



Work Stream on Agriculture and Nutrition

Telco

06 October 2016, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST

Minutes

Participants:

Mauro Ghirotti (IADC), Charlotte Dufour (FAO), Mushtaq Ahmed (Global Affairs Canada), Aira Maria Htenas (World Bank)

Apologies

Maren Lieberum (GIZ)

Platform secretariat:

Martina Karaparusheva, Reinhild Ernst

Agenda:

1. Review of current workplan
2. Plan next Webinar

1. Planning of next webinar

IADC, represented by Mauro Ghirotti, welcomed the participants to the call. The purpose of the telco is to revitalise the work of the nutrition workstream and to identify main priorities, in line with the Work Plan 2016 for the upcoming months. Although the group has agreed to focus on nutrition sensitive agriculture, there is growing attention and demand to discuss topics such as food quality control and food safety (aflatoxins) from a health and economic perspective. Based on these recent developments, IADC urged the participants to discuss also possible future thematic focus.

Since the thematic focus this year is set on nutrition sensitive agriculture, the group has developed a concept note on the topic, with the strong support of FAO, identifying the objective and stages of NSA. Based on this work, first webinar was carried out. It was agreed that this webinar will present the state of play in nutrition sensitive agriculture and the second will focus on the practical dimensions of implementing nutrition-sensitive programmes. It was reiterated, that as part of the Donor Platform, the group should not only be interested in the strategic policy thinking, but also in the quality application of strategies such as nutrition sensitive agriculture. The second webinar should offer a practical insight by comparing the different practical approaches and by identifying principles for designing and implementing NSA approaches. IADC urged the group to agree on certain criteria that will guide the choice of presented practical approaches, so that the webinar informs in a structured manner the participants on best practices.

Global Affairs Canada suggested finding practical examples that represent best the interlinkages between quality of food, quality of intervention and quality of political projects in the field of nutrition sensitive agriculture. It was furthermore discussed to focus on inclusiveness as a cross-cutting issue, highlighting the role of women and youth in the nutrition-sensitive agriculture discourse, but also looking into the sustainability aspect of nutrition-sensitive projects.

FAO welcomed the idea of organising another webinar, but cautioned the group that the timing will be of great importance, since there are several events on similar topics taking place in the next couple of months and the group would like to avoid duplicating the discussions. CFS will have several events on nutrition and food systems and there will be a large symposium on nutrition and food systems



organised by FAO and WHO in December. Countries will be invited at this symposium to present practical examples of linking agriculture to nutrition and overall food systems. The next webinar should therefore build on the particular added value of this group, namely the openness to listen to developing countries, receiving the feedback of successful interventions and using the information to feed into donor policies. To reach this added value FAO suggested organising the second webinar after the symposium has taken place in late December or early next year. This way the discussion amongst donors will already be informed by the national discussions that took place at the symposium and there will be more space for critical exchange.

World Bank also sees the profit of this group when it comes to policy coherence and convergence. The webinar and the exchange overall in the group should be used not only to discuss about mainstreaming nutrition into other policies, but also to understand whether each sectoral policy, when addressing its own goal is not actually undermining healthy diets and goals of other sectors that are trying to improve nutrition. There is less guidance on this issue out there and since this is a discussion that is taking place within donor agencies, it should be opened up to a discussion amongst donors.

FAO suggested organising a side meeting during the symposium, where present members of the working group can discuss possible topics that can be taken up by the nutrition workstream.

The participants agreed to wait for the next webinar for the beginning of next year. The symposium in December in FAO will be used to frame future discussions on the focal topic of the nutrition workstream. The group will also work on developing a framework of topics and criteria that will guide the discussion and enable more structured exchange. The secretariat will create the first draft of this framework, based on the discussions that took place during the CFS and will share it with the group for further comments.

2. Implementation of the workplan

IADC opened up the discussion for future focal topic of the workstream. It was reported that the topic of food quality has received increased attention by many of the big donors. Especially food loss and waste is also gaining momentum and will be of interest for many of the donors. FAO is looking into linkages between food safety and food waste and will send additional information on this to the secretariat to be shared on the website. The secretariat will follow up on the issue of food quality with Lynn Brown.

IADC suggested using the information on any topic the workstream decides to focus on, to synthesise it into patterns and risks that will inform political and programmatic decision makers. This process will be of greater use for the donors and will also help avoid doubling the information and efforts to create knowledge. Furthermore this focused way of work will facilitate critical exchange with somewhat tangible and useful outcomes for the donors and partners.

The participants discussed further the working processes of the nutrition workstream and the need to be more active in engaging the right people in order to use the existing information and to facilitate an exchange in a useful manner, really informing policy decision making. The Platform has different communication channels that can be used to reach different target groups, but it remains important for the group to agree on certain products that they want to produce, so the work can move beyond exchange and discussions. The secretariat will meet with different actors during the CFS to link the Platform to existing initiatives and support them in advocacy issues. The World Bank will also facilitate the contact to Global Food Safety Partnership, hosted by the World Bank.

The discussions on the WorkPlan 2017 are already open and the secretariat welcomes proposals.

Canada, FAO and the secretariat will develop an initial list of criteria to choose the practical examples to

be presented at the second webinar.

Next steps

Action	Due	Lead
Sectoral policies influence on nutrition – InfoNote/DiscussionNote?		
Organise a meeting after the Symposium in December to discuss future focus		
Create a first draft of topics and criteria framework to guide discussions and choice of practical examples for the second webinar	31 October	Secretariat
Follow up on the discussion of Lynn Brown with Stefan Schmitz		Secretariat

Link to the first webinar:

<https://www.donorplatform.org/nutrition-and-agricultural-development/latest/1570-platform-hosts-virtual-briefing-on-nutrition-sensitive-agriculture>