

Challenge 1

How to allocate adequate
resources for nutrition in
agriculture

Summary of group discussion

27 February 2013

1. Underlying Challenges

How to make sure that the following sequence of events takes place:

- **advocacy**: convince the decision makers in the Government to invest in nutrition and mobilize resources. The DPs will follow.
- A prerequisite is to have a nutrition policy. But this is not enough: difficulties to **operationalize**; the policy is there for being politically correct but with little commitment (e.g. externally driven policies)
- **clarify** what we talk about: what activities should be financed?
- CAADP investment plan is managed by the **MoA**, which for instance does not think that nutrition education is part of their mandate and therefore not a priority for resource allocation.

2. Ideal Achievement

Mobilize enough resources to contribute to nutrition security, the targets being left to the countries depending on specific needs.

3. HOW: good strategies and practices

- **Customized advocacy strategy** adapted to the various countries and their political leaders, e.g. include a 2-3-page very convincing document, videos, convince president / prime minister to travel and see impact of malnutrition. Pull out existing Government policies or legal requirements back to decision makers.
- **Clarify the activities** to be included and provide support to costing them. How to make nutritionists and agriculturist know about cost implications of mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture. Nutritionists should be in the MoA and MoH.
- We need to **build on the existing planning process** in the Government on the basis of which budget resources will be allocated. Nutrition is across sectors but budget resources will be channelled through line ministries. So there is need to mainstream nutrition interventions into or be absorbed or be a part of regular planning process of the Government to ensure budget resources.
- We need a **multisector governance mechanism** (challenge 3)
- Also within the MoA and MoH, a prioritization process is required, e.g. invest in mechanization or nutrition sensitive agriculture.

4. Who should take the lead?

- At country level, the CAADP teams should take the lead but a challenge is sometimes their weakness or turn over of members. There is a need to strengthen leadership of the CAADP team: they need to take decision, not to be dictated what to do. Should be strengthened with nutrition expert or be empowered to call upon nutrition expertise in the line ministries on need basis. Another issue is that CAADP teams are agricultural-biased.
- Practical support could be provided by technical agencies on request by the above team.
- NEPAD should take the lead in putting together existing tools to support countries mobilizing these resources. “Nutrition hot line” could be established.

5. Critical factors for success

- **Political commitment** is critical.
Without it, the other issues cannot be solved
- **Clarity** of what we mean by nutrition sensitive agriculture and/or mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture is also essential.