



***Regional Consultation on Financing for Development  
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**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- Entering the final phase of the Post-2015 process, preparations are also underway to develop a viable SDG monitoring framework. FAO is fully engaged in this process, refining a set of possible indicators for the targets that fall within its mandate, and has collaborated with the Rome-based Agencies on Goal 2, channeling relevant contributions through the UN Technical Support Team (TST). FAO participated in the preliminary meeting of the newly formed Inter-agency Expert Group on SDGs and is strongly supporting the UN Statistical Commission's efforts to craft a viable indicator framework for the SDGs.
- Member States are also working to develop the required financial and non-financial Means of Implementation (MoI) to support action on the agenda which is linked the Financing for Development (FfD) process leading to the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July.
- The FfD Conference will focus on assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, while also addressing new and emerging issues, including financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development. The success of the post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs, will largely depend extent on reaching an agreement on a range of means of implementation at the FfD Conference. The means of implementation, as defined in the Open Working Group (OWG) Report, include finance but also a range of non-financial means such as technology transfer, capacity building, trade, policy and institutional coherence; multi-stakeholder partnerships; and data, monitoring and accountability.
- FAO is fully engaged in the FfD process and beginning to support the UN regional consultations on FfD, and has voiced its concern over the insufficient investment both in the agriculture and rural sectors and in specifically targeting the food and nutrition security of the poorest people, especially women. For instance, a think piece jointly submitted by the Rome Based Agencies with the title "Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture at Centre Stage on the Road to the Addis Ababa Conference", highlights the gaps in resources and financing mechanisms dedicated to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and recalls the Outcome of the Global Thematic Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition which urged for measures and investments to empower the critical agents of change: women and men small scale producers, fishers, forest users, livestock keepers, indigenous peoples, and rural entrepreneurs.

- Since Monterrey and Doha, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture have been addressed through dedicated national and regional strategies, including, for instance, the Maputo Declaration and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), and the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI). AFSI also paved the way for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a multi-donor trust fund created to finance strategic, inclusive, evidence-based agricultural investment plans of low-income countries. FAO is a Supervisory Entity for, and a member of the Steering Committee of, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which is currently developing a 15-year financing strategy for the implementation of the post-2015 development framework. This will be discussed in the context of the FfD Conference.
- Nonetheless, at a global level, follow up to public commitments has often remained inadequate, creating an urgent need to boost financial resources dedicated to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, and to do so within an enabling policy framework and in a context of good governance, principled partnerships and accountability. In 2011, the additional investment needs (in terms of incremental public investment in agriculture and related supporting areas including complementary policy measures) required to eliminate hunger by 2025 were estimated at an annual total of USD 50.2 billion.
- While the gaps may appear daunting, it is important to consider the much higher costs of the status quo. The costs of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are estimated at 2-3 percent of global GDP, equivalent to USD 1.4-2.1 trillion per year. At the same time, food and nutrition security interventions and agricultural investments are among the most cost-effective development interventions, with multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits.
- More broadly, it will also be critical to build a renewed global partnership to tackle the Post-2015 agenda. This will call for fulfilment of development assistance commitment – including, but not limited to ODA –, enhancing North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as fostering partnerships between multiple actors and across a broad range of areas.
- For FAO, it is of particular importance to strengthen the institutional arrangements needed to ensure integrated approach to means of implementation at national, regional, and global levels, ensuring a coherent and efficient financial architecture for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and ensuring more predictable and stable access to finances by the developing countries, as well as the monitoring structure required to track progress.
- It is of key importance to capitalize on already existing mechanisms, as to ensure continuity and smooth transition between the current development framework to SDGs. It is also crucial to ensure appropriate institutional arrangements for tracking progress, ensuring timely and efficient collection of data, as well as institutional capacity at national, regional, and global levels to analyse data and make it available to decision makers.