

# Commemoration of the Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day

## Investing in intra-African trade for food and nutrition security



28 October 2011



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NEPAD  
New Partnership for Africa's Development  
Forum of Trade Ministers of the Continent of Africa



Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day

## Report of the Technical Workshop, 27 October 2011

The following is a consolidation of material prepared by AEASA President, Prof. Sheryl Hendriks, for presentation during the AFNSD celebrations held on 27 and 28 October 2011.



# Introductory Remarks



# Origin of the AFNSD

- In response to the unacceptable hunger and malnutrition situation, African Heads of State and Governments adopted the Maputo Declaration in 2003 aimed at reducing hunger, poverty, and malnutrition on the Continent through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
- In April 2004, an all Africa Conference held in Kampala under the theme “Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020: prioritizing actions, strengthening actors and facilitating partnerships” which among others proposed an **Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD)**.
- In July 2010, the AU Summit held in Kampala, Uganda passed a Decision on the AFNSD to be commemorated annually on 30<sup>th</sup> of October.
- The AFNSD was officially launched in Lilongwe, Malawi in October 2010.
- The African Ministers of Health committed to the commemoration of the AFNSD during the 5th Conference of African Health Ministers held in Windhoek, Namibia in April of 2011.



# Objective of the AFNSD

- The overall objective of the AFNSD is to:
  - Provide a stakeholder platform bringing together interdisciplinary leadership at all levels, and to
  - Facilitate discussions between governments, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, producers and development partners.
- Main purpose of the AFNSD is to serve as a rallying point in intensifying commitments at all levels of policy making to address the challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa.



# This year's theme:

## Investing in Intra-African Trade for Food and Nutrition Security

- This theme is in line with the theme for the 2012 January AU Summit, and is also linked to five major sub themes which relate to AU-NEPAD's food and nutrition flagship programmes, namely:
  - Dietary Diversification (food for nutrition, not just calories),
  - Home Grown School Feeding,
  - Food Fortification,
  - Maternal and Childs' Health and Nutrition and
  - The Interrelationship between trade, food security and nutrition.



# Food security & malnutrition defined

Food security: When “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit of 1996)

Malnutrition: a board range of clinical conditions in children and adults that result from deficiencies in one or more essential nutrients

