



The EC Food Security Policy

Laura Garagnani

DEV/B/2, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

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Food Security definition

- **Definition:**

Food Security can be defined as a condition where "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" - **Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action. FAO, 1996.**

- **Food security is a long-term objective**
- **Food Security is the most basic dimension of poverty**



EC Food Security Policy (1)

Food Security is Multidimensional – 3 Pillars, 3 Levels

Food Availability:

- At the **national level**, food insecurity is an outcome of faltering development and weak trading positions.

Food Access:

- At the **household level**, food insecurity is an outcome of poverty and a function of inadequate purchasing power and poorly functioning markets.

Food Utilisation:

- At the **individual level**, **food insecurity** results from inappropriate/inadequate intra-household distribution of food, mother-child feeding practices, food preparation and food quality and safety



EC Food Security Policy (2)

The main Guiding Principles

- **Consistency** with EC development policies and strategies (FS is multi-dimension and multi-sector)
- **Alignment to nationally (regionally/continentally) owned policies**; broad **partnership** (non-state actors, local actors)
- **Subsidiarity** for the choice of EC instruments and their articulation (LRRD)
- **Donor coordination and harmonisation** (OECD Paris Declaration), in particular with EU MS
- **Food aid interventions** will be consistent with the *Code of Conduct for Food Aid* agreed within the EU.



Enhanced policy focus on (1)

Better addressing Food Insecurity in situations of post-crisis situations, in complex and protracted crises

- The world's most vulnerable countries are increasingly exposed to crises and disaster, aggravating chronic poverty and food insecurity
- EC is committed to ensuring that FS is addressed in an adequate and timely manner when relief operations end, as well as in protracted and complex crises (LRRD)
- Focus is on:
 - improving access to food, particularly in situations of state fragility/failure (EU Consensus, EU Strategy for Africa)
 - protecting assets, supporting recovery and rehabilitation
 - reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience
 - encouraging national governments to include disaster response and mitigation strategies into national poverty reduction plans



Enhanced policy focus on: (2)

Policy Coherence

- Beyond development assistance, the international community has the responsibility to ensure that policies coherently support, rather than undermine, the fight against hunger
- EC has an active portfolio in trade and agricultural issues (Doha Round, EPA etc)
- Also supports the delivery of international public goods contributing directly to food security (e.g. agricultural research)



Enhanced policy focus on: (3)

Regional dimension of food security

- **Problems:**
 - transboundary trade
 - access to and sustainable management of natural resources (conflicts)
 - climate change, risk prevention and management
 - animal health, pest control etc.
- **Strategic priorities:**
 - improved understanding of food insecurity causes and people 's coping mechanisms
 - policy and strategy harmonisation (new strategy Advancing African Agriculture)
- **Concerted action** according to the principle of subsidiarity
- **Partners and stakeholders in Africa:**
 - AU and NEPAD, RECs and regional organisations (articulation of the regional with the continental and the national levels)
 - regional networks of non-state-actors, and civil society, research and capacity development institutions etc



Emerging Policy Issues (1)

2007 Rural Development Evaluation

- In practice, food security, agriculture and rural development often blurred: need for more rigorous approach
- Food security = objective
- Agriculture = sector
- Rural development = defines a territorial specificity



Emerging Policy Issues (2)

- Food security and social protection
 - Emphasis on **food availability** (agriculture and trade)
 - Main problem remains **access to food**
 - **Beyond MDGs**, hard core poor more difficult to reach
 - **Social safety nets**: opportunities and challenges



Emerging Policy Issues (3)

- The right-based approach
 - Other rights (children, decent work etc)
 - Food sovereignty
 - The Right to Food
 - Application of the Voluntary Guidelines
 - Value and limits of the concept



The Food Security Thematic Programme areas for research and innovation (1)

- Pro-poor growth-orientated agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture and forestry with the emphasis on low-cost, locally owned, sustainable solutions
- Alternative production methods (e.g. organic agriculture) providing new market opportunities
- Food security and rural/local development (decentralisation, rural-urban linkages, local development and area-based management are priority areas in the new EU policy statement)
- Sustainable management of and access to natural resources (land, water and energy), impact of the degradation of natural resources and of climate change on household and national food security
- Urban and peri-urban food security, landless food-insecure and income diversification through non-agricultural activities and agricultural non-food activities



The Food Security Thematic Programme areas for research and innovation (2)

- Nutrition and the neglected issue of “hidden hunger” (micronutrient deficiencies have an enormous impact on the lives of mothers and children in particular)
- Demographic, labour issues and migration
- Relations between key social issues and food security (social protection and safety nets, HIV-AIDS pandemic, sanitation, the role of education in fostering food security, etc.)
- Gender equity, minorities and ethnic groups usually targeted as extreme poor and food-vulnerable
- Prevention and preparedness strategies to avert food crises or mitigate its effects
- Innovative approaches in Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development, in particular in complex and protracted crises.



Food Security in the EC Development Policy

EC role at international level...

- **As a donor**
 - Up to 2007: FSBL +/- €450m/year; ECHO €50-100m/year; geographical instruments
 - **2007-2010: FSTP €925m;**
 - ECHO, on demand: €218m in 2007; geographical instruments: €1,5b estimate 10th EDF (FS+A+RD)
- **In international policy dialogue**
 - MDG on Hunger of WFS commitment
 - Renegotiation of the FAC, FA untying, WTO, CSSD



Strategic Approach

Food Security is addressed by a set of complementary financial instruments:



ECHO (emergency and immediate post-emergency)

FSTP (transition/supra-national and horizontal aspects)

EDF (longer term)

- The Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)
 - DCI Regulation (EC) N°1905/2006
 - FSTP first Programming Cycle (2007-2010): € 925 million (2005)



The Food Security Thematic Programme Strategic Priorities

- Delivery of International Public Goods: agricultural research and technology
- Linking Information and decision-making for FS strategy development
- Exploiting the potential of the continental and regional approach to improve FS
- Addressing FS in exceptional situations of transition, fragile and failed states
- Promoting innovation to combat food insecurity
- Advocacy and advancement of the FS agenda; harmonisation and alignment with development partners and donors