policies is another area that needs attention. Use and application of the updated women dietary diversity indicator, dietary assessment tools are some important examples in this regard. Use of these indicators is critical to build evidence and quantify their effectiveness in the field.

Given that Bangladesh is a country vulnerable to climate change impacts, guidance and support in recovery and resilience from floods, water logging situations, soil changes, etc. of the most affected is an area of concern. Protecting, restoring and promoting livelihoods and nutrition of coastal households with specific focus on the needs of women, children and elderly is critical. Adolescent diets and nutrition is another grossly neglected issue and joint and cross sectoral programming is critical.

Joint funding support and implementation under the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition needs to be especially explored in this context.

What can be done to accelerate and improve the quality of commitments from the various actors? What role(s) should public and private actors play in monitoring their implementation?

An area where the private sector can and needs to play a responsible role is in creating partnerships with small holder and mid level farmers for nutrition linked agricultural projects and market opportunities to scale these up. Guidance is needed in carefully designed and thought through projects and ventures along with support for implementation and monitoring. The private sector in collaboration with government can consider providing matching grants for investments in small-scale post-harvest infrastructure such as silos, small-scale processing, drying equipment, smokeless stoves, milk packaging and processing (as examples) and technical assistance and equipment and quality control inspectorate services. Emphasis on processing nutrient dense foods needs to be considered. These are some of the projects that are being explored in Bangladesh.

How can other relevant forums, such as the CFS and the UNSCN, contribute, and how can other movements (e.g. human rights, environment) be involved in the Decade?

Such forums should consider show casing best practices from successful programmes and share lessons learned across countries. Evidence needs to be provided for informing policies from progress in countries. As examples : FAO MUCH Programme in partnership with the Ministry of Food and others facilitated Bangladesh's active engagement in the **South Asian Dialogue on the Right to Food** and creation of a Community of Practice in South Asia in November 2015; FAO MUCH in collaboration with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, IFPRI, HKI, World Fish and the CSO SUN organized a technical symposium on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture in April 2016.