



Strengthening Private Sector Engagement and Nutrition Coordination in Sub-Saharan Africa, for Better Nutrition

19 - 20 October 2022
Nairobi, Kenya

RUN OF SHOW

Introduction and Background

The number of people affected by hunger and malnutrition continues to rise. The State of Food and Nutrition Security in the World 2021 Report estimates that the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) increased from 8.4 percent to about 9.9 percent between 2019 and 2020. The report further highlights that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020. The problems of hunger and malnutrition are more acute in Africa where 21 percent of the population was facing hunger in Africa in 2020 – more than double the proportion of any other region. This represents an increase of 3 percentage points in one year. Globally, compared with 2019, 46 million more people in Africa, almost 57 million more in Asia, and about 14 million more in Latin America and the Caribbean were affected by hunger in 2020.

Undoubtedly, the unfortunate COVID-19 situation has played a role in the increase of the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world as it ripples through economies, distorting food markets and income-generating activities of people. Of major and emerging concern especially, are the increasing levels of overweight and obesity in many urban and rural setting in Africa. The co-existence of undernourishment and over nourishment have a lot to do with food systems and equitable access to foods of nutritious value. The private sector has a huge role to play to transform food systems and make them able to deliver diversified and affordable healthy food choices for consumers. The private sector is, therefore, a key accelerator for achieving the Zero Hunger of the United Nations (UN), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)/Malabo targets, and most importantly, supporting post -UN Food Systems Summit activities.

Justification

The private sector is already playing a major role in accelerating the development of promising technologies and solutions in the food and agriculture sector. Innovation funds, often in the form of grants, are now being used to create innovative activity platforms by providing incentives to improve collaboration and the quality of services offered. From 2016 to 2018, US\$19 million was invested in agriculture technology in Africa, and agri-tech start-ups grew by 110 percent – an indication of a growing African agri-tech industry. Placing digitalization at the centre of food system transformation strategies and policies will be key to harnessing its cross-cutting innovative power. Future strategies need to focus on enabling private sector-based systems through adequate institutional, policy, and regulatory arrangements, including using government procurement to stimulate private sector investment and the emergence of competitive Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Given that most food producers in Africa are either informal or small-scale producers, there is also a need to ensure equitable access to improved technologies and inputs and to stimulate investment within this sector. Private sector, for example, is playing a key role in putting commercial products and services into the market, and is useful for cost-efficient and effective implementation of direct nutrition interventions (e.g. food fortification and biofortification, food processing, breastfeeding promotion through marketing of breastfeeding code), and nutrition-sensitive interventions (food security: sustainable farming, microcredit for enterprise development).

Purpose of the Meeting and the Expected Outcomes

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are organizing a consultative meeting to consult, share lessons and discuss with the various stakeholders on the contribution of the private sector in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in Africa. The lessons from the private sector will set the foundation for drafting guidelines to mobilize private sector engagement to support and promote more investment in nutrition. The engagement of private sector will also contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of AU Year of Nutrition, Malabo Declaration, and Agenda 2030.

Format of the Meeting

The two (2) day consultative meeting will bring together different stakeholders from academia (research and development), food industries, farmers organizations, youth and women and other marginalized groups in agro- food systems, Consumer Associations, development partners and AU organs. Prior to the webinar, speakers will be requested to submit presentations and any related information on nutrition and private sector. In addition, participants are also encouraged to prepare any key lessons that can be shared during the meeting and to provide more insights to enrich the discussions. Short presentations will be made by the speakers, with most of the time allocated to group dialogue and deliberation.

Date and Venue

The consultative meeting will hold on 19 – 20, October 2022 and the identified venue is Nairobi, Kenya . A logistical note will be provided.

Tentative Programme

DAY ONE

Lead facilitator: AUDA-NEPAD / FAO

Time: SAST	Title	Lead
08:30-09:00	Arrival and Registration	AUDA-NEPAD
09:00-09:10	Official Welcome	AUC /AUDA-NEPAD
09:10-09:30	Brief overview of the session and house rules	Lead Facilitator
09:30 -09:45	Presentation on the role of public private partnership in nutrition and food systems	AUDA-NEPAD/FAO Consultant
09:45-10:00	Q&A session (open discussion)	Lead facilitator
10:00- 10:15	Healthy tea-break	All
10:15-10:25	Overview of Nutrition and Food Systems in Africa and	AUDA-NEPAD
10:25 – 10:35	FAO Private Sector Engagement Strategy and Action Plan for Investment in Nutrition	FAORAF
10:35 -11:00	Q&A (open discussions)	Lead Facilitator

Time: SAST	Title	Lead
11:00-12:00	Panel Discussion on building public private partnership in nutrition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panelist 1 Panelist 2 Panelist 3 Panelist 4 	Lead Facilitator
12:00 -12:45	Group work discussions	Lead Facilitator
12-45-14:00	Healthy Lunch Break	All
14:00-15:00	Panel discussion on collaborative actions for public private engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa Enterprise Agency (SEDA) REC and Country Rep Youth Representative Women Organizations Representatives Academia Representative Consumer Association Representatives 	
15:00-15:30	Q&A (open discussions)	Lead Facilitator
15:30-16:00	Key recommendations and action plans	Lead Facilitator
16:00	Wrap up & Afternoon tea	

DAY TWO Lead Facilitator -Private Sector Representative

Time: SAST	Title	Lead
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration	AUDA-NEPAD
09:00-09:10	Recap of Day 1	Volunteer
09:10-10:10	Case studies on engagement of private sector for improved nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country representative Development Partners Agro-food processors Farmers Representative Academia and researchers reps Nutrition business networks 	Lead Facilitator

Time: SAST	Title	Lead
10:10-11:00	Group Discussions on case studies	Lead Facilitator
11:00-11:15	Healthy Tea Break	
11:15-12:00	Presentation on possible guidelines for private sector intervention for nutrition investments	Lead Facilitator
12:00-13:00	Interactive session	Lead Facilitator
13:00-14:00	Healthy Lunch Break	
14:00- 14:45	Plenary Session on perspectives and future strategies for addressing hunger and malnutrition	
14:45- 15:00	Conclusions and key messages	