Towards a multisectoral approach of food security in policies and development projects

Nicolas Bricas
Cirad, Montpellier, France

Food Security : a consensual definition

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996)

Food Security and Nutrition have a multi-factoral dimension

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Access – Availability – Quality – Stability

Nutrition is not only just about food. It’s also about physical activities, health and care, education, etc.

Food Security has a multi-factoral dimension

• Since 2008, a competition between approaches and institutions looking for a new legitimacy to fight hunger:
  – Increase production
  – Fight Poverty and create jobs
  – Give Food Aid
  – Liberalize markets
  – Improve resilience
  – Reduce instability
• How to manage this fragmentation? How to go from a mono to a multi-sectoral approach?

At the policy level : the GISA

• GISA : Since 2008, a French inter-ministry group on food security :
  – Ministries in charge of cooperation for development, agriculture, environment, finance, research, health
  – Research
  – Humanitarian and development NGOs
  – Private sector
• A meeting every month : information, discussion and building French positions at international level

Food Availability is not Food Security

Food Availability

Number of undernourished people in the world (FAO)
Interest and limit of a participatory governance

- A community of people who share a common and inter-sectoral view on food security
- An improvement of the arguments of official positions in international debates and the building of consensus
- Participation avoids blaming government...
- ...but avoids discussing the real problems: towards a “depolitisation” of the debate?

At projects level: they impact FS but are not aware of it

- French Agency for Development (AFD):
  - Projects where FS is the main objective: 8%
  - Projects that contribute to FS but as a secondary objective: 24%
  - Projects that don’t include FS as an objective but some may actually have an impact on it: 68%
- A lot of projects have an impact on food and nutrition security, but policy makers or project managers are not aware of it.
- The contribution of projects to FS is not explicit

Causal model: what it looks like?

Towards indicators

- Casual models as training and awareness tools for project managers
- Assessment indicators will be used for building and management of all AFD projects
- Practical manual to help project designers to use these indicators

Conclusion

- An inter-sectoral approach
- A political coalition for food security and nutrition
- Need to explicit how project, how innovations contribute to FS
- Need for a policy coherence