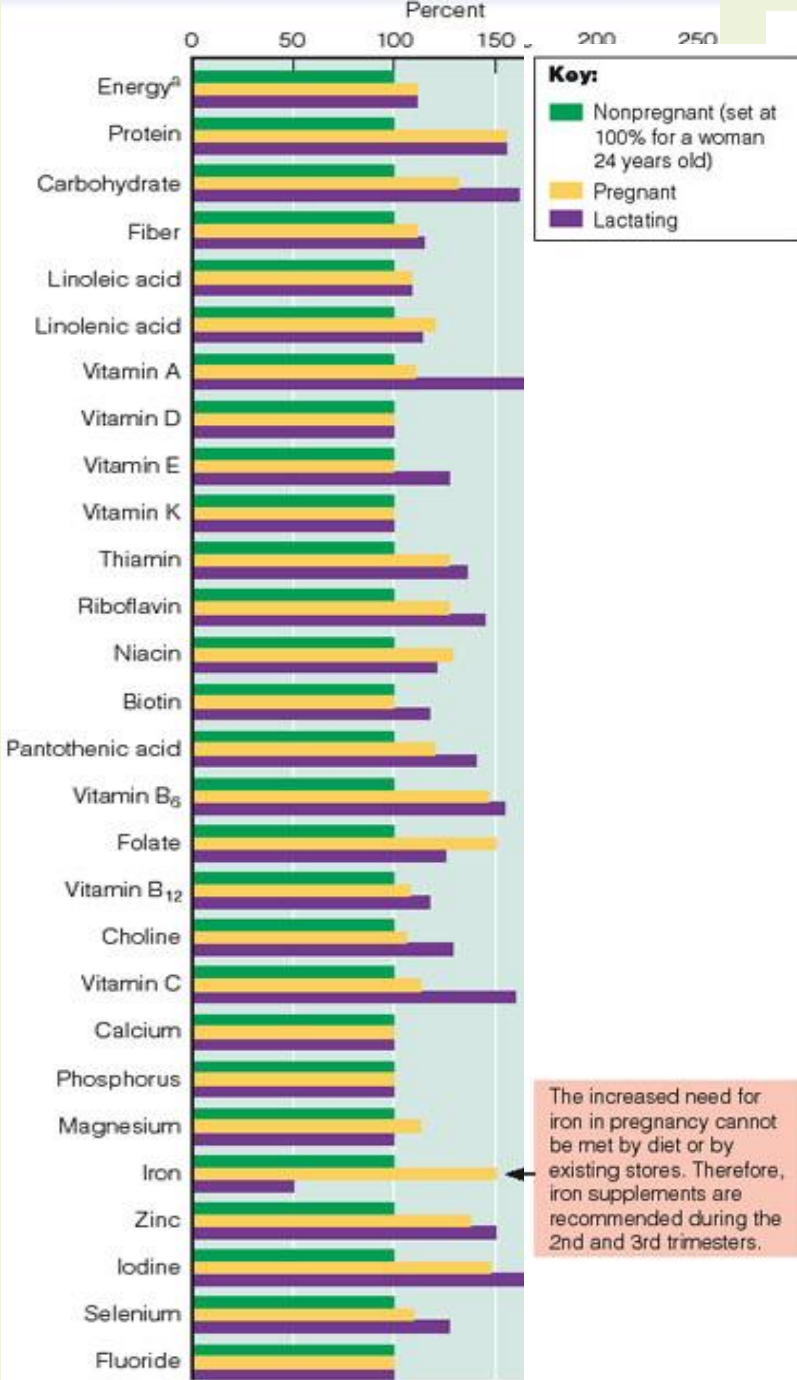


# In Other Words...

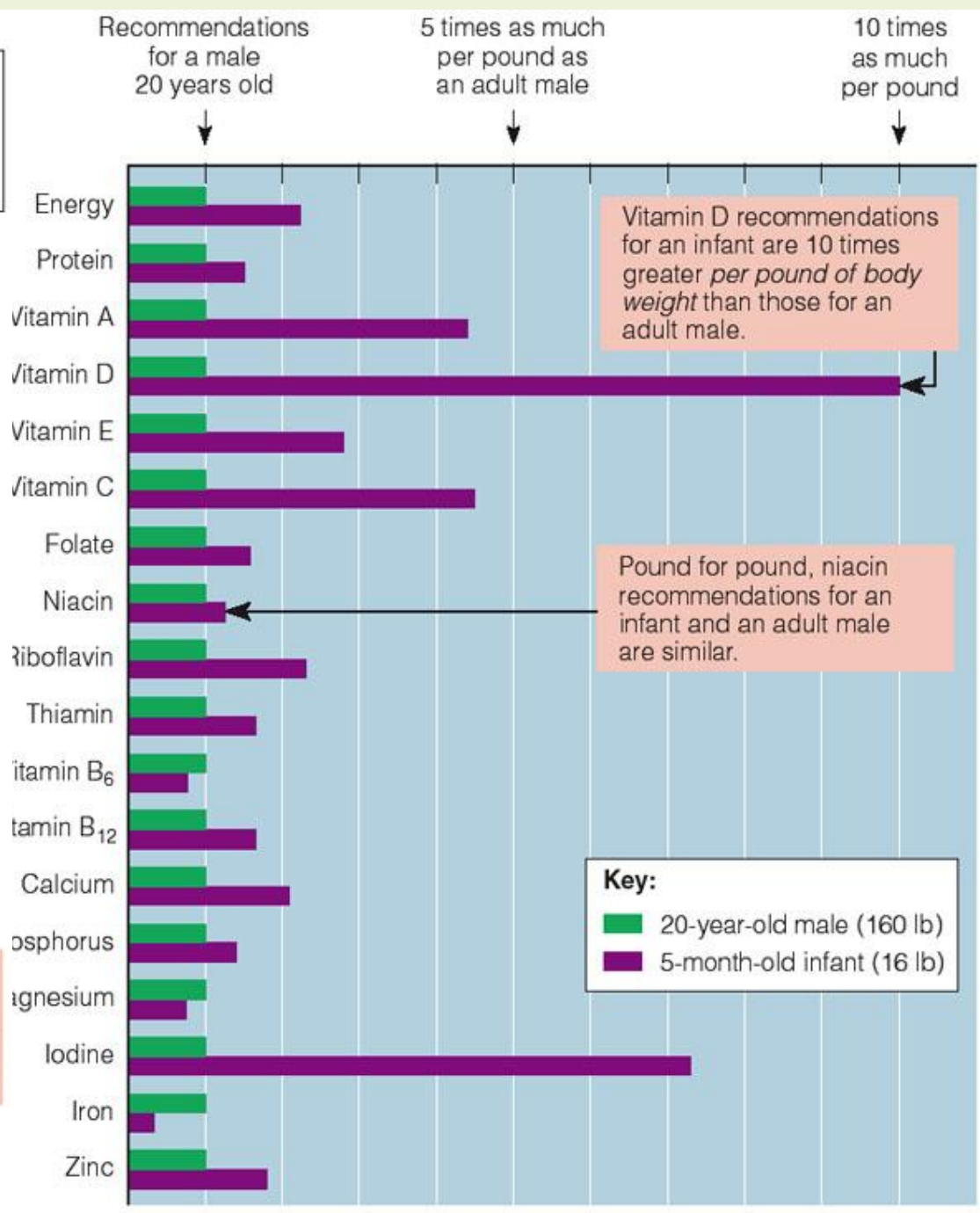
- Food security is concerned with calories;
- Nutrition security is concerned with what those calories consist of.







The increased need for iron in pregnancy cannot be met by diet or by existing stores. Therefore, iron supplements are recommended during the 2nd and 3rd trimesters.



## A sad state of affairs!



240 million people in Africa are undernourished (consume < 2100 kcal/day)



5 million children die of malnutrition every year - one every 6 seconds



Malnutrition is the leading cause of death (35% of child deaths per year) and disability



Over 50 million African children suffer from chronic malnutrition



Over 40% of pregnant women are malnourished



60% of children <5yrs are undernourished



50% of maternal mortality is due to malnutrition



African diets are inadequate in terms of vitamins and minerals

## The Impact



Stunting rate of up to 60% in many African countries



Hunger => 6 – 10% GDP loss in low labour productivity  
(2.7 – 4.2% due to iron-deficient anaemia alone)



Malnourishment can lead to loss of 10% earning potential => 3% annual GDP loss



Birth defects, maternal deaths, childhood mortality, blindness, anaemia, susceptibility to disease



Lower IQ, academic performance and productivity



A vicious cycle of deprivation



# Key message:

- Food security and sound nutrition are the foundations of:
  - Survival
  - Health
  - Productivity
  - National economic growth



