Market Information Systems Technical Working Group (MIS TWG)

May 2016
What is a market? *For the guy in the street* ...

• From a general point of view, a market refers to the *set of all sale and purchase transactions that affect the price of a commodity*. In other words, it is an interaction between demand and supply of a good or service and it entails consumers, suppliers, transactions and the factors that affect them.

• It could also refer to “*a set of sellers and buyers whose activities affect the price at which a particular commodity is sold*”
What is a market? *In a food security context ...*

Markets make an important contribution to three (*availability*, *access* and *stability*) of the four (*utilization*) pillars of food security: -

**Availability**
- Producers are able to purchase inputs for producing food.
- Countries can trade with each other to make sure enough food is available.

**Access**
- Households sell their products and their labor in the market and earn income.
- The price of food in the market determines whether a household's income or resources are sufficient to obtain an adequate quantity and quality of food.

**Stability**
- The movement of food through markets from one location to another, from surplus to deficit areas and across borders, usually helps to ensure stable food supplies over time and space.
Profiling a market: *what do you look at?*

- **The Market System** – *centrally controlled; free-market system; mixed-economy system*
- **The Market Structure** – *who are the market players at different levels?*
- **Market Concentration** – *perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly etc.*
- **Market Accessibility and Connectivity** – *infrastructure linking the market to other markets*
- **Market Integration** – *price changes among spatially separated markets*
- **Government Policies and Regulations** - *facilitate or hinder a market’s performance and functioning*
Importance of markets – *why should you care?*

• You buy your food there … reminds you it’s time for a pay rise!
• A source of income … and sometimes even self employment
• Important for food security analysis because it tracks the dynamics of supply and demand and their effects on pricing … hence the amount of food a household can purchase
• For humanitarian actors involved in cash and/or food aid interventions, market analysis informs the debate of whether to implement cash or food assistance interventions
• And much much more … *take home exercise*
Market monitoring in South Sudan

Only 33 markets are currently actively monitored!
What are the challenges faced?

• Inconsistent collection of market data
• Inadequate coverage across the country
• Lack of coordination of market analysis activities / initiatives by various agencies
• Lack of a common platform for storing and sharing market information / products
• Lack of a common platform for engaging with partners who are interested in markets
Why another TWG? *There are so many already!*

- Provide a forum for bringing together agencies working across the country for purposes of collecting market information.
- Provide technical advice and support to partners involved in market data collection and market analysis and harmonization of Market Information System to also serve as a clearing house for any publications related to markets.
- Support trader surveys across the country through the participation of its technical members.
- Provide technical validation and endorsement of market related publications. The leadership of government institutions in the working group will also serve as an endorsement of these publications.
- Provide a forum for sharing of information on markets including data, best practices, lessons learnt, research findings, publications etc.
Why another TWG? Continued …

- Keep stakeholders abreast of new research findings on markets and their implications.

- Determine how best to improve integration, convergence and effectiveness of market analysis activities by the stakeholders.

- Ensure rationalization and best use of financial and human resources dedicated to market analysis by eliminating duplication and building synergies.

- Identify market related knowledge gaps and research priorities in order to inform the design of more effective market related interventions.

- Facilitate the strengthening and monitoring of markets and to ensure that market related indicators are integrated into national and sectoral monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks and systems.

- A deliverable under the South Sudan Food Security and Nutrition Information Network (FSNIN) Work Plan
Who are the members? Can I join?

• Government Ministries and Institutions e.g. NBS, MoAFS
• UN Agencies
• NGOs
• Academic / Research / Policy / Training Institutions
• Civil Society
• Private Sector
What next after this presentation?

• First meeting of the MIS TWG where it shall officially be launched – *mid-June 2016* – where the following shall be take place:

  - Endorsement and adoption of the TORs
  - Signing up of members
  - Selection of steering committee members
  - Put your resources/energies where your mouth is ... *walk the talk*
Questions / Comments ...