

CFS 45 - Proposed side event

Title

Aligning agriculture and food processing related policies to enhance healthy sustainable diets

Sub-title

Advancing the implementation of the ICN2 recommendations under UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Date and Venue

Date: Wednesday 17 October 2018

Time: 13:00-14:30hrs

Room: Red Room, FAO HQ in Rome Italy

Organizers

World Health Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) / Japan International Cooperation Agency

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

Participants (keynote, speakers, panelist, moderator)

CFS Chair Welcome address

FAO ADG Framing Presentation 1 global focus

CEO, NEPAD Agency or Vice President, JICA Framing Presentation 2 focus Africa

Argentina Panellist

Manufacturer of fats and oils Panelist

IFNA Country from Africa Panelist

Regional/national institution Panelist

World Health Organisation (WHO) Moderator

Abstract

Under the global umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, coherent and innovative actions covering the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing to consumption – are called for to ensure access to sustainable, healthy diets for all. Unhealthy diets are among the number one risk factor globally for deaths and disability. At the Second International Conference on Nutrition ICN2, countries committed to transform current food systems so that they can deliver the quality diets needed for combatting malnutrition in all its forms and achieving optimal health.

In recent decades, many low- and middle-income countries have undergone a drastic transition in diets and burden of disease. This includes a shift from consuming traditional diets often healthier and nutrient-rich, to a diet that is high in foods that have been transformed and processed in one way or the other, contributing to an increase in overweight, obesity and diet related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in all regions of the world. Food processing itself is not necessarily unhealthy; it is the nature, extent and purpose of processing that is important in terms of nutritional and health consequences.

In several countries, food processing policies and programmes are targeting trans fats, sugar and sodium to reduce the burden of NCDs. This includes reformulating products that follow relevant nutrient facts and labelling standards, such as on sugar, salt, fats and trans fat content.

On the other hand, many low-income countries are affected by the double burden of malnutrition and still suffer from the low intake of key macro- and micro- nutrient elements, such as protein, iron and Vitamin A, which is believed to be a causal factor of key nutrition issues. The role of food processing and preservation is extremely significant for the stable availability of and access to food items rich in key nutrients both for the rural and urban population through the provision of enriched food items in a more industrialized manner. This includes the promotion of increased use of traditional foods that are often neglected, to improve people's diets.

For food processing strategies to be impactful, they need to be part of the wider agriculture and food system transformation, centred around multi sectoral alignment (agriculture, food, nutrition and health policies) and multi-stakeholder engagement.

The planned event will present valuable country experience in the area of food processing policies and programmes, addressing different forms of malnutrition including undernutrition and overweight and obesity for improved nutrition outcomes. The important link of these policies and programmes with agricultural policies will be highlighted. Moreover, associated challenges faced by these policies and programmes will be discussed.

The event will provide a platform for interaction between CFS members to better understand the cross sectoral linkages for impactful policy and programme implementation related to healthy diets.

Proposed Format

The CFS Chair will welcome participants, followed by 2 framing presentations i) UN Decade of Action on Nutrition call for global food system change, ii) The critical role of food system transformation in Africa.

A panel of two country representatives sharing their policy/programmatic experience in improving the quality of processed foods (Latin-American and African Region); a food industry representative and a representative from regional/national institution sharing their perspectives. The panel will engage with the audience in a moderated interactive discussion around key elements such as the role of agricultural policy and the need for an investment shift in ensuring the production and sufficient and affordable accessibility of healthier ingredients for food processing.

Relevance to CFS

The discussion will put light on the important connections between agriculture policies and investments and human diets and health, and the need for policy coherence. In this way, potential areas of CFS's future policy convergence work in nutrition and food systems will be addressed. Furthermore, this event is relevant for the CFS policy guidance on Responsible Agricultural Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI). The current RAI does not address the linkages to diet as such. It would be important to guide countries how they could analyse and better understand their food systems and in the process to make the complex choice of the relevant nutrition-sensitive investment choices.

- *Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems*¹
- *CFS contribution to the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition*².

¹ CFS 2014/41/4 Add.1: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml620e.pdf>

² <http://who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/workprogramme-doa2016to2025-en.pdf?ua=1>

Expected outcome

The expected outcomes of this event are

- To increase understanding of CFS members about potential evidence/informed policy and programmatic measures to improve the dietary choices
- To showcase concrete examples and discuss the need for greater policy coherence between agricultural and health policies.
- To provide platform for learning and discussion of success stories and challenges regarding food processing and transformation measures that are being implemented in countries.
- To provide platform for interested countries and partners to come together and network

The outcomes of this event will be valuable inputs to the CFS policy convergence work on Nutrition and Food Systems

Key words

Healthy sustainable diets

Food processing and reformulation

Multi-sectoral policy alignment

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 follow up

Closely related to CFS products

Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)

The event is relevant to the implementation of the policy recommendations in the RAI

The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

The event is relevant to the implementation of the policy recommendations in the GSF

Nutrition and food systems (2018)

The event is relevant for CFS future work on nutrition and food systems within the framework of the Nutrition Decade.

Connecting smallholders to markets (2016)

The event is relevant to the implementation of the policy recommendations on connecting small holders to markets.

Land tenure and international investments in agriculture

The event is relevant to the implementation of the policy recommendations on land tenure and international investments in agriculture.

About new and emerging issues

Yes, the event is about new perspectives in connecting the dots for food security and improved nutrition, for the achievement of the right to food and a healthy diet for all, the aims of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the food security and nutrition-related targets of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Moreover, the event is about new emerging issues in the areas of policy coherence across the agriculture, food, nutrition and health sectors, supporting healthy diets and improved nutrition and health, in areas that are within the mandate of the CFS.

Links to Background Material

- Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Version 5 May 2017. Available at: <http://who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/workprogramme-doa2016to2025-en.pdf?ua=1>
- HLPE 2017. Nutrition and food systems: a report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7846e.pdf>
- WHO. 2018. Replace. Trans-fat free by 2023. An action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans fat from the global food supply. <http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/replace-transfat> .
- WHO Global Coordination Mechanism. 2014. Policy brief 32. Approaches to producing and promoting more food products consistent with a healthy diet.
Available at : <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-coordination-mechanism/Policybrief32.pdf>
- WHO: Best buys' and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. Available at: <http://who.int/ncds/management/best-buys/en/>

Interpretation service

Interpretation service will be provided for English, French and Spanish.