# The importance of trade

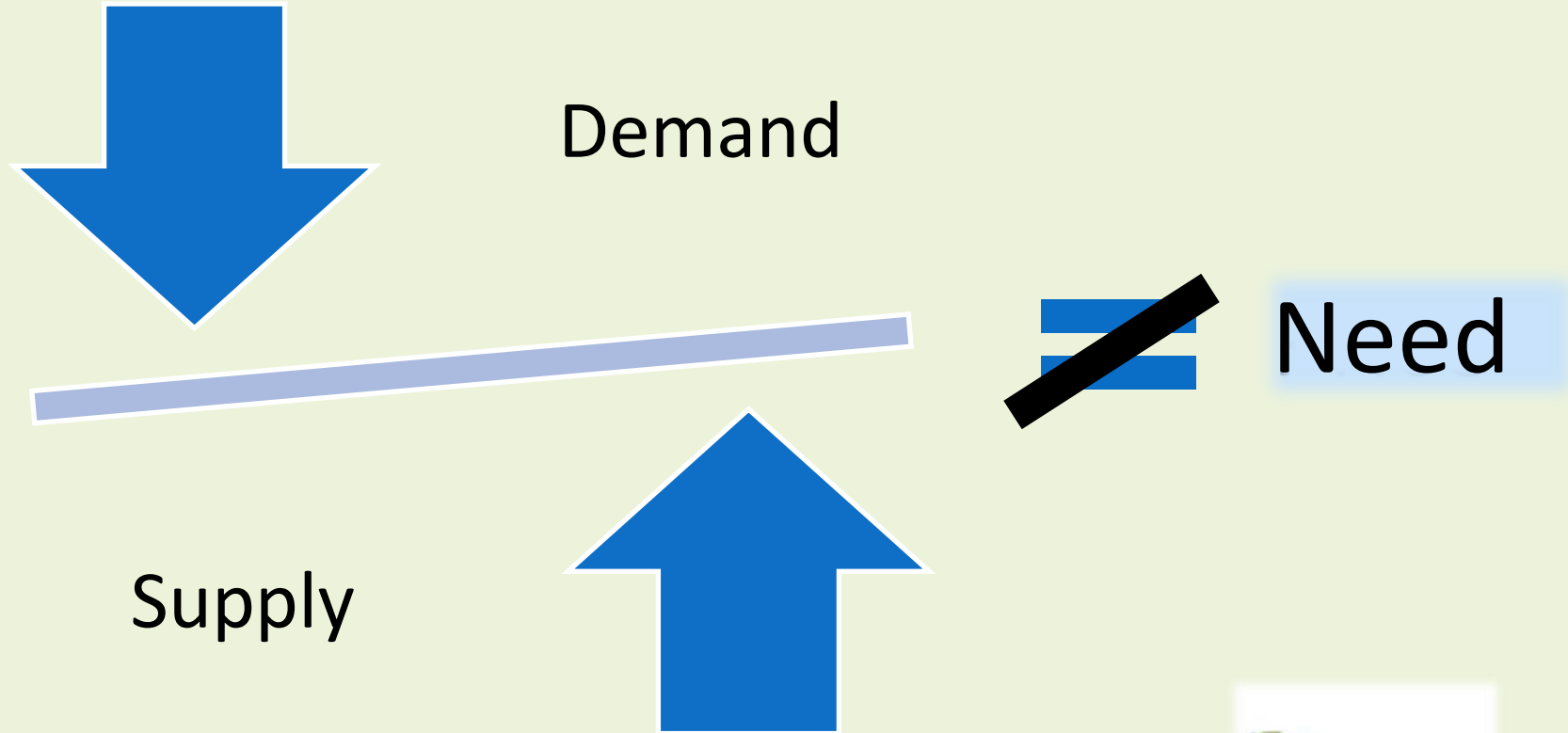
- Africa spends over US\$30 billion on agricultural imports annually
- Expected to rise to US\$100 billion by 2020
- Demand in local and regional markets is likely to grow from US\$50 billion in 2000 to US\$150 billion by 2020.
- By 2030 African farmers could derive US\$4.5 billion from export markets and as much as US\$30 billion from domestic and cross-border trade.
- Research shows that a 1% increase in growth rate of exports can lead to 0.04 – 1.83% increase in overall growth rate



Farming for Money  
VS  
Farming for the Future...



# The Food System



# Policy makers and programme planners face an enormous challenge to ensure that policies and investments:

- Improve risk management
- Increase the supply of affordable food through increased production and improved market linkages
- Increase economic opportunities for the vulnerable
- Increase quality of diets through diversification of food among the target groups.

