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## Thematic Session 4

### Using territories' expertise to ensure food security: training, skills transfer, facilitation, structural development, institutional support and stakeholder support

19 January 2010 – 8.30-12.30

## SUMMARY

**Chair:** Ms Pascale Cauchy, Regional Councillor with responsibility for decentralised cooperation, Basse-Normandie Region Basse-Normandie, France

**Coordinator:** Basse-Normandie Region, France

**Moderator:** Mrs Nadine Tournaille, Policy Officer, Sustainable Development Education and the Voluntary Sector, Basse-Normandie Region

**Rapporteur:** Ms Nadège Lécluse, Project Officer, Decentralised Cooperation Department Basse-Normandie Region

*The regions are cooperating more in the field of exchanges of agricultural skills and technical and vocational agricultural education. The effects are noticeable in both the short and long term. Several of the structural factors causing food insecurity can be tackled through support and training for sectoral organisations. It is therefore urgent to promote and revitalise agricultural and rural vocational training schemes and to include them within agricultural policies. Partner regions all have a support role to play, from the training of public technical services to the training of farmers. The objective of this session was to identify these roles and to provide some recommendations in order to increase the number of regional schemes in this field.*

*The following summary outlines the various contributions by experts and regional and local representatives, the key points made during the debates and the recommendations made by the session's participants on how to increase the number of regional initiatives aimed at countering food insecurity.*

### Summary of the presentations:<sup>1</sup>

1. The food, energy and environmental issues underlying the work of stakeholders from the farming, fisheries and forestry professions in the framework of a territorial approach to climate change and the tools for implementing this, **Mr Alain Retière**, Director of Climsat, UNDP

Mr Alain Retière was keen to emphasise that, when training programmes and their content are being developed, climate change forecasts and adaptation needs should be taken into account. A closer partnership between public authorities and sectoral organisations will permit stricter joint management of territories and enable farming, forestry and fishing professionals to adapt to the advantages and constraints of climate change in their territories.

<sup>1</sup> The full presentations made by the various speakers are available on the Background Documents section of the summit website: <http://www.regionsfoodsummit.org/>

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The regional level thus has a relevant role to play as a facilitator, organising discussions between stakeholders across the territory: territorial approaches are being promoted in order to resolve, among other things, problems related to food insecurity and climate change. The UNDP's Climsat office, which is located in Brest in France, is working with local public and private stakeholders on these issues and offers its expertise to decentralised cooperation bodies. Particular importance is given to fisheries and forestry, which are often totally neglected in agricultural policies.

2. **Koulikoro Region (Mali):** Helping Koulikoro's farmers to structure themselves into a professional farmers' organisation: technical and institutional support from the French Farmers and International Development Association (AFDI) of Basse Normandie, **Mr Seydou Coulibaly**, President of the Koulikoro Association of Peasants' Organisations, and President of the Koulikoro Regional Chamber of Agriculture (Mali)

The added value of decentralised operation has been demonstrated by the example of support for farmers in Koulikoro and the creation of a sectoral organisation for peasants: the exchange of experiences between a French region and a region in Mali has enabled the sectoral organisation from Koulikoro to establish genuine dialogue between its regional authority and peasants. The region is currently playing its full role as a facilitator and coordinator, and is helping to defend the interests of farmers at national level.

3. **Atsinanana Region (Madagascar) and Basse-Normandie Region (France):** regional partnership for the creation of a training centre to train instructors of agricultural technicians, **Mr Tojo Randrianarison**, Deputy Technical Director of the Union of Malagasy Rural Family Centres

This scheme in Atsinanana in Madagascar has demonstrated that decentralised cooperation between this region and Normandy in France has encouraged the Malagasy public authorities to undertake territorial analysis, highlighting the need for training for trainers of agricultural technicians, for all agricultural training organisations in the region. The partnership between the region, the central government and local stakeholders is helping to meet challenge of agricultural training. The region is fully playing its role as a facilitator relaying local needs to national authorities, and it is enabling the development of such initiatives by financing them. Negotiations launched by the region have also made it possible to develop a training plan validated by the Malagasy Government, which has been jointly developed with local stakeholders according to their specific needs in the Atsinanana region.

