



Canada



Report

on

Inception Workshop

Strengthening National Capacities and Policies for Food Systems Analysis and Transformation in Ghana



by

Felix Ankomah Asante (ISSER)

Seth Asante (IFPRI, Ghana)

22nd September 2023

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Presentation of Project Overview	1
3. Presentation of Project Deliverables and Timelines	3
3.1 Open Forum Discussion and Suggestion	3
4. Presentation on Food Systems Diagnostic and Trade-offs and Opportunities	4
4.1 Open Forum Discussion and Suggestion	5
<i>NDPC Activities on Food Systems in Ghana</i>	7
5. Plenary Exercise on Food Systems Diagnostic and Trade-offs and Opportunities	8
6. Conclusion	9
7. Appendix	10

1. Introduction

This report is produced from the proceedings of the Inception workshop on “Strengthening National Capacities and Policies for Food Systems analysis and Transformation in Ghana” project held on Wednesday, 2nd August 2023 at Alisa Hotel, Accra. The workshop aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the project and outlined its objectives, and timeline, alongside a review of the current landscape of the Ghana’s Food Systems Transformation. It brought together various stakeholders and institutions in the Ghanaian food systems. The workshop facilitated valuable discussions among participants to gather insights and inputs for the project’s advancement (see attached list of participants). Three distinct presentations – project overview, project deliverables and timelines, and food systems diagnostics and tools as well as trade-offs and opportunities – were made at the workshop.

The workshop began with a welcome note and introduction, followed by presentations of the project overview and project deliverables and timelines. This ended with an open forum discussion by all participating institutions. The next session also included a presentation on food systems diagnostics and tools and trade-offs and opportunities, open forum discussions, plenary sessions, and closing remarks (see Appendix for the workshop programme).



2. Presentation on Project Overview

The presentation on the project overview outlined the background and context of the project, explaining its goals and objectives. It elaborated on the problem the project seeks to address and the envisioned impact or expected output. The project is being implemented in Ghana, Senegal, and Kenya. The overarching objective is to strengthen national capacities and policies for sustainable food systems transformation in Africa so that food systems deliver multiple outcomes of food security, nutrition, food safety, equity, resilience, sustainability, and human and environmental health for all people. Key specific objectives intended to be achieved include:

- *To adapt and use diagnostic tools to analyze and describe the various types (traditional, modern, mixed, etc.) and components (value chains, drivers, actors, linkages with other systems, outcomes, etc.) of the status, size, and dynamics of each country's food systems at national and subnational levels.*
- *To analyze the tradeoffs and identify options (including policy, institutional, gender, technological, and governance innovations) for sustainable food systems transformation at the local, sub-national and national levels.*
- *To strengthen the capacities of individuals and institutions (policy think tanks, government departments, universities, and other related institutions and the private sector) in food systems analysis, investment analysis, and intervention programming and policy design.*
- *To develop National Food System Development Plans (NFSDPs) that are based on the results of the analyses and set indicators, targets, and reporting mechanisms from across policies including agriculture, climate change, gender, nutrition, NCD, trade, and energy.*
- *To improve knowledge on food systems transformation in Africa that comprehensively integrates gender.*

3. Presentation on Ghana's Project Deliverables and Timelines

The presentation highlighted the project's timeline. It involved the following activities:

- *Overview of food systems transformation processes, country team formation, and inception workshop*
- *Food system diagnostics and tools*
- *Analysis of food systems trade-offs and options, gender integration, and food system transformation pathways (FSTP)*
- *Stakeholder and policy engagement on FSTP*



3.1 Open Forum Discussion and Suggestion

The following institutions were recommended to be considered as part of the food system champion institutions:

- Ministry of Trade
- Ministry of Roads
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Research institutions

4. Presentation on Food Systems Diagnostic and Trade-offs and Opportunities

The presentation on the food systems diagnostic and trade-offs and opportunities provided background information on food systems and its prevailing issues around the globe and in the context of Ghana. It also highlighted the following areas:

- Components of food systems (FS) in Ghana
 - ✓ *The Ghanaian food environment and consumer characteristics*
 - ✓ *Food supply chains*
 - ✓ *Cross-Cutting Issues relating to Gender-Inclusive Strategies for food system transformation.*
 - ✓ *Drivers of the Ghanaian food systems environment*
- Challenges of food systems in Ghana (Diagnostic)
- Analysis of trade-offs and opportunity options
- Game-Changing Policy measures

Other policy gaps were highlighted as follows.

