

Agricultural and Food Price Volatility

African views and perspectives

G20 Outreach Session

OECD Conference Centre, Paris

14-15 June 2011



Contents

▶ About this Conference	4
▶ Agenda	5
▶ Introduction	9
▶ Facts & Figures	13
▶ Regional Food Stocks	27
▶ Speakers	33

The Conference is organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), in collaboration with the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate and the OECD Development Cluster.

Cover page: © photo: Patricio Mendez del Villar, CIRAD.

Background

The volatility of international food and agricultural prices directly impacts on the ability of African households to feed themselves, as witnessed by the 2007-08 food crisis. Despite good farm yields in 2010, food security could be under threat in some parts of Africa in 2011, if the sharp rise in world prices for maize, rice, wheat, etc., causes price increases in Africa. The 26th annual meeting of the Food Crises Prevention Network in the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA), held in Accra on 14-16 December 2010, alerted public opinion of this risk. Price instability also affects the ability of producing States and African farmers to invest in order to respond to structural growth in domestic and international demand, whether for food or for agricultural raw materials.

This problem, which particularly affects developing countries and emerging economies, was put on the agenda of the G20 in Seoul in November 2010 and ranks among the priorities of the French presidency in 2011. Together with the FAO, the OECD is co-ordinating the preparation of a joint report with IFAD, the IMF, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank and the WTO in order to propose policy options to the G20. IFPRI and the UNHLTF are also participating in the process.

At the request of SWAC members and in co-ordination with the OECD Development Cluster, the SWAC Secretariat is organising this conference to discuss and draw attention to African views and perspectives. The OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate will present current thinking on policy options. The African regional and continental organisations, development banks and the representatives of agricultural producers will present their views, experiences, and suggestions. The co-chairs of the G20 Development Working Group (France, South Africa and South Korea) and country facilitators of the Food Security Working Group (Brazil, Canada, France and Japan) will also take part in this conference.

Objectives

The aim of the conference is to highlight African perspectives on the problem of high and volatile food and agricultural prices. More particularly, it aims to:

- ▶ Share with African representatives information on recent experiences, lessons learned and the current state of thinking in preparation for the G20 on agriculture and development issues.
- ▶ Draw attention to the views and perspectives of institutional and socio-professional representatives of agricultural interests and food security in Africa.
- ▶ Stimulate ongoing thinking and discussion among African regional economic organisations towards setting up regional instruments to respond to price volatility and improve food crises prevention and management.
- ▶ Provide inputs for global discussions of the issue within the G20.

Organisation

Session 1: Based on short presentations followed by discussion, the session will share knowledge and perceptions of price volatility and its impact on food security and economic development in poor countries.

Session 2: A discussion panel will facilitate the search for policy options and possible ways to improve management of risks to protect vulnerable populations more efficiently.

Participants

- **African inter-governmental and economic organisations:** ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, SADC, CEMAC, CEEAC, IGAD, COMESA, UMA;
- **Pan-African and international organisations:** AU/NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- **African banks:** African Development Bank (AfDB), West African Development Bank (BOAD);
- **Farmers' and civil society organisations:** Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA), African Cotton's Producers Association (APROCA), Pan-African Organisation (PAFO) and the West Africa Farmers Association (ROPPA);
- **African scientists and experts:** African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD);
- **The joint chairs of the G20 Development Working Group** (France, South Africa and South Korea) and the facilitators of the Food Security Working Group (Brazil, Canada, France and Japan);
- **Technical and financial partners:** OECD, FAO, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), French Development Agency (AFD), International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

14 June 2011

9:30 – 10:30	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President • H.E. Mr. Olivier Chastel, Belgium Minister for Development Co-operation • Mr. Brian Atwood, Chair, Development Assistance Committee (DAC) • Ms. Elisabeth Atangana, President, Pan-African Organisation (PAFO) • Dr. Ibrahim A. Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA) • Mr. Serge Tomasi, Director, Global Economy and Development Strategy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France (DGM/ECODEV, MAEE)
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Session 1. Agricultural and food price volatility: Current knowledge and consequences for food security and development</p> <p><i>Chairs:</i> Presidents of ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> To analyse causes of price volatility, the mechanisms by which world market prices are transmitted to Africa, the impact on food security and product chains, and the consequences for governments, agricultural producers and consumers.</p> <p>Food price volatility: Causes and consequences Mr. Ken Ash, Director, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) (15 mn)</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD-NPCA (10 mn) • Mr. Coulibaly Adama Ekberg, Chief, Agricultural Production Systems Section (APSS), Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD/UNECA) (10 mn)
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Debate
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>

14:30 – 15:00	How international agricultural prices are transmitted to African countries: Lessons drawn from the 2007-08 crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. George Rapsomanikis, FAO (15 mn)• Dr. Niama Nango Dembélé & Mr. Boubacar Diallo, Michigan State University (15 mn)
15:00 – 15:45	Debate
15:45 – 16:45	Impact on governments and farmers <p><i>Viewpoints:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Awudu Abdulai, AAAE (10 mn)• Mr. Junior Davis, UNCTAD (10 mn)• Mr. Djibo Bagna, ROPPA (10 mn)
16:45 – 18:15	Comments <p><i>OECD Development Cluster:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Mario Pezzini, Director, Development Centre (DEV/OECD) (10 mn)• Mr. Jon Lomøy, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD/OECD) (10mn)• Mr. David Batt, Director, African Partnership Forum Support Unit (APF) (10 mn) <p><i>African leaders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Christian N. Adovélande, President, BOAD (10 mn)• H.E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea (10 mn)• Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye, President, High Authority on Food Security (HASA), Niger (10 mn)• H.E. Mr. Djiblola Litaaba-Akila, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Togo (10 mn)
18:15 – 18:30	Wrap-up by the President

15 June 2011

	Session 2. Instruments and policy options for managing risks connected with price volatility
	<p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Michael Waithaka, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)</p>
	<p><i>Objective:</i> To search for practical solutions in the African context.</p>
	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD/NPCA • Mr. Coulibaly Adama Ekberg, UNECA • Representatives from ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS • Dr. Paco Sérémé, CORAF/WECARD • Mr. Djibo Bagna, ROPPA • Prof. Awudu Abdulai, AAAE • H. E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Pierre Jacquet, Chief Economist, French Development Agency (AFD)</p>
9:00 – 9:15	Introduction: Policy options for reducing price volatility , FAO/OECD (15 mn)
9:15 – 10:00	<p>Contributions:</p> <p><i>International policy options</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International instruments to provide compensation in the event of a decrease in export revenues (counter-cyclical loans), Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, CFC (10 mn) <p><i>National and regional policy options</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESOGEST: Experiences in the Sahel and West Africa, Mr. El Hadj Dramane Coulibaly, CILSS (10 mn) • Burkina Faso Cotton Price Smoothing Fund, Mr. Jonas Bayoulou, SOFITEX, (10 mn) • CEEAC/CEMAC's experience, Mr. Patrice Mezui and Mr. Joël Beassem (10 mn)
10:00 – 11:15	Views by panelists and debate
11:15 – 11:30	Wrap-up by the moderator and the chair of session 2

11:30 – 12:30

Closing session

Chair: Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President

Summary of conference outcomes

- Mr. Nango Niamo Dembélé, Michigan State University
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD/NPCA
- Mr. Christian N. Adolévande, President, BOAD
- H. E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea
- Mr. Philippe Thiébaud, Director, Global Public Goods (DGM/BPM, MAEE), France
- Mr. Aart de Geus, OECD Deputy Secretary-General

> Moving to CC16

12:30 – 13:00

Press conference

Confirmed speakers:

- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency
- Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye, President, High Authority for Food Security (HASA), Niger
- Mr. Yaya Sow, ECOWAS Ambassador to the EU and the APC group
- Mr. Hamza Cissé, UEMOA Ambassador to the EU and the APC group
- Prof. Alhousseïni Bretaudeau, CILSS Executive-Secretary
- Mr. Philippe Thiébaud, Director, Global Public Goods (DGM/BPM, MAEE), France
- Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President, Belgium Minister of State
- Ms. Elisabeth Atangana, President, Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO)

Structural price increase and price volatility

“Volatility” refers to significant, rapid changes in economic variables over time. Not all price variations are problematic, and agricultural prices in particular are always subject to a certain degree of cyclical and seasonal variability. But variations in prices become problematic when they are large and cannot be anticipated and, as a result, create a level of uncertainty for producers, traders, consumers and governments. Such uncertainty can lead to sub-optimal decisions. Variations in prices that do not reflect market fundamentals are also problematic as they can lead to incorrect decisions. Behind concerns about volatility lie concerns about price levels, and behind both lie concerns about food security and particularly concerns about the food security of the most vulnerable consumers.

International agricultural price volatility has been higher during the decade since 2000 than during the last two decades. Wheat and rice prices have been even more volatile in the most recent years (2006-2010) than in the 1970s. According to the FAO’s Food Price Index, international prices for many agricultural and food commodities reached historic highs during the food price crisis of 2008, and again in early 2011.

According to the medium-term outlook jointly prepared annually by the FAO and the OECD, “International commodity prices are anticipated to average higher in the next decade compared to the decade before the price spike of 2007-08. This forecast is based on the resumption of economic growth, above all, in developing countries, increased demand due to rising biofuel production, and anticipated higher costs of energy related inputs.”

