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Report: FoodSPAN / AAG Collaboration PRRP, held on 3rd August 2011, at AAG Conference Room, Accra

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Actionaid Ghana (AAG) / Food Security Policy Advocacy Network (FoodSPAN) Collaboration participatory review and reflection process (PRRP), which took place on 3rd August 2011 at the AAG Conference Room, was meant to offer participants the opportunity of reflecting on the collaboration activities, with the view to mapping out the strategies for the way forward.

The PRRP started with introduction of participants by way of self-introduction led by Yakubu Iddrisu, the Assistant Coordinator of FoodSPAN. He noted that AAG and FoodSPAN have been in new partnership for some months now to promote the food security agenda.

With participants drawn from the Steering Committee, Zonal Networks and Thematic Working Groups of FoodSPAN (see the Appendix for details of participants), the meeting aimed at reflecting on the collaboration over the past year in the participatory review and reflection process (PRRP).

It was viewed that the FoodSPAN and AAG partnership should move to the next level where the relationship would foster deeper collaborations, and so the need for deeper reflections in the PRRP.

2.0 DISCUSSIONS

2.1 FoodSPAN: What does FoodSPAN Do?

The participants reflected briefly on what they understood FoodSPAN to be doing. The following were raised as the key focus areas of FoodSPAN:

- FoodSPAN engages in policy influence and advocacy food security
- Sharing of information on best practices

That FoodSPAN basically is interested and working in three areas including:

1. Agriculture
2. Environment
3. Trade



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2.2 ACTIONAID: What does Actionaid Do?

- ActionAid promotes right to food and climate change

3.0 Challenges of Food Security:

- Participants indicated that FoodSPAN interest in EPAs is very important given that the ultimate effects of signing the document is on the poor and small scale farmers particularly women farmers.
- Irrigation
- Post harvest issues-establish standards for managing post harvest, promote basic technologies and equipments, inadequate knowledge in managing post harvest
- Use of agro-chemicals e.g. for vegetables
- Support to women farmers
- Droughts and floods
- The promotion of chemical fertilizer as opposed to organic fertilizers
- Visibility of FoodSPAN is a serious challenge. We are not doing a lot in terms of publicity especially at the zonal levels.
- Non viable seeds
- GMOS
- Rain Water Harvesting for small scale agriculture
- Capacity of citizens in analysing issues that affect them and how to advocate

4.0 KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF AAG AND FoodSPAN

4.1 AAG's Food Rights and Climate Change

1. Promote sustainable agriculture and control over natural resources for people living in poor areas
2. Advance the political influence of people living in poverty and hold government accountable and secure inclusive redistributive policies

4.2 FoodSPAN Priorities

1. Political influence for increase investment in agriculture
2. Advocate for the provision of resources to small scale farmers especially women
3. Citizens action groups (mobilization, capacity building) to influence policies of government, transparent and accountable processes of implementation
4. Advocate for the promotion of sustainable agriculture
5. Influencing policies for investment in small scale processing and packaging



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4.2.1 FoodSPAN Priorities at the Zonal Network Level

Northern Zone

- Promoting sustainable agriculture and climate resilient
- Promoting citizens group's action
- Advocating for transparent and accountable use of agricultural resources
- Campaigns against EPA

Middle Zone

- Market access for cashew and tomatoes
- Timely and adequate agric extension services
- Promoting Sustainable agriculture-organic organic agriculture and soil management practices
- Campaign against EPAs

Southern Zone

- Promote rain water harvest
- Small scale irrigation
- Campaign against EPAs

5.0 SPECIFIC PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

The PRRP considered specific activities in three key areas, namely, empowerment, solidarity and campaigns as follows:

A. EMPOWERMENT

- Capacity building
- Creating awareness on EPAs, FASDEP/METASIP
- Sharing information on sustainable agriculture, access to extension
- Developing policy briefs on sustainable agriculture, agric inputs
- Media engagement programme
- Monitoring of resource allocation and utilization – CAADP/METASIP

B. SOLIDARITY

TARGET STAKEHOLDERS

- MOFA
- EPA



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- MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
- TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
- MINISTRY OF LAND AND FORESTRY
- MEDIA

Specific strategies/activities on SOLIDARITY

1. Building alliances and solidarity of citizens groups (farmer groups, women groups/associations)
2. Facilitate networking
3. Do inter-sectoral and agency collaborations to promote learning and best practices

C. CAMPAIGNS

1. Campaigns against EPAs: information sharing on documents, how many people are in cash crops against food crops
2. Campaigns on biofuels, land grabs
3. R2F - Alliance building with consumer protection association
4. CAADP – Campaign to ensure that commitment to allocate at least 10% is not only adhered to, but ensure that a greater percentage goes to investment particular to promote small scale farming.

6.0 THE WAY FORWARD.

The PRRP concluded with the strategies to be adopted to make impact with the AAG / FoodSPAN collaboration, and include:

1. Leadership to drive the process (ownership)
2. Not only vertical relation, horizontal as well
3. Regular engagement, e.g. review meetings

APPENDIX

List of Attendance

1. Yakubu Iddrisu, Assistant Coordinator, FoodSPAN, Accra: Coordinating Secretariat
2. Rashid Zakaria, Urban Agriculture Network (UrBANET), Tamale: Agricultural Policy Thematic working Group Leader
3. Mumin Abdul-Karim, Abibiman Foundation, Tema: Southern Zonal Network Leader
4. Cornelius Beru, Trade Aid Integrated, Northern Zonal Network Member



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5. Aba Opong, Centre for Development of People (CEDEP), Kumasi: a Middle Zonal Network Member
6. Tenasu Kofi Gbedemah, Information for Development (INFODEV), Ho: Southern Zonal Member
7. Nana Osabarima Tabi II, New Frontier Farmers Processors and Producers (NFFPP), Akim-Anamase: a Middle Zonal Network Member
8. Nicholas Apokerah, Trade Aid Integrated, Trade Policy Thematic Working Group Leader
9. John Kwadwo Owusu, Environmental Protection Association of Ghana (EPAG), Kumasi: Middle Zonal Network Leader
10. Mavis Boachie Abrebese, Catholic Archdiocese Development Organisation (CADO), Kumasi: Vice Chairperson, FoodSPAN Steering Committee