



## Work Stream on Agriculture and Nutrition

Telco

21 April 2016, 14:30 – 15:30 CEST

### Minutes

#### Participants:

Lynn Brown (Chair), Mauro Ghirotti (IADC), Charlotte Dufour (FAO), Ahmed Kablan (USAID), Fatiha Terki (WFP), Ines Reinhard (GIZ), Martina Kreß (GIZ), Judy Canahuati (USAID), Isabella Roche (GAC Canada)

#### Apologies

Aira Maria Htenas (World Bank), Tanya Khara (DFID)

#### Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato, Luisa Prior

#### Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Presentation and adoption of Work Plan 2016
3. Recap of meeting of Rome-based agencies on 20 April 2016 (Activity 1.3)
4. AOB and summary

#### **1. Welcome**

Lynn Brown (Chair, World Bank) welcomed the participants to the first Nutrition Group meeting in 2016 and gave a short introduction into the Global Donor Platform's (GDP) [Nutrition Work Stream](#).

#### **2. Presentation and adoption of Work Plan 2016**

The 4 objectives and corresponding activities of the draft Work Plan 2016 were presented by the Work Stream's chair and subsequently approved by the present work stream members.

#### **Presentation of the Work Plan**

With regard to **objective 1** (Bring a more nutrition-sensitive approach to donors' portfolios of agriculture and food security), Lynn Brown described previous Work Stream activities (webinars, interviews and virtual briefings) and outlined planned activities for 2016 which will primarily target information sharing and coordination regarding donor work and policies on [nutrition-sensitive agriculture \(NSA\)](#) interventions. She also highlighted that NSA was the raison d'être for the establishment of the Nutrition Work Stream. **Activity 1.3** (Synthesizing NSA programme experiences under the lead of the Rome-based agencies –RBAs) was discussed in more detail under agenda item 3.

Under **objective 2**, the Work Plans sets out improved cooperation with the [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) movement](#), particularly in terms of the agricultural/nutrition linkages. The Platform Secretariat will participate in the monthly telcos of the SUN Donor Network and share relevant documents such as the SUN [In Practice briefs](#) within the Nutrition Working Group and the larger platform. On this basis, a more strategic approach to create synergies between both networks will be developed in the long term.



**Objective 3** aims at contributing to food safety in developing countries, with a particular focus on Mycotoxins. To this end, knowledge exchange within the Work Stream as well as with other food safety stakeholders will be combined with greater attention to the gender dimension of food safety. A [high level breakfast at the CAADP partners meeting](#) on food safety and Aflatoxin was realized on 12 April in Accra, Ghana, to secure high level champions on the continent at government level.

Under **objective 4**, it is considered to establish a community of practice (possibly on gender and nutrition) in order to improve and facilitate knowledge exchange among donors and allow for more direct and proactive ways of communication. It was agreed that a short concept note will be developed and shared with the Nutrition Work Stream for members to decide about the proposal.

### **Discussion and Adoption of the Work Plan**

Charlotte Dufour from FAO drew attention to the recent establishment of a [Decade of Action on Nutrition](#) from 2016-2025 which provide a great opportunity for stronger cooperation on nutrition at the highest political level and for moving nutrition beyond the realms of agricultural and health ministries. In this context, the RBAs would recommend to include **contributions of the GDP in the Nutrition Work Programme 2016**. In particular, practical assistance could be provided under the umbrella of the GDP for donors to implement the Decade of Action on Nutrition, transform commitments into action, and to support reporting mechanisms as well as the nutrition-related dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fatiha Terki from WFP strongly supported this proposal. It was discussed to tackle this issue under Activity 1.3 (see agenda item 3).

In relation to Objective 1, FAO has invested significant efforts in the **capitalization of experiences on NSA** to develop a series of knowledge products and e-learning modules (please refer to email attachment for details). These resources could be:

- 1) used as a valuable resource for the GDP to build upon (e.g. in relation to activity 1.3);
- 2) disseminated by the platform to its members in order to be used and known more widely.

Charlotte Dufour volunteered to do an interview/webinar to inform GDP members and partners about the FAO resources in more detail.

Fatiha Terki from WFP recommended to strengthen linkages not only to the SUN Movement but also to other initiatives working on nutrition. Lynn Brown mentioned the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#) in this context, a partnership in which stakeholders commit to achieve inclusive, agriculture-led growth in Africa. She volunteered to report back on ongoing developments in this initiative.

