



## Coping with Rising Food Prices in Africa.

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## NEPAD - what is it?

- An African Initiative
- Programme of the African Union
- Mandated by the OAU, adopted in 2001
- A vision and framework for Africa's  
Renewal
- Major priority and goal is poverty reduction  
and improved food and nutrition security  
(MDG1)



## NEPAD Goals and Objectives

- To eradicate poverty
- To encourage sustainable growth and development
- To halt the marginalization of Africa, enhance participation in the global economy
- To accelerate the empowerment of women



# Rising Food Prices

## A different crisis!

- Not a typical covariate shock
- Crisis is created by increasing demand for food, fuel and fodder leading to a global structural price change
- and this requires a widespread and immediate emergency response. *Business unusual!*



# An atypical situation

- Unlike typical covariate shocks this one coincides with:
  - A global recession (international aid funds affected)
  - Rising fuel price & alternative energy demand affect price of food, energy and other household commodity requirements
  - Rising input prices (seed, fertilizer etc.) that affect producer profits and incentives
  - Policy failure effects are evident
- But, unlike typical crises, the supply response capacity is intact and increasing supply is clearly the long term solution but can also make a difference in the short term



# Rising Food Prices – Food Quality at risk – Nutrition at risk

- Examples of studies in Africa that show the impact of rising food prices and loss of purchasing power on consumption habits and nutritional status:
  1. The devaluation of the currency in Congo Brazzaville resulted in an increase in the prevalence of child stunting and wasting as well as the prevalence of low BMI (**Martin-Prével et al, 2000**).
  2. In Senegal, a reduction in the consumption of both fat and vegetables was noted (**Fouéré et al, 2000**).
  3. A significant deterioration in vitamin A status of pregnant women and vitamin E status of post-partum women was seen with rising maize prices in urban Lusaka (**Gitau et al. 2005**).



## AU-NEPAD Role

- Facilitation
- Coordination
- Brokering



# Status of Food & Nutrition Insecurity

- 337 Africans consume less than 2,100KCal per day
- 200 million Africans are chronically malnourished
- 5 million die of hunger annually
- 126 million children underweight
- About 50% children stunted
- 25 million live with HIV/AIDS
- Vitamin Mineral Deficiencies unacceptably high
- 12 deaths per minute due to hunger and malnutrition

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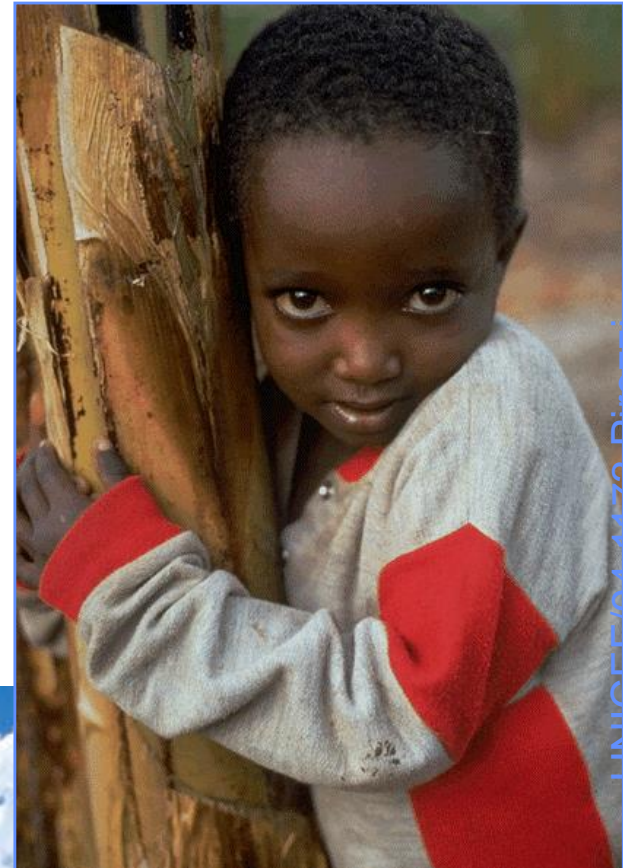
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# Deteriorating Nutrition Situation in Africa

- Acute Malnutrition: 2 – 25 %
- Stunting (children < 5 years): 10 - > 50%
- Anemia, Iron: < 5yrs 40%, pregnant women 80%, 40% general pop.
- Vitamin A deficiency: 60% general pop
- Iodine Deficiency: 5%