In the longer term, experts agree that by 2050, global demand for food is expected to rise by between 70% and 100%, due to a combination of population growth and increased demand for animal-based protein as income rises in the emerging and developing countries.

This introductory note is based on recent knowledge, thinking and debate on the subject. It particularly benefits from the process of preparation of the report to the G20 on “Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses” underway. It does not claim, in any case, to summarise or to cover the diversity of analyses and propositions that will be expressed during the conference.

Biofuel production will add to the growth in demand.

Higher prices will benefit agricultural producers as long as the conditions are in place to allow them to invest in order to produce more. However, the trend is also a source of fear for the poor, who already spend a significant share of their low incomes on food.

Higher prices will benefit agricultural producers as long as the conditions are in place to allow them to invest in order to produce more.

What is the likelihood that volatility will continue to be a feature of agricultural and food markets in the future?

Several factors suggest that the risks are significant. Against the background of tight supply and demand conditions leading to higher prices relative to long term trends, several factors could trigger further episodes of strong price volatility. Stocks are low and unless and until they can be increased, their low levels represent a significant risk factor. Agricultural prices are becoming more closely linked to oil prices, including through biofuel links. Hence, oil price volatility will be increasingly transmitted to agricultural markets. Exchange rate movements have contributed to recent episodes and could do so again. Production patterns may be affected by climate change in the long run and the frequency of extreme events such as droughts, and floods may increase.

It is not possible to forecast the extent of potential future price increases or of price volatility but enough is known about the underlying factors to suggest that governments, and the international community, need to be prepared.

Concerns for the future

Africa is particularly affected by high food prices and by price volatility. In 2010, a quarter of the global population suffered from malnutrition, with 30% of those affected coming from Africa. The continent's population is growing so fast that cutting malnutrition rates in half by 2030 would not prevent the number of Africans suffering from hunger and from rising significantly. In addition, nearly 60% of people in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on agriculture, and at least 80% of them are small farmers with less than two hectares of land.

Rising prices could present an opportunity for farmers to increase production and profitability. They are also a necessary signal from the market that more production is needed. However, in a situation of strong volatility, fear of dramatic price drop reduces producers' capacity and willingness to invest. The large majority of producers in Africa are small farmers (family farms). Uncertainty may prevent them from moving towards the regular, scheduled production of marketable surpluses. For example, in Mali, although producers received 100% increase in retail prices, they were not able to respond to the incentive because they lacked the resources to do so.

As for consumers - particularly the most vulnerable, some of whom spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of their household income on food - food price inflation is pushing them to consume cheaper substitutes of low nutritional value, reduce their daily intake, forego certain expenditures for health and education. For those who are also small farmers, they even sell their means of production (including breeding animals for agro-pastoralists).

FAO research on the impact of the 2007/08 price spike in Eastern and Southern Africa shows that in Malawi, for example, a 50% increase in food prices led to a 9.7% increase in food budgets, despite an 8.5% decrease in daily corn consumption.

Rising prices therefore pushed more vulnerable households into poverty and food insecurity; 5.4% more households faced food insecurity in Zambia, while 16% more were affected in Malawi.

For governments in net-food importing countries, exceptionally high prices adversely affect their balance of payments and public finances; the increase in import spending is combined with the cost of tax measures aimed at lowering retail prices (reduction in import tariffs, consumer subsidies, etc.). During 2008-2010, three African countries were among the top 10 global rice importers: Nigeria, in second place with 1.8 MT, Côte d'Ivoire, in eighth place with 1 MT, and Senegal, in 10th place with 0.8 MT.

On the other hand, exceptionally low prices have the sustained effect of discouraging producers from investing and affect the food security of vulnerable farmers, many of whom use their income – primarily from agriculture – to buy food and pay for social services.

Countries whose economies depend largely on agricultural exports feel the negative impact on their balance of payments and investment capacity and ultimately on growth. This was the case of many cotton-producing African countries in the early 2000s.

For developing economies, particularly in Africa, volatility represents a double blow, as it both heightens consumer vulnerability and discourages producers from increasing production.

Looking for answers

Is it possible to reduce price volatility and protect the most vulnerable consumers and producers from its effects?

The goal is not to eliminate agricultural price volatility, but rather to reduce uncertainty.

There are many factors that contribute to high and volatile agricultural prices, making a combination of policy responses necessary. The goal is not to eliminate agricultural price volatility, but rather to reduce uncertainty, and perhaps also the amplitude of variations by smoothing out the extremes. Most importantly, price volatility should reflect market fundamentals as accurately as possible and not convey incorrect signals as a result of missing or wrong information, speculation, panic or other disruptive factors.

Possible policy options can be divided into those that could act to mitigate or reduce price volatility and those designed to assist the most affected and the most vulnerable to cope with the consequences.

Reduce the extent of the phenomenon

- ▶ **More extensive and reliable information** on production and stocks and greater market transparency: establishment of an Agricultural Market Information System – AMIS (Global Food Market Information Group; Rapid Response Forum).
- ▶ **Improve the functioning of futures markets in agricultural commodities** to ensure that they contribute to reducing volatility and assisting price discovery, and that they do not exacerbate price swings.

- ▶ **Promotion of appropriate national policies:** (i) removal of production and trade distorting domestic policies in developed and developing countries (ii) reduction of import barriers, national and regional trade distortions, strengthened disciplines on export restrictions, elimination of export subsidies;
- ▶ **Remove mandates and subsidies for the production of biofuels** from agricultural feedstocks that compete with food and feed needs and thereby create conflicts between food and fuel.

Mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable populations

In the short term:

- ▶ **Promotion of emergency food reserves** at different levels: local (target communities), national and sub-regional. Regional food reserves promoted by regional economic communities in support of government efforts can bring assistance to the most vulnerable populations (RESOGEST initiative in West Africa, aiming at building a network of bodies responsible for the management of national food security stocks, or the SADC's Regional Food Reserve Facility).
- ▶ **Establishment of safety nets** at different levels: (i) international: finance facility to help developing countries import food; market-based insurance systems to help the most vulnerable countries manage excess food import costs; (ii) national: social safety nets for consumers (food subsidies, cash transfers, etc.) and producers (agro-inputs).

In the long term:

- ▶ **Mechanisms to manage risks and smooth food import costs:** (i) risk management mechanisms for producers (insurance); (ii) market-based tools to help producers manage price risks (futures contracts sales systems; smoothing fund system, etc.); market-based mechanisms to help countries smooth their food import budget (purchasing system with futures and time contracts); well functioning international mechanisms to assist low income developing countries during food prices crises, including the provision of adequate contingent financing from the international financial institutions.
- ▶ **Measures to increase agricultural productivity** (increased and sustainable investment in agriculture), strengthen the market and provide non-agricultural income-generating opportunities: (i) investments in Research & Development; (ii) structural investments: market and production infrastructure (irrigation); (iii) creation of non-agricultural income-generating opportunities, strengthening the most vulnerable households' access to food through poverty reduction.

Top performers ranked by agricultural growth and progress in hunger reduction, since 1990

► Several African countries recorded significant progress in agricultural production and food security.

Ranking of agricultural growth

Rank	Country	Agric. growth (%)	Change in GHI score
1	Malawi*	5.9	- 11.6
2	Burkina Faso	5.8	- 1.4
3	Benin*	5.1	- 6.7
4	Mozambique*	4.7	- 6.7
5	Chad*	4.6	- 6.4
6	Cambodia*	4.5	- 10.5
7	Lao PDR*	4.2	- 10.2
8	Nigeria*	4.2	- 6.0
9	Guinea	4.2	- 4.4
10	China*	4.1	- 5.9
11	Uganda	4.1	- 3.9
12	Ethiopia*	4.0	- 12.7
13	Guinea-Bissau	4.0	1.5
14	Rwanda	4.0	- 4.2
15	Vietnam*	3.9	- 12.9
16	Sudan*	3.9	- 6.7
17	Tanzania	3.8	- 1.8
18	Gambia (the)	3.8	0.6
19	Zambia	3.7	0.4
20	Pakistan	3.6	- 3.7
Average of all low-income countries		3.3	- 4.9

Ranking of Global Hunger Index progress

Rank	Country	Agric. growth (%)	Change in GHI score
1	Vietnam*	3.9	- 12.9
2	Ethiopia*	4.0	- 12.7
3	Ghana	3.2	- 12.0
4	Malawi*	5.9	- 11.6
5	Bangladesh	3.5	- 11.2
6	Mozambique*	4.7	- 10.6
7	Cambodia*	4.5	- 10.5
8	Lao PDR*	4.2	- 10.2
9	Djibouti	1.2	- 9.7
10	Nepal	3.0	- 7.8
11	India	2.9	- 7.8
12	Niger	3.3	- 7.7
13	Sri Lanka	2.0	- 7.4
14	Guyana	2.6	- 7.1
15	Mauritania	0.2	- 7.1
16	Benin*	5.1	- 6.7
17	Sudan	3.9	- 6.7
18	Chad*	4.6	- 6.4
19	Nigeria*	4.2	- 6.0
20	China*	4.1	- 5.9
Average of all low-income countries		3.3	- 4.9

Sources: Agricultural growth from World Bank (2008), World Development Indicators 2008, Washington, D.C, GHI 2009.

