



An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges

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Structure of the presentation

- Food Security Communication – Rationale and Process
- Approach of the Communication
- Priorities
- Focus on small scale farmers



Rationale

Commission Communication; initiative related to various factors:

- Hunger and malnutrition have increased in the world
 - MDG1 off-track
- Global initiatives on food security (UN HLTF, GPAFSN, AFSI, CFS reform)
- New food security challenges: pressures on natural resources, impacts of climate change
- New food security issues: nutrition, price volatility, right to food, bioenergies, land acquisition



Process

- Online public consultation on Issues Paper, Nov 2009-Jan 2010
- Meetings with various stakeholders (civil society, Member States), end 2009, early 2010
- Inter-services consultation, Feb. 2010
- Adoption of Communication by Commission: 31 March 2010
- Discussion with Member States (CODEV) -> drafting of Council Conclusions, April 2010
- Council adopts Council Conclusions and implicitly Policy Framework: 10 May 2010



Process (cont'd)

- Parallel: preparation of Communication and Council Conclusions on 'Humanitarian Food assistance'
 - On tackling hunger in humanitarian crises
 - Capturing best practice, and
 - Articulating objectives, principles and standards for effective and efficient interventions
- Preparation of Implementation Framework (currently)



Approach of the Communication

- EU should give new impetus to achieving the MDGs:
 - **MDG 1** – eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
 - Looking at countries most off-track: **fragile** countries
 - MDG1 is most off-track particularly in **Africa**,
- Most of the poor and hungry in the world live in **rural areas**, where agriculture forms the main economic activity
- Evidence shows that investments in the **smallholder** sector yield the best returns in terms of poverty reduction and growth



Approach of the Communication

- The proposed policy framework addresses food insecurity accross the 4 pillars:
 - 1) Increasing availability of food
 - 2) Improving access to food
 - 3) Improving nutritional adequacy of food intake
 - 4) Enhancing crisis prevention and management
- To be effective, assistance needs to be adapted to the country/regional context



Priorities

- The Communication proposes that the EU should prioritise 4 broad and related dimensions:
 - 1) Improve **smallholder resilience** and rural livelihoods
 - 2) Support **effective governance**
 - 3) Support **regional** agriculture and food security policies
 - 4) Strengthen **assistance mechanisms** for vulnerable population groups
- Listing of 14 priority policy lines



Smallholders

- Sustainable small-scale food production as a main focal area of EU assistance:
 - Ecologically efficient intensification
 - Value chain approach (with due attention to financing, processing and markets)
 - Governance key; particularly around land
 - Demand-driven research and innovation (incl. adaptation to climate change)
 - Reducing post-harvest losses
 - Regional integration



Some Quotes

- “When supporting small scale agriculture EU assistance should prioritise intensification approaches that are sustainable and ecologically efficient, respecting the diverse functions of agriculture.”
- “Increasing food availability implies more demand-driven research and innovation in the public domain, giving sufficient attention to traditional knowledge and diversified food crops (including local varieties), and making sure that innovations are accessible to farmers and suited to their needs”



....one more quote

"In general, access to food can be improved by applying the 'Right-to-Food' approach, as outlined in the *Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the Right to Food in the context of national food security*. The EU and its Member States should support its further application in developing countries, including 'right-to-food' based political and legal framework."