- Input Subsidy Policies: Lack of integration with nutrition and sustainability - hinders holistic food systems transformation.
- Sustainable Soil Fertility Management: Inadequate policies for soil health and conservation - impede sustainable agricultural practices.
- Agricultural Extension Policies: Limited focus on nutrition-sensitive approaches - restricts knowledge dissemination for improved food systems.
- Mechanization Policy: Insufficient consideration of environmental impacts - affects sustainability in food production.
- Marketing Strategy: Inadequate alignment with promoting nutritious foods - hampers access to diverse and healthy food choices.
- Food Product Transformation Policy: Lack of emphasis on nutritious food processing - limits availability of healthy processed foods.

- Gender Inequality & Women's Empowerment Policy: Limited integration of gender equity in food systems - hinders inclusivity and sustainable development.
- Agriculture & Climate Change Policy

The presentation on the trade-offs and opportunities also highlighted the following:

Trade-offs

- *Diet quality and nutrition security*: Balancing domestic consumption vs. export for nutritious foods.
- *Consumption of unhealthy diet*: Higher prices for unhealthy foods may reduce their consumption, but nutritious foods could become more expensive for low-income individuals.
- *Environmental Resilience*: Eco-friendly agriculture techniques vs. lower yields & profitability.
- *Infrastructure Capacity*: Reducing food loss vs. potential surpluses & food waste.
- *Regional Disparity*: Addressing Northern Ghana's challenges without neglecting other regions.

Opportunities for Policy Direction

- Issues of affordability, availability, and demand for nutritious foods in food policies.
- Elastic demand for nutritious foods.
- Effective use of fertilizer guidelines.
- Investment in infrastructure for food security.
- A balanced approach to address regional disparities

4.1 Open Forum - Discussion and Suggestions

- Participants engaged in a fruitful discussion, sharing valuable perspectives, raising concerns, and posing critical questions throughout the workshop. The diverse range of

viewpoints led to the emergence of several key questions and suggestions to improve the implementation of the project. The following are the key issues that resonated among participants during the general discussions:

- There is the need to prioritize some activities in the food system. Priority should be given to (i) transport and food movement (ii) storage of food (in transit and market), (iii) price stabilization, (iv) healthy foods, (v) emphasis on the vulnerable (especially urban poor persons), and (vi) food preparation and storage (due to perishability, availability, and seasonality).
- Participants largely agreed that there is the need to examine the effects of crosscutting issues such as the effects of energy and economic situations on the food systems. Also, the impact of illegal mining on food systems.
- On food safety, there were concerns about law enforcement. It was observed that food handlers do know the rules and guidelines to ensure food safety, however the issue is how the laws are enforced. The input dealer value chain and technology role were also noted to be a contributor in food safety.
- Participants observed the need to also provide more detailed information on livestock and fisheries sector rather than having more information on crops.
- For specific indicators participants noted the need to take stock of losses along the value chain to help inform us how these losses could be addressed.
- Other suggestions indicate that there is a national agricultural insurance policy; there is currently work-in-progress on the taxation of unhealthy diets. However, there is also an ongoing exercise on best practices from other countries; and the need to integrate game-changing policy measures in stakeholders' engagement.



4.2 NDPC Activities on Food Systems in Ghana

After the UN Food System Summit, the commitments raised were integrated into the Medium-Term Development Framework. Currently, the long-term plan is being updated and there is an opportunity to integrate these commitments. After the development of the policy framework, guidelines were provided to the district and sectors to plan accordingly. The next step involves an audit to ascertain whether the district and sectors have taken up the priority objectives from the commitments. The broad national objectives now include nutrition and food security ([Agenda for Jobs II- 2022-2025](#)). There is also result metric to track the indicators. There are budget allocations developed for the district and sectors. There is also an investment plan developed to look at the pathways that exist. These pathways were influenced by the FSTIP work. There are four broad pathways identified (production, enriching the environment, ensuring vulnerable people have access to healthy diets, and food environment) and resources will be mobilized for. Other areas to focus on include resilience, markets, and the cost of healthy foods. There is also an FAO supported project helping to model certain scenarios that will help in optimization.