*Countries that are both among the top 20 performers by agricultural growth and by GHI progress.

Notes: Agricultural growth measured as the average of agriculture, value added (annual % growth) from 1990 to 2006. Global Hunger Index (GHI) progress is measured as the difference between the 1990 GHI (based on data from 1988–92), and the 2009 GHI (based on data from 2002–07). A negative change in a country's GHI score, indicates an improvement in hunger. Countries with missing agricultural growth values for four years or more were excluded from the analysis. Countries in which hunger has been largely overcome (1990 and 2009 GHI values smaller than 5) were also excluded.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI)

The GHI is a tool adapted and further developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to comprehensively measure and track global hunger. The GHI is based on a multidimensional approach to measuring and tracking hunger. It combines three equally weighted indicators:

1. The proportion of undernourished as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient dietary energy intake);
2. The prevalence of underweight children under the age of five (indicating the proportion of children suffering from low weight for their age); and
3. The mortality rate of children under the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy between inadequate dietary intake and unhealthy environments).

The multidimensional approach of the GHI offers several advantages. It captures various aspects of hunger in one index number, thereby presenting a quick overview of a complex issue. It takes into account the nutrition situation not only of the population as a whole, but also of a physiologically vulnerable group – children – for whom a lack of nutrients causes a high risk of illness, poor physical and cognitive growth, and death. In addition, by combining independently measured indicators, it reduces the effects of random measurement errors.

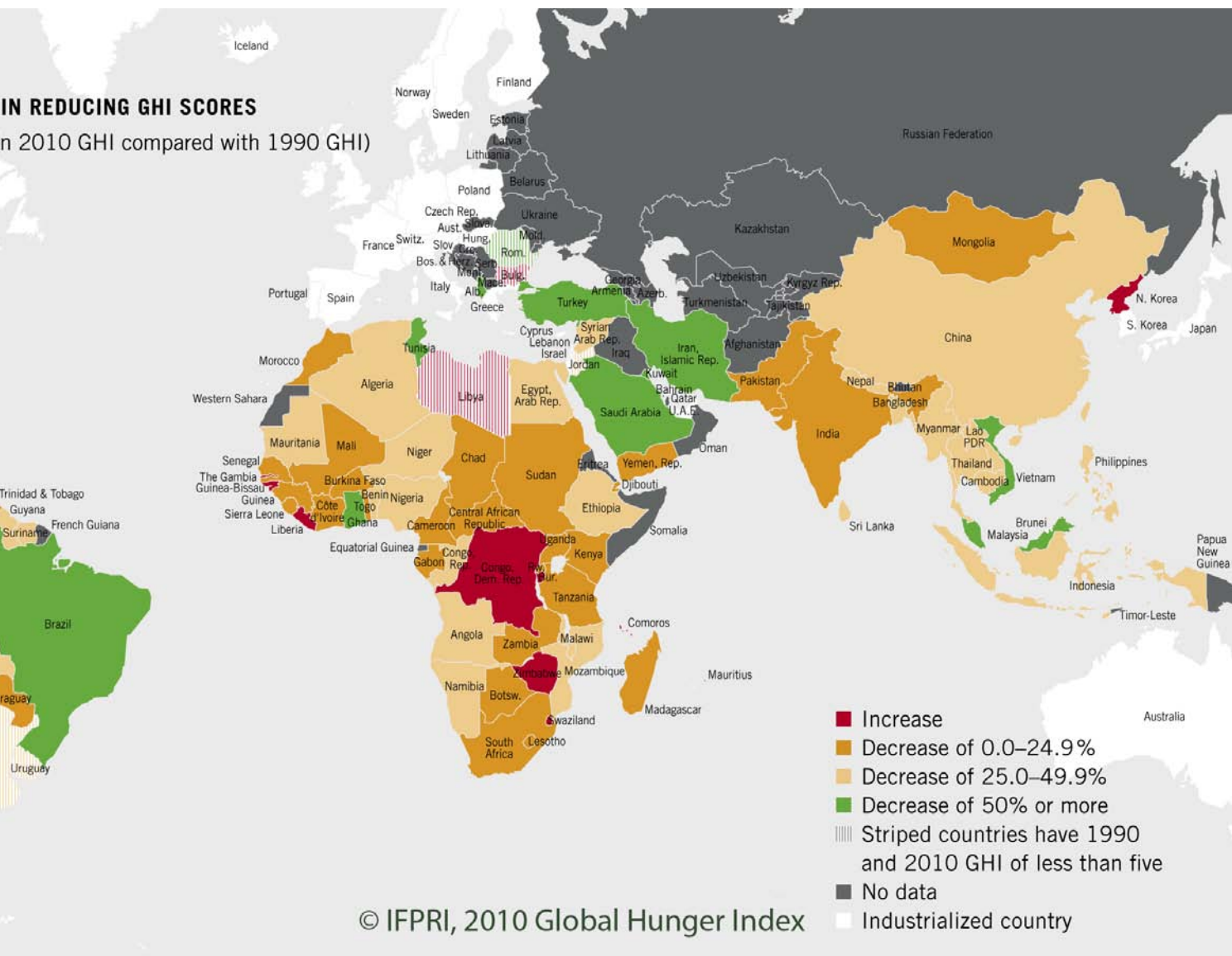
The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in practice. Values less than 5.0 reflect low hunger, values between 5.0 and 9.9 reflect moderate hunger, values between 10.0 and 19.9 indicate a serious problem, values between 20.0 and 29.9 are alarming, and values of 30.0 or higher are extremely alarming.

The GHI aims to raise awareness of regional and country differences in hunger and trigger action to eliminate hunger. Targeted at a wide range of audiences – including policymakers, donors, non-governmental organisations, educators, the media, and the broader public – the GHI provides insights into the drivers of hunger and highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction.



IN REDUCING GHI SCORES

(Change in 2010 GHI compared with 1990 GHI)



Food as percentage of total household expenditures

- ▶ Rising food prices weigh heavily on household budgets. Food accounts for up to three-quarters of household expenditures.

Country	National	Rural	Urban
Eastern and Southern Africa			
Burundi	74	75	48
Ethiopia	66	68	55
Kenya	51	62	40
Malawi	56	45	58
Madagascar	63	75	54
Tanzania	65	67	54
Rwanda	68	77	49
Uganda	45	50	34
Zambia	68	74	57
West Africa			
Burkina Faso	54	59	42
Mali	42	50	34
Niger	60	64	49
Senegal	51	58	47

Source: Karugia (2009); MSU (2010); Country welfare monitoring reports.

- ▶ Karugia and others (2009): Responding to food crisis in Eastern and Southern Africa: Policy option for national and regional actions. Working Paper N° 27, ReSAKSS-ECA, Nairobi, Kenya, 46 p.
- ▶ MSU (2010). Food consumption: Cases studies (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal). PRESAO.

Main sources of food

- ▶ Food is mainly purchased. Self-consumption is higher in rural areas.

Country	Sources	National	Rural	Urban
Burkina Faso	Purchase	62.0	52.0	89.5
	Self-consumption	38.0	48.0	10.5
Mali	Purchase	81.4	70.8	95.5
	Self-consumption	18.0	28.7	3.9
	Other	0.6	0.5	0.6
Niger	Purchase	72.5	67.0	93.2
	Self-consumption	27.5	33.0	6.8
Senegal	Purchase	86.7	84.4	88.0
	Self-consumption	9.0	11.1	7.8
	Other	4.3	4.5	4.2

Source: MSU (2010)

African policy responses

- ▶ Faced with soaring prices, governments have implemented a series of economic measures, social policies as well as production support. Exports restrictions have proved to be harmful and counterproductive. In contrast, subsidies granted to agriculture have increased the sector's productivity. For example, the economic gain achieved in 2009 in Burkina Faso was five times higher than the amount of the public expenditures.

West Africa

Country	Economic measures				Social protection				Production support
	Temporary reduction / suspension of import tariffs	Food stocks	Export restrictions	Price controls / subsidies	Cash Transfer	Food for work or work for cash	Food ration / stamp; Vouchers	School feeding	Input subsidies, credit...
Benin		X		X				X	X
Burkina Faso	X	X	X	X					X
Cape Verde						X			X
Chad	X		X	X		X	X		X
Côte d'Ivoire	X								X
Gambia (the)	X			X					X
Ghana					X		X	X	X
Guinea	X	X		X				X	X
Guinea-Bissau	X			X				X	X
Liberia	X		X		X	X		X	X
Mali	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Mauritania		X		X		X		X	X
Niger	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nigeria	X	X	X		X			X	X
Senegal	X			X		X		X	X
Sierra Leone			X			X		X	X
Togo			X	X					X

Sources : World Bank (2008); CEDEAO/CILSS (2008); FAO/FEWS NET/WFP (2008) ; MSU (2010).


 Likely to hinder long-run food security depending on duration and targeting;

 Highly likely to hinder long-run food security and/or create serious problems in neighbouring countries.