Ahmed Kablan from USAID emphasized that **food safety** (tackled under objective 3) **remains a major concern** and presented two related initiatives USAID is currently involved in:

1. Food safety issues related to pathogenic (bacterial, viral or fungal contamination) and non-pathogenic contaminants (e.g. pesticides and other chemical and heavy metals) are weakly covered in all development programs by all donors; reacting to this omission USAID established an **internal food safety working group** that will work to identify and tackle the knowledge gap on the research and programming sides. The group will be a technical resource for USAID missions to help provide technical expertise on how to mitigate food safety issues in the value chain and help provide nutritious and safe food for women and children. The efforts are just starting and will provide support through existing programs like Feed the Future Research programs (e.g. the post-harvest loss reduction innovation lab; the Nutrition Innovation lab, Food processing and post-harvest loss reduction innovation lab, etc) and through building private-public partnerships and training of NGOs and communities on food preparation, processing and preservation.



2. The **Agriculture Research team** (Nutritious and Safe food program area) of USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) entered into discussions with Francois Stepman (PAEPARD) and other collaborators at the **Institute of Sciences of Food Production (ISPA-CNR)** in Italy who are working on food safety and mycotoxin in particular in order to see where USAID can collaborate and leverage resources to better maximize their impact to help tackle mycotoxin problems. This was started in February over a conference call; a face-to-face meeting to further discuss the process is tentatively scheduled for late June/early July. Ahmed Kablan offered to share a list of all Feed the Future Innovation labs (the Feed the Future research programs) which cover food safety and nutrition issues as a starting point for collaboration among different donors. He will update the platform members on the outcomes of the initiative via email or during a telco.

For **more information on all Innovation labs** supported by Feed the Future, please visit <https://feedthefuture.gov/article/feed-future-food-security-innovation-center>.

For specific research programmes in the fields of **nutritious and safe foods**, please also refer to the recent USAID fact sheets for [Nutritious and Safe Food](#) & [Legume productivity](#).

Following the discussion, the Work Programme 2016 was unanimously approved by all present work stream members.

### 3. RBA meeting on 20 April (Activity 1.3)

Mauro Ghirotti (IADC Italy, Co-Chair of the GDP) gave a recap of a meeting of the Rome based agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, IADC) that took place on **20<sup>th</sup> April in Rome** on behalf of the GDP to discuss and better define the activities to be implemented, through RBA collaboration, within the GDP's 2016 Work Plans.

Concerning the Nutrition Work Stream, the meeting focused on **improved donor cooperation regarding nutrition sensitive agriculture**. It aimed to build on RBA's knowledge and experience from ongoing programmes and to address practical issues of implementation and appropriate actions, to be included for implementation in the Nutrition Group work plan (Activity 1.3).

During the meeting, it was agreed to **synthesize and structure previous experiences on NSA**, the idea being to build a practical tool for platform members and partners examining the state of the art and main pillars of NSA from a conceptual point of view but also with regard to practical applications of the concept. Such a compilation should entail not only donors' approaches but also include and critically review the know-how of NGOs and the private sector.

The following **4 priority areas** were identified:

1. Special attention needs to be paid to **capacity development** at the national level.
2. The **complexity of monitoring activities** should be taken into account, not only with regard to the collection but also the prioritization of data;
3. Include and **review different approaches** (food system approach, commodity/value chain approach etc.);
4. Consider important linkages with **food safety**.

In addition, a **1-day conference** in Rome to allow for a face-to-face discussion and deepening of specific issues and experiences, with the involvement of the donor and international communities as well as representatives of partner countries, is tentatively envisioned. Lynn Brown proposed to plan this meeting as a **side-event to CFS 43** and emphasized that such a decision would have to be made quickly since the deadline for registering side-events at CFS 43 is due relatively shortly (8 July).



Charlotte Dufour brought up the issue of **collaboration with the gender work stream** to bring in specific expertise on NSA and gender and emphasized the willingness within the RBAs to collaborate on gender and nutrition. Since Lynn Brown also participates in the GDP Gender Work Stream, she will, in cooperation with the Secretariat, facilitate the alignment of both work streams (please also see agenda item 4 (AOB) below for gender-specific nutrition & food safety interventions).