4. **Kampong Speu Province (Cambodia):** The process for introducing "Protected Geographical Indications" in Cambodia, and related partnerships with farmers, local councillors from Cambodia and France, **Mr Sereyvath Prak**, Director of the Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development

The Cambodian example also illustrates improvements in food security in the Province of Kampong Speu. The transfer of expertise on protected geographical indications has helped to counter the rural exodus by protecting local culinary heritage. The cooperation scheme is based on total control of the process, from the introduction of legislation to the drafting of terms of reference, from the organisation of producers to the control plan. Practical exchanges of experience facilitated by Aquitaine Regional Council in France have made it possible to manage the whole process. Local production has been enhanced and protected, which has helped to improve the food security of Cambodian producers.

5. **Galicia Region (Spain) and the Regions of Central America:** Technical training and food insecurity strategies: training programme on small-scale fishing in Central America, **Mr Jesús Gamallo**, Director General of Galicia's Department of External Relations and Relations with the European Union (Spain).

The experience of the Spanish region of Galicia with the regions of Central America demonstrates the similarity of problems encountered in the fishing industry, which has enabled Galicia Region to participate in a programme on the development of a support plan for fisheries. The objective is to strengthen the ability of Central American regions to structure the fisheries sector and offer suitable training. Aside from this institutional capacity building, Galicia is organising exchanges of know-how and expertise between research bodies in the two areas. Areas of common work are jointly defined. This support for a public policy encourages regions to bring fishing professionals together in networks, which guarantees greater efficiency, and strengthens social organisations, ensuring that rights and social progress are respected, in the perspective of sustainable development. The recognition of the role of fishermen by society is at the heart of this approach. Thus work to raise local people's awareness about the constraints and advantages of this occupation is undertaken in parallel.

6. **Cusco Region (Peru):** Capacity building for local organisations and municipalities to improve high-altitude mountain farming practices and develop better coordination between Cusco peasant families and the market, partnership with *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF)*, **Mr Wilbert Rozas**, Mayor of Anta Province (Peru)

The action of the Mayor of the Province of Anta in Peru is exemplary regarding coordination at regional level. This coordination of local stakeholders, which is supported by AVSF, has considerably helped to improve food security in his region, taking into account the specific circumstances of his territory, which had not been recognised at national level. There had thus been a mismatch between state policy and local realities.

Drawing inspiration from local know-how, for example in the transformation of milk into cheese, and taking into account agro-environmental constraints (mountain areas), the action of Anta Province has helped local farmers to organise themselves in order to put their products on sale in local markets established specifically for the purpose. It was decided to give priority to direct intervention among producers and consumers, and also to recommend mutual learning between producers.

Thus a consortium bringing together all of the stakeholders was created at regional level, to help coordinate product supply and sales, while also exploiting local know-how as much as possible.

The involvement of women was also emphasised, by organising them into a federation as a means of guaranteeing the recognition of social rights and creating local economic development projects, thus strengthening food security in one of the poorest regions of the world.

Debate with the participants mainly focused on the fact that food security problems can only be solved by exchanging experience, particularly thanks to South/South cross-border co-operation, with support from regions of the North.

It was also stressed that pathways between training and production must be systematically established early on in the programme design phase.

The region is a truly relevant level in this respect, because it makes the link between local needs and national and international priorities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- educating the population regarding food security issues and the realities of the work of farmers, fishermen and foresters,
- enhancing the role of farmers,
- the importance of the method for establishing a dialogue between local stakeholders and local and regional authorities: participative approach, women's representation. For better governance, co-management bringing all stakeholders together at the heart of decision-making ensures success,
- the need to take very detailed account of social aspects, and efforts to help people into work through suitable training leading to jobs,
- organising the transfer and circulation of information between stakeholders.

## CONCLUSION

**The regions must put themselves in a position where they can be actors and planners in their own development and equip themselves with suitable tools: the territorial approach to development, through the permanent negotiations between local stakeholders that it entails, and through the territorial planning of medium and long-term projects that it enables, is the right response. The regions must also invest in the means of production and support for stakeholders. Helping territories to specialise can be an effective way of countering the rural exodus and of giving products added value.**