
Mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture investment plans

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

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Structure of the presentation

- Setting the scene:
 - Why mainstream nutrition in agriculture investment plans?
 - What does mainstreaming nutrition in an agriculture programme mean?
 - Challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture
- The example of the NEPAD CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Process
 - objectives
 - content & process
 - outcomes
 - lessons learnt
- Looking forward: challenges, opportunities and milestones for strengthening efforts to mainstream nutrition in agriculture

Mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture: key issues

Why mainstream nutrition in agriculture investment plans?

- Making food systems work for improved nutrition is central to *sustainable* improvements in nutrition
- Multi-sectoral nutrition strategies include agriculture-based activities but... are they in the *agriculture budget*?
- Hundreds of millions of dollars invested in agriculture (both private and public sector)... are they contributing to improve nutrition?

What does mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture mean practically?

1. Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators into the design of programmes and investments, and track and mitigate potential harms
2. Assess the context at the local level to address the types and causes of malnutrition
3. Target the vulnerable and improve equity
4. Collaborate and coordinate with other sectors and programmes
5. Maintain or improve the natural resource base
6. Empower women
7. Facilitate production diversification, and increase production of nutrient-dense crops and small-scale livestock
8. Improve processing, storage and preservation
9. Expand markets and market access for vulnerable groups, particularly for nutritious foods
10. Incorporate nutrition promotion and education around food and sustainable food systems

Challenges for linking agriculture and nutrition

- Limited (but growing) ownership of nutrition by agriculture and of food and agriculture by nutrition
- Parallel coordination mechanisms on food security (and nutrition) and nutrition (and food security)
- Limited understanding of how agriculture can improve nutrition
- Temptation of quick fixes / request for "top 10 agriculture-nutrition interventions"
- Capacity constraints (incl. in technical assistance) → difficulty transforming policy into action
- What and how to monitor? Limited evidence-base
- How to cost with a nutrition lens ? What does it mean ?
- Follow-up to conferences, workshops and trainings

Opportunities for linking agriculture and nutrition

- Growing number of SUN and REACH countries
 - Nutrition higher up on the political agenda
 - Multi-sectoral platforms being created / strengthened

BUT: still hard to “pull” agriculture to the “nutrition table”

- Most – all – countries have an agriculture strategy or investment plan
 - e.g. Africa: Since January 2007, **30 countries** have signed CAADP compacts, 26 have developed their Investment Plans, 12 other countries have started the process

BUT: nutrition poorly addressed



CAADP

The NEPAD CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative

Supported by: FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Union, German Government, Flemish Development Fund, Harvest Plus, Partnership for Child Development, World Bank, HKI, etc...

Objective: mainstreaming nutrition in CAADP Investment Plans

Overall Purpose

Enhance the nutritional impact of agricultural investments

Specific objective

Assist countries in integrating nutrition in their CAADP process and investment plans

→ work out concrete ways so that these plans have an optimal impact on improved nutrition

Modalities

3 sub-regional workshops (mix of regional & country workshops)

- **West Africa** : Senegal (Nov 2011) - 18 Countries, 180 participants
- **East & Central Africa** : Tanzania (Feb 2013) - 18 countries, 220 participants
- **Southern Africa** : Botswana (Sept 2013) 14 countries, >200 participants



3 key priorities for content & process

Partnership & coordination at different levels

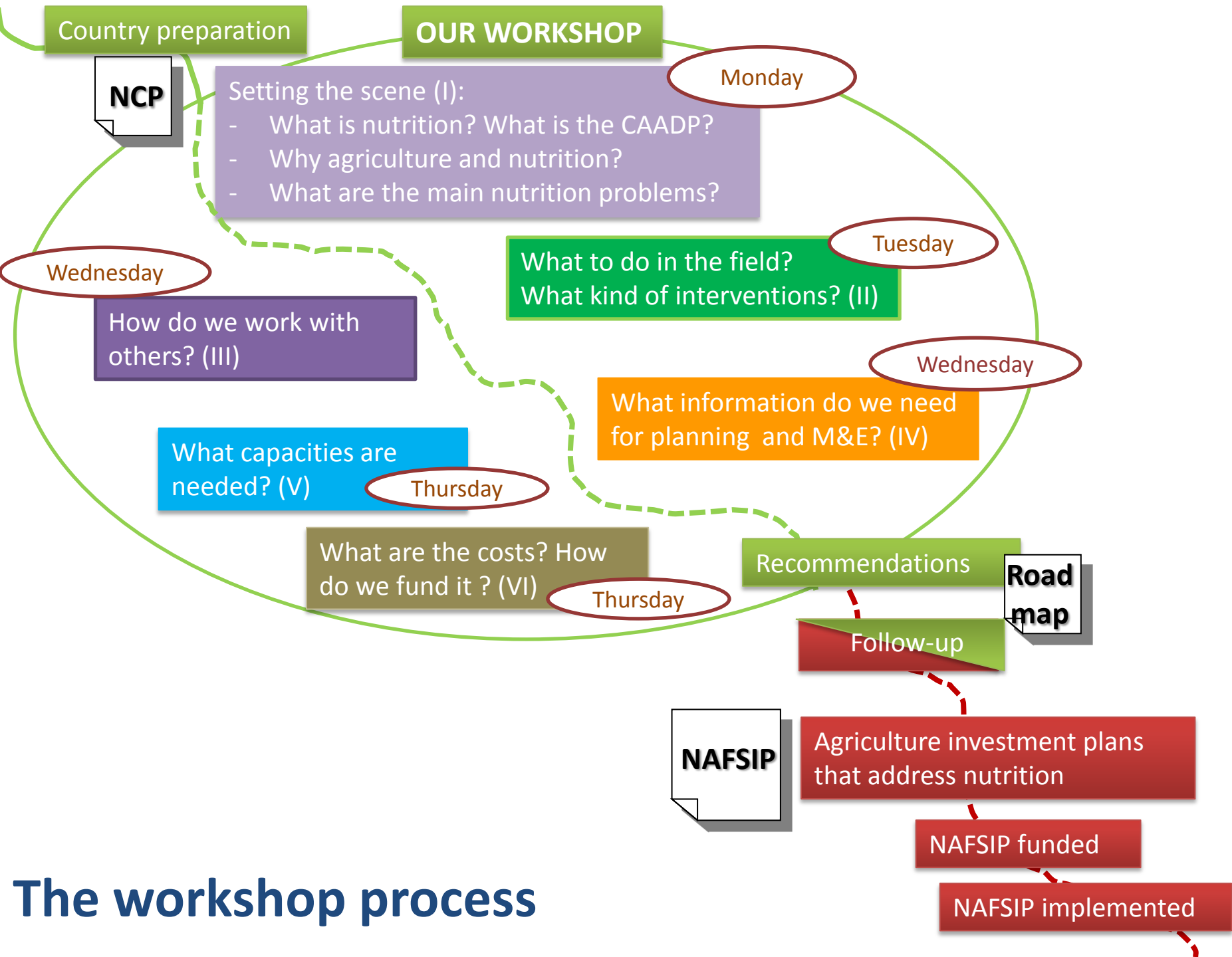
- Strong stakeholder engagement led by NEPAD and RECs with **Agriculture as the convener**
- Working with **SUN Movement & REACH**
- Multi-sectoral country teams
- Support from partners at all levels

