

Nigeria Country Food Security Theme Group (FSTG)

INTRODUCTION

At the PAC meeting of 16th May 2007, it was agreed that the FAO Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) transform into the Country Food Security Theme Group (FSTG) in line with the FAO, IFAD and WFP joint agreement of 10 April 2006. This decision is motivated by the high priority attached by partner countries to intensify UN efforts towards achieving MDG-1 and the World Food Summit goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015. Recognizing that progress towards these goals so far has been slow, the purpose of the Theme Groups is to combine at country-level the mutually reinforcing technical and outreach capabilities of the three agencies. Consequently, the PAC TORs were harmonized into the FSTG TORs which were more elaborate.

The FSTG as in other countries will be jointly led by FAO, IFAD and WFP, in collaboration with other development partners. The Chair will be retained by FAO while IFAD will continue to be the Secretariat since WFP has no country office in Nigeria. All members of the former PAC remain members as before.

In line with the twin-track approach to food security, the main purpose of the FSTG in Nigeria is to enhance interagency collaboration and coordination in direct support of the countries' own development efforts under the interrelated areas of food security, agriculture and rural development, water resources and poverty alleviation.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE THEMATIC GROUP

1. Establish an expanded strategic partnership through consultation and interaction amongst all stakeholders involved in agriculture, food security, rural development, water resources and sustainable use of natural resources.
2. Prepare an inventory and review, on a regular basis, past, existing and projected country policies and programmes in terms of their contribution towards achieving country-specific MDG-1 and WFS related goals.
3. Based on the review under item 1, support the full inclusion of food security, agriculture, rural development and the twin-track approach into the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and other relevant policy formulation, programming and strategic processes.
4. Ensure that food security, agriculture and rural development issues and strategic objectives are adequately reflected in the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and other country assessment and programming instruments where appropriate.
5. Support the translation of national food security, agriculture and rural development policies and strategies into action through various means, including the development and implementation of National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS).
6. Review, on a regular basis, whether the efforts of the FSTG members and the UN system at large are fully mobilized and integrated towards assisting government and development partners at all levels in the implementation of food security, agriculture and rural development policies and programmes.

7. Based on the review under item 4, take initiatives towards achieving greater complementarity and coordination among the three agencies and the UN system at large in terms of resource allocation and strategic direction, scale and coherence of national programmes that address the country's food security problems.
8. Provide support to a cross-sectoral analysis and monitoring of the country's food security situation and the main factors affecting the livelihoods of food insecure and vulnerable and vulnerable households, drawing on existing information and analytical capacity at country level, and of the three agencies.
9. Arrange for regular information exchange, consultation and coordination of action with other agencies from within and outside the UN as appropriate and ensure that full use is made of their combined capabilities for tackling the country's food security problems.
10. Promote initiatives that would ensure reliable information/data on agriculture, food security, water resources and poverty alleviation.
11. Develop a framework that will ensure that major decisions reached at the FSTG gets to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and other relevant public office holders such as the SSAP-MDGs, Chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development, etc.

CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

1.1. Members:

All the organization involves in Food Security activities (such as; food distribution, seed and tools distributions, cash and vouchers distribution, support to IGA, evaluation in FS & Nut,) must be members of the coordination process and invited in the meeting. It concerns the different administrations, the UN agency, International and National NGOs and sometimes Research Centres. Depending of the numbers, sometimes it's necessary to split the members / participants in different groups but it's better to keep all the members together

1.2. Chairing and secretariat

That will be good if the Coordination Group is chair (or co-chairing) by the administration in charge of the FS. It's the case in Nigeria States. (Sometimes, in the Cluster System, the meetings are Co-chair by WFP and FAO and sometimes INGOs).

To keep NGO or Administration involved, the secretary of the FSCG could also be given to administration or NGOs. However, it is necessary to verify their willing to do that and their capacity. It is nevertheless essential that FAO continues to support the secretary because we are accountable of the result of the coordination

1.3. Agenda of the meeting

The coordinator is in charge of the agenda preparation. It is essential to ask to the others members if they have some subjects to discuss.

To keep members involved in the coordination process, the meetings should not be too long (1h30 / 2 h maximums). It's important to have "information subject", on the ongoing activities, the needs, the evaluations, but also to have technical discussion, par exemple, on the approach (distribution or cash / vouchers, the composition of kits ...). Some partners can also share their experiences and presents theirs different projects.

1.4. Frequency of the meeting

Depending of the activities on the field, but in an emergency situation, we have a minimum of two meeting by months, sometimes one every week.

It is better to have two meetings with an interval of one week than very long meetings. You have to find the balance between the agenda and the frequency of the meetings.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FSTG AT LOCAL LEVEL

It is important that the FSTG at the local level have Terms of Reference, to clarify the different objectives of the group, the roles of the participants and the operating procedures. These TORs have to be share with all the members of the group. They do not have to be too long and complicated. (We can prepare an example to adapt for the different States)

TOOLS FOR THE COORDINATION

3.1 Matrix of activities

It is important to have a precise knowledge of the actions of the different partners and their type in the State. To do this, the matrices must be met by the partners on a regular basis and compiled by the State coordination.

The matrices must be precise, indicating the type of activities and go to the community level. These matrices will used to establish maps 3W and 4W

These matrices must be sent regularly to the National Coordination (frequency to be determined).

The matrices will establish accurate maps on the activities under way or planned. It is important to share the maps with information on the partners "visible" to bring all stakeholders to participate.

(View locally with OCHA and other partners the possibility to issue the necessary maps.)

3.2 Needs assessments.

A. Coordination of the assessments (needs and activities) and information sharing

As coordinator, you are responsible for the coordination of the Food Security Assessment Missions (or multi sectoral evaluation) at the state level with partners and in accordance and the support of national coordination.

In order to have the widest possible coverage, it is necessary to know the forecasts of the assessments that the partners have undertaken, and the type of the assessment (food security, vulnerability, access to markets,)

It is important to have a matrix with the assessments planned and conducted in order to guide future missions.

The matrix showing the actions can be adapted for this.

It is also important to ask to the partners to present their assessments with the methodologies adopted and the results during the coordination meetings.

B. Harmonization of methodologies

It may be interesting, before the partners will make their evaluation, to have a meeting on the different methodologies to be adopted, and see to what extent it is possible to harmonize them. It is also important to see to what extent joint assessments can be made between the partners in order to have an economy of means.

3.3 Brief on activities.

Given the rapid developments of the situation, and the increased activity in the area, it is important that national coordination is informed regularly.

Therefore, every two weeks, it is necessary to send a briefing note.

The briefing should include:

- 1) Changes in the security situation
- 2) Access to areas of intervention
- 3) Reminder of the evolution of movements
- 4) Reminder of the situation in terms of food security
 - a) Market Access
 - b) Food availability
 - c) FS rate
 - d) Others
- 5) Assessments underway (if available)
6. Developments of the field activities for the two last weeks and total (for FAO and partners)
 - a) Food Distribution
 - b) Seed Distribution
 - c) Cash Distribution
 - d) IGA
- 6) Reminder of unmet needs