

Food and Nutrition Security Workshop

21 - 23 July 2014

Statement by Babagana Ahmadu

FAO Representative to Namibia-

Background and introduction

- 1) The Food and Nutrition Security Workshop is a collaborative event that we are honored to facilitate together with the World Future Council (WFC), the City of Windhoek (Namibia), and the City of Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
- 2) FAO:
 - a) Has been collaborating with the World Future Council¹ on topics related to food and nutrition security in rural as well as urban settings
 - b) Took part² in the September 2013 in the exchange of knowledge for local governments from Africa³ and Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Food and nutrition security: from Global to Regional and National level

- 3) FAO food and nutrition security definition has four dimensions: availability (quantity), access (social and economic), stability (during the whole year) and utilization (nutritional properties) and it is integrated into the Right to food approach and use of natural resources for sustainable agricultural and food systems
- 4) According to the 2013 FAO-IFAD-WFP 2013 State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI):
 - 842 million people - that represents 12% of the global population - is unable to meet their daily dietary energy requirements
 - 827 million in developing regions with undernourishment estimated at 14.3%
 - Affected areas: urban, peri-urban, rural
- 5) The world is facing unprecedented challenges in the coming decades while coping with a limited and threatened resource base to meet a global food production increase in demand that can reach to 60% in the next 40 years
- 6) The Regional SOFI 2013 data states that:
 - Marked differences in hunger reduction persist. Most of the world's undernourished people are still to be found in Southern Asia, closely followed by Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Asia
 - Sub-Saharan Africa has made modest progress in recent years and remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment (223 millions) with one in four Africans (24.8 percent) estimated to be hungry
 - Undernourishment in 2011–13, by region (millions)
 - Economic growth is key for progress in hunger reduction. Policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing food availability and access, especially when smallholders are targeted, can achieve hunger reduction. There is the need for policies specifically targeting the poor, especially in rural areas
- 7) According to 2013 (to 2022) FAO – OECD Agricultural Outlook⁴:
 - global agriculture was characterised for decades by policy-induced production surpluses in industrialised countries and stagnating growth in developing countries
 - policy reforms and economic growth could support a shift and more market-driven agricultural sector

¹ In 2013 a meeting was held in Rome between the World Future Council representatives and FAO, among which, *Food for the cities* programme.

² FAO Officer of Plant Production and Protection Makiko Taguchi (Ms.) travel to Belo Horizonte in 2013

³ Deputy Mayor M. Kazapua, Windhoek – Namibia, Mayor C. Bweupe, Kitwe – Zambia, Mayor S. Mnyonge, Kinondoni (District of Dar es Salaam) – Tanzania, Mayor C. Ketcha Bangangte – Cameroon

⁴ <http://www.oecd.org/site/oecd-faoagriculturaloutlook/>

- agricultural trade is projected to increase with developing countries capturing most of the export growth
 - emerging economies will account for majority of exports of many agricultural commodities: coarse grains, rice, oilseeds, vegetable oil, sugar, beef, poultry and fish
- 8) Currently, food production, supply and consumption systems are not functioning to optimal efficiency, and the global quantitative food loss and waste (FLW)⁵ have been estimated as one-third of the world food production for human consumption, or 1.3 billion tons per year (FAO, 2011)⁶
 - 9) FLW cause unnecessary pressure on natural resources - current use and future availability; food and nutrition security; and economic value for the actors in the food supply chain and consumers. FLW are dependent on specific conditions and local circumstances in a given country and/or culture.
 - 10) An increase in food production without improving the efficiency of the food systems would increase production of food that will be lost or wasted along the supply chains. Accurate estimates of the magnitude of losses and waste are however still lacking, particularly in developing countries.
 - 11) Reducing *food losses* in Africa are *most* important due to the structure of the food supply systems where *losses* result from wide-ranging technical and managerial limitations in harvesting techniques, storage, transportation, processing, cooling facilities, infrastructure, packaging and marketing systems.
 - 12) While interventions may differ between tackling losses and targeting waste reduction, the city-region food systems planning and upgrading phase is essential and represent an opportunity to include measures that prevent and reduce food loss and food waste within the system's structure itself. This approach could support food systems sustainability (social, economic, environmental).
 - 13) FAO in its new Strategic Framework has a comprehensive approach to food and nutrition security, through 5 Strategic Objectives, and works closely with Member countries, private sector and civil society to:
 - (i) *Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*
 - (ii) *Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable*
 - (iii) *Reduce rural poverty*
 - (iv) *Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems*
 - (v) *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters*

Namibia - Country Programming Framework (CPF)
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- 14) FAO has signed the 2014 to 2018 Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Namibia.
- 15) Namibia's FAO Country Programming Framework (CFP) targets the support towards the objective of *Conducive agro-food chains developed for producers' increased access to local and international markets with reduced food losses and waste*
- 16) The CPF sets out priority areas to guide the FAO partnership with, and support to, the Government in food and nutrition security and agriculture, water, lands, fisheries and forestry sectors. The CPF underlines that:
 - food and nutrition security situation has improved considerably in the last two decades
 - the main contributing factors to food insecurity and under-nourishment are (i) high poverty rate, inequality of the income distribution, and the incidence of HIV/AIDS
 - other factors specific to rural areas include: chronic drought and consequent water shortages resulting in death of animals and crop failures, widespread soil erosion and land degradation, lack of agricultural land and isolation from markets, limited income generating opportunities,