Technical content & methodology

- Combination of plenary sessions, mixed-country group and country group work
- **“hands-on” practical work** on the investment plans supported by guiding questions and tips
- **Situation analysis and M&E** : transversal themes

Country ownership & engagement

- Careful **participant selection**
- Pre-workshop **preparation and follow-up** led by CAADP Focal Points, with technical support
- Create a **“team spirit”**



The workshop process

Results from 2 countries, at different stages in the CAADP Process:

Ethiopia

- ❖ CAADP IP since Sept 2010 => now, PIF Revision and they suggested SO 5
- Need to add nutrition situation & indicators
- Add an SO 5 : Enhance availability access and consumption of diversified nutritious and safe food at HH level

Examples of interventions

- Increase production and promotion of diversified diet at HH level (Livestock, fishery, poultry, fruits and vegetables)
- Increase availability of micronutrient rich seeds (Bio-fortified) supported by agriculture research institution
- CD of MoA to implement nutrition
- Promote Value addition, post harvest management and value chain
- Promotion of labor-saving technologies

South Sudan

- ❖ Have just launched the CAADP Process
- Identified the basis for CAADP Plan
- Strong focus on Capacity Development
- To be coordinated by Food Security Council

Examples of 3 top interventions

- Strengthen capacity of agriculture, education and health extension staff in community based approaches to enhance adoption of nutrition practices (Pillar 4 CAADP)
- Contribute to development of school feeding, home gardening, junior farmer field schools programmes (Pillar 3 CAADP)
- Build/rehabilitate infrastructure (roads, warehouses, markets) to enhance access to indigenous produced nutritious food (Pillar 2 CAADP)

Lessons learnt : on the positive side

- Countries learn from each other
- Professionals and sectors who previously did not interact initiate a dialogue
- Very practical technical content / case studies
- Demystification / ownership of nutrition by agriculture
- Greater understanding by other sectors of what agriculture can bring
- Process more effective where SUN/REACH due to existing multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, relationships and political momentum
- Contributes to capacity development for agriculture planning

Lessons learnt: challenges...

- **Back to the “nutrition systems”** at country level
- **Conflicting political priorities** → recommendations are not always adopted
- **Institutional capacities** to follow-up at country level (CAADP focal points/teams) and regional level (NEPAD, RECs)
- **Technical assistance needs** for implementation are huge and require a very good understanding of linkages between nutrition and agriculture
- **How much does it cost?** What are the potential trade-offs?
- **Engagement of all nutrition partners** in follow-up will be key for success

Follow-up

At country level:

- Participants feeding back results at the country level in nutrition and agriculture coordination mechanisms
- Engaging in next steps of the CAADP / agriculture investment planning process
- Mobilizing resources for implementing road maps

At regional level:

- Continue political mobilization through regional events (e.g. ADFSN, AU Year of Agriculture, etc.)
- Ensure linkages to SUN and Renewed Partnership for Ending Hunger and Malnutrition at regional and country levels
- Technical assistance on nutrition in information systems and on nutrition in extension

For more information

www.nepad.org

www.caadp.net

www.fao.org/food/fns/workshops/caadp-nutrition

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The way forward

From principles and commitment to action

- Need action to consolidate and sustain emerging political commitment in the agriculture sector
- Anchor nutrition in agriculture decision-making processes (e.g. CFS at global level; ag planning departments in countries)
- Invest more in technical assistance and capacity development on agriculture-nutrition with a long-term perspective
- Increase mobilization of consumers and private sector
- More research on programmes and sharing of experiences
- More work on costing nutrition-enhancing agriculture investment plans and assessing potential trade-offs
- More research on policy instruments that create incentives for improving diets (taxes, subsidies...)
- **Milestones:** CFS meetings, ICN2, AU Year of Agriculture...

Thank you

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