*Source: MI, FAO, WFP, ECSA, UNICEF*



## What is being done?



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## High Food Price Initiative

- Initiated by the MDG Africa Task Team's Working Group for Agriculture and Food Security co-facilitated by AU/NEPAD and FAO (February 2008)
- AU/NEPAD Workshop on high Food Prices in May with teams from 16 African Countries, CAADP Lead Institutions, RECs, DPs
- Countries selected as those most affected by high food prices and those well advanced in CAADP Round Table processes.
- Now over 30 countries have sought support
- HFP Task Team set up to coordinate efforts



## Traditional approaches inadequate

- Traditional responses will not address the current crisis!
- Immediate assistance is required to fill consumption gaps and protect the vulnerable, but must be balanced by increasing and smoothing supply and availability in the priority medium and long term, but
  - Responses and policy change will largely determine production incentives and the capacity of the agricultural and food sector to respond in developing countries
  - Responses and policy change must increase resilience at all levels and
  - Must not aggravate the domestic or regional situation further
  - Any social transfer actions must be through country mechanisms so as not to distort markets.



## Clearly ....

Africa has a plan of action and is committed to this agenda together with all partners and to develop strong P-P-Ps



## CAADP

### AU/NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

Goal: increase agricultural production by 6% annually and investment in agriculture to achieve this and attain the MDGs.



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## CAADP's 4 Pillars

- Pillar 1:* Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems (SLWM)
- Pillar 2:* Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access (FIMA)
- Pillar 3:* Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises (FAFS)
- Pillar 4:* Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption (FAAP)



## CAADP Pillar III

*Initiatives, instruments and tools for Pillar 3:*

1. Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS)
2. Pan African Nutrition Initiative (PANI)
3. Africa Ten Year Strategy for the reduction of VMD (ATYS)
4. Framework for African Food Security (FAFS)

*These frameworks and tools are well placed to tackle food and nutrition security challenges in Africa...*



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## Immediate next steps – HFP

After prioritizing country actions at the May 2008 workshop, country teams returned to:

- Deepen and broaden in-country ownership
- Hold multi-stakeholder meetings to prioritize and consult
- Identify resource needs and expertise
- Identify the policy and institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders,
- Initiate discussions with Ministries of Finance
- Initiate discussions with local and International Development Partners
- Develop a road map for implementing actions – short, medium and long term.



## Next steps - Institutional

1. AU/NEPAD Facilitation of country leadership
  - AU/NEPAD and REC missions – in progress
  - Ensure that the CAADP country focal point is central to the process
2. RECs are consolidating regional priorities and policy
3. AU/NEPAD and Pillar institutions are putting together teams of resource persons to support country teams to facilitate links to processes targeting improvements in nutrition
4. Accelerated Implementation of ARNS, FAFS, ATYS-vmd, PANI, and country plans



## Next Steps - Operational

1. Immediate country engagement
2. Linking with MDG Africa Working Group
3. Mobilise local expertise to support country programme preparation
  - Ensure quality and alignment to CAADP and national priorities
  - RECs to engage to strengthen political ownership
4. Mobilisation of in-country support
5. Deepen bilateral support and coordination within countries in alignment with CAADP and Pillar III agendas
6. AU/NEPAD to set up a quality assurance process of entire process including proposals, engagement, process and alignment



## Continued demand and AU/NEPAD response

- Another 40 countries have requested assistance
- Pillar III guides for developing programming responses have been developed and are available
- Pillar III tools developed
- Country missions underway
- Training of multi-agency teams
- Support and commitments already in place for a number of countries – WB, AfDB, UN etc.
- Government commitment also visible – e.g. Nigeria, Zambia and Malawi etc.



# Some observations and final thoughts

- Optimum nutrition is the cornerstone of all human, social and economic development
- Food and Nutrition are good investments

***Most countries CAN afford to provide adequate food and nutrition security!  
Most CAN afford to fortify foods!***

***Coping with Rising Food Prices requires;***

- ✓ Real commitment to human development and survival
- ✓ Good governance and sound prioritization
- ✓ Better management and prudent use of resources
- ✓ Involvement of all sectors, Private Sector being key
- ✓ Robust targeting, and M & E
- ✓ Information management systems (Early warning and emergency preparedness)
- ✓ Learn and apply lessons from some African and other success stories

Apply all tools, instruments, strategies at our disposal – e.g. Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy, Africa Ten Strategy for Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies, Framework for African Food Security, Pan African Nutrition Initiative etc...



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**Thank you**

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