Capacity development activities using FAO toolkit and eLearning academy resources during Covid19 in Eastern Africa

12 May 2021

Dia Sanou, PhD, cPHN, Nutrition Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Email: Dia.Sanou@fao.org
Presentation Outline

I Introduction
II Quest for nutrition sensitive food systems
III Regional capacity building activities
IV Example of blended capacity strengthening
V Challenges and lessons learnt
VI Conclusion
Why transitioning to nutrition-sensitive and sustainable food systems

- 690 Million people are undernourished
- 149 Million stunted
- ~50 Million wasted
- 1 of 3 Adults is overweight/obese
- 30-40% of food produced wasted
- 1.5 times enough food than needed
- 3 billion people cannot afford healthy diet
- One third of harmful green gas emissions

Source: 2020 SOFI.
Building sustainable food systems that works for people and the planet i.e. inclusive, sustainable / environment friendly, Resilient, Efficient, and provide nutritious and safe diets

- Food systems champions
- Food systems assessment
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Enabling environment for transformation
- Multilevel capacity for transformation
Objective
To enhance Member States’ capacities to design and implement context-appropriate and evidence-informed coherent food-systems policies and actions that promote healthy diets for all from sustainable food systems.
Overview of SFE Capacity building activities

• **Individual level - capacity strengthening workshops**
  - Rwanda (Feb. 2019), Kenya (March 2019) and SFE (Nov. 2019)
  - Eritrea and Somaliland (Completed)

• **Enabling environment**
  - Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for FSN
  - 6 national alliances (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda)
  - Training manual on NSA (regional, country and subnational)
  - Thematic guidance note for nutrition mainstreaming
  - FN act or Model laws
A blended approach to capacity building

• COVID19: adaptation of a 3-5 day face-to-face to 5 day blended workshop
  • Format of delivery
  • Duration
  • Content

• Blended methodology
  • Face-to-face presentations by national stakeholders on context specific topic
  • Virtual live session – presentation from the TOOLKIT and Q & A
  • Self guided learning - FAO’s eLearning academy modules (selection)
  • Face-to-face facilitated group work
Theory of Change - Capacity strengthening workshop in Eritrea (January 2021)

Level of intervention
Where?

Capacity assessment
Baseline and needs

Minimum Integrated Household Package (MIHAP) & National Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security (NTC)

Need to better understand nutrition and to enhance capacity and skills to better design agriculture, livestock, fisheries and environment related policies and programmes to improve nutrition outcomes & National Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security (NTC) members and project staff understanding and capacity to improve nutrition

National:
Members of the National Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security (NTC)

SubNational:
Staff involved in implementation of MIHAP programme

Interventions
How?

Outputs
What Competencies?

Immediate Outcomes

Intermediate Outcomes

Impact

• Increased production, availability, access, affordability and consumption of healthy diets in Eritrea

• Common understanding and vision for nutrition among NTC members
• Strengthened NTC and enhanced coordination of various sectors
• Policies, strategies, plans, programmes and interventions are more nutrition sensitive

• Nutrition mainstreaming culture is embedded in sectoral structures to allow systematic action for nutrition in day to day work

• Individuals with skills and confidence to implement MIHAP with nutrition goals
• Sustainable technical capacity to design, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate nutrition sensitive policies, programmes and interventions in Eritrea

• Collective awareness and commitment for NSA
• Knowledge and skills to appraise nutrition sensitivity and mainstream nutrition in relevant policies, strategies and plans
• Approach and tools to increase nutrition sensitivity
• Multisectoral inclusive policy processes

• Nutrition mainstreaming
• Strengthened NTC efficiency and sector commitment to nutrition

• Individual awareness and commitment to NSA
• Skills to implement MIHAP with objective of improving nutrition
• Capacity to design, plan, monitor and evaluate NSA policies and programmes
• Support other stakeholders on NSA

• General principles and recommendations for nutrition mainstreaming
• Sector specific case studies
• Sector specific options for interventions in nutrition

• Presentation from experts on key technical concepts
• Sharing of experience and good practices among stakeholders
• Self-guided learning
• Presentation and appraisal of MIHAP
• Case studies / experiential learning

• Nutrition objectives and indicators
• Appraisal of the MIHAP programme
• Appraisal of national policies, strategies and plans on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, environment
• Nutrition governance and multisector coordination

• Collectible awareness and commitment for NSA
• Knowledge and skills to appraise nutrition sensitivity and mainstream nutrition in relevant policies, strategies and plans
• Approach and tools to increase nutrition sensitivity
• Multisectoral inclusive policy processes

• Nutrition mainstreaming
• Strengthened NTC efficiency and sector commitment to nutrition

• Individual awareness and commitment to NSA
• Skills to implement MIHAP with nutrition goals
• Capacity to design, plan, monitor and evaluate nutrition sensitive policies, programmes and interventions in Eritrea

Sustainable capacity to design, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate nutrition sensitive policies, programmes and interventions in Eritrea
• Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems: 10 recommendations for designing food and agriculture programmes in a nutrition-sensitive way; 5 recommendations for creating an enabling environment for nutrition-sensitive food systems

• Designing nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments. Checklist and guidance for programme formulation: Key questions, tips, and sources of information for situation analysis, programme design, monitoring and evaluation, in order to operationalize the Key recommendations

• Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems in practice: options for interventions: 20 interventions with the potential to improve nutrition, organised around 4 key functions of the food system cross-cutting issues

• Compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture: Guidance on a range of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the nutritional impacts of agricultural investments
Resources from the eLearning Academy

Pre-workshop
• Improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems (3h)
• Design and monitor nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems programmes (4h30)

During the workshop (afternoon)
• Nutrition, food security and livelihoods. Basic concepts (30 min)
• How to conduct a nutrition situation analysis (2h)
• Sustainable Food Value Chain for Nutrition (2h30)
Using two realistic scenarios, this course illustrates the linkages between agriculture, food systems, and nutrition, and describes existing opportunities for integrating nutrition into food system policies, investments, and programmes. The course offers a series of examples of nutrition-sensitive policies and interventions, as well as an overview of the main initiatives and commitment on nutrition.

