

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2021

22-26 March 2021, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

Report of Roundtable on SDG 2 on Zero Hunger



REPORTING TEMPLATE

1. **Main moderator:** Mr. Aziz Elbehri (FAO) and Ms. Britta Schumacher (WFP)
2. **Moderator for thematic working groups, if any:** Mr. David Dawe (FAO), Ms. Anusara Singkumarwong (WFP), Mr. Roland Kupka (UNICEF), Mr. Nicolas Bidault (WFP)
3. **Rapporteur: (alternate)**

1. Feedback received on the content of the goal profile during the Q&A sessions

(none)

A. List comments received on facts and figures of the goal profiles

- None received

B. List comments received with regards to best practices for advancing progress on SDG 2 in Asia and the Pacific

- None received

2. Policy recommendations on priority for action

The round table on Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) made several recommendations on the Goal for Asia and the Pacific.

- **Further investment and strong public- and private partnerships in food systems.**

It is important to make nutritious food more affordable to people so that more people can access a healthy diet. Efficient value chains can contribute to making healthy food more affordable. Even if people can afford a healthy diet communication and education are also necessary so that people can make informed choices. Healthy diets can be promoted with social media, for example. Providing women with training on nutritious and healthy food in collaboration with the public and private sector should be considered to improve food security and nutrition. Food fortification can be one path forward to improve nutrition with use of technologies. Keeping a good taste of food is an important factor to respond to consumer demands.

- **Investing in cost-effective technologies for data collection, and improved surveillance to monitor nutrition, food security, and livelihood indicators**

It is recommended to take action in a host of issues in terms of data governance in food systems to avoid increasing inequality, while promoting data privacy and transparency (part of human rights). Participants underlined that collection of data is not neutral: it can help to monitor progress on SDG2, but it can also be misused for proprietary gains. Policy measures in this regard need to assess a variety of aspects about digitalization: from technologies to infrastructure, and governance and market aspects along food chains.

- **Upscaling digitalization across the food system from production to consumption, improve access to food markets and nutrition by all.**

Digitalization offers great promise for transforming food systems, adding values and improving efficiency. However, upscaling need to be matched with robust measures to narrow the digital divide and create enabling conditions to expand the digital innovations and possibilities to the excluded and women. Evidence-based policies to ensure inclusive access, avoid further exclusion, especially for rural households lacking access to internet or digital skills. In addition, digitalization policies need safeguards to avoid exclusion (employment, access to markets and nutritious foods) and to reduce the digital divide between countries, rural-urban and, and between women and girls and their male counterparts. Digitalization requires investments in basic transport and ITC infrastructure, extension services and other enabling conditions.

- **Strengthening urban agriculture, local food production, and short value chains to improve nutrition and access to food among the urban poor.**

The role of governments is critical to local food and shorter food chains governance and to integrating this issue into urban planning. Many countries in the region have moved to promote urban food gardening, especially following COVID-19 pandemic. The role of local government in regulating and providing incentives is critical, including facilitating access to underutilized lots for urban gardening. Also highlighted was the impact of ambient air pollution, residual water and its impact on urban food quality. Likewise the use of pesticides for food production can also increase pollution in urban settings. Urban food governance require policies, regulations and infrastructure support for sustainable urban food development protective of the environment and human health.

- **Leveraging social protection system to enhance food security and nutrition outcomes**

This requires collaboration with other sectors such as health, education and agriculture, as well as involvement of civil society.

- **Stronger investments in disaster and pandemic preparedness needed across the systems.**

Investing in education and research as part of endeavours to strengthen disaster and pandemic preparedness. Disaster and pandemic preparedness systems need to overcome existing biases in favour of urban versus rural areas, and in favour of large private sector actors, particularly in light of decreasing public investments in agriculture. Governments need to invest in stronger disaster preparedness, early warning, monitoring, and response systems.

- **Increasing women's access to productive resources, markets, training and technology to meet the agricultural productivity and nutrition targets**

In order to meet the agricultural productivity and nutrition targets, it is important that we understand the challenges that women face such as lack of access and opportunities, depending on the country-specific situation. It is important to tackle vulnerabilities of women in agriculture, including the issue of gender-based violence and lack of access to related services in rural areas. Women should be engaged in policy-making process such as those that determine access to productive assets such as land. Women also need better opportunities for training and skill development adapted to their needs. Engaging women in urban agriculture is critical and require facilitating access to farming equipment, space for production and marketing opportunities through inclusive procurement.

- **Implementing surveys for sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) to craft more focused and gender-responsive policies**

(not discussed)