5. Group Work - Food Systems Diagnostic and Trade-offs and Opportunities

This part of the workshop focused on a breakout session involving two groups. The group work activities adopted an interactive "Work café" format that allowed participants to express their views, ongoing works, challenges, and pathways to improving the implementation of this project. The group work was guided by a series of questions debated by the participants, around a table.

Each group was represented by a chairperson and a rapporteur selected by group members. At each table a specific theme was discussed. The food system champions institution representatives were present in each team to guide the discussions within the groups. The groups had similar questions to discuss with discussions lasting for an hour after which groups reported on their outcomes.

The topics covered are as follows: Group one focused on the Food system diagnostics addressing the following related questions – (a)What is missing in the presentation, (b) Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it and (c) Indicators for monitoring & evaluating FS; data requirement, where to get the data.

Group two also focused on the Trade-offs and opportunities addressing the following related questions- (a) What is missing in the presentation (b) Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it, (c) Analysis of Trade-offs & options: Methods; data requirement, where to get the data.

The deliberations on these questions are appended to this report.

6. Conclusion

The workshop provided an invaluable platform for collaborative exchange and learning. Participants' input will play a pivotal role in shaping the project's direction and enhancing its impact. The synergy generated during the workshop ensures that the project will benefit from a diverse range of perspectives.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participating institutions for their active engagement and valuable contributions during the workshop. Their insights will undoubtedly guide the project toward success.

Appendix



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Canada



Inception Workshop

Strengthening of National Capacities and policies for Food Systems Analysis and Transformation in Ghana

Alisa Hotel, Accra

Date: 2nd August 2023

Time	ACTIVITES	RESPONSIBLE
8:30-9:00	Registration/Welcoming participants	UG-IFPRI Team
Session 1: Introduction to project		
9:00 AM - 9:45	Welcome and introductions	UG-IFPRI Team
	Project Overview (Ghana, Senegal & Kenya) Project Activities in Ghana Discussions	IFPRI-UG Team
9:45 AM - 10:15	Group photo & Coffee break	
Session 2: Plenary sessions		
10:15 - 10:30	Presentation – Definition, Types, Components and Challenges of Food systems in Ghana (Diagnostics)	UG-IFPRI Team
10:30 - 10:50	Discussions	All
10:50 - 11:10	Presentation – Trade-offs and opportunities	UG-IFPRI Team
11:10 - 11:30	Discussions	All
Session 3: Group work		
11:30 - 12:30	Group 1: Food Systems Diagnostic	All
	Group 2: Food Systems Trade-offs and Opportunities	
12.30 – 13.00	Group Presentation & Wrap Up	
13:00	Lunch and Departure	All

Group Discussion Questions

Group 1: Food Systems Diagnostic

1. What is missing in the presentation?
2. Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it.
3. Indicators for monitoring & evaluating FS; data requirement, where to get the data.

Group 2: Trade-offs and Opportunities

1. What is missing in the presentation?
2. Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it.
3. Analysis of Trade-offs & options: Methods; data requirement, where to get the data.

Group 1 – Food Systems Diagnostics

Q1. What is missing in the presentation

Q2. Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it

Q3. Indicators for monitoring & evaluating FS; data requirement, where to get the data.

- Human capacity building of actors in the food system chain
- Assessing the regulatory framework and food system governance structures eg. Legal, policy framework
- Elaboration should be extended to other sectors such as fish and livestock.
- Comprehensive overview of selected indicators for food systems.
- Standardization and weight measures of food commodities in local markets
- Update of national data on healthy diets
- Elaboration on district wide market linkages
- Elaboration on infrastructure: road, storage, processing, and their implications

- The following are the identified institutions: NDPC, MoH, CSIR,
- Ongoing activities:*
- Healthy diets for healthy living
 - Food composition tables
 - Modelling by NDPC
 - Mapping of projects for food systems
 - Food system resilient (National & regional projects)
 - Scaling up national projects

- Contact NDPC for food systems transformation policy: policy matrix, results matrix
- MoFA -production data
- FDA, SRID, GSS-market data
- NDPC is working on collecting data on all sectors to have a data pool.

