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THEMATIC SESSION 2

What action should the regions take to counter the spread of malnutrition?

18 January 2010 – 14.30-18.30

Chair: Mr Paul Carrasco, President of the Latin American Organisation of Intermediate Governments (OLAGI)

Coordinators: Ms Florence Egal, FAO Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division and Ms Marie Imbs, Food Security Policy Officer, CPMR/FOGAR

Rapporteur: Dr. Babakar Ndoye, Executive Director of the Food Technology Institute, Senegal

OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS

In a world affected by the food prices crisis of 2008 and the financial and economic crisis of 2009, the issue of malnutrition is again making the headlines. Despite all the efforts made, especially over the last 10 years, not only has the progress hoped for not been achieved but the situation has become even worse. In most of the world's regions, people in both rural and urban areas are suffering from the dual burden of malnutrition: the persistence or worsening of macro and micro-nutrient deficiencies, and epidemics of chronic nutrition-related illnesses. This situation is unacceptable both from a human point of view and regarding the immediate and long-term development consequences and social costs, which central governments should not tolerate.

Various key meetings were therefore held in October and November 2009: the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, the World Summit on Food Security, and a strategic meeting of the Standing Committee on Nutrition. It is clear that sectoral approaches, on public health on the one hand and on food security on the other, have not achieved the results hoped for.

Malnutrition is a consequence of a combination of factors, which vary from one group of the population to another. Efforts to counter malnutrition thus require an integrated and decentralised intersectoral approach. It is important to understand why people are undernourished and identify possible local solutions. It is also important to strengthen and diversify household production to guarantee local availability of the foodstuffs necessary for healthy and balanced nutrition, to provide local people and institutions (including schools) with the information they need in order to choose and prepare this food, to ensure that women and children with signs of malnutrition are cared for, and to improve the livelihood of the most vulnerable families.

The regions and local authorities thus have an essential role to play. However, still too few regions have launched policies and programmes to improve nutrition and people's livelihood.

The purpose of the session is therefore to inform participants both about international issues and regional experiences, in order to forge a dialogue, to lay the foundations of a network and to discuss the specific steps that need to be taken in order to give the regions the means they require to play the role that only they can play.

EN PARTENARIAT AVEC



EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS

Efforts to counter malnutrition: current perspectives and recent experiences, Ms **Florence Egal**, Expert on food security, nutrition and livelihoods, FAO

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- **District of Kampala** (Uganda), The role of urban agriculture in efforts to counter malnutrition: lessons and experiences of the Ugandan regions, Mr **John M. Behangaana**, Secretary General of the Urban Authorities Association of Uganda (UAAU)

- **Eastern Region** (Paraguay): Improving household nutrition and organic food use in over 900 households in the Eastern region of Paraguay – Nutritional strategy, Ms **Venus Caballero**, Head of Action Against Hunger for food habits and customs and Head of the Women’s Organisations Support Project, and Mr **Amador Gomez**, Technical Director of the Spanish Action Against Hunger Association

- **Waspam District** (Nicaragua) – Catalonia (Spain): Partnership for the identification of shortages, the improvement of food diversification, training and respect for traditional customs, Mr **Abdon Espinoza**, Project Manager at the FAO Representation, Nicaragua.

- **Santa Cruz Province** (Bolivia), Development of the Santa Cruz Province integrated and emergency food security programme (PISAE), Mr **Oscar Saucedo Leonard**, Executive Director of the PISAE Programme, Santa Cruz Executive.

- **Antioquia Province** (Colombia), The role of Antioquia Province and other local authorities in managing and delivering the MANA food security programme, Mrs **Dora Cecilia Gutiérrez Hernández** and Dr. **Patricia Monsalve**, responsible for food security and nutrition for the Municipality of Medellín, Antioquia Province (Colombia)

- **Department of Titao** (Burkina Faso) and **Region of Maradi** (Niger), Malnutrition in the Sahel countries. A season and recurrent problem with young children: Prospects, Mrs **Nathalie Ernoult**, Nutritional Programmes Manager, *Médecins Sans Frontières*

- **Eastern Region** (Cameroon), The role of nutritional education in the fight against malnutrition, Mr **Elie Zoyem Kouloug**, Agronomist, Regional Coordinator of the FAO’s National Food Security Programme (NFSP) of the Eastern Region of Cameroon.