This course is also available as a downloadable package in Russian. The translation and adaptation into Russian language and to the conditions of Europe and Central Asia was carried out by the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) and the project “Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia” funded by the Russian Federation.

**System Requirements**

The online version of this course runs on the main web browsers. Preferably you should use Internet Explorer, Safari, Chrome and Firefox.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session / activity</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-workshop activities (5 to 17 January 2020)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 17 January 2021</td>
<td>Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and Food Systems</td>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Self-guided learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design and monitor Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems Programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday 18 January</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09:00–09:30            | Opening addresses :                                                               | 1. Mr. Saeed A. Banie (FAO Rep. Eritrea)  
2. H.E Mr. Arefaine Berhe (Minister of Agriculture.)  
3. Mr. Amanuel Negass (Adviser to the Minister) | Remarks              |                      |
<p>|                       | Introduction and objectives of the workshop                                         |                     |                      |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 19 January</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30–09:00</td>
<td>Recap of day 1 &amp; Feed-back from group work</td>
<td>FAO Eritrea</td>
<td>Live session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:45</td>
<td>Main entry points for Improving Nutrition through agriculture and food systems:</td>
<td>SFE</td>
<td>Live session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Options for nutrition interventions along the agriculture and food system processes and infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 -11:00</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>Applying the key recommendations targeting the root causes of malnutrition for improving nutrition through agriculture</td>
<td>FAO ER</td>
<td>Facilitated group work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30 – 16:00</td>
<td>Sustainable Food Value Chain for Nutrition (2 h 30)</td>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Self-guided learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lessons learnt

- Self-guided learning (eLearning Academy) very helpful: all participants completed – downloadable version
- Cost – effective – two time cheaper than face to face training
- Leverage expertise from different lawyer in FAO: HQs, SFE, Country
- Require experienced persons on site to coordinate the logical or act as general facilitator
- Require the on-site resource person to be fully part of the planning process and fully master the instructions for the facilitated group work
- Technical working group – supporting the project implementation
Challenges and lessons learnt

**Challenges**

- Social distancing measure at the gathering place: 2 rooms
- Technological challenges – venue and virtual participants
- Group work – interaction and clarification
- Internet access different outside FAO and out of hours
- Limited computer for eLearning modules – FAO to make it office
- eLearning academy requires more time for planning and ensuring the pre-workshop self guided modules are done.
Summary

**Food Systems Statu Quo**: more malnutrition and associated health and economic costs, more food loss and waste and more harmful greenhouse gas emissions

**Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition** and **CD roadmap** provide a basis to strengthen capacity in support of food systems transformation for healthy diet

COVID19: challenged capacity building initiatives that requires the physical presence of facilitator and technical content experts

eLearning academy modules **provides an interesting alternative to mitigate travel restriction**;

Blended approach to capacity happened to be a cost-effective alternative to face-to-face capacity building in time of COVID19
Thank you

- All Member States have capacities to mainstream and monitor nutrition in their policies, strategies, investment plans and programmes
- At least 5 countries have established national parliamentary alliances for FSN
- At least 50% of Member States have nutrition sensitive agriculture/rural development policy, strategy or investment plans
Food Systems

Biophysical and environmental drivers
- Natural resource capital
- Ecosystem services
- Climate change

Innovation, technology and infrastructure drivers
- Innovation
- Technology
- Infrastructure

Political and economic drivers
- Leadership
- Globalization and trade
- Conflicts and humanitarian crises
- Food prices and volatility
- Land tenure

Socio-cultural drivers
- Culture
- Religions & rituals
- Social traditions
- Women's empowerment

Demographic drivers
- Population growth
- Changing age distribution
- Urbanization
- Migration & forced displacement

Food supply chains
- Production systems
- Farmers, indigenous peoples, agribusiness, land and plantation owners, fisheries, financial entities
- Storage and distribution
- Transporters, agribusiness, distributors
- Processing and packaging
- Packing plants, food and beverage industry, small and medium enterprises
- Retail and markets
- Retailers, vendors, food outlet owners, traders, restaurateurs, wholesalers

Food environments
- Food availability and physical access (proximity)
- Economic access (affordability)
- Promotion, advertising and information
- Food quality and safety

Consumer behaviour
- Choosing where and what food to acquire, prepare, cook, store and eat

Diets
- Quantity
- Quality
- Diversity
- Safety

Nutrition and health outcomes

Impacts
- Social
- Economic
- Environmental

Political, programme and institutional actions

Sustainable Development Goals

Availability

Access

Utilization
Activities in a food system are driven by the behavior of a set of actors, such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actors in the Food System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppliers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension agents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

Access to further resources and support!

E-library on nutrition-sensitive programming (toolkits & E-learnings)

A network of nutrition focal points

Wide range of resources available on ESN website

Support for advocacy, information and sensitization: (Brochures, flyers, leaflets, videos...)
Guidelines and conceptual frameworks (Guidance notes, frameworks, strategies...)
Operational materials incl. for capacity building: (Manuals, handbooks, e-learning modules...)
Reporting and knowledge sharing (Project reports, case studies, good practices...)

For more information, please visit: www.fao.org/economic/nutrition