



Joining forces against malnutrition: industry and food security

Florence Egal
Sr. Officer, Inter-institutional collaboration
Food and Nutrition Division

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FAO's role in Nutrition

- ▶ Meet the world's food and nutrition needs in a sustainable way
- ▶ Work with partners to improve diets and nutrition for poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable households
- ▶ Shape food and agricultural systems to produce good nutritional outcomes

The challenges

- ▶ Globalization: systemic economic transformations change food systems and influence nutrition status
 - Includes increasingly powerful corporate domination
- ▶ Urbanisation
- ▶ Environmental sustainability
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Rapid technological shifts and scientific advances

Addressing causes of malnutrition

- ▶ The most nutritionally vulnerable have little voice in nutrition policies
- ▶ The causes of malnutrition cut across multiple sectors (food, agriculture, health, social protection and nutrition)
- ▶ Solutions depend on collective action of multiple players (including private sector)
- ▶ Solutions must be sustainable
 - Economically
 - Socially
 - Environmentally

Value chains vs. Food systems

- ▶ People eat diets not commodities
- ▶ Food systems are complex and closely linked to culture: not only nutrients
- ▶ We must combine
 - value chains
 - resilient local food systems
- ▶ For Sustainable Diets:
 - healthy
 - sustainable management of natural resources
 - socially equitable: pro-job development, right to food

FAO and the private sector

- ▶ recognizes that the private sector is a key stakeholder in the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition
- ▶ acknowledges the potential that better coordination and collaboration between public and private sector can offer
- ▶ Private sector: from individual farmers to global enterprises, including foundations and NGOs representing business
- ▶ 30/11/2012: Private sector partnerships meeting

Working towards basic principles

- ▶ • Respect land and resource rights;
- ▶ • Ensure food security;
- ▶ • Ensure transparency, good governance and a proper enabling environment;
- ▶ • Consultation and participation;
- ▶ • Responsible investment;
- ▶ • Social sustainability; and,
- ▶ • Environmental sustainability.

Nutrition sensitive agriculture

- ▶ Sustainable intensification for sustainable consumption
- ▶ Nutrition sensitive value chains:
 - maximize positive outcomes
 - minimize negative impact: Do No Harm
 - on health & nutrition
 - on social equity/right to food (directly, indirectly)
 - on natural resources and biodiversity
- ▶ ++ Rational and resilient local food systems

Are common assumptions (still) valid?

- ▶ Malnourished people are in rural areas
- ▶ Is access to markets really the solution for vulnerable households?
- ▶ Does the shift from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture lead to better nutrition?
- ▶ 11% of food consumed is traded internationally
- ▶ What is the impact of standards on small-scale producers?
- ▶ Why is the environment deteriorating?
- ▶ Complex does not mean complicated

Joining forces against malnutrition

- ▶ Nutrition is a multisectoral issue
- ▶ Children under2 and mothers live within households: if they are malnourished, the household must be treated too
- ▶ Multiplicity of actors with different agendas and entry points
- ▶ We need a common framework
- ▶ Partnership, not leadership
- ▶ Impact assessment and Accountability essential
- ▶ Local focus (CSR?)

We need industry to help us move towards sustainable diets

- ▶ Our development approach is not sustainable and is generating malnutrition : we may want to revisit it? Dealing with the symptoms – however important this is – will not solve the problem
- ▶ We need to link more systematically with the with people working on NCDs and environmental impact of diets
- ▶ Europe has a lot to bring to the table