

**ASSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN AFRICA BY 2020:
Prioritizing Action, Strengthening Actors, and Facilitating Partnerships**
April 1-3, 2004, Kampala, Uganda

SUMMARY NOTE

Parallel Session: **Priorities for Action: Perspectives from West Africa**

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Reducing food and nutrition insecurity implies that everyday, everywhere, everyone can have access to quantitatively and qualitatively satisfying food from its own production or from market. Consumers are more and more numerous, urbanized and non producers, meanwhile producers are also more and more numerous with more and more people to nourish from more and more limited, overexploited and degraded resources.

Public or collective actions concerning different participants in the conference are mentioned.

What ever the technical option, looking for an increased and sustainable productivity for food crops implies the building of a partnership between agronomic research, producers organisations, concerned public services and some private operators.

The precise identification of food and nutritional but also agronomic and economic problems and the impact assessment of the promoted actions need the implementation of a sustainable and efficient system for observation, information and analysis. Building such a system implies a partnership between research, administrations, professional organisations and FAO.

The west African regional space, by allowing compensations between regions and food productions, can reduce the instability of the food available, it can provide a market for other products and activities and contribute to the general increase of the living standard and of the purchasing power of all the consumers.

The economic regional space has to be secured for facilitating the circulation of people and products inside each country and between countries.

Public investments in infrastructures have to be restarted.

Private investments in trade, transportation and processing have to be encouraged (regulation, credit..).

Regional economic and monetary integration must continue.

The capacity in elaborating national policies coherent with themselves and regional policies arguable outside the region must be increased by the training of stakeholders based on sound analysis and research.

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