



CONCEPT NOTE

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SHARED VALUE AND INNOVATION

at Nairobi Innovation Week 2018

This document aims to provide background and a proposed format for a one-day event held jointly by the FoodAfrica Programme and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Finland-led workshop will be the official final event of FoodAfrica (see more information at the end), where results will be presented and further developments and next steps based on Programme outcomes will be innovated in collaboration with private sector and other stakeholders. Many aspects of the FoodAfrica research will continue as part of CGIAR Research Programmes and other research initiatives. However, for a long-term impact of the programme also other partnerships and methods are needed. Therefore an important strategic approach is tapping into the innovation ecosystem – **linking research results to innovative business and investment solutions**. The event will be an opportunity to kick-start engagement to develop sustainable solutions for food security and food safety.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) has a strong interest in linking development and business through innovation. The Embassy of Finland is a strategic partner at the Nairobi Innovation Week. In 2017, MFA and Unicef co-organized a Shared Value Workshop for a number of stakeholders from academia to private and public sector. The event was very successful increasing the awareness of the shared value concept. The same format provides an excellent framework for this event as well

Aim and objective of the event

The aim of the event is to create new partnerships and approaches to utilize FoodAfrica results in innovative ways. Through a shared value approach community needs, commercial opportunities and potential partnership gains will be identified. The objectives of the event are to:

- Strengthen the understanding of how collaboration and partnerships between different sectors can add value and promote innovative solutions to development challenges, through utilizing and taking research results further.
- Target the most important sector for jobs and livelihoods, agriculture, on creating new solutions and partnerships for more efficient food chain.



Methodology and tentative program of the day

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SHARED VALUE AND INNOVATION will be an interactive event with different types of sessions focusing both on theoretical and practical activities. Sessions will be split between presenting FoodAfrica and other case example and then applying the learnings in group discussions and group work. Innovation is most successful when it is demand-driven from local challenges and needs and leverages experiences from diverse stakeholders. Therefore, participants will be split into multi-sector groups where innovative exchange can take place.

The day will include presentations of shared value and FoodAfrica results, discussions, groups activities and pitching new ideas.

Expected outcomes

- Raised awareness of relevant stakeholders from different sectors of agribusiness
- Opportunities relating to using FoodAfrica results for further actions, either in policy, research, extension or business identified.
- Define potential business opportunities for enhancing food chain
- Practical next steps identified/innovated by multi-sector groups.

Participants

We welcome interested participants from all fields relevant to food security and the food sector, including academics and researchers, development agencies and NGOs, extension sector and policy makers, start-ups as well as more established food entrepreneurs, SMEs and industry. Small groups will be compiled including representatives of many different sectors in order to get the most out of the shared value exercise and to identify new and innovative approaches and opportunities.

Venue and date

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SHARED VALUE AND INNOVATION will be organized at Norfolk the Fairmont Hotel in Nairobi on Wednesday March 7, 2018. The agenda will be shared with the confirmed participants in due course.

In addition to this event, the FoodAfrica Programme will take part in Nairobi Innovation Week through academic sessions/Panel discussions and exhibition stand.



Background on FoodAfrica

The FoodAfrica programme - Improving Food Security in West and East Africa through Capacity Building in Research and Information Dissemination, funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, has been running since 2012 and is coming to an end in mid-2018. The overall purpose of the Programme is to improve the capacity of local research and education institutions in research, education and information dissemination in order to strengthen the agricultural sector, and through that improve local livelihoods and increase food security in Western and Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa. The Programme is coordinated by Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and the partners include four CGIAR centres (ILRI, IFPRI, ICRAF and Bioversity International), two Finnish higher education institutions (University of Helsinki and HAMK) as well as local universities, research institutes and organizations in the six partner countries in Africa.

The Programme has three thematic components, focusing on different aspects of food security, targeting different levels of the value chain. These include Sustainable Food Production, Food Safety and Nutrition, and Market Access and Extension. The practical work includes diagnosis of soil micronutrient deficiencies, analysis of technologies and policies to reduce climate change vulnerability, and identifying appropriate dairy cow breeds and management systems. The Programme also promotes the use of local biodiversity to enhance food and nutrition security, identifies ways to mitigate the mycotoxin risk in the maize and dairy value chain, and using information and communication technology to increase farmers' awareness, and volunteer farmer trainers.

The key results coming out of the research include a number of new analytical methods, procedures, approaches and tools for management of natural resources. They include detailed information on a range of issues relating to soils, nutrition, local biodiversity, marketing patterns and willingness to pay for certified products. These will have implications for the sector in many ways, for researchers and policy makers as well as for the extension system, small-scale farmers and the business sector. The second phase of FoodAfrica, since July 2016, focuses on dissemination of results, which are currently being customized for different user groups.