Eastern and Southern Africa

Country	Consumers			Domestic supply							Trade measures	
	Reduce taxes on food grain	Price controls / consumer subsidies	Cash transfer	Food for work	Food ration / stamp; vouchers	School feeding	Increase supply using food grain stocks	Input subsidies	Increased administered prices for producers	Incentives for expanding production (credit)	Lower import tariffs	Export restrictions
Burundi	x		x	x	x	x						
Comoros Islands												
Congo (RDC)		x										
Djibouti	x											
Egypt				x		x						x
Eritrea		x	x	x								
Ethiopia	x						x					x
Kenya	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Libya				x	x	x						
Madagascar	x											
Malawi			x					x				x
Mauritius		x										
Rwanda		x										
Seychelles												
Sudan	x						x					
Swaziland												
Tanzania	x				x		x					x
Uganda												
Zambia	x						x					x
Zimbabwe		x	x			x						

Source: Karugia and others (2009): Domestic policies aimed at consumers and producers, November 2008.

 Likely to hinder long-run food security depending on duration and targeting;

 Highly likely to hinder long-run food security and/or create serious problems in neighbouring countries.

Proposed measures for increasing crop production

Support to inputs for crop production			Support to fertility; land management	Water resources development			
Input subsidies	Input market development		Mechanization and farm equipment		Irrigation rehabilitation and development	Water harvesting	
Burkina Faso	Benin	Madagascar	Gambia (the)	Burundi	Benin	Mali	Burundi
Cameroon	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	CAR	Burkina Faso	Mauritania	Djibouti
Ethiopia	Burundi	Mauritania	Madagascar	Djibouti	Burundi	Niger	Ethiopia
Gambia (the)	Cameroon	Mozambique	Mali	Ethiopia	Comoros Isl.	Sao Tome and Principe	Ghana
Madagascar	CAR	Niger	Mauritania	Ghana	Côte d'Ivoire		Malawi
Malawi	Congo (RDC)	Rwanda	Niger	Liberia	Djibouti	Senegal	Uganda
Mauritania	Côte d'Ivoire	Senegal	Senegal	Madagascar	Ethiopia	Somalia	
Niger	Djibouti	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Malawi	Gambia (the)	Swaziland	
Tanzania	Ethiopia	Tanzania	Togo	Mauritania	Ghana	Tanzania	
	Gambia (the)	Togo	Zambia	Niger	Liberia	Zambia	
	Ghana	Uganda	Zimbabwe	Senegal	Madagascar	Zimbabwe	
	Guinea	Zimbabwe		Zimbabwe	Malawi		
	Lesotho						
	Liberia						
9 countries	26 countries		11 countries	12 countries	22 countries		6 countries

Support to reducing post-harvest losses and improving downstream activities

Storage facilities and reduction of post-harvest losses			Processing and value addition			
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Rwanda	Côte d'Ivoire			
Burundi	Lesotho	Senegal	Djibouti			
CAR	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Gambia (the)			
Comoros Islands	Madagascar	Somalia	Ghana			
Congo (RDC)	Malawi	Tanzania	Lesotho			
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Togo	Liberia			
Gambia (the)	Mauritania	Uganda	Mali			
	Niger		Mauritania			
			Niger			
			Sao Tome and Principe			
			Somalia			
22 countries			11 countries			

Source: FAO (2009), Viatte & others: Responding to the food crisis: synthesis of medium-term measures proposed in inter-agency assessments.

Support measures for sustainable resource management

General support to NRM (reforestation)	Diversification/ High value/ Horticulture		Conservation agriculture	Integrated pest management (IPM)	Homestead gardens/ Periurban
Burkina Faso Djibouti Malawi Uganda	Burundi CAR Djibouti Ghana Kenya Lesotho Liberia	Madagascar Malawi Niger Sao Tome and Principe Swaziland Uganda	CAR Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe	Uganda	Gambia Madagascar Zambia Zimbabwe
4 countries	13 countries		7 countries	1 country	4 countries

Support to inputs for animal production and fisheries

Support to livestock				Support to aquaculture/ fisheries
Support to feed market	Support to breeding stock		Support to veterinary services	
Cameroon Côte d'Ivoire Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Mauritania Niger Senegal Somalia Togo	Cameroon Comoros Islands Côte d'Ivoire Gambia Ghana Kenya	Lesotho Liberia Mauritania Senegal Togo Uganda	Benin Cameroon Djibouti Ghana Kenya Liberia	Madagascar Niger Senegal Togo Uganda
10 countries	12 countries		11 countries	10 countries

Non-trade-based price stabilisation and market improvement measures

Price and market stabilisation measures	Market information		Market infrastructure development (bridges, roads, rivers, trains, etc.)		
Burkina Faso Comoros Islands Congo (RDC) Côte d'Ivoire	Madagascar Malawi Mauritania Sierra Leone Zambia	Burkina Faso Comoros Congo (RDC) Côte d'Ivoire Gambia (the)	Lesotho Madagascar Mauritania Sierra Leone Swaziland Uganda	CAR Congo (RDC) Côte d'Ivoire Djibouti Ethiopia Gambia (the) Ghana Lesotho	Liberia Mali Mauritania Sao Tome & Principe Somalia Uganda Zambia
9 countries	11 countries		15 countries		

The 2007–08 Food price swing: Impact and policies in Eastern and Southern Africa

	Policy	Impact	Undesirable consequences and second round effects
Trade policies	Lower import tariffs	Offsets increase in the domestic price of food / increases food availability	Loss of government revenue
	Provide tax breaks for importers	Offsets increase in the domestic price of food / increases food availability	Loss of government revenue
	Loan guarantees or subsidised loan interest rates for traders	Provides adequate financing for traders if banks impose credit ceilings	May not result in sharing the risk between government and traders effectively
	Export taxes or bans	Offsets increase in the domestic price of food	Weakens incentives to producers; windfall accrues to the public sector
Tax policies	Remove VAT	Offsets increase in the domestic price of food	Loss of government revenue
	Lower income taxes	Maintains purchasing power	Loss of government revenue
Market management	Stockpiling and progressive release of food kept in food reserves	Lowers domestic food price level when food is released at below market prices	High costs of open market operations; management may crowd the private sector out, or it may increase price volatility
Social nets	Food aid (untargeted)	Increases access to food if supply is not sufficient	Low budgetary costs; aid can be diverted to undesirable consumption
	Universal food subsidies	Maintains purchasing power of consumers	High fiscal burden; universal food subsidies consist of a short run policy option
	Targeted food subsidies, food vouchers, cash transfers	Maintains purchasing power of the poor and vulnerable	High fiscal burden
	Food/cash for work	Enhances liquidity of beneficiaries	May result in replacing other activities if public work wage is not properly set up
Protection measures	Universal input subsidies	Increases supply response and the availability of food	High fiscal burden; displace commercial sales
	Targeted input subsidies	Assists beneficiaries to increase supply of food	Not sustainable in the long run; may displace commercial sales depending on the effectiveness of targeting
Financial services	One-time subsidies to rural finance institutions	Reduces fixed costs of banking services in rural areas; increase access to financial instruments	May not result in sharing the risk between government and banks effectively
	Subsidies on interest rates	Increases savings/credit rates	May not result in sharing the risk between government and producers effectively
	Innovative savings accounts	Increases access to financial wservices and credit	na

Ability to target and implement in a counter-cyclical manner	Constraints and conditions that determine effectiveness
straightforward to scale up - down	Initial tariff levels should be relatively high; reduce tariffs on foods that are consumed by the poor
Straightforward to scale up - down	Close co-operation between government and private traders
Straightforward to scale up - down	Close co-operation between government and private traders
Straightforward to scale up - down	Proper control and enforcement at the borders
Straightforward to scale up - down	VAT system is in place; retail sector is competitive and well functioning; reduce taxes on foods that are consumed by the poor
Straightforward to scale up - down	Poor are not members of formal economy
Scaling up and down incurs significant costs in terms of storage facilities and administration	Transparent rules guiding government's intervention; greater consultation with the private sector; targeting through the release of grain for the processing of food products that are typically consumed by the poor
Straightforward to scale up - down	
Difficult to scale down or remove completely	Food is available so that subsidies do not put additional upward pressure on prices
Relatively easy to scale up and down by changing the value of transfers and eligibility criteria; difficult to remove completely	Food is available so that subsidies do not put additional upward pressure on prices; well designed targeting system
Easy to scale up and down	Plans on feasible public works and investments that can be undertaken in times of need.
Difficult to scale down or remove completely	Inputs are available so that subsidies do not put additional upward pressure on prices
Relatively easy to scale up and down by changing the value of transfers and eligibility criteria; difficult to remove completely	Inputs are available so that subsidies do not put additional upward pressure on prices; well designed targeting system
na	Close co-operation between government and banks
Easy to scale up and phase down	Close co-operation between government and banks; competitive rural banking sector
na	Close co-operation between government and banks; competitive rural banking sector

Safety net measures proposed by countries

Food-based safety nets	Cash-based safety nets	Targeted agricultural input distribution	Health and nutrition
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Ethiopia	Burundi	Comoros Islands
CAR	Lesotho	Cameroon	Côte d'Ivoire
Comoros Islands	Liberia	CAR	Liberia
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Comoros	Madagascar
Ethiopia	Mauritania	Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi
Gambia (the)	Senegal	Congo (RDC)	Mauritania
Ghana	Uganda	Ethiopia	Senegal
Guinea		Gambia (the)	Somalia
Lesotho		Ghana	Swaziland
Liberia		Guinea	Tanzania
Madagascar		Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Malawi			Zimbabwe
Mauritania			
Senegal			
15 countries	8 countries	25 countries	10 countries

Source: FAO (2009), Viatte & others: Responding to the food crisis: synthesis of medium-term measures proposed in inter-agency assessments.