RBA representatives also recommended organising a **meeting with the new chair of the SUN movement**, Gerda Verburg, and the [United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition](#) (UNSCN) to explore potential synergies and collaboration on the **Decade for Action on Nutrition**. It was suggested to discuss these proposals in detail during the next telco of the Work Stream and/or within a sub-group.

It was agreed to draft a short **concept note on the objectives and deliverables of Activity 1.3** by mid-May to be circulated to the Nutrition Work Stream for comment and then to the wider platform to specify this activity and introduce it to potentially interested third parties.

The following activities are planned in order to implement Activity 1.3:

- 2 teleconferences approximately in June and September/October
- a 1-day conference in Rome (tentative, possibly as a CFS 43 side event)
- Preparation of a publication/manual (with the support of a consultant)
- Creation of a sub-group to the Nutrition Work Stream
- 1-page concept note will be prepared in May to be shared with the Work Stream & Platform.
- Alignment with GDP gender work stream

#### 4. AOB and Summary

##### Participation of JICA in the work stream

Charlotte Dufour inquired whether the [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#) currently participates in the Nutrition Work Stream. Romy Sato from the Platform Secretariat informed that JICA is represented both in the Platform's Agenda 2030 and the Land Governance Work Stream, and that through these groups contact could be established. Charlotte offered to reach out to colleagues from JICA. Mauro Ghirotti volunteered to contact JICA representatives during a preparatory meeting on food security in the run-up to the G7 summit.

##### GIZ guidelines on NSA interventions in agricultural projects

Ines Reinhardt and Martina Kress outlined that GIZ is currently preparing guidelines on indicators and assistance on NSA interventions in rural and agricultural development projects. GIZ offered to present these guidelines either in a telco or in the context of the envisaged workshop under Activity 1.3. The draft is currently being discussed internally- a completion date is not determined yet.

##### USAID indicator guidance on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and gender

Lynn Brown highlighted that USAID has very interesting indicator guidance concerning NSA that could be utilized for Activity 1.3 of the Work Plan, for example the [Spring Project](#) or the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI) that is now customized to nutrition projects. She suggested to give a practical presentation on the indicator and how it is implemented on the ground.

In addition Ahmed Kablan proposed that USAID/BFS could hold a webinar with [Agrilinks](#) –a knowledge management platform hosted by USAID BFS– about the [Gender Integration Framework](#), a framework that offers guidance on how research and programmes can systematically identify and challenge gender-based inequalities that pose barriers to development. It was decided to discuss these (and potential other) proposals in more detail with the Gender Work Stream.

Lynn Brown concluded the meeting by highlighting that the Nutrition Work Stream is looking forward to an interesting year 2016. She encouraged the Work Stream members to see the Secretariat as a resource for making links between different work stream members, supporting work in progress, and providing practical guidance.

## 5. Next steps

Action	Due	Lead
Webinar/interview on FAO resources on NSA	June	FAO/ Secretariat
Determine follow-up on the Decade of Action on Nutrition (possibly during next Nutrition Work Stream telco or in a sub-group dealing with Activity 1.3)	May/June	RBAs / Secretariat
2 teleconferences	Approximately in June and September/October	IADC/ Secretariat
1-day conference in Rome	Autumn, possibly as side-event to CFS 43	RBAs/ Secretariat
Creation of a sub-group to the Nutrition Work Stream	tbd	Secretariat
1-page concept note	May	RBAs
Preparation of a publication/manual	Finalization: appr. October-December	RBAs (possibly with support of a consultant)
Alignment with GDP gender work stream (particularly with regard to Activity 1.3)	May onwards	Lynn Brown/ Secretariat
Knowledge sharing and cooperation on USAID food safety initiatives through a webinar/virtual briefing/interview (internal working group on food safety/ Research programmes)	tbd	USAID/ Secretariat/ Lynn Brown
Presentation of selected gender-specific nutrition/NSA initiatives (e.g. Agrilink webinar on Spring Project, Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, Gender Integration Framework).	tbd	USAID/ Secretariat
Prepare concept note on community of practice	Approximately May	Lynn Brown/ Secretariat
Reaching out to JICA	May	IADC / FAO / Secretariat
Sharing GIZ guidelines on NSA interventions (via telco or Activity 1.3)	After finalization (tbd)	GIZ/ Secretariat