⁵**Food loss (FL):** The decrease in quantity or quality of food. **FL** is mainly caused by the functioning of the food production and supply system or its institutional and legal framework. An important part of food loss is called **food waste (FW)** which refers to the removal from the supply chain of food which is fit for consumption by choice or has been left to spoil or expire as a result of negligence – predominantly but not exclusively the final consumer at household level. *Source: FAO 2014*

⁶ **FAO.** 2011. *Global food losses and food waste: extent, causes and prevention*, by J. Gustavsson, C. Cederberg, U. Sonesson, R. van Otterdijk and A. Meybeck. Rome. www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf

restrictions on women to access land and resources, and lack of implementation of appropriate policies

17) The main agricultural and food systems challenges identified in the CPF, with and for Namibia, are the following:

- human and institutional capacity
- implementation of policy and legal frameworks
- access to agricultural data by policy makers and farmers
- crop productivity, constraints to sustainable management of water, land, forests and rangelands
- capacity in land use management and land valuation, processing, marketing and quality/safety standards for crop, horticulture and livestock products
- resilience to different threats and crises (such as droughts, floods, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, transboundary pests and diseases) and
- addressing issues of gender inequality in agriculture

18) FAO's identified priority areas of intervention and support are:

- enabling policy, legal and institutional environment for food and nutrition security and agricultural development
- support sustainable agricultural production. For instance, under the Crop and Horticulture component, FAO will support the Government of Namibia in the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme on Conservation Agriculture, strengthen the National Seed Production System, promote up-scaling of small-scale horticulture production and further develop rice production in Kavango and Caprivi Regions
- linking farmers to markets
- improved preparedness to agricultural threats and crises

Workshop context

19) The 3-day workshop is a development of the Organizers' ongoing collaboration and a desired opportunity to open the dialogue at National level.

20) We would like to continue providing our support and extend the invitation for partnership and collaboration to the Namibian authorities, private sector and civil society to work together in support of food and nutrition security, food loss and waste reduction and sustainable food systems

- proceedings of the workshop will be included in a report and disseminated in support awareness raising and capacity building.

21) FAO:

- a) Has recently published (April 2014) - within the *Food for the Cities* Network that is facilitated by the Organization - the report on *Growing greener cities in Latin America and the Caribbean* that includes the case study on Belo Horizonte (of which more details are included in the Background document of the workshop)
 - i) The report analyses the progress made in the Regions' cities - in which urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) is recognized by public policy, included in urban development strategies and land-use planning, supported by agricultural research and extension, and linked to sources of technological innovation, investment and credit, as well as to urban markets and consumers
- b) Has launched in May 2011 the *SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction* as a corporate effort together with the private sector trade fair organizer Messe Düsseldorf GmbH (Germany) and works in multi-stakeholder partnerships for: (i) Awareness raising; (ii)

Collaboration and coordination of world-wide initiatives; (iii) Evidence-based policy, strategy and programme development; (iv) Technical support to investment programmes and projects

22) In June 2012 the UN Secretary General launched the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) which aims at catalyzing action to reach the objectives of (i) 100% access to adequate food all year round, (ii) zero stunted children under 2 years of age, (iii) sustainable food systems, (iv) growth in smallholder productivity and income, and (iv) reduction of food loss and waste (FLW)

- FAO is actively involved in the U.N. system working groups, addressing all areas
- ZHC recognizes the interconnectedness of worlds' food systems and impact on poverty, hunger, malnutrition, natural resources and climate
- July 2013 African Union high-level summit endorsed the ZHC and set a 2025 deadline for ending hunger

23) The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)⁷, the foremost intergovernmental body for food security and nutrition, at its thirty-ninth Session (in October 2012), requested its High Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition (HLPE)⁸ to prepare a report on *Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems* to inform the discussions in Plenary in October 2014 where → governments, civil society and private sectors part of the CFS will have the opportunity to discuss the report. The report was published in July 2014⁹ and FAO is called upon to support global, regional, national and local efforts on food loss and waste reduction.

24) Recently, the Government of Namibia has expressed interest to work with FAO for the *Food Loss Reduction Strategy Development in favor of Smallholder Producers in Africa*.

- This project that includes Namibia contributes to *Improved food security and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa through reduced food losses and increased value addition*.
 - The sectors supported are relevant to food and nutrition security and target: cereals, roots and tubers, fruits and vegetables, oilseeds and pulses, dairy, fish and meat
 - The Project includes 2 phases that will address - *first*: (i) consultation with national stakeholders and stocktaking on critical food loss points; (ii) support to institutionalization of policies and strategies related to food loss reduction and - *second*: (i) incorporation of the knowledge developed in phase one into national agricultural investment plans; (ii) capacity development for multi-stakeholders in the food supply chain, with a special focus on women smallholders; and (iii) potential solutions will be piloted through a mini-grant scheme.

⁷ Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Visit at : <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/en/>

⁸ The **HLPE** was established in 2010 as the science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The HLPE aims to improve the robustness of policy making by providing independent, evidence-based analysis and advice at the request of CFS. Key elements:

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Key_elements_EN.pdf

⁹ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_S_and_R/HLPE_2014_Food_Losses_and_Waste_Summary_EN.pdf