

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF. RFI 6020

Green Week 2013 (19-20 January 2013, Berlin)

Extracts from a briefing for Secretary of State, Owen Paterson's visit to Berlin with relevance to Defra's involvement in the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

SPEAKING NOTE (for the ministerial summit meeting – part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture - on Saturday 19 January)

The challenges facing the global food system today are significant.

More than 1 billion people go to bed hungry every night, while another billion over-consume and 30-50% of food grown worldwide is either lost post-harvest or wasted.

Demand for food is expected to increase by 40% by 2030, and 70% by 2050, and per capita meat consumption is expected to increase by two-thirds.

Food production and the supply chain account for 30% of total global energy demand and 70% of freshwater use.

Competition for land, water and energy will increase. The number of people living in water-stressed areas is likely to more than double by 2050, affecting more than 40% of the world's population.

Agriculture accounts for around 14% of global GHG emissions, and is also the main driver of deforestation which accounts for around 17% of global GHG.

We all need to contribute to finding ways to deal sustainably with growing demand, with likely rises in resource prices, and with a climate constrained world. And we must improve access to food for the poorest.

I therefore wholeheartedly welcome this discussion and the opportunity afforded to the international community by this important event to share the expertise and innovative thinking that we will need if we are to ensure that agriculture plays an important role in building a more sustainable future.

Addressing these monumental challenges will require considerable investment.

Agriculture is predominantly a private sector activity in which the role of smallholders is an important element in the wider agri-food chain. But governments and donors have a responsibility too, to ensure that such investment is encouraged, not just directly in terms of driving productivity but also improving sustainability and efficiency across the agri-food chain.

The UK is committed to tackling the root causes of poverty and poor governance, not just its symptoms - and we will be taking this approach to our G8 partners.

We will be hosting an event on food and nutrition a few days before the G8 Summit, which will build on the 2012 Olympic Hunger Event.

And our Prime Minister has announced that the G8 Summit itself will focus on open economies, open governments and open societies; to enable us to unleash the power of the private sector by advancing trade, ensuring tax compliance and promoting greater transparency.

The UK has met its commitments made at the G8 Summit in 2009 in full, disbursing over £1.1 billion between 2009 and 2012. This has helped millions of people fight chronic hunger and malnutrition in over 20 countries.

We are committed to driving forward progress on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in 2013 in partnership with the Africa Union Commission, African Governments, G8 and other donors and the private sector.

Unlocking responsible private sector investment in African agriculture is key to raising rural incomes, creating jobs and ensuring households can access nutritious food all year round.

Africa has untapped potential for growth in agriculture. But we know that investing in agriculture across Africa is still viewed by some as risky. That is one of the core challenges and opportunities the New Alliance seeks to address.

The New Alliance assumes a more ambitious approach to private sector engagement in African agriculture: creating jobs and adding value as part companies' core business not just corporate philanthropy. This will require a long-term commitment and an openness to work in partnership with government, civil society and other actors to develop new business models that are responsible, sustainable and include smallholders.

In Europe, too, we face many challenges, and there is a pressing need to develop policies that encourage sustainable agriculture and a competitive industry. Investment needs to be targeted where it will deliver most benefits, and that means moving towards an EU Common Agricultural Policy that reduces direct subsidies and gives farmers the scope to respond to the market and supports their efforts to protect the environment.

BACKGROUND

G8

The Prime Minister has announced that the G8 Summit will focus on open economies, open governments and open societies to unleash the power of the private sector by advancing trade, ensuring tax compliance and promoting greater transparency. However, the Government shares concerns in the NGO community that more should be done to tackle hunger and undernutrition.

Food Event

The Department for International Development will build on this year's Olympic Hunger Event – at which new commitments on reducing stunting in young children were made - with a further event on food and nutrition a few days before the G8.

The food and nutrition event will not formally be part of the G8. This is because the event will involve a wider coalition of global actors than G8 members. Furthermore the event will seek to mobilise financial commitments on nutrition, whereas the G8 Summit is not about pledging.

New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

The UK intends to drive forward progress on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition; a shared commitment to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and raise 50 million people out of poverty over the next 10 years, launched at the G8 Camp David Summit in May 2012.

The Secretary of State has agreed to act as the G8 co-Chair of the New Alliance Leadership Council next year.

Olympic Hunger Event in August 2012

The Olympic Hunger Event hosted by the Prime Minister in August 2012 helped build global political commitment and collective action to help the 165 million undernourished children.

For example, the agricultural research community agreed to roll out new nutrient-enriched crop varieties to half a million farming households in Africa by the end of 2013, and the UK alone agreed support to agricultural research that could help feed 45 million people.

UK companies like Unilever, Syngenta and GlaxoSmithKline will work to find ways to make nutritious food available to poor families at prices they can afford. Other commitments were made by the European Commission who agreed to take responsibility for reducing the number of stunted children globally by 7 million by 2025.

UK Government work on food and nutrition security

Food and nutrition security is a priority for the UK Government. DFID runs key nutrition programmes in: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe

For example in Bangladesh, we are strengthening the nutritional impact of three of our extreme poverty programmes by integrating delivery of nutrition specific interventions reaching 243, 000 adolescent girls, 103,500 pregnant women and 225,000 children under the age of five.