Green fuels: Opportunities and risks for food security

- ▶ Several African countries have policies to develop biofuels. National and large foreign investments are involved in the sector. Promoting coherency between food and energy policies is a major challenge.

National policies to develop biofuel

Countries	Product	Substrates	Objectives and incentives
Senegal	Biodiesel	Jatropha curcas	<p>Quantified objectives (2007-2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 190 million liters of oil; b) 1 134 million liters of refined oil or biodiesel for a total of a type of biodiesel estimated at 1 095.5 million liters in 2007; c) 321 000 ha of land to be sown at a rate of 1 000 ha rural community; <p>Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Creating a company that exploits biofuel with 40% of its capital/stake going to foreign companies; b) Guaranteed producer prices and sufficiently profitable to attract the interest of farmers; c) Supervision and assistance in agricultural inputs and techniques guaranteed to producers by the promoters.
Nigeria	Bioethanol Biodiesel	Sugar cane, sorghum, cassava Jatropha curcas	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approval of the 10% incorporation rate for ethanol and 20% for biodiesel, to create domestic demand. <p>Projection: Production of 100% of locally consumed biofuel by 2020, representing 2 billion liters and 900 million liters, respectively for ethanol and biodiesel.</p> <p>Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Official classification of biofuel as an industry allied to agriculture; b) Fiscal measures: Reduction, exemption from taxes, VAT for 10 years; c) Creating a energy biofuel commission (Biofuel Energy Commission) in charge of managing the industry in relation with ministries; d) Import regulations should be done through the Commission; e) Creating a research agency on biofuels.
Mali	Biodiesel	Jatropha curcas	<p>Quantified objectives (2008-2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Replacement rate of diesel or DDO by Jatropha curcas oil: 2008 – 2013: 10% 2014 – 2018: 15% 2018 – 2023: 20% b) 25 million liters of ethanol per year during a period of time; <p>Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Creating an agency to develop biofuels.

Sources: NNPC/Nigeria (2007); Mali (2008); MDRA/Sénégal (2007)

Food reserves

- ▶ Food stocks at village, local and the national level are an important part of food crisis management strategy. Some stocks play a stabilising/price regulation role of the local markets. For the past ten years, some regions are seeking to establish regional reserves.

Examples of food reserves in West Africa

Countries	National structure in charge of food reserve		Homeland Security Stocks (HSS) in tons*		Strategic reserve**	National storage capacity (tons)
	Establishment	Name	Physical stocks (announced)	Financial reserve		
Burkina Faso	1971	National Cereals Office of Burkina Faso (OFNACER), followed by National Society for Food Security Stock Management (SONAGESS in 1992)	35 000	23 000	10 000	98 100
Mali	1965	Malian Office of Agricultural Products (OPAM)	35 000	25 000	20 000	160 000
Mauritania	1975	Mauritanian Cereals Office (OMC), replaced in 1982 by the Food Security Commission (CSA)	-	-	-	17 000
Niger	1970	The Niger Office of Food Products (OPVN)	80 000	30 000	80 000 ***	155 000
Senegal	1960	Senegalese Office for Groundnut Marketing (ONCAD), followed by the Food Security Commission established in 1994	-	-	-	88 000
Nigeria	2007	Nigeria Food Reserve Agency (NFRA)	Aim: to store 5% of the national food output****	-	-	300 000

Sources: WFP-NEPAD (2004). Food security and reserves systems in Africa. NEPAD study, 77 p.; Tankari (2010); CILSS (2011); Corporate Nigeria (2010). The business, Trade and Investment Guide 2010/2011.

*National food security stocks under the co-management of States and their partners.

** Exclusively under the management of governments.

*** In 2010, it reached a level of 105,000 tons.

**** 110 000 tons stored in 2010.

RESOGEST: A regional network of food stock boards in West Africa

Background

Emergency situations often require the constitution and use of national emergency food reserves, meant to guarantee access to food in the event of scarcity. Some Sahel countries have had to use these stocks on several occasions after a grain deficit or natural disaster. Other countries do not even have such stocks and have to rely on costly imports.

Given this situation, the Sahel countries, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and development partners have made major investments over the last 20 years to prevent food crises.

At the regional level, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS have developed their own policies and strategies (ECOWAP, PAU, CSSA).

At the national level, some of the measures taken to mitigate food crises include estimating agricultural production, market monitoring, early identification of at-risk areas and vulnerable populations, and the constitution of emergency food stocks. These stocks are managed by grain boards, some of which have become state-owned companies. The state-owned boards responsible for managing emergency food stocks are linked to governments through mutual contracts. This situation has led some governments to create their own food stocks, called intervention stocks. Several years after their creation, these companies and boards are now facing major difficulties in mobilising the resources necessary to fund these stocks. These structures (public or private) also lack the resources necessary to coordinate emergency food stock management.

With its varying agricultural output, the Sahel region has surplus areas coexisting with deficit areas practically every year. Climate change will undoubtedly accentuate this trend, with a rainy season that varies greatly, a drier “West Sahel” area and a wetter “East Sahel” area. The idea that the season can be uniformly good or bad throughout the entire Sahel region no longer holds true, so cereal trade between areas is all the more important for reducing food insecurity and building markets.

This issue has led regional actors to consider the importance of a network of food stock boards in the Sahel and West Africa. This network, called RESOGEST, is meant to become an intergovernmental, supranational, non-profit agency under public law that will neither replace nor duplicate the work of the national boards.

What is the network’s status today?

The meetings held in Niamey in July 2007 and Bamako in June 2008 resulted in the following:

- ▶ Adherence of all stakeholders (decision-makers, partners, civil society);
- ▶ Organisation of an advocacy campaign for the boards (OPVN/Niger, CSA/Senegal, OPAM/Mali, ONASA/Benin, SONAGES/Burkina Faso, CSA/Mauritania) in involved countries from 22 February to 26 March 2009.

The information contained in this summary constitutes only a proposal for the establishment of RESOGEST, a West African intergovernmental network of food stock boards. This proposal is based on documents discussed in Dakar during the meeting of officials responsible for food stock management in West Africa in February 2010.

Preliminary work revealed the following:

- ▶ Disparity in the nature of the structures concerned;
- ▶ Lack of solidarity among countries in the event of a food crisis;
- ▶ Diversity of experience in managing emergency food stocks;
- ▶ Major possibilities for trade in the region;
- ▶ The need for a strong commitment to promoting regional solidarity in managing emergency food reserves.

The meeting of officials and board officers responsible for managing emergency food stocks from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Dakar resulted in the adoption of the RESOGEST network settings and a co-operation framework for the establishment of a regional food stock. Ideas were further discussed at the SWAC Forum on “Regional solidarity to address food crisis”, held in Accra in December 2010. The RPCA meeting in April 2011 assessed progress made in the implementation of the RESOGEST initiative.

Objectives

- ▶ Ensure permanent availability of a food stock for emergency interventions at the regional level;
- ▶ Build the capacity of national food stocks boards;
- ▶ Facilitate trade in available food, both between boards and between boards and individuals;
- ▶ Make quality information on public, private and farmers’ food stocks, requests for proposals and market prices available to boards.

Institutional arrangements

The constituent elements of the network are still under discussion and do not compose its definitive form. However, some proposals for the network’s institutional and organisational arrangements are on the table, and members have made recommendations.

• Institutional basis

RESOGEST is designed to complement the role played by national structures in countries already involved in regional integration initiatives, such as ECOWAS, CILSS, and UEMOA. Rather than establish the network as a separate regional organisation, it would be wiser to consider it as the working arm of one of these regional institutions, which all include a food security component. It has therefore been suggested that the network be a light entity with two links: an organic link to ECOWAS and a functional link to CILSS. It has also been recommended that local authorities and producers’ organisations be involved in network activities.

• Functioning

The network will have a decision-making body (council of ministers responsible for food security issues), a consultative body (committee of directors general of emergency food stock boards) and a management body (coordination and management unit). It has been proposed that the network be led by CILSS, the technical arm of ECOWAS, given the memorandum of understanding signed by the two institutions in 2006.

Strong links should be created between these structures using the new information and communication technologies (websites with information/databases on food stock levels and types, products, locations). CILSS has therefore been asked to negotiate with ECOWAS and UEMOA in order to determine the mechanisms and procedures for mobilising the financial resources needed to operate the network. UEMOA has already expressed its desire to participate in this process.

- **Co-operation framework**

The constituent elements of the co-operation framework for building a regional food stock are as follows:

- ▶ Countries shall contribute 5% of their emergency food stocks to the regional food stock. Countries should take this commitment into account in their policies for reconstituting their national emergency food stocks.
- ▶ Countries shall reduce as much as possible any action that could, in and of itself, hinder the free movement of agricultural and food products between and within countries.
- ▶ Countries shall use all available resources (human, material, logistic and financial), with the support of their partners, to mobilise and transport food stocks.
- ▶ Countries shall keep each other informed of the expected time lag between the assessment of needs, the supply of food aid, and the main characteristics of the logistical organisation to be implemented.

