

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF. RFI 6020

UK G8 Presidency - Meeting with Nick Dyer (DFID) Friday 22 February 2013

