

News Article

Nutrition Sensitive Workshop in Kenya

Kenya's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement networks are prioritising nutrition-sensitive programs and the integration of nutrition in the development agenda. This was underscored during the **Action Against Hunger (ACF) 'Nutrition Sensitive Programmes Workshop' held in Nairobi on 14th May 2014**, to raise awareness around the importance of nutrition sensitive programs.

This event brought together 58 participants representing the SUN Movement networks, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, civil societies, donors, UN agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the global SUN Civil Society Network.

Through speeches by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, USAID, FAO and Action Against Hunger, the workshop allowed for the highlighting of the relationship between agriculture and nutrition and for a sharing of lessons learned and best practices in nutrition sensitive programming in Kenya. Several presentations from SUN stakeholders (UNICEF, the Human Nutrition and Dietetics Unit, SUN Civil Society Network) emphasized the role of SUN Networks in promoting nutrition sensitive programs.

ACF took the opportunity of this event to officially launch its case study *'Reconciling Agriculture and Nutrition'* as well as the the Generation Nutrition Campaign that involves eight members of the SUN Civil Society Alliance.

Several stakeholders recalled their commitments to reduction of malnutrition and key recommendations were voiced. The recommendations include the need to advocate for the inclusion of nutrition in the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, for the positioning of the SUN Government Focal Point at the highest level in the political structure and for the establishment of all SUN networks and the SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform.

It was also recommended that the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Infrastructure, National Treasury and the private sector be involved in nutrition programmes. As Anne Chele of the FAO emphasized, *"there is need to use a multi-sectoral approach in nutrition programming"*. Furthermore, in order to scale up nutrition-sensitive programmes, participants called for increased funding for the Nutrition and Home Economics Unit, especially at the county level.

Another important recommendation was the need to build capacity of the local media to report nutrition issues, more so by involving journalists in nutrition workshops and events.





***Clockwise:** James Adede of GRACE Africa makes his remarks, the launch of ACF's case study and SUN CSN Coordinator Dr Claire Blanchard makes her presentation.*

The writer is Titus Mung'ou, ACF's Advocacy and Communications Manager and Chair, SUN CSA.