- **Network tools and products**

The network will have a regional emergency food reserve and an information system, which will constitute the cornerstones of the organisation.



Regional emergency food reserve

Most of the countries already have a national food stock that is deemed sufficient - at least in theory - for their own citizens. To avoid duplicating national food stocks, the regional emergency food stock could be used only when a food crisis is too severe for one country to manage alone. The regional food stock will therefore be designed as a complementary stock meant to support countries facing serious food crises. The stock's ambitions could eventually be expanded in keeping with the spirit of strengthening regional integration, which governments are now supporting on most economic and social issues. Once a ceiling is determined, the regional emergency food reserve should be divided into a Regional food stock and a Regional food security fund.

The network could therefore provide in-kind support (food from the regional food stock) or in cash (withdrawal from the regional food security fund), depending on the situation. For example, the physical food stock could account for up to 75% of the total stock, as is the case in some CILSS countries.

- **Regional food stock**

Countries should constitute a minimum physical stock, or around 5% of the national stock, which could be used to constitute the Regional food stock. In constituting this stock, priority will be given to food produced in West African countries in order to reinforce the market's role in transferring products from surplus to deficit areas. Purchases will be made through request for proposals with priority given to products from the region, or through member boards. If the network is not able to purchase the necessary supplies using the procedures for acquiring food in the region or if purchases could cause serious imbalances in regional markets, food could then be purchased with no regard to origin.

- **Regional food security fund**

The aim of constituting such a fund is primarily to limit costs and handling. It has been proposed that this fund be managed by the coordination and management unit according to the same procedures as the Regional food stock.

Information system

The network will have an information system linked to the various systems that already exist to monitor food and nutrition security: the regional food crisis prevention network (PREGEC from its name in French), market information systems (SIM in French), livestock market information systems (SIMB in French), early-warning systems (SAP in French), the Food and Nutrition Security project (SAN for Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle), the AGRicultural Information System (AGRIS), the West-African Market Information System Network (whose French acronym is RESIMAO), etc. The information that is collected and distributed should help to develop a solid partnership i) between food stock boards; ii) between food stock boards and producers' organisations that manage community stocks, and iii) between food stock boards and private market actors.

Lessons learnt

All the stakeholders are participating in the process to establish RESOGEST. The networking process must be sped up, taking into account the need to establish a suitable mechanism that can guarantee a quality response for member countries in the event of a crisis, in particular in an increasingly complex international environment.

Next steps

- **Political commitment**

The decision-making bodies of the intergovernmental organisations (CILSS, UEMOA and ECOWAS) should quickly validate RESOGEST's conceptual framework, so bringing the initiative into existence officially. A necessary prerequisite for this is to finalise the paper on the organisation and functioning of RESOGEST.

- **Priority actions**

- ▶ Conduct further research with a focus on evaluation and mapping of existing storage infrastructures and feasibility and opportunity cost studies, strengthening the pertinence and efficiency of a regional food reserve;
- ▶ Establish an embryonic reserve: This would be based on a simple regional structure linked to ECOWAS, supported by CILSS, and based on 5% of national food security stocks made available for the regional stock. It would be a pilot model to test the countries' ability to network among themselves.

- **Funding**

The fund held by ECOWAS should be used to construct the financial part of RESOGEST. First, the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions must make a commitment to fund the priority actions needed for RESOGEST to get started.

- **Communication and political advocacy**

Led by regional organisations including ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS and ROPPA, the communication and lobbying work will receive support from SWAC and other institutions such as NEPAD-NPCA and UNCTAD.

- **Networking and capacity building**

This means properly informing stakeholders and involving them in ongoing discussions. The idea is to establish a network for exchange of South-South experiences between West Africa and other regions.

SADC Regional Food Reserve Facility

Background

The debate around the need to establish a regional food reserve has been ongoing within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) since the 80s. Some governments in Southern Africa have established strategic grain reserves to address food crisis episodes and ensuring stable food price availability. In early 2000, concrete actions were taken to determine the nature, level, and modality of a possible Strategic Food Reserve Facility at a regional level. SADC decided to elaborate the Disaster Preparedness Strategy Framework in 2001, aimed at “enhancing capacity for timely delivery of food supplies to affected populations in emergencies and minimizing disruptions on longer-term agricultural growth and development.” The three pillars of the framework were i) an early warning and monitoring system, ii) a vulnerability monitoring system (to identify populations and areas most at risk and monitor livelihoods, vulnerability, and poverty mapping) and iii) a Regional Food Reserve Facility (RFRF). In 2003, the SADC secretariat got support from the World Bank to design the RFRF.

The following year, two series of case studies were commissioned in order to base the RFRF on lessons learnt. The World Bank studied examples of national reserves in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, while NEPAD reviewed experiences in food reserve systems in a selection of 8 countries in the Sahel, East, Southern, and the Horn of Africa. As a result, recommendations were drafted as to the creation and implementation of the RFRF. In 2006, the SADC Secretariat commissioned consultants to develop a framework for the management and technical operation of the RFRF and to draft a memorandum of understanding suggesting legal arrangements and respective roles for SADC member states. However, the process has not been finalised yet and the feasibility phase did not start last year as planned.

Objectives

The RFRF will aim at preventing, predicting, and preparing for future adverse impacts and shocks to food security. Specific objectives would include:

- ▶ Stabilise supply of food grains;
- ▶ Stabilise producer prices by accumulating stocks in time of price weakness and liquidating stock in time of price inflation;
- ▶ Protect and increase producer prices;
- ▶ Avoid sharp increases in food retail prices to consumer in periods of shortages by releasing grain from the reserve;
- ▶ Ensure adequate supplies of staple grain in SADC member states.

Institutional arrangements

• Organisational process

The NEPAD study suggested that the facility should include a physical reserve, a financial facility and a risk insurance instrument to support farmers in times of disasters leading to food security problems. Some of the key institutional arrangements proposed were:

- ▶ The development of regional food security networks within natural trading areas or market sheds;
- ▶ Maximisation of reliance on local production for supplying local markets and safety net programmes;
- ▶ Management and accounting procedures for physical and financial reserves;
- ▶ Clearly defined management authority and decision-making procedures;
- ▶ Setting clear policies and procedures that are strictly enforced to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance.

- **Level and composition of the reserve**

The RFRF should store the equivalent of 500 000 tons of cereals, three quarters of which in kind (cereals stored in the physical reserve) and one quarter in cash (from the financial facility). Among the staple grains to be stocked are white maize, wheat, sorghum, millet and rice.

Lessons learnt

The reserve is not in place yet because the SADC Secretariat and Council of Ministers have not discussed and finalised the proposal for setting up the regional facility. There does not seem to be agreement among the technical experts that such a facility is needed at all and, if needed, what form it should take. The need to reach consensus between the fourteen SADC countries that each have a different set of challenges, priorities, and capacities also delays regional projects. In addition, the sensitive nature of food and national sovereignty makes it difficult for governments to reach a decision where food and political issues are concerned. Finally the issue of financial implications is a challenge; unsurprisingly, no country is ready and willing to enter into an agreement that carries with it financial obligations. However, some lessons can be drawn from the ongoing process:

- ▶ A lot of efforts is needed to convince countries on the benefits of such regional initiatives.
- ▶ Need for high level institutional policy analysis capacity.

Conditions for success

Conditions for ensuring a functional food reserve system are identified in the NEPAD study as follows:

- ▶ Need for clarity of objectives and clear linkages to agriculture, food security and trade policies; three primary objectives being: price stabilisation for the benefit of producers and consumers, support for national safety net programmes and support for emergency relief programmes;
- ▶ Need for clarity of management and accounting of physical reserves;
- ▶ Clearly defined management authority and decision-making procedures for physical reserves;
- ▶ Enhanced food security information systems and early warning;
- ▶ Adequate transport, storage and communications infrastructure;
- ▶ Clearly articulated costs and funding arrangements.

Speakers



Prof. Awudu Abdulai

Representative, African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE)

Chair of food economics at the University of Kiel (Germany) and representative of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), Awudu Abdulai was also a visiting scholar of the Stanford Programme on Food Security and the Environment (FSE) from October 2010 to March 2011. His recent research focuses on farmers' strategies, land tenure issues and welfare impacts of cultivating export crops in Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Kiel, Awudu Abdulai taught at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH) and also held visiting positions at Yale University and Iowa State University in the Department of Economics, as well as the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. His fields of interest include development economics, consumer economics and industrial organisation. A Ghanaian citizen, Awudu Abdulai received many awards and honours, such as the Best Teacher Award for Summer Semester 2006, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science. He holds a Ph.D. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (1994).

► <http://www.food-econ.uni-kiel.de/ee/mitarbeiter/abdulai/index.html>



Mr. Christian Narcisse Adovèlande

President, West African Development Bank (BOAD)

Originally from Benin, Christian Narcisse Adovèlande, has been President of the BOAD since February 2011. He joined the BOAD in April 1978 where he held various posts of different levels of responsibility for 17 years. Before becoming President of the BOAD, Christian Adovèlande was President of the Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) since 2002. He has brought new dynamic to this growing financial institution which is today a reference in the sub-region. Christian Adovèlande holds master's degrees in economics and in finance and banking (DESF).



