

World Water Week Event

Water for Food Security and Nutrition

Monday, 24 Aug 2015, 16.00 – 17.30, FH307

Event contents and conclusions

- Presentation of the HLPE report
- Moderated discussion with comments from panel
- Presentation of implementation of FSN strategies with reference to , inter alia, water, land, energy, investments: the W& FSN (Water & Food Security and Nutrition)

The HLPE report has done a commendable effort in looking at water resources–related issues that affect the agricultural/food communities, including important social and human rights issues. Nutrition however needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive way than in the report. Similarly, the demand side dynamics needs much more attention, in line with the analysis in the report commissioned by the Swedish FAO Committee, which discussed many important issues, including trade, obesity, and water scarcity. Implementation requires a combination of visions of agriculture/food and water communities, evidence (e.g. data) and financed response options.

Discussion points

- Fair access – i.e. not only availability - to water and food are crucial to W & FSN.
- Silos e.g. between different types of water use actors (agriculture, energy, industry, WASH, etc.) need to be overcome. We all need to pull in the same direction!
- Similarly, the linkages between stages (from production to end use) in the food supply/value chain, which should include externality costs (e.g. health costs, environmental costs), must be considered in food and agricultural policies for human well-being and environmental sustainability.
- Policies and strategies for W&FSN need to consider the two “new normals” in society (the Swedish FAO report):
 - 1) Prolonged periods of extreme events (droughts in particular) – supply side challenges.
 - 2) “Double malnutrition” problem: undernourishment and overeating/obesity – demand side (people/consumer) challenges
- Challenging issues of leadership at policy and implementation level for multi-sectoral approaches in water-food security/nutrition related issues.
- People-centered (e.g. behavioural aspects) and rights-based approaches need to complete the resources and ecosystem-based approaches; and they are discussed in the HLPE report.
- The role of trade and investment in the implementation of pro-poor, pro-FSN, pro-water stewardship policies need to be clarified.
- The HLPE report brings up the necessities to build partnerships among government agencies, private sector and civil society.
- Nutrition community is rather absent in these discussions. Food and agricultural policies need to be guided by nutritional requirements and in line with the thinking of sustainable diets to avoid over-supply and over-intake of “empty calories”.
- The need for education in WASH and nutrition and for incorporating WASH in FSN policies.

Irrigation systems and farming practices

- Rainfed systems should get more attention and support, e.g. through risk reduction instrument, such as insurance schemes.
- Distinction between small and large agricultural systems needs consideration.
- Water-smart and sustainable intensification of agriculture is a broad continuum, which requires different types of investment needs.
- Factors that affect farmer's decision to shift to more water-efficient crops or farming practices need to be identified.
- A well organisation of farmers, e.g through a farmer's cooperative, can facilitate better negotiation and willingness to pay for O&M and water because farmers appreciate higher certainty on the future availability of water.
- Trade in food is one important opportunity to overcome problems related to water shortages, either seasonal or long term. Similarly, liberalization of trade in inputs for food production and in means to transport and store food produced is essential for realizing domestic food production potential and thereby improve farmers' livelihoods.

Fish is better than chips

- Inland fisheries and fish food security, not only agriculture, should be discussed more. The previous HLPE Report highlights the issues in depth.
- Fisheries play an important role in meeting nutritional needs.
- Significant underreporting of inland fish catch.

Rights-based approaches

- The implementation of rights-based approach in South Africa and conflict resolution approaches are taken up in their Constitution. . Could this be a way forward for others?
- The discussion on rights issue should be actionable in different contexts.
- Human rights to food should refer to nutritional needs/sustainable diets.

The link to the livestreaming of the event:

http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/water_for_food_security_and_nutrition