

SUMMARY OF THE FSN FORUM DISCUSSION No. 29
THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY FOR UZBEKISTAN
FROM 12 TO 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Proceedings available at:

http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/PROCEEDINGS_Draft_of_National_Agricultural_and_Food_Policy_for_Uzbekistan.doc

I. ISSUES RAISED

Members are invited to:

- Share experiences on formulating and implementing national agricultural and food policies.
- Give comments on the Logical Framework for sustainable agriculture and food security for Uzbekistan
(http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn-viewresdet/en/?no_cache=1&r=687&nocache=1).

II. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Comments on the Logical Framework

- Issues that should be addressed in the matrix involve not only access to food but also environmental management, transportation, trade issues, health, etc. The Log frame should specifically address those, e.g. (E. Davies):
 - Disadvantages of large scale livestock farming: favourable conditions for the spread of disease in livestock, or for Animal-Human disease transmission.
 - Disadvantages of mono-culture practices (raising genetically identical crops): diseases. Using indigenous species and diversifying the gene pool of crops is the best protection against these problems.
 - Trading crops can imply trading pests. There has to be an honest debate about what gets traded and what level of inspection on traded food. This has important financial implications, i.e. who pays for the inspection.
- Detailed questions on the Log frame (J. Verceuil):
 - 3.1.6 the nature of such SafeNets to be researched and identified, or do they already exist and just need being developed and fostered?
 - 3.2.4 incentives for trade companies....: is it a question of putting up enough money for the purpose in Government budget, or to invent low-cost/high-response incentives?
 - 4.2.1 liberalize... replace cotton with food: such summary statements as can be included in the matrix are often treacherous. One can say, if one liberalizes, the choice of crops (cotton or food or fodder) will be determined by the farmer, not the project. But it may be, instead, reading between the lines, that there being little hope to get rid of the compulsory cropping pattern, at least a shift towards people's needs would be a progress.

B. Suggestions

- Define/express objectives, outputs, outcomes in verifiable/measurable terms. Add a column "verifiable indicators" to the matrix. E.g. 5- Quality and safety (Q&S) control of locally produced food improved to meet sanitary and phytosanitary protection requirements products in place: two possibilities to set verifiable indicators: a/ institutions and people have been put in place, or b/ the control is indeed operational (the Q&S of goods is actually tested, according to established procedures) (J. Verceuil).

- Thinking in term of verifiable indicators/objectives/outputs can lead to formulating differently the outputs or objectives – or lead to adding activities that emerge as necessary, or to de-prioritising others. This can lead to new questions, such as “who will be in charge of the monitoring” (J. Verceuil).
- Engage a food security expert at the stage of project formulation (E. Davies)
- Specify further "sustainable farming practices", such as by talking about organic farming, using practices like allowing fields to go fallow, etc. (E. Davies)
- Promoting livestock farming has to be done in a sustainable manner by using farm waste and food grain not fit for human consumption for animal feed rather than corporate farming for fattening large animals. Developing countries have an opportunity to draw up more sustainable development strategies which would not only help to save natural resources like energy, water and food, but also protect health (M. S. Bamji)

III. REFERENCES

Distant learning modules on "Formulation and Implementation of Food Security Policies" (M. Metz) http://www.foodsec.org/DL/dlcourselist_en.asp

IFPRI website, Training Materials on Food and Nutrition Policy. Several training materials about food and nutrition policy (I. Proietti)
http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn_viewresdet.html?r=496