Group 2 – Trade-offs and Opportunities		
Q1. What is missing in the presentation	Q2. Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it and	Q3. Analysis of Trade-offs & options: Methods; data requirement, where to get the data.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective use of fertilizer and agro chemicals • Gender disparity: focusing on women- increasing the role women play in agriculture. i.e., balancing the number of men and women and other vulnerable both in production, processing, youth engagement • Agric extension services and digital technologies • Balancing the production of nutrition sensitive crops and cash crops. • Nutrition extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO – Nutrition Sensitive Production • MoH – Food Safety Policy, Nutrition Policy, Food Safety Action Plan • NDPC - Leading discussion on National Food System Policy • University of Ghana - Street Food Safety • MoFA/WIAD - Food Based Dietary Guidelines • CSIR-STEPRI - Effect of women time use on nutritional outcomes of households (project); shaping food environment in transitional economies for sustainable healthy diets; Food safety for Africa: policy and regulatory environment; Nutrition policy for Aflatoxin control. • University of Ghana, Public Health: working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet Quality and nutrition security (use of primary and secondary data sources) <p><i>Data sources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSS -GLSS various rounds for household level data - Ghana Health Service - GSS- Trade vulnerability; Trade Statistics (import and export); Inflation and food price data; food security data; Agric census - GEPA (exports data) - FDA – food safety policy - MoFA-SRID: data on domestic production and market prices • Consumption of unhealthy (use of primary and secondary data sources) <p><i>Data sources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University of Ghana, Nutrition and Food Science Department - GSS -GLSS various rounds for household level data

Group 2 – Trade-offs and Opportunities		
Q1. What is missing in the presentation	Q2. Current on-going activities and stakeholder/institution mapping; How the project can influence on-going activities or be part of it and	Q3. Analysis of Trade-offs & options: Methods; data requirement, where to get the data.
	<p>with the MoH on a fiscal policy to earmark funds from the excise duty amendment bill to be used for health-related activities; nutrient profiling system with MoH, FDA, NDPC to help identify healthier foods using labelling; food procurement policy and marketing policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoFA – Planting for Food and Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental resilience (use of primary and secondary data sources) <p><i>Data sources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA project data on sustainable agriculture - MoFA, data on use of fertilizer and agrochemicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure capacity (use of primary and secondary data) <p><i>Data sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoFA/Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate – infrastructure data to access postharvest losses. - Research Institutions

List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization
1	Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante	UG, ORID
2	Benjamin Benson Bonzo	UG, ORID
3	Alberta Anku	UG, ORID
4	Seth Asante	IFPRI
5	Doreen Kufoalor	IFPRI
6	Maureen Lartey	Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)
7	Ramla Keelson	Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFLAG)
8	Dr. Wisdom K. Atiwoto	Ministry of Health
9	Solace Tamakloe	Women in Agricultural Development, Directorate of Ministry of Food and Agriculture
10	Umuhera Braimah	Ghana Statistical Service
11	Patrick Kojo Ofori	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED)
12	Mary Mpereh	National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)
13	Dr. Roseline Esi Amoah	Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)
14	Dr. Martha A. Awo	UG, ISSER
15	Emmanuel Yirenkyi	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Agribusiness Unit
16	Eunice Arhin	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Statistics, Research & Information Directorate (SRID)
17	Dr. Abigail Ampomah Adaku	UG, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
18	Juliette Lampoh-Agroh	AGRA
19	Timothy Gyan	Feed the Future Ghana, Trade, and Investment Activity
20	Dr. (Mrs) Wilhemina Quaye	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
21	Prof. Richmond Aryeetey	UG, School of Public Health
22	Silver Nanema	UG, School of Public Health, Department of Population, Family & Reproductive Health
23	Dr. Mavis Sakyi	Public Health Unit, Ministry of Health
24	Dr. Rose Omari	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
25	Elikem Angelica Dandzo	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
26	Abena Osae	Ministry of Health, Quality Management Unit
27	Hobson Agyapong	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
28	John Kennedy Apegyah	Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana
29	Paul Siameh	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services
30	Aminu Zuleiha	Ministry of Health, PPME
31	Ophelia Mensah	University of Ghana
32	Vincent Amenuveve	Daily Graphic
33	Benedicta Teiko	IFPRI, Enumerator
34	Obed King	GHOne TV
35	Benjamin A. Commey	Ghana News Agency (GNA)
36	Emmanuel Quaye	Daily Graphic