Mr. Ken Ash

Director, Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD/OECD)

Ken Ash, a Canadian national, was appointed OECD Director for Trade and Agriculture in 2009. He played a leading role in the successful merger of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorates in 2006. Ken Ash has effectively led the development, dissemination and communication of evidence-based policy to ministers, senior officials and major stakeholders to identify pragmatic and concrete policy actions that governments could take to achieve common domestic goals, while avoiding trade conflicts. Upon joining the OECD in 1999, Ken Ash brought with him 20 years of extensive experience from the government of Canada where he held various senior positions in Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. He holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and an MBA (International Business and Resource Management).



Ms. Elisabeth Atangana

President, Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO)

Elisabeth Atangana has been an agricultural producer in Cameroon for the past thirty years. Founding member of a local women's group in 1979, she gradually got involved with farmers' organisations and NGOs and became President of the National Consultations of Producers' Organisations of Cameroon (CNOP – Cam) in 2000 and President of the Sub-Regional Platform of Peasant Organisations of Central Africa (Propac) in 2005. The creation of the PAFO in 2010 in Malawi is the result of a long process of advocacy initiated in 2003. The major challenges of PAFO are 1) to work together with states towards improving food security and food sovereignty and 2) to increase the economic power of farmers so that they can be able to secure their livelihoods.



Mr. Brian Atwood

Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

Appointed in January 2011, Brian Atwood provides leadership and orientation to the DAC which groups the world's main donors, defining and monitoring global standards in key areas of development. His experience builds on a lifetime career in the US public administration. He served from 1993 to 1999 as administrator of USAID and worked for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Panel on Peace Operations in 2001. From 2002 until 2010, Brian Atwood served as Dean of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Other prior positions include President and Chief Executive Officer of Citizens International (1999-2002) and founding President of the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs (NDI, 1985-1993). He joined the Foreign Service in 1966 and served in American Embassies in Côte d'Ivoire and Spain. He also served as Legislative Advisor for foreign and defense policy to Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D'Mo) from 1972 to 1977.



Mr. Djibo Bagna

President, Board of Directors, Network of Farmer Organisations & Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA)

After a career in teaching, Djibo Bagna dedicated his efforts in favor of the peasant cause. He joined the Association for the Revitalization of Livestock Breeding in Niger (AREN) and became Secretary of Information in 1993, and then Secretary-General of the governing board since 1997. He is currently the regional representative of AREN in Tillabéri (Niger) in his hometown. Secretary-General of the Peasants Platform of Niger since 1999, Djibo Bagna became a member of the executive committee of the Network of Farmer Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) and President of the Farmers' Platform in Niger (PFPN) in 2000. In May 2010, he was elected President of the board of directors of ROPPA, a position he will hold for the next four years.



Mr. David Batt

Director, Support Unit for the Africa Partnership Forum (APF)

As Director of the Support Unit which was established at the OECD in July 2006, David Batt has been closely involved in monitoring progress on development issues in Africa, while also regularly contributing to global debates on development policy. He has coordinated recent publications on Africa including the “Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE): 2011 Interim Report” (with the UN Economic Commission for Africa), and the recent OECD flagship publication on policy coherence: “Better Policies for Development: Recommendations for Policy Coherence”. David Batt joined the UK civil service in 1977, and has worked both on international development issues, and in the UK Treasury, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Prior to his current post, he worked as a regional Deputy Director on Africa at the UK Department for International Development (DFID), from 2002 to 2006, with responsibility for the administration of UK aid programmes in Eastern and Central Africa. David Batt graduated from Oxford with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics in 1973.



Mr. Jonas B. Bayoulou

Director, Economic research and forecasting of SOFITEX, Burkina Faso

Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the “Cotton price smoothing funds association” in Burkina Faso, Jonas Bayoulou held a variety of posts within the Burkinabe textile fiber company (SOFITEX): commercial director, director of transport and logistics, technical advisor, inspector of services, administrator representing SOFITEX at the board of directors of the major oil factories in Burkina Faso (SN-CITEC) and of the Burkinabe Shippers’ Council. Since 2004, he has been the President of the board of directors of the spinning company of the Sahel (FILSAH). In 2009 and 2010, he led a group of experts in charge of achieving a national prospective study on the cotton sector. Director of economic research and forecasting since July 2010, Jonas Bayoulou holds several master’s degrees: in economics from the University of Ouagadougou (1986), (DES) in strategy and business management at CEFEB (Paris and Marseilles) (1992), and (DES) in banking technology at the Institut technique de banque of Paris (1996).



Dr. Joël Beassem

Co-ordinator, Food Security Regional Programme, Economic Community of Central African States General Secretariat (ECCAS)

Originally from the Central African Republic, Joël Beassem has been Head of the Agriculture and Rural Development Programme and Co-ordinator for the Food Security Regional Programme for the ECCAS since November 2002. During his long career, Joël Beassem held many important positions: consultant for a FAO project on a food security regional programme for the ECCAS (2001-2002); Director-General of the Central African Palm Oil company (CENTRAPALM) (1994 -2002) and the Central African Tobacco Company (1984-1988); Senior expert at the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC); Deputy Director for the Higher Institute of Rural Development (ISDR) (1983 -1984), etc. Joël Beassem holds an engineering doctor's degree in agronomic science and a diploma in agronomy from the "École nationale supérieure agronomique of Montpellier" (1982), an engineering diploma in agronomy from the "École nationale supérieure agronomique of Yaoundé" (1977) and the "Institut universitaire de technologie agronomique of M'Baïki" (CFA) (1975).



H.E. Mr. Olivier Chastel

Belgian Minister for Development Co-operation, in charge of European Affairs

Trained as a pharmacist, Olivier Chastel became municipal councilor in Charleroi in 1993. In 1998, he became deputy of the Walloon region. By 1999, he served as Member of Parliament in the Commission for Infrastructure and Public Enterprises. In 2003, he was elected Vice-President of the House of Representatives. Five years later, he was appointed Secretary of State for European Affairs in March 2008 and was hence in charge of preparing the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. He currently serves as Minister for Development Co-operation and in charge of European Affairs since February 2011, following the election of Charles Michel as President of the Reformist movement.

▶ <http://www.chastel.be>



El Hadj Dramane Coulibaly

Co-ordinator, Regional programme, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

El Hadj Coulibaly is an agricultural economist working under the CILSS Executive Secretary as co-ordinator of the regional programme on food security, combating desertification, population and development. He has gained experience in various national and regional development projects and programmes related to sustainable development, agricultural development and food security, focusing more particularly on the improvement of primary commodities production, transformation processes, marketing, food crisis management and regional trade in West Africa. Besides facilitating the implementation of food security programmes, he contributes to conceptual thinking to improve coherence and harmonization of food security policies and support intra-regional trade and capacity-building within CILSS countries.



Dr. Junior Davis

Chief, Commodities Research Analysis Section, UNCTAD

Dr. Junior Davis has worked over the past 20 years as a professional economist both in research and consultancy. His recent work focuses on commodity trade, rural economic development and diversification, strategies for empowering smallholder producers in high-value horticultural markets, and applied demand analysis for food consumption in transition economies. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in economics from the University of Wales and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the Imperial College, University of London.



Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea

Belgian Minister of State; Member of the Belgian House of Representatives; SWAC President

Secretary of State for Development Co-operation from June 1983 to November 1985, and then Minister of National Defense from November 1985 to May 1988, François-Xavier de Donnea is also Professor Emeritus at the Catholic University of Louvain where he was responsible of the Centre for Research in Public Management of the Institute of Administration and Management. Among his many commitments, he is also President of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) since 2009 in which he has been a key player in rebuilding the Club. Three important West African regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) became members on 1 January 2011. He is also committed to engaging new development actors in the region, strengthening South-South co-operation, and increasing participation of Parliamentarians from OECD countries and West Africa in the work of the Club. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

▶ <http://www.dedonnae.irisnet.be>



Dr. Niama Nango Dembélé

Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

Nango Dembélé is teaching as Assistant Professor in international development affairs, within the Food Security Group at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at the Michigan State University. Based in Bamako, he manages a project to raise support for food security initiatives (PROMISAM), funded by USAID. His regional research projects in West Africa are supported by various private foundations (Hewlett Foundation, Syngenta Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation). Nango Dembélé also serves as a food security advisor to Mali's Food Security Commissioner at the President's Office, and a member of the national agricultural research advisory board. He holds master's degrees in economics, with a specialization in public finance from the École Nationale d'Administration of Mali (1979), and in applied economics from the University of Michigan (1986), as well as a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University (1994).



Dr. Adama Coulibaly Ekberg

Chief, Agricultural Production Systems Section, UNECA

Within the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, Adama Ekberg's is in charge of collaborative works on food security policies and intra regional food trade expansion in Africa with various stakeholders, development partners and UN organisations. Building on more than 20 years experience in agriculture, trade and food security worldwide, he led consultancy works and prospective studies on the stability of global and regional commodity and food markets for various leading policy and advisory institutions (Central Bank of West African States, FAPRI, FAO, Global Insights, Inc., Japan International Agricultural Council, USDA). He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia (USA), a diploma with honours in business administration and portfolio management from the "École Supérieure de Commerce d'Abidjan" (ESCA) and the "École des hautes études commerciales" (HEC) de Paris.



Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye

President, High Authority for Food Security (HASA), Niger

Member and spokesman of the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy (CSR) during the military transition from February 2010 to April 2011, Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye has been since June 2010 President of the HASA. Its mission is to work towards food security and nutrition in Niger. An officer of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye graduated from the "Institut des hautes études de la défense" in Italy (2007). He also holds a master's degree in defense and strategic studies and a consulting degree in international humanitarian law, all obtained in Italy (2006).



Mr. Pierre Jacquet

Chief Economist, French Development Agency (AFD)

An expert in development and international economics, Pierre Jacquet holds a large number of positions: Chief Economist and member of the Executive Committee of the French Development Agency; international political economy Professor and President of the "Economics, management, finance" (SEGF) department of the "École des Ponts - Paris Tech" (ENPC); member of the Circle of Economists; member of the Strategic Council for Agriculture and Sustainable Agro-industry (CSAAD); member of the Economic Council for Sustainable Development (CEDD); and a columnist for the "Monde de l'économie", etc. A graduate from the "École Polytechnique and l'École nationale des ponts et chaussées", his work focuses on macroeconomics, economic policy, development economics and the challenges of governance and globalisation.

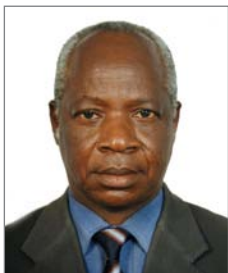
▶ <http://www.pierrejacquet.fr>



Mr. Andrey Kuleshov

Project Finance Manager, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

Andrey Kuleshov, a Russian national, is an economist with over 15 years experience in commodity projects identification, financing and management. His experience covers more than a dozen countries, focusing on multilateral development co-operation and negotiations with governments in developing countries. His particular interests include technology, agricultural commodities, commodity finance and risk management, market instability and financialisation of commodities. Since 1996, Andrey Kuleshov has been a senior project manager at the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). He holds master's degrees in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (1994) and in applied mathematics from Moscow (1989).



H.E. Mr. Djiblola Litaaba-Akila

Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Togo

An agricultural engineer by training, Djiblola Litaaba-Akila dedicated his career to the public service. He is currently Deputy Secretary-General in charge of projects since October 2007, after having been Regional Director of agriculture, livestock and fisheries of the Savannah from 2002 to 2007; Director of agriculture in 2002; Head of the regional division of planning and programming; Regional Officer of the monitoring and evaluation unit from 1986 to 1998; and Head of the regional agricultural statistics and surveys unit of the Savannahs from 1984 to 1986. Djiblola Litaaba-Akila holds degrees in agricultural engineering from the Kuban Agricultural Institute in Russia (former USSR) (1982) and in regional planning and development from the Pan-African Institute for Development - West Africa and the Sahel (IPD-AOS) in Ouagadougou (1988).



Mr. Jon Lomøy

Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD)

Jon Lomøy, a Norwegian national, has devoted his professional career to development. From 1989 to 1996, he held various senior positions at the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), focusing on Africa and Eastern Africa in particular. As Ambassador of Norway to Zambia (1996 to 2000), he also managed bilateral development programmes in education and governance. From 2007, he was appointed Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania, managing one of Norway's largest bilateral aid programmes, with a particular focus on translating global policy initiatives. In his current position since April 2010, he provides strategic leadership to shape policies that promote sustainable development in support of the Millennium Development Goals.



Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency

A citizen of Niger, Ibrahim Mayaki is the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA) based in Midrand (South Africa). Previously, he worked as a Professor of public administration in Niger and Venezuela and as a guest professor at the University of Paris XI (2000-2004). During his political career, between 1996 and 1997, he was successively appointed Minister in charge of African Integration and Co-operation and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and then Prime Minister (1997-2000). He summarised his political experience in his book "Quand la caravane passe...". In August 2000, he set up the Analysis Center for Public Policy. Before joining the NEPAD team, he was appointed in 2004 as the Executive Director of the "Rural Hub", a platform in support of rural development in West and Central Africa. Ibrahim Mayaki holds a master's degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap), Quebec (Canada) and a Ph.D. in administrative sciences from the University of Paris I (France).

▶ <http://www.nepad.org/fr/blogs/ibrahim>



Prof. Mario Pezzini

Director, OECD Development Centre

Mario Pezzini, an Italian national, joined the OECD in 1995. In various positions within the OECD, his work focused on rural-urban development, regional competitiveness and public governance issues. He was appointed Director of the Development Centre in July 2010. Before joining the Organisation, Mario Pezzini was a Professor in industrial economics at the "École Nationale Supérieure des Mines of Paris" as well as in Italian and US universities. He contributed to global debates in the field of economic development, industrial organisation and regional economics, with a particular focus on policies for clusters and networks of small- and medium sized firms as well as on policies aimed to valorise natural and cultural resources.



Dr. George Rapsomanikis

Senior Economist, Agricultural Economic Development Division, FAO

Before joining the FAO, George Rapsomanikis worked for the Centre for European Agricultural Studies, the Imperial College and the University of London where he focused on various agricultural and rural development policy research projects. He also played an advisory role for international organisations and national governments. His current research focuses on issues related to food price surges, food security and small-scale agriculture development and transition. He is the editor of the FAO Commodity Market Review. His publications mainly focus on econometric modeling of food markets and agricultural policy. George Rapsomanikis holds a Ph.D. from the University of Reading.



Dr. Paco Sérémé

Executive Director, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD)

Paco Sérémé has been the Executive Director of WECARD since July 2003, one of three sub-regional research organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Former Research Director at the Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research of Burkina Faso (INERA) (1994-2002) and Director of Scientific Co-operation in the National Centre of Scientific and Technological Research of Burkina Faso (1990-1994), he is an agricultural engineer by training and holds Ph.D.'s in phytopathology from the University of Rennes (France) and from the University of Cocody (Côte d'Ivoire). He published various scientific articles and is currently a member of the board of directors for the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), as well as steering committees of several institutions including the Agreenium. Paco Sérémé received several honours from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education and Research (CAMES).



H.E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano

Minister of Agriculture, Guinea

President of the Union Party for the Integrated Development of Guinea (PUDIG), Jean-Marc Telliano is involved in the social action and development field. Known for his ability to manage integrated development projects, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture in January 2011 in the first democratically elected government of the country's history. A young patriot, he is a supporter of the youth and Pan-African unity. Since 1995, Jean-Marc Telliano has been President and CEO of the "Nouveau comptoir de l'Afrique de l'Ouest", a holding company represented in Ghana, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone. He holds several master's degrees: (DES) in economics from the Paris-Dauphine University (1984), (DES) in political science from the European Institute of High International Studies in Nice (1986), and (DEA) in history of the third world from the Institute of International Relations in Paris (1992).

► <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jean-Marc-TELLIANO-Président-du-RDIG/116888095020079>



Mr. Philippe Thiébaud

Director, Global Public Goods (DGM/BPM, MAEE), France

Minister Plenipotentiary, Philippe Thiébaud is an alumnus of the French "École nationale d'administration" (ENA), part of the "Voltaire" promotion of 1980. Chief advisor at the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 1994 to 1997 and then deputy permanent representative at the same post in 1997/98, he served as director of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1999 to 2005. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France in Seoul from 2005 to 2009, Philippe Thiébaud currently occupies the post of director of Global Public Goods to the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (DGM/BPM, MAEE) since May 2010. He received numerous distinctions including the National Order of Merit in December 1994.



Mr. Serge Tomasi

Director, Global Economy and Development Strategies (DGM/ECODEV, MAEE), France

Alumnus of the French “École nationale d'administration” (ENA), part of the “Condorcet” promotion of 1992, Serge Tomasi devoted much of his professional career to international co-operation. Assistant Director of social development and educational co-operation from 2001 to 2004, he subsequently served as deputy director of development and technical co-operation and then Deputy Director for development policy (international co-operation and development) from 2004 to 2006. Between 2006 and 2009, he was seconded to the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry as Financial Advisor for West Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. Serge Tomasi is Director of the Global Economy and Development Strategies at the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (DGM/ECODEV, MAEE) since May 2009. He holds a degree in private law from the University of Grenoble (France).



Dr. Michael Waithaka

Project Manager, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)

Michael Waithaka manages the Policy Analysis and Advocacy Programme (PAAP) of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) based in Entebbe (Uganda). While promoting regional collaborative research to address cross-border problems, this platform aims to contribute to the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations in key food commodity sectors. Prior he worked for the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi where he managed a collaborative project on systems prototyping and impact assessment for sustainable alternatives in mixed farming systems and policy reforms in the dairy sector. His current work includes tracking world food prices since 2008 and producing regional policy briefs, with a special focus on increasing productivity and access to inputs and output markets; social protection to vulnerable groups in both urban and rural areas; and promotion of trade between countries. Michael Waithaka holds a Ph.D. from the Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany).



Mailing Address 2 rue André Pascal
F-75775 Paris
Cedex 16

Phone +33 (0)1 45 24 89 87

Fax +33 (0)1 45 24 90 31

E-mail swac.contact@oecd.org

www.oecd.org/swac