## In addition, policies and interventions need to be:

- Pro-poor (broad – based, inclusive and provide income for the poor)
- Gender-sensitive
- Promote sound nutrition
- Climate change proof

**We need all policy to carefully meet these requirements in a coordinated way across sectors**





# AFNSD 2011 theme calls for:

- Increase in the volume of high value and nutritious foods
- Enhance national and regional markets and cross-border trade
- Enhance regional and local emergency response and capacity to deal with crises
- Step up efforts to prioritise harmonisation of SPS frameworks

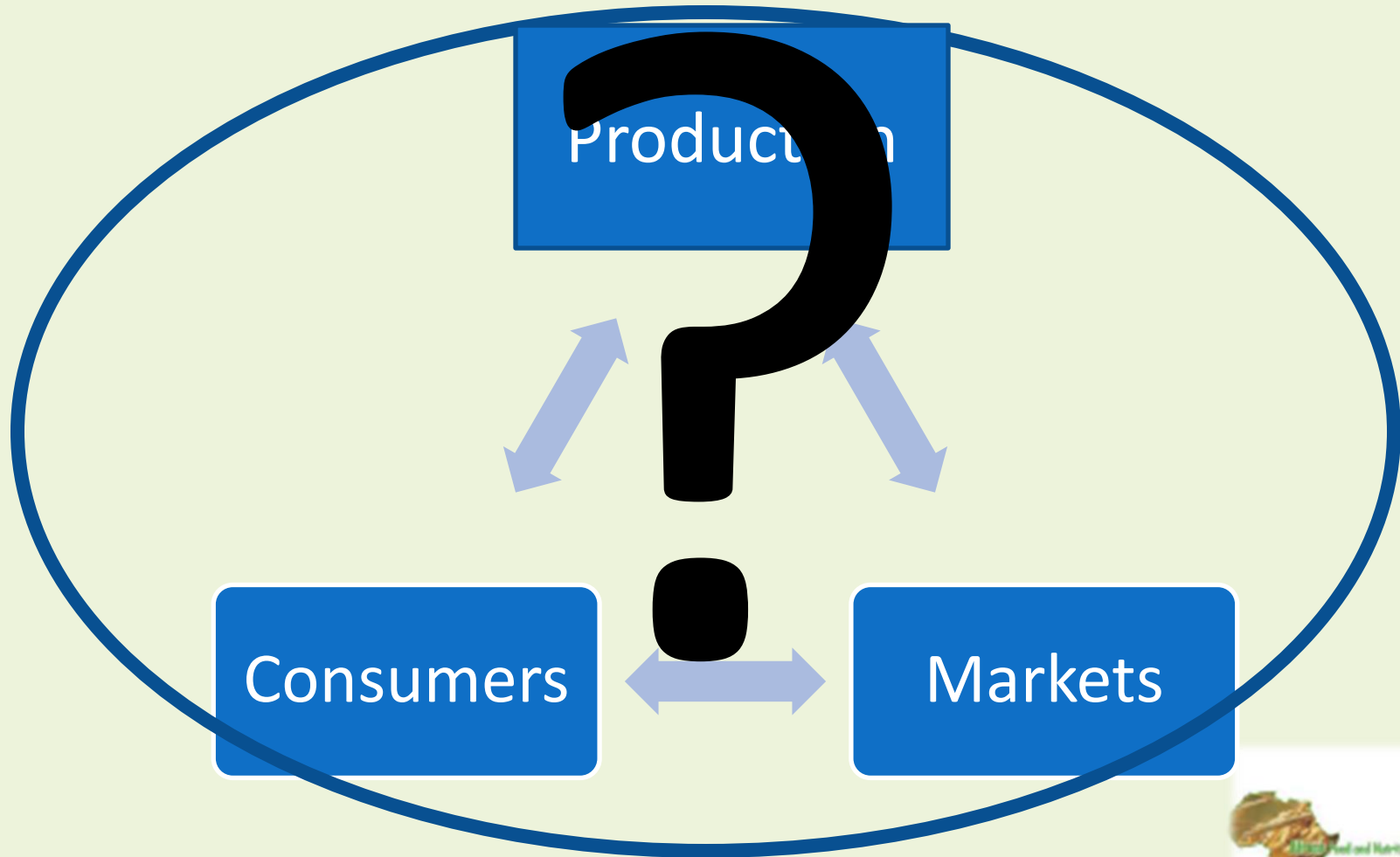


# AFNSD Workshop

27 October 2011



# The food system



Better nutrition?



# Objectives of the Workshop

1. To introduce and deepen the understanding of the significance of the AFNSD
2. To share knowledge, experiences on five themes
3. To harness possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa
4. To identify the best design of management structures with a focus on accountability & effective M&E for Food & Nutrition

Security



# To introduce and deepen the understanding of AFNSD

## Programme

Overview of the issues:

- Understanding the problem
- Reflecting on the facts
- Understanding the imperatives for action

## Messages

- Appreciation of the complexity of the issues
- Appreciation of the urgency for action
- Realisation that there are opportunities for trade 4 nutrition



# To share knowledge, experiences on the five themes

## Programme

- Maternal and young child nutrition
- Dietary diversification
- Home grown school feeding
- Food fortification
- Trade

## Messages

- Appreciation of the specific issues and challenges
- Take cognisance of cross-country successes achieved
- Coordinate space and time for multi-sectoral discussion
- M&E



# Possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa

## Maternal and child nutrition

- Nutrient requirements are very high but these are the most vulnerable people with regard to hunger and malnutrition
- No or few surveillance mechanisms and low levels of M & E
- Low level of inter-sectoral cooperation
- Too few trainers at community level

