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THEMATIC SESSION 1

Improving food availability: from production to marketing, what support should regions/local authorities provide?

18 January 2010 – 14.30-18.30

Chair: Mrs Dienebou Conde Touré, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Ivory Coast

Coordinator: Mr Christian Taupiac, General Council of the French Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries

Rapporteur: Mr Mamadou Diallo, Director for Agriculture, Senegal

OBJECTIVE AND FOCUS

In the wider context of “food security”, which encapsulates the issues of accessibility to foodstuffs (dealt with by Session 3) and nutritional quality (Session 2), the improvement of food availability in the South, the specific topic of Session 1, is dependent upon (i) the development of food production, (ii) processing and packaging in accordance with local food customs, (iii) transport to the marketplace and (iv) the development of information systems in order to network areas with shortages with areas with surpluses.

Regions of the North and of the South react both in **times of crisis** and to **remove the structural obstacles** facing those concerned in the South (farmers, transport and processing firms, retailers, etc.). They help improve the situation by providing material assistance, support for the restructuring of fisheries and farm sectors and the development of credit systems. They do this in partnership with national and local authorities.

The aim of the session is to **identify the specific characteristics of regional and local stakeholders** in partnerships between/with the international, national and local levels, and also between/with central and/or decentralised development aid systems, whether governmental or non-governmental, or public or private. **It will attempt to identify how the regions work to encourage farm production in accordance with territorial requirements. What are the many constraints they face? How can regional, national and local action on these matters be coordinated? Should other systems be developed in order to improve the availability of foodstuffs?**

Session 1 will tackle the issue of how to improve food availability by examining the following questions:

A. The territorial dimension of food security management

- *Bearing in mind variations in (i) the vulnerability of the regions in face of food insecurity, (ii) production potential and capacity, (iii) and needs, what place should be given to the territorial dimension in the design and delivery of national food security policies?*
- *How do current decentralisation policies take account of food security management?*
- *Are all the factors that determine food security of a “territorial” nature? Is it not the case that some are independent of the stakeholder’s territory (district, region, country)? What lessons and proposals?*
- *Depending on the answers to these questions, how can the different national, regional and local levels be coordinated as far as food security is concerned, both in normal circumstances and times of crisis?*

B. Information on food resources and needs:

- *Who holds information on food stocks and food needs? How is this managed/shared?*
- *What role will the regions play in future concerning the identification and management of needs, risks and resources, as well as the incorporation of these into national policies?*

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C. Direct action on the direct development of availability

- *What are the comparative advantages of action organised or supported by the regions (of the North and South) in the provision of direct assistance for production (e.g., direct support to stakeholders)?*
- *What action is needed to ensure coherence with other types of organisations such as cross-sectoral and sectoral organisations?*
- *Can/should the regions give an impetus to or help improve processing and/or marketing of food products? How?*

D. Action on structural constraints affecting availability

- *If justified, how can the regions help to tackle structural constraints hampering agricultural development such as those related to **land management, water management and access to inputs**?*
- *What are the specific comparative factors /advantages of action taken by the regions in comparison to that organised at national or local level?*

E. Strategies for preventing and managing food crises and other catastrophes: early warning systems, reserve stocks, networking areas with shortages with areas with surpluses.

- *What role can the regions play in preventing and managing food crises?*
- *Bearing the sensitivity of these issues in mind, what say should the regions have in the measures to be taken and in the oversight and evaluation of these measures?*
- *What are the comparative advantages for the regions when it comes to networking areas with shortages with areas with surpluses?*

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

1/ Food security and territories, information (questions A and B):

Itasy (Madagascar), **Aquitaine** (France): How regions from the North and the South, if united, can deal with the food security issue: the territorial dimension of this issue and the possible solutions, **Mr Hubert Henri Rakotondrazaka**, former leader of Itasy Region (Madagascar)

Katsina (Nigeria), **Kano** (Nigeria), **Maradi** (Niger): Cross-border cooperation and food security: the role of local stakeholders, **Mr Ahmed Ibrahim Yakasai**, Kano State Commissioner for Commerce, Industry, Cooperatives and Tourism (Nigeria)

Cascades Region (Burkina Faso) and Sikasso (Mali): Example of a partnership between farming cooperatives in a cross-border context (SKBO area): What support strategies can regions develop with regard to local initiatives? **Mr Edmond Sougue**, Project Officer responsible for territorial development support policies and strategies, Partnership for Municipal Development, (Cotonou)

2/ The regions and the development of availability (questions C and D):

The greater WAEMU region (Africa) and **Brittany** (France): innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships in food crop production within a cooperative venture between a region and an international organisation, **Mr Alain Yvergniaux**, Regional Councillor, Brittany (France)

Synergies between the practices of civil society stakeholders and regional and local authorities within the same territory (in both the North and South) to guarantee sustainable agricultural development and distribution allowing everyone access to healthy food in sufficient quantity, **Mrs Clotilde Tascon Mennetrier**, Vice President of **Ille et Vilaine General Council (France)** and representative of **Citiés Unies France (CUF)**

State of Minas Gerais (Brazil), Food security programmes of the Brazilian States: improving the quality of life and income of local farmers, **Mr Crispim Moreira**, National Secretary for Food Security and Nutrition, Deputy Minister for Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil

3/ The regions and crisis management (questions E):

Tillabery (Niger): The 2005 food crisis in Niger: the roles and limits of regional and local bodies, **Prof. Alpha Gado Boureima**, Director of the Natural Disaster Management and Prevention Laboratory, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey (Niger)

Mali: The place of sub-state authorities in preparing and introducing early warning systems and systems to prevent farming and food crises, **Mr Konaté Amadou**, food security expert, The Standing Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel Region (CILSS).