At this year's G8 Summit, the Prime Minister gave strong support to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition - a new 10-year initiative to lift 50 million people out of poverty and increase food security.

The Prime Minister co-hosted a high level event on hunger in August 2012 with the Government of Brazil, at which the UK agreed support to agricultural research that could help feed 45 million people.

UK support for smallholder farmers

About 500 million farmers globally are defined as 'smallholders'. It usually means those who have access to less than two hectares of land, and includes both farmers practising

subsistence agriculture who need other forms of income just to meet basic household needs, and those involved in year-round commercial production, albeit on a small scale.

Factors such as access to water, other inputs and finance, and proximity to roads and markets determine the extent to which an individual smallholder's livelihood is economically viable both now and in the future.

In each of the last three financial years DFID has spent approximately £500 million/year on food security programmes. This includes programmes which provide support to smallholder agriculture in many countries, through a wide range of implementing partners.

DFID systems do not directly track spending on 'smallholder agriculture' because DFID uses standardised categories defined by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, which do not include 'small holder agriculture'.

Examples of our work on small holder agriculture at each level mentioned in the answer include:

- Bilateral: In Zimbabwe, during 2010 and 2011, DFID supported around 182,600 smallholder farmer households with seeds, fertiliser and farm inputs and provided access to finance to more than 17,000 poor people in rural areas, of which around 90% were women.
- NGOs and CSOs: DFID is supporting FARM-Africa and Self Help Africa, to increase the skills, knowledge and organisational capacity of 487,000 smallholders and 910 smallholder organisations and increase the production and income of 930,000 African smallholders.
- Private sector partnership: The Food Retail Industry Challenge Fund (FRICH) makes grants to encourage UK retailers to pilot novel buying schemes to source produce from poor producers in countries such as Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. FRICH also communicates information to UK consumers about how their food purchases can help poor farmers.
- Agricultural research: DFID provides the UK's core contribution to CGIAR international agricultural research system. Our support for the CGIAR has helped finance important innovations like the development of drought tolerant maize, enabling more than 2 million smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa to add grain worth an annual average of £100 - 130 million to production in drought-affected areas.

The humanitarian crisis in the Sahel

The UK was swift to respond to the emergency in 2012 and provided humanitarian aid to 1.6 million men, women and children across the region in 2012. The UK is providing an additional £15 million in 2013 to support over 500,000 people in five Sahel countries, including high-protein food to help treat 80,000 severely malnourished children. This is in response to the release of the UN Appeals for 2013.

Since February 2012 the UK has committed £73 million in multilateral and bilateral (£40.4 million) contributions to the Sahel through the UN and International NGOs.

The UK Government remains particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Mali, where the delivery of humanitarian aid continues to be constrained in the northern of the country, placing further pressure on the food insecure population. Insecurity related to

the Mali conflict has internally displaced over 190,000 people, and over 150,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

The acute food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel is now permanent. Year on year, under-nutrition poses the greatest risk factor for mortality and morbidity among young children in the Sahel. According to the UN over 490,000 children die each year from nutrition-related causes in the Sahel region. 2012 was the largest crisis that the region had experienced since 2005-6. In 2013, UNICEF predicts over 1 million children will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the Sahel, with 3 million children under 5 requiring treatment for moderate malnutrition (MAM). For Mali alone, UNICEF predicts an estimated SAM caseload of 125,000 children in 2013.

The cycle of humanitarian crises in the Sahel arise from chronic vulnerabilities that require long term solutions. The UK is already supporting multilateral efforts to promote resilience in the Sahel and believe that promoting resilience in the Sahel must be a priority for the international community. We must commit to addressing the root causes of poverty in the Sahel, build the capacity and resilience of communities, in order that they may withstand future shocks.

We are aware that many of the poorest parts of the world will be worst affected by the physical impacts of climate change. Following the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review the government has committed to develop a Sahel Regional Resilience Strategy which is in preparation. This will set out how the UK can use its influence with multilateral and regional bodies to push for more focus on building resilience to food insecurity in the Sahel.

Food security

Addressing the challenge of providing food to meet increasing demand will require considerable investment – agriculture is predominantly a private sector activity in which the role of smallholders is an important element in the wider agri-food chain. But governments and donors have a responsibility too, to ensure that such investment is encouraged, not just directly in terms of driving productivity and improving sustainability and efficiency across the agri-food chain.

We therefore need a broad-based approach to:

- Address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable while investing in long-term sustainable solutions to the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.
- Find better ways to value in economic terms the ecosystem services provided by land and water resources and fisheries as a way to encourage more sustainable patterns of consumption;
- Take steps to reduce post-harvest losses. For example, research on cassava suggests that over 8% of the harvested crop is lost in handling and 23% in processing.
- Improve the efficiency of markets, including through the use of infrastructure, market institutions and information systems, to help facilitate farmer access;
- Improve access to credit in rural areas, to provide livelihood opportunities and encourage rural development;
- Continue to promote research and development including around new crop varieties and livestock traits, more efficient use of inputs, and wider dissemination of existing technologies appropriate to the agro-ecological environment; and

- Deliver better training for farm managers and workers to improve their business and agricultural skills