

Adopting a Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition Policy

When: 19 September 2016, 13.00 - 15.00

Venue: FAO HQs

A territorial approach to FSN Policy

Background

FAO, OECD and UNCDF have launched a joint multi-year and multi-phase initiative to assess Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) policies from a territorial perspective. The joint initiative aims to assess, scale up, and pilot innovative policy approaches and governance mechanisms to improve food security and nutrition in emerging and developing countries.

The first phase – supported by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany - aims to develop a conceptual framework for a territorial approach to food security and nutrition policy. This has been achieved through the development of a methodology for the analysis of territorial policies and governance systems for FSN that has been applied in Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, and Peru in 2015.

The evidence gathered in these countries as well as in two national workshops held in Mali and Niger in April 2016 has been consolidated in the joint FAO-OECD-UNDCF publication “*Adopting a Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition Policy*” <https://www.oecd.org/governance/regional-policy/territorial-fsn-launch.htm>.

Key concepts

A territorial approach is needed for better food security and nutrition policy

Current food security and nutrition policies are characterised by a sectoral, top-down and “one-size-fits-all” approach that has been unable to deliver appropriate long-term responses to food insecurity. The regional and context-specific nature of FSN has been broadly overlooked. There is a need for a paradigm shift in addressing FSN policy that embraces multisectoral, bottom-up and place-based interventions. This can be achieved through a territorial approach to FSN. In this framework, aligning objectives and actions across levels of government is critical. Doing so improves the vertical and horizontal co-ordination of FSN policies and interventions. Similarly, a territorial approach allows the diversity of different territories to be taken into account, and leads to a better understanding of differences in development opportunities that are so often missed with one-dimensional or one-size-fits-all policies. A territorial approach also recognises and capitalises on the benefits of urban-rural linkages, instead of addressing urban and rural areas through different, often disconnected, policies.

A territorial approach can help food security and nutrition policy and should focus on four key domains:

- **Enhancing strategies and programmes beyond agriculture.** Agricultural interventions are important, but not sufficient, to adequately address food insecurity and malnutrition. Most countries now recognise FSN as a multidimensional issue, but implementation is still very sectoral, and the opportunities offered by the off-farm rural economy are often unexploited. There is also insufficient attention paid to differences in geographic conditions and to income inequalities

- **Promoting multi-level governance systems to strengthening horizontal and vertical co-ordination.** The case studies show that lack of vertical and horizontal co-ordination at the central level and weak, decentralised government bodies and stakeholders are a major obstacle to the implementation of FSN strategies and policies. Improving capacity at the local and regional levels is a key priority since it can help with the implementation of FSN policy. It is also a necessary condition to promote a bottom-up approach that can scale-up innovations undertaken at the local level.
- **Increasing the availability of data and indicators at the local and regional levels to support evidence-based FSN policy.** The case studies highlight the lack of reliable data as one of the main constraints for effective FSN policy, particularly at the sub-national level. More information at the local and regional levels can help identify the bottlenecks that are hampering food security and establish areas of priority.
- **Linking social policies with economic growth policies.** FSN is usually addressed through social policies and programmes (e.g. social protection) that are key to supporting people facing food insecurity. These policies could be made more sustainable and have a much stronger impact if they were better co-ordinated and integrated with growth policies.

Objective of the seminar and expected inputs from the Inner Areas Strategy

The objective of the seminar is twofold: i) to present the FAO, OECD, UNCDF Publication on the Territorial Approach to FSN Policy and the way forward of the initiative and ii) to provide an example of the application of the territorial approach in the Inner Areas of Italy.

The event will raise awareness on the importance of adopting a territorial approach to address food insecurity and rural poverty in developing countries as well as in marginal areas in developed countries.

Moreover, the Inner Areas Initiative approach (indicators used, methodology for the identification and selection of the areas of intervention, process for the involvement of the national, regional and local stakeholders in the strategy, etc.) will provide useful insights to the second phase of the joint FAO, OECD, UNCDF project which focuses on the implementation of the recommendations of the first phase.

Participants

Representatives of the joint project and of the Inner Areas Strategy, FAO officials, IFAD officials, Italian Cooperation, other International Organizations such as UNDP, World Bank, UNCDF and Bioversity.

Tentative Programme of the Event – 19th September 2016

<u>13.00 – 13.20</u>	<u>Opening Address</u> Chair of the event: Ms Brave Ndisale - Director, Social Policies and Rural Institutions, FAO Mr Kostas Stamoulis , Assistant Director General a.i., ES FAO - (5 minutes) Mr Paolo Cuculi , Deputy Director General for the Italian Foreign Ministry's Development Cooperation- (5 minutes) IFAD Representative - (5 minutes) (tbc) Mr Heiner Thofern , Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to FAO, - (5 minutes)
<u>13.20 – 14.00</u>	<u>Presentation of the Joint FAO – OECD- UNCDF Publication</u> Mr Rob Vos – Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO. The rationale for a territorial approach to food security and nutrition - (10 minutes) Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins – Head of the Regional Development Policy Division, OECD. Presentation of the key findings of the joint project - (10 minutes) Ms Christel Alvergne - Deputy Director Local Development Finance, UNCDF - (10 minutes) Q/A - (10 minutes)
<u>14.00 – 14.45</u>	<u>A Methodology for the Implementation of the Territorial Approach: the Inner Areas Strategy</u> Mr Fabrizio Barca – Former Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Former Minister for Territorial Cohesion, Italy - (30 minutes) Q/A - 15 minutes
<u>14.45 – 15.00</u>	<u>Wrap up and conclusion</u> - Mr Rob Vos and Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins - Conclusion - (15 minutes)

