

19th Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCM)

Thematic Working Group on Food Security

**19th Meeting of the Regional
Coordination Mechanism (RCM)
26 and 27 November 2013**

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Issues for the attention of the RCM members

- ❑ Outcome of the FS coordination meeting on 22 May 2013,**
 - ❑ Outcome of the Regional Multi Stake holder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition, 4-7 November, Tunis Tunisia**
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1) Main outcome of the FS coordination meeting on 22 May 2013,

- ❑ Change the name of the TWG to **Food Security and Nutrition;**
- ❑ Need to provide support to countries in the region in establishing/strengthening **food security and nutrition information systems;**
- ❑ Despite the multiple effects of the conflict and civil insecurity, **resource and funding for humanitarian support remains minimal;**
- ❑ **Produce joint knowledge products** to better understand the main drivers/issues of food insecurity in the region with the aim of **promoting resilience and influencing policy decision.**



2) Food Security and Nutrition, organized November 4-7 2013, in Tunis, Tunisia

Issues discussed include:

- Global and regional food security agenda, initiatives and strategies;
- Nutrition-enhancing agriculture and food systems;
- CFS consultative process to develop an Agenda for Action (A for A) for food security in protracted crises;
- CFS consultative process to develop “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments (rai) in the context of Food Security and Nutrition”
- Food Losses and Waste Reduction



Some of the recommendations: On Food Security

- ❑ Enhance regional cooperation in agriculture and food trade and in conflict resolution mechanisms to address the problem and root causes of acute food insecurity;
- ❑ Address land issues by reforming the land tenure systems, supported by a legal framework to ensure women and the rural landless own their land;
- ❑ The untargeted social safety nets programmes in the region, in their current form, are no longer sustainable and should be reformed to improve efficiency and effectiveness, through proper targeting and improved supply chain;
- ❑ Support community resilience to mitigate risks against natural and manmade disasters.



On Nutrition

- ❑ High malnutrition rate in the region calls for strong advocacy for improved access to diversified food at household level; it is important to **address the double burden of malnutrition**;
- ❑ Incorporate '**the right to food**' into constitutions to ensure accessible, sufficient and adequate food for all;
- ❑ Re-address the role of agriculture in order to encompass nutrition.



On Food Loss and Waste

- ❑ **Reducing food losses and waste in the NENA region** should be seen as one of the fundamental pillars for improving food security, nutrition and sustainable food systems as well as easing pressure on the fragile natural resources and ecosystem.
- ❑ The scale, problems, and possible solutions of food losses and waste reduction within the region is different and needs different approaches; however **sharing of experience and best practices between member countries and increased awareness and advocacy remain crucial.**
- ❑ Raising social awareness on the scale, magnitude, and nutritional impact as well as possible solutions for food losses and waste by enhancing public-private partnership.



The way forward

- The Working Group to continue providing evidence based policy papers and knowledge products to feed into the strategic thinking in the region and assist decision making process
- Moving from policy to action: e.g FAO Regional initiative on FSN aimed at supporting the LDCs and Syria crises affected countries.



THANK YOU

