The market-place is a space for SUN countries and networks to showcase their achievements in scaling up nutrition. In November 2014, the number of SUN countries stands at 54. The market-place provides an opportunity for all countries to highlight their progress and for participants to reflect on the achievements and progress of others. The design of the market-place allows the display of printed materials, posters and videos.

Welcome drinks will be served in the Gazebo after the opening plenary to enable participants to appreciate the market-place. Two further opportunities to visit the market-place are included in the agenda on page 8 of this booklet.

Strengthening the links between policy-makers and science, academia and professionals so that policy-makers have access to the information they require to take decisions, and science, academia and professionals are informed by experience is critical for successful scaling up of nutrition. In addition, it is important to develop strong links within the nutrition science, academic and professional communities to avoid overlap and ensure that gaps are filled. The contribution of nutrition science, academia and professionals potentially includes support for:

- research studies relating directly to planning and implementation;
- staff training;
- survey and study design;
- policy development and technical guidance;
- programme evaluation;
- programme of appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems;
- dissemination of knowledge both technical and experiential.

In SUN countries, at least 27 countries have academic institutions as members of the national multi-stakeholder platform but there is a need to understand better the exact contribution of academic institutions to the platforms. In addition, academic institutions, nutrition professionals and scientists are increasingly involved in the four emerging communities of practice that are strengthening the capacity of SUN countries to deliver improved nutrition. The discussion will build on the 16th meeting of the network of SUN Government Focal Points which has started exploring the contribution of science to the SUN Movement.

Moderator:
Emorn Udomkesmalee (Wasantwisut), Mahidol University, Thailand

Panellists:
Vandana Krishna, Director General, Health and Nutrition Mission, Maharashtra, India and SUN Movement Focal Point
Daysi de Marquez, Executive Director, CONASAN (National Council on Food Security and Nutrition), El Salvador and SUN Movement Focal Point
Richmond Aryeetey, School of Public Health, University of Ghana
Joyce Kinabo, Professor (Human Nutrition), Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania