

Private investment and regional approach to Nutrition Security: promoting an enabling environment through public-private- partnerships

AGENDA

Friday 25 October, 2013

ITLB Office (Instituut wegTransport en Logistiek Belgie)

Rue Archimede 5, 1000 Brussels

Objective:

- to launch a dialogue among the private sector, African governments, CSOs, the donor community, and the CAADP process around what works and what does not in current market-based partnerships for nutrition security, and the potential benefits of a regional approach in Africa

Expected outcomes:

- build trust and understanding around the potential role of each actor to effectively support market-based partnerships and a regional approach to nutrition, with the potential for establishing a regular dialogue platform to promote an enabling environment

8:45-9:00 Opening and introductions

- Introduction to the Dialogue and expected outcomes by Mr. Francesco Rampa, ECDPM and Mr. Matt Freeman, GAIN.
- Participants' introductions

9:00-10:30 I. The nutrition agenda and market-based multi-stakeholder partnerships

Session I Objectives:

- Overview of approaches and challenges for tackling under-nutrition and food insecurity in Africa within multi-stakeholders partnerships
- Identify the main challenges to stimulating private sector participation and market-based models for nutrition and to building trust among development partners (donors; CSOs etc)

Expected outcomes of the session:

- Identify lessons about the nature of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships with a focus on factors that are internal to the partnerships
- Identify ways to create an enabling environment for such partnerships with a focus on factors that are external to partnerships

- Introduction to the session (objectives and expected outcomes) by Mr. Bruce Byiers, ECDPM.
- Initial remarks by Mr. Paulus Vershuren, MFA and Mr. Sjoerd Dijkstra, GAIN.
- Potential discussion topics:
 - (i) Tackling the complexities of under-nutrition through multi-sectoral responses and an enabling environment for nutrition;
 - (ii) The importance of the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships (market-based approach) and the nature of these partnerships;
 - (iii) Ways to create trust and credibility around cross-sectoral partnerships (e.g. support to research, baseline studies to create evidence);
 - (iv) Drivers, obstacles and opportunities for private sector participation and investment in nutrition in Africa: how to concretely de-risk investment;

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 **II. The regional dimensions of food and nutrition security**

Session II Objectives:

- Discuss the potential benefits of a regional approach to food and nutrition security
- Identify specific bottlenecks in Africa for an enabling environment for a regional approach to nutrition security and stimulating private sector involvement

Expected outcomes:

- Identification of some of the real opportunities for a regional approach to nutrition security
- Recommendations on how to promote this approach within international debates

- Introduction to the session by Mr. Francesco Rampa, ECDPM and Mr. Matt Freeman, GAIN.
- Initial remarks by Mrs. Sabine Seggelke, DSM and Mr. Niek van Dijk, BoP Inc
- Potential discussion topics:
 - (i) Potential opportunities in a regional approach (such as marketing fortified foods in expanded markets, working with suppliers along regional value-chains, adopting new technologies that require economies of scale, intervening in emergencies or acute food crises) and recognising and reinforcing the role of smallholders and women in cross-border trade;
 - (ii) Drivers and bottlenecks to regional nutrition approaches in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
 - (iii) Concrete actions that RECs, development partners and private sector can take to address bottlenecks and promote the regional approach;
 - (iv) Next steps for the Dialogue

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:30 **III. The policy implications of market-based partnerships and regional nutrition approaches**

Session III Objectives:

- Discuss policy implications for RECs, development partners and private sector to scale up nutrition through existing policy frameworks such as CAADP and facilitate a supportive enabling environment at a regional level

Expected outcomes:

- Suggest next steps by each involved actor within ongoing processes (i.e. CAADP, programming of development partners' support and selected PPP initiatives) to effectively support market-based partnerships and a regional approach to Nutrition
- Establish a fruitful multi-stakeholders dialogue on the benefits and potential actions of a regional approach to nutrition and promote the topic within the international debate around Nutrition and Food Security

- Introduction to the session by Mr. Matt Freeman, GAIN.
- Initial remarks by Ms. Bibi Gyiose, NEPAD (by video connection) and Mr. Francesco Rampa, ECDPM
- Potential discussion topics:
 - (i) The key role of CAADP as a framework to maximise the development benefits from partnership models;
 - (ii) Ways to scale up nutrition through these partnerships encompassing food security, health and WASH, in addition to provision of commodities for nutrition;
 - (iii) Ways for private sector to go beyond the CSR to core business approaches;
 - (iv) Implications for DPs in establishing a supportive enabling environment;
 - (v) Key next steps to follow this first Dialogue, including the possible establishment of a regular dialogue platform to promote an enabling environment

References:

Byiers, B., Seravesi, S. 2013. The enriching business of nutrition. Market-based partnerships and regional approaches to nutrition: What role for CAADP? (ECDPM Discussion Paper 149). Maastricht: ECDPM - (<http://www.ecdpm.org/dp149>).

GAIN and AIM. 2009. *The Amsterdam Initiative against Malnutrition: An innovative model for nutrition action*

http://www.gainhealth.org/sites/www.gainhealth.org/files/AIM_Case_Story_0.pdf

AIM Brochure. 2013. *A public private partnership strongly committed to reducing malnutrition.*

http://www.gainhealth.org/sites/www.gainhealth.org/files/AIM_brochure_0.pdf

CONCEPT NOTE

Private investment and regional approach to Nutrition Security: promoting an enabling environment through public-private- partnership

Background

Continental and regional organizations, national governments as well as international donors increasingly recognise the importance of improving efforts to fight under-nutrition in Africa, either through initiatives that address nutrition directly or implementing nutrition-sensitive objectives into food security and other strategies. At the level of the African Union (AU), Pillar III of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) focuses on the linkages between poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the context of promoting agricultural production and food security.

The private sector, in particular large multinationals from the food, health and agricultural sectors (e.g. DSM, BASF, UNILEVER, GSK, Cargill, etc.) are increasingly engaging in nutrition-related research, investments, and production, through a range of different types of partnerships and business models. Given their relative newness, the implications and scalability of such models are still being discovered, with questions emerging already about the ideal form of partnership, roles of partners and the impact of the broader enabling environment.

Somewhat lacking in the international debate on nutrition is the potential benefits of adopting a regional approach. As the patterns of production/consumption and the bottlenecks in the agro-food sector have strong regional features, both ***the engagement of the private sector and regional approaches to food and nutrition security might be more systematically explored***. The recurrent, seasonal nature of malnutrition calls for structural improvements of regional food markets, so that food surplus and food deficit areas in the same region can be smoothly connected. Other examples of important regional dimensions of nutrition include the dynamic networks involving women cross-border traders, so influential in Africa for both the varieties and quality of food staples actually marketed and consumed; but what is clear is the strong incentive to look into the mechanisms to better work together in a given region, to achieve better nutrition outcomes.

In this context, ECDPM recently published a Discussion paper with the title: "***The enriching business of nutrition. Market-based partnerships and regional approaches to nutrition: what role for CAADP?***" (<http://www.ecdpm.org/dp149>). The paper analyses i) the role of the private sector in nutrition-related research, investments, and production ii) and the potential of regional markets as well as iii) the linkages with on-going policy processes, particularly CAADP (including within the donor community, especially in the EU).

Rationale

Building on this, ECDPM and GAIN propose to hold a meeting in October 2013 to promote dialogue around the above issues and other on-going related initiatives. Given the role of ECDPM as resource-partner for the CAADP Donor Partner platform, the aim will also be to put this in the context of the increasing number of regional and national CAADP investment plans currently being prepared as well as other pertinent initiatives.

Given the key role played by GAIN in linking and convening different partners around the nutrition agenda, ECDPM propose sharing the organization of this dialogue with GAIN.

Intended invitees include key interviewees from the preparation of the ECDPM paper and other potential partners to further discuss and share lessons on the main themes suggested. This exercise also aims to build trust and understanding on how best to support the policy implications from the paper.

Overall, the dialogue makes important links with upcoming international observances and campaigns in 2014. These include the International Year of Family Farming, the African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). The dialogue will ideally be held shortly before the preparatory technical meeting organized by FAO/WHO in November 2013 in Rome in view of the ICN2 in 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/food/nutritional-policies-strategies/icn2/it/>). The event will offer an opportunity to redefine how business can catalyse change for the future with recommendations from the meeting in October potentially feeding into the ICN2.

Goal and objectives:

The main goal of the dialogue is *to launch a dialogue among the private sector, African governments, CSOs, the donor community, and the CAADP process around what works and what does not in current market-based partnerships for nutrition security, and the potential benefits of a regional approach in Africa.*

The main expected outcome of this dialogue is *to build trust, and understand what each involved actor should do to effectively support market-based partnerships and a regional approach to Nutrition, with the potential for establishing a regular dialogue platform to promote an enabling environment.*

The suggested themes (objectives and expected outcomes):

1. The nutrition agenda within market-based multi-stakeholder partnerships

Objectives:

- (i) Discuss the approaches and challenges for tackling under-nutrition and food insecurity in Africa within multi-stakeholders partnerships
- (ii) Identify the main challenges to stimulating private sector participation and market-based models for nutrition and to building trust among development partners (donors; CSOs etc.)

Expected outcomes:

- (vi) Identify lessons about the nature of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships – internal factors
- (vii) Identify ways to create an enabling environment for such partnerships - external policy factors

2. The regional dimensions of food and nutrition security

Objectives:

- (i) Discuss the potential benefits of a regional approach to food and nutrition security
- (ii) Identify specific bottlenecks in Africa for an enabling environment for a regional approach to nutrition security and stimulating private sector involvement

Expected outcomes:

- (i) Identification of some of the real opportunities for a regional approach to nutrition security
- (ii) Recommendations on how to promote this approach within international debates

3. The policy implications of market-based partnerships and regional nutrition approaches

Objective:

- (i) Discuss policy implications for RECs, development partners and private sector to scale up nutrition through existing policy frameworks such as CAADP and facilitate a supportive enabling environment at a regional level

Expected outcome:

- (i) Suggest next steps by each involved actor within on-going processes (i.e. CAADP, programming of development partners' support and selected PPP initiatives) to effectively support market-based partnerships and a regional approach to Nutrition
- (ii) Establish a fruitful multi-stakeholders dialogue on the benefits and potential actions of a regional approach to nutrition and promote the topic within the international debate around Nutrition and Food Security

Potential Participants:

The target groups for this dialogue are high-level and technical professionals from African countries, donors in the EU, civil society and private sector. The size of the group will be approximately 30-35 participants. Potential organisations include:

- NEPAD; African governments
- RFOs; FANRPAN
- Donors (EC; UK; NL; USAID; DFID)
- UN Agencies (SUN; WHO; FAO; WFP; UNICEF)
- Private Sector (BASF; DSM; UNILEVER; CARGILL; MARS; YARA; SYNGENTA; DIAGEO...)
- Civil society organizations

Location:

ITLB Office (Instituut wegTransport en Logistiek Belgie)
Rue Archimede 5
1000 Brussels
Belgium

ECDPM office in Brussels: Tel +32-(0)2-237 43 10 Fax +32-(0)2-237 43 19

Date and timeframe:

25 October 2013, 1-day meeting