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THEMATIC SESSION 6

The financing of local and regional schemes to alleviate food insecurity: which innovative instruments and tools should be used now and in the future?

19 January 2010 – 08.30-12.30

Chair: Mr Abdoulaye Sène, Member of Parliament and Regional Councillor for Fatick Region, Senegal

Coordinator: Mr Bertrand Hervieu, Inspector General, French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Rapporteur: Mr Malick Ndiaye, Credit Manager, National Office of the Crédit Agricole Bank, Senegal

OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS

The financing of regional and local initiatives constitutes the cornerstone of regional and local food security governance. There is currently a wide range of funding instruments but this is not enough to allow the Regions to meet the challenges they face each day with regard to food. This problem is due to a lack of coordination between Regions on the issue, and the fact that donor agencies and central governments have a poor understanding of what the Regions are doing.

The aim of this thematic session is to identify Regions' expectations concerning partnerships and financing. It will also seek to pinpoint the difficulties of implementing schemes that are developed and run by Regions. An effort will be made to examine the diverse range of approaches and mechanisms used. Examples will be used to illustrate the pre-requisites for successful partnerships and the causes of failure.

The session will bring together representatives of Regions with projects and activities in this field, representatives of financial institutions which finance aid schemes and those concerned at grassroots level.

Through the presentation of case studies, this session will seek to answer a number of questions relating to the financing of local schemes to alleviate food insecurity.

- What efforts should be made to encourage the financing and development of local regional and action programmes?
- How can financial partners be given what they need in order to take decisions and action in terms of investment policies and strategies in the agricultural and rural sector?
- How do the major donor agencies finance regional and local schemes? With which regulations and what limits to the financing of long-term schemes?
- Are there any proposals for overcoming these limits?
- How is the private sector involved? What role should be given to "social business"?
- Which innovative means of financing can be used for food security?
- How would it be possible to strengthen the Regions' ability to negotiate with central governments and donor agencies?
- Does decentralised cooperation constitute a means of financing effective agricultural and food policies?

EN PARTENARIAT AVEC



SESSION AGENDA

1. Two approaches to organising regional and local schemes: BAIF in India and the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean

Mr Suresh B. Gokhale, Director of Research, BAIF Development Research Foundation, India:

- The role of donors;
- Design of agricultural development projects;
- Effectiveness of partnerships involving foundations and peasants;
- Expected results / results achieved.

Mr Jean-Paul Pélissier, Deputy Director of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Montpellier (France):

- The role given to local and regional authorities in the food security field;
- Difficulties encountered, limits of the system;
- Examples from Egypt and the Maghreb.

2. Partnerships between Regions as a driver of agricultural development:

Mr Philippe Guerin, Vice-President of Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council (France) with responsibility for European and international affairs:

- Two projects on access to credit for farmers from the **Thiès** Region and **Saint-Louis** in Senegal and the **Son-La** Province in Vietnam;
- The role of the Regional Fund for International Development Aid (*Fonds régional de développement international coopératif*);
- The momentum generated by political, sectoral and economic projects;
- The mechanism for allocating loans;
- Coordinating individual and collective projects.

3. Action taken by funding providers: banks, institutions and agencies

Mr Jean-Luc Perron, Managing Director of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation

Ms Simona Mari, Head of the Food Security Programme of the European Commission's Directorate General for External Cooperation Programmes, (EuropeAid)

Dr Harald Jahn, Head of Division, Services, SMEs and Agroindustry, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr Bruno Vindel, Department of Strategy and Forward Planning, French Development Agency (AFD)

Debate on the following topics:

- Priority areas for action by financial backers in the field of food security and the role of local authorities: What obstacles have been met? Which results have been welcomed locally?
- The contribution micro-finance and social business can make to efforts to alleviate food insecurity;
- Developing innovative funding schemes;
- Developing insurance schemes to guarantee sufficient income for farmers and enable them to invest;
- Developing local actions: how to improve the impact of small-scale projects through suitable funding schemes.

4. General discussion

- The limits and scope of the instruments?
- Legitimacy of the levels of intervention: which partnerships are the most appropriate?
- What is the best way of bringing together local stakeholders, politicians and donors?
- What should be the most commonly used forms of investment?
- What instruments and methods could be devised?