



2nd Orientation for National CAADP/Nutrition/
SUN Focal Point Persons on support to the UN
Food Systems Summit National Dialogues

REPORT and RESPONSES

to Open Discussion Questions

15 April 2021



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Introduction

AUDA-NEPAD is committed to providing the necessary technical backstopping, including orientation to Member States in their efforts to organise and convene National Food Systems Dialogues leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit set for September 2021.

In this regard, the AUDA-NEPAD is organising series of United Nations Food Systems Summit orientation and dialogues platforms for national CAADP and Nutrition/Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) focal point persons. This is about galvanising the country CAADP and Nutrition/SUN/IFNA focal point persons capability in support to the National Dialogues. Though, National Dialogues are expected to go beyond just agriculture, , as expressly enunciated by the designers of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in the CAADP Pillars I to IV and the structure and mechanisms for implementation such as NAIPs, CAADP Country Team and the Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) Platforms, the national focal point teams bring a worthy of knowledge, experience and networks which would be valuable in comprehensive and inclusive National and sub-National Dialogues.

The virtual orientation objectives were to:

- a. Provide an open platform to share and exchange on relevant information, tools and mechanisms for effective convening of national and sub-national dialogues, convened under the leadership of National Convenors
- b. Explore key issues (challenges, opportunities) from an agriculture and nutrition perspective in accelerating implementation of food systems related goals and targets (as in Agenda 2063, Malabo Declaration and SDGs)
- c. Expose key national and sub-national initiatives and associated lessons in addressing linkages between food security and nutrition, environmental resilience, healthcare as well as general human well-being (also reflecting lessons from COVID19- pandemic)





Summary of Webinar Proceedings

On the 15th of April, AUDA-NEPAD organised the 2nd Orientation for National CAADP, Nutrition, SUN, IFNA Focal Point persons to harness the implementation of the UN FSSD at both sub and national level, particularly leveraging on the existing mechanism and tools available such as the CAADP Framework Strategy. The orientation brought together over 63 experts from national focal points from Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition sectors, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners, research institutions.

A presentation to set the scene was delivered by the Senior Nutrition Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, Ms Kefilwe Rhoba Moalosi who highlighted Home Grown School Feeding programme as a game changer solution for robust UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues and by linking the programme with the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) of CAADP. The overall moderator of the orientation, Ms Bibi Giyose, AUDA-NEPAD CEO Senior Advisor on Nutrition and Food Systems buttressed the importance of multisectoral nature of school feeding as a practical example for the implementation of UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues. Following her intervention, Dr David Nabarro, the team leader of 4SD and support to the UN FSS Secretary General's Special Envoy - Dr Agnes Kalibata, emphasized the role to 4SD and gave a brief perspective on UN FSS Dialogues. He further elaborated the role of the nominated UNFSS conveners encouraged countries to adopt the 5 UNFSS action tracks approach and use dialogues as an opportunity to encourage the multisectoral dialogues.

On session for leveraging the UN FSS, the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) led presentation by Ms Paulina Bizzotto Molina and Francesco Rampa and shared lessons for the national dialogues in the runup to the UN Food Systems Summit by bridging policy to practice such as the, Malabo/CAADP Process.

Both speakers elaborated on the sustainable food systems approach which is focused on four components as listed below:

- food systems analysis
- sustainability analysis
- political economy analysis
- All needed for the development of transformation pathways to advance food system sustainability

To effectively bridge policy to practice and take the game-changing solutions of the UN FSS to action it will be necessary to take an adaptive and context-specific approach, and not shy away from acknowledging and managing the potentially conflicting ideas, interests and incentives different food system stakeholders may have.

Mr Martin Bwalya, the Ag. Director of Knowledge Management and Programme Evaluation explained the importance of developing an African common Position paper on food systems which includes two process - political and technical. The political process is under the African Union Commission /DREA and the technical process supported by AUDA-NEPAD will focus on the outcomes of the primary dialogues and will form the basis of technical contribution to the paper. He further mentioned that preliminary Africa Position Paper will be socialised at the pre-summit in July, for preliminary endorsement. The draft is intended to be shared with the CAADP/Nutrition / SUN focal points for comments on the national success and actions of the UNFSS dialogues.





