



Feed Minds, Change Lives: School Feeding, Health, Nutrition and Agriculture

February 10, 2011, 1:00-2:30 pm - Jehangir Room

Side event to *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition & Health International Conference*
New Delhi, India

Child development requires a life-cycle approach to intervention. School health and nutrition programmes are a key part of this continuum, providing the foundation for physical, cognitive and educational development that will allow children to reach their full and equal potential. The recent food, fuel and financial crises have highlighted the importance of school feeding programmes, both as a social safety net for children living in poverty and food insecurity, and as part of national educational policies and plans.

Today, perhaps for the first time in history, every country for which we have information is seeking to provide food, in some way and at some scale, to its schoolchildren. However, where the need is greatest, in terms of hunger, poverty and poor social indicators, the programmes tend to be the smallest. Past experience shows that countries do not seek to exit from providing food to their schoolchildren, but rather to transition from externally supported projects to nationally owned programmes. Countries that have made a successful transition have often explored linking school feeding programmes to agriculture development –an approach also known as “Home Grown School Feeding” (HGSF).

Strategic leadership from the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) guided Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to include HGSF as a key intervention within the food security pillar of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework. Many countries, including Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali and Nigeria are already implementing national programmes. From this perspective HGSF provides an integrated framework with multiple impacts across agriculture, health, nutrition and education. Since early 2008, the World Bank Group, WFP and PCD have been working together to help governments develop and implement cost effective, sustainable national school feeding programs.

How best can the potential of school feeding be maximised to support multi-sectoral integrated frameworks linking agriculture, health, nutrition and education? How can the potential impact of HGSF be maximised to benefit the nutrition status of the school age child and the community? How can HGSF be a win-win for agriculture, education and health? There is a need to answer these research questions operationally, building the evidence base to help policy makers manage the trade-offs across the multiple school feeding objectives.

As part of an ongoing series of global events, the **“School Feeding, Education, Health, Nutrition and Agriculture” side event** is providing a high level platform to discuss these issues. The side event will be chaired by the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Ms Sheila Sisulu, and comprise a series of short presentations by leading global policymakers including Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki CEO, NEPAD and Prof. Don Bundy from the World Bank. In addition, experts will share country level experiences from Kenya, Mali and Brazil. This will be followed by a discussion on global thinking around School Feeding and links to agriculture, nutrition, and education.



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Chair: Ms Sheila Sisulu, WFP Deputy Executive Director

Tentative panel:

Global policy trends and momentum: school feeding, education, health, nutrition and agriculture

1. **Dr Ibrahim Mayaki CEO, NEPAD:** How can school feeding programmes support the agricultural sector while ensuring nutritional benefits to children? The policy framework.
2. **Prof Don Bundy, Human Development Network, World Bank:** How can school feeding act as a platform to support child learning, health and nutrition in school age children as part of the Healthy Child Approach?

Country action on Home Grown School Feeding

3. **Dr Wilson Songa, Agriculture Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Margaret Ndanyi, Head of School Health and Nutrition Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of Kenya:** Kenya's school feeding models and multisectoral coordination links to agriculture including small holder production, health and nutrition, and challenges of scaling up.
4. **Ms Alice Martin Daihirou, World Food Programme Country Director, Mali:** School feeding models in Mali, links to nutrition, community, and agricultural production including small holder production through P4P.
5. **Mr Daniel Balaban, President of the Brazilian National Education Development Fund, Government of Brazil:** Learning from Brazil's model and links to local production with family agriculture and nutrition.

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For more information please visit www.wfp.org/school-meals and www.hgsf-global.org

