



Side Event Reporting Template

Please fill in the details below with your summary (500 words) and email it to CFS45-Side-Event@fao.org by 2 November 2018. Your summary will be posted on the CFS 45 web page as a record of the event.

Side Event #:
105
Side Event Title:
Aligning agriculture and food processing related policies to enhance healthy sustainable diets - Advancing the implementation of the ICN2 recommendations under The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition
Key speakers/presenters:
Mario Arvelo, CFS Chair and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the UN Rome-based Agencies Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Development Department, FAO, Italy Hideya Yamada, Vice President for Food, Agriculture and Nutrition, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Veronica Lorena Risso Patron, Coordinator, National Program of Healthy Eating and Prevention of Obesity, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Argentina Mary Mwale, Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) Focal Point for Kenya and Principal Agricultural Officer; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, Kenya Dave VandenEinde, Global Research & Development Director, Cargill Global Edible Oil Solutions, USA Bibi Giyose, Senior Officer Nutrition and Food Systems and Advisor to the CEO, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, South Africa. Moderator: Francesco Branca – Director Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO
Summary (Total 500 words maximum) - Please use the sub-headings
Main themes/issues discussed
• Healthy diets are essential to fight malnutrition in all its forms. One action area of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition focuses on solutions to achieve sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets. This includes food processing and transformation measures that have the potential for supporting dietary, nutritional and health outcomes of food systems. Some progress in implementing nutrition actions at regional and country level has been made since the proclamation of the Nutrition Decade in 2016. Further progress will be assessed in an open and consultative process with Member States and their partners for the mid-term review of the Nutrition Decade. • Valuable contributions have been shared by the regional Initiative for Food and

Side Event Reporting Template

[Nutrition Security in Africa \(IFNA\)](#). IFNA was launched jointly by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Kenya in August 2016 during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) as a ten-year initiative until 2025. IFNA's aim is to accelerate the implementation of food and nutrition security policies on the ground, with a view to contributing to a comprehensive improvement of malnutrition in Africa. IFNA focuses on the integration of the agriculture sector into nutrition interventions, and strengthens local level capacity to enhance sustainability and inclusiveness of nutritional improvements in accordance with country context.

Summary of key points

Kenya, as IFNA partnering country, and Argentina shared their experience with food processing related policies and measures:

Kenya introduced mandatory fortification of Flour, Sugar and vegetable oils/fats in 2012 to reduce micronutrient deficiencies (Fe, Zn, and Vit A) and stunting. This initiative has resulted in significant reduction in stunting (26% reduction); and Iron and Vitamin A deficiencies (30%- 40% reduction). Moreover, the flour blending policy was introduced in 2018 under the Big-4 Agenda of the national 100% Food and Nutrition Security initiative in Kenya. Both policy measures aim to improve accessibility of nutrient dense foods for Kenyan's citizens. Under the leadership of the government, both include partnerships of the government with private sector actors. Flour Millers responded positively to the food fortification and flour blending policy and are partnering with government. The flour blending Policy also stimulated acceptance of blended flours among rural and urban consumers, leading to increased production and income to farmers. Challenges faced include: the need for close monitoring of compliance of partners, shortages in production of blending ingredients, millet and sorghum, which impedes compliance capacity of partners, and increase in the cost of blended flour beyond reach for low income populations particularly in urban areas. Measures of micronutrient fortification should be complemented by development of blending standards and consumer education accordingly, and increased investments in the production and provision of diversified foods including fresh fruits and vegetables.

Argentina implemented an innovative approach to eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFA) from the food supply to reduce high rates of adult overweight, obesity and coronary heart disease. Under the leadership of central government, elements of success included: working across sectors (partnerships between agriculture and health ministries) and in cooperation with multiple-partners (Gov, civil society and industry, academia); adopting a mandatory approach to replace iTFA with healthier fats/oils such as sunflower oil and putting in place a cooperative agreement to improve the availability of healthy fats and oils at affordable prices; mandatory labelling on products, monitoring compliance; regional context support through the Trans-FAT Free Americas Declaration.

Side Event Reporting Template

Campaigns were undertaken with civil society and consumer associations to help increase the compliance of the food industry to achieve the set targets for the elimination of iTFA in processed food products.

The speaker from Cargill Global Edible Oil Solutions, shared a **food industry perspective**, by outlining that Cargill developed solutions for reformulation of packed processed foods including reducing sodium, sugars, saturated and trans fats and increase whole grains and fiber in many foods and beverages consumed around the world. He stated the globally uneven but growing demand for improving the nutritional profiles of packaged & restaurant foods among Cargill's customers. Despite proactively communicating with its customers about solutions for ingredient replacement, it remains challenging convincing the producers due to existing tradeoffs. Moreover, supply chains for provision of healthier ingredients need to be ensured. He concluded that it is important to address food reformulation from the lens of a system, and understand how the government, regulation, supply chain, suppliers, food producers and the consumer all are part of this system. The system needs to work together to achieve the goal of improving public health.

Regional Agency Perspective was shared by the speaker from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency. She underlined that high-level engagement, sensitization and targeted education with policy makers is imperative for real systemic transformation for improved nutrition. New actors are needed like the regional parliamentarian league – the Pan African Parliamentarian (PAP) Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition who is fully on board working with partners to address hunger and malnutrition in Africa. The development of a Model Law is upcoming which will be adopted by all countries along the continental Nutrition Score Card for Africa. She concluded that efforts need continue to strengthen advocacy, disseminate relevant essential messages; increase investment in nutrition agenda; close data and evidence gaps and support M&E and knowledge management.

Key take away messages

- **Healthy diets are essential to fight malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency and overweight and obesity and diet-related NCDs.**
- **Effective food processing and transformation policies and measures need a systems perspective, with a holistic multi-sectoral approach and the collaboration with multiple partners, with clear role and separated responsibilities of the different actors.**
- **Under the leadership of government, alignment across sectors and stakeholders is possible and care has to be taken that healthy diets and nutrition are part of the efforts. To make this happen multisectoral coordination is a key for success.**



Side Event Reporting Template

- Interaction with private sector is important and there is the need for clear asks/demands on the private sector. Private sector cannot be responsible for policy making but is an important actor and partner in implementation.
- To create enabling food environments, it requires the system as a whole to incentivize the production and supply of healthier ingredients for processed foods and of diversified nutritious foods for healthy diets.
- Capacity building measures are essential.
- Regulatory frameworks require a level playing field and a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities of all actors involved at different stages of the supply chain. Conflicts of interests need to be addressed in public-private partnerships for conducive and effective interaction.