Key Takeaway Messages

- **Creating a multiple win solution** - how do we get to the solutions and the impact
- **Progress should be seen** at country level with multisectoral policies developed and coherent and effective implementation.
- **Leverage on the existing CAADP Process** particularly to intensify communication between the National nominated Food Systems Summit Convenor and the CAADP/Nutrition Focal Point persons to contribute to the national dialogues, together with other key sectors.
- **Improve coordination and coherence** of the National AFSS dialogues and involve different local authorities, civil society business and consumers
- **Advocate for school feeding programme** to include private schools for all children to benefit from nutritious school meals.
- **Unblock implementation from political to technical to grassroots frontlines** including community farmers for sustainable food systems.
- **NAIPS to be presented as part of the preparatory work for UNFSS** dialogues for multisectoral engagement and implementation - past Summit.
- **Private sector plays a critical role in advancing food systems**, but also opportunity to treat food systems as a national priority.
- **Nutrition is a multisectoral and interdisciplinary** by nature and therefore should be institutionalised at the highest-level ministry
- **There is need to intensify efforts to address issues of malnutrition**, particularly undernutrition which is high in children from vulnerable homes.
- **Encourage participation** from all key sectors especially bringing the aspect of indigenous knowledge on traditional systems.
- **Take an adaptive and context-specific approach**, and acknowledge and manage the potentially conflicting ideas, interests and incentives different food system stakeholders may have.

Closing and Vote of Thanks

In closing, Ms Bibi appreciated the support and participation from partners - 4SD, ECDPM, CAADP/Nutrition focal points and participants for invaluable contributions at the 2nd orientation. She amplified the point of convening multifaceted dialogues, including research and academia sectors. Similarly, Dr David Nabarro, encouraged the focal points to use existing frameworks/strategies, policies such as National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) as a preparatory work for multisectoral approach of convening the UNFSS Dialogues to get better results and impact. The NAIPs, which represents CAADP implementation at country level, remain the veritable tool for listing and implementing priority projects, including the School Feeding Programme, towards achieving Malabo Declaration Targets by 2025, SDGs by 2030 and AU Agenda 2063 on food and nutrition security.





Responses to Open Discussion Questions

Q How can Nutritionist who are more like freelancers/ consultant participate in achieving the SDGs?

A The summit is 'PEOPLES SUMMIT' and everybody is welcomed to engage and contribute to the summit. For more information, please visit www.unfss.org.

Q My concern is how to shift from curing malnourished people to protecting them to have good nutrition status?

A There is need for preventative public health and nutrition policies and programmes in place with enough resources and political support to finance these programmes.

Q Normally when we encourage healthy eating practices people site the high prices of health food options. How can ensure that these foods are available at more affordable prices, thus improving access to these foods?

A It is important to look at the sustainable production and affordability which is related to all the 5 action tracks of the UN FSSD to encourage systems shifts. For more information, please access www.summitdialogues.org Also, CAADP Process on agricultural production and productivity of diversified crops www.nepad.org

Q Creating an enabling food environment will require government policies and a lot of interests from key decision makers. My observation is that in Africa, our leaders seem to pay lip service. How can you get our key decision makers to work closely with other actors to ensure progress in our food system issues?

A “There will be different ways to nudge governments and other stakeholders to do things differently. It’s important to understand their motivations and agenda. Working in a politically savvy way, you can then assess whether it is opportune to reframe issues (eg investing in inclusive value chains to benefit youth employment) or to build coalitions with other players (eg newspapers, research, consumer organisations on food safety) to increase popular pressure on politicians to reform policies.”

Q How do we handle the level of malnutrition that is increasing in Africa, particularly during the COVID 19-pandemic?

A Nutrition should be addressed multisectoral and promote investments into combating to end malnutrition through national budgets and partner’s support.

Q Je voudrais aussi vous partager brièvement la situation à Madagascar, mais apparemment tout est commandé à distance, à savoir la gestion du micro et de la vidéo?

A RANAIVOSON Andriamaminiaina, (mranaivoson742@gmail.com) from Madagascar, to share the video link.



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