## Messages

- Adopt a 'food first' approach with regard to trade and marketing of agricultural products;
- Scale up low cost, high impact interventions that meet the nutritional needs of these groups – Lancet Recommendations and SUN;
- Provide a supportive environment for pregnant and breast feeding mothers;
- Focus on providing holistic preventative services at community level with local involvement and assistance as needed;
- Develop a public strategy for behavioural change including:
  - Training at community level
  - Media & communication
  - Nutrition in Education Curriculum
  - Include messages on the dangers of fast foods for Children and other public health concerns

# Possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa

## Dietary diversity

- Necessary for sound nutrition
- Not easy when there is a lack of food or money
- Fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat products are expensive and highly perishable
- Food quality is as important as quantity
- Sound production and logistical systems are needed but there are many constraints at smallholder and household levels (infrastructure, market information, lack of production information and inputs)
- Lots of research but no sharing of information or implementation

## Messages

- A comprehensive national plan is needed to include support to improve agricultural inputs (e.g. quality seeds), agro-processing to preserve the nutritional value of foods and rain water harvesting;
- Develop an appreciation, national value statement and market for indigenous knowledge and foods;
- Include indigenous food information in the national school curriculum to promote children's sensitivity to nutrition (KZN Provincial Project – how to expand?);
- Actively link smallholders to home grown school feeding programmes;
- Due to increased food prices assess the possibilities of government incentives for the production and consumption of high value food e.g. vegetables and fruit (using input assistance programmes, targeted voucher systems etc.);
- Develop a platform for inter-sectoral sharing of research information – make it a requirement for funding of projects and provide the platforms .



# Possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa

## Home grown school feeding

- HGSF = New concept for many
- Very efficient in terms of impact – gets to the heart of several development obstacles at once!
- Provides local smallholders with a stable and predictable market – micro level community linkages
- Offers wide benefits for community
- Facilitates ownership of outcomes
- Complicated and slow procurement processes are barriers to smallholders
- Lack or poor distribution and storage systems in place
- Little M&E of impact

## Messages :- Provide:

- Provide accessible storage facilities on site at schools or at a central point
- Decentralise procurement and direct transfer of funds to schools
- Provide training:
  - To producers and meal providers on what a nutritionally adequate and balanced meal is
  - For parent-teacher management committees to manage the programme and funds
  - Stock management and hygienic food handling practices
- Establish a sound M&E system

# Possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa

## Food Fortification

- The importance of staple foods for the poor
- There is considerable trade in fortified products in Africa
- Quality is important - current levels of electrolytic iron not making impact on iron deficiency
- Minimum standards are needed
- Monitoring is inefficient - testing is expensive and slow
- High tariffs and lack of harmonisation of standards are barriers

## Messages

- Political will to harmonise levels and standards
- Set minimum levels at least 2 fortificants (iron and folic acid)
- Change the iron compound to NaFeEFTA
- Raise awareness of the importance of fortification among all stakeholders in the value chain for the (use corporate responsibility funds for this – GAIN example)
- Establish an audit trail across the fortification process (how much premix has been used and how much finished products have been produced)
- Use rapid assessment tools
- Make fortification inputs (premix, equipment) tax exempt

# Possible approaches and solutions to address food security and nutrition in Africa

## Trade Obstacles

- Unpredictable government policies and politically driven interference in markets
- Lack of adherence to implementation time frames of policies.
- Lack of marketing information (price, availability, standards etc.)
- Weak infrastructure (roads, rail, ports, energy, telecommunication etc.)
- Weak Trade facilitation (customs, border clearance)
- Lack of science-backed policies on SPS, NTBs, standards etc.

## Messages

- Keep state involvement in trade issues strategic and focus on creating an enabling environment for investors with non-state actors playing a role in ensuring accountability (needs transparency and effective information sharing)
- Recognise the producer and consumer side of food security situation
- Develop the necessary infrastructure for regional development
- Increase consumer education
- Adopt and adhering to international standards (IOIE, IPPC, Codex) - use CODEX as a benchmark for SPS.
- Harmonising standards so that all countries even in the African region can import good quality produce

# To identify the best design of management structures

## Issues

- Silo mentality prohibits progress
- Lack of Coordination of Sectors (Health Agriculture Health Education)
- Lack of policy coordination
- Too many strategies, too few concrete commitments and implementation of strategies
- Operationalisation and ratification of global and regional agreements

## Messages:

- Establish strong National Food Security and Nutrition Coordination Structure or Task Team at the level of the Presidency to:
  - Review policies and support consolidation and reform
  - Inform the Parliament Portfolio Committee on food security and nutrition issues
  - Strengthen the National Planning Commission discussions
  - Strengthen the draft Food Security Strategy
  - Strengthen the draft Rural Development Strategy
  - Provide guidance for Ministries and Departments
  - Facilitate along the lines of the Outcomes facilitators
- Establish a strong national inter-sectoral M&E system for food security and nutrition surveillance and impact assessment as an integral part of the Outcomes and Performance Agreements
  - Identify a common set of minimum indicators for all Ministries
  - Transparent public information system for accountability

# Linkages with National Mandate and Objectives

The strategic objectives and targets of government for the period 2009 to 2014 is driven by an articulation of the need to create a nation united in diversity, working together to weave the threads that will result in the building of a country and people free of poverty and hunger.



## **Government must detail its programme to fulfil its mandate, with emphasis on:**

- speeding up economic growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods;
- a massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure; a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security;
- And pursuing African advancement and enhanced international co-operation and affirming that South Africa builds its competitiveness globally. (Now also a member of BRIC – translated into BRICS.



The DAFF, PDAs and SOEs will focus on the contribution to:

- Comprehensive Rural Development Programme,
- Food Security,
- Food Safety,
- Forestry Livelihood Programmes, and
- Marine Living Resources,
- Research development



# Challenge

*“Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any country in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with basic necessities of life. There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will.”*

-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

