



SADAOC

Food and Nutrition Security Policies for West Africa: Implementation issues and research agendas

Regional Workshop
Bamako, Mali
January 13-15, 2004

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) -- 2020 Vision Initiative
Center of Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD)
Institute of Rural Economy (IER)

Under the patronage of His Excellence the Malian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and in collaboration with the Malian government, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), under the auspices of its 2020 Vision Initiative, the International Center of Cooperation in Agronomic research for Development (CIRAD), and the Institute of Rural Economy (IER) are organizing a regional workshop that will bring together researchers and policy makers to discuss policy, institutional and technical options for assuring food and nutritional security in West Africa. The workshop will take place in Bamako, Mali, on January 13-15, 2004.

Objectives

The main objective this regional workshop is to identify priority areas for assuring food and nutritional security in West Africa. These will be presented at the 2020 Africa Conference on "Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020: Prioritizing Actions, Strengthening Actors, and Facilitating Partnerships" that will take place in Kampala, Uganda, on April 1-3 2004, under the high patronage of H.E. President Museveni, Chairman of the IFPRI 2020 International Advisory Council.

This regional workshop seeks to:

1. Invite researchers and policy makers to discuss five overarching themes:
 - a) Regional issues and strategies to assure food and nutrition security and fight against poverty;
 - b) Effects of migration on rural development and food security;
 - c) Role of technological, institutional and political options on food security and the fight against poverty;
 - d) Role of infrastructures and water management on rural development, food security and fight against poverty; and
 - e) Effects of conflicts on food security and fight against poverty.
2. Initiate a discussion by these key groups on the options, strategies, and implementation of programs to assure food and nutritional security and to contribute to the fight against poverty.
3. Identify important axes, practical options, strategies and means of their implementation in order to contribute to the eradication of food and nutritional insecurity in West Africa.

4. Promote a participatory dialogue between policy makers; researchers in national, regional and international research organizations; representatives of funding institutions on key issues jointly identified by research efforts, possible solutions, and their implications for future economic, social and environmental policies.
5. To use the important axes identifies at the time of the workshop to develop a proposal for a regional search program

Participants and Target Groups: The workshop will bring together about 30-40 participants from West African countries from national, regional, and international institutions and organizations working in food and nutrition security, agriculture, natural resource management and policy making. The target groups will be decision-makers in ministries of agriculture, environment, health, finance and economy, as well as national and regional researchers.

Organization of the workshop and Methodology: All workshop sessions will be conducted in plenary. The first day will be devoted to thematic presentations. Each presentation will be for 30 minutes and will be followed by a 60-minute session of discussion. During the second day, participants will discuss the options and strategies for implementation of action to assure food and nutritional security in West Africa and will draw the implications for national and regional development. They will also identify priority research areas. The third day will bring together a selected group of participants to elaborate a regional search program. Emphasis will be placed on involvement of all those attending the workshop, and to enhancing the dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and donors, as well as among countries.

Languages: French and English will be the languages of the workshop and simultaneous translation will be available.

Workshop Papers: Six introductory papers will be presented in plenary session on the following themes: 1) regional issues, policies and strategies for assuring food security; 2) regional issues, policies and strategies for assuring nutrition security; 3) effects of migration on rural development, food security, and the fight against the poverty; 4) role of technological, institutional and policy options on food security and the fight against poverty; 5) role of infrastructure, water management and natural resource management on rural development, food security and the fight against the poverty; and 6) effects of conflicts on food and nutrition security.

Publications: A synthesis paper of 25-30 pages, as well as an executive summary, will be prepared in French and in English. This paper will summarize the consensus of the workshop on appropriate policy, institutional and technical options to assure food and nutritional security in West Africa. Presented individual papers will also be compiled in a proceedings volume.

Logistics of workshop: The official invitations to the participants and to the authors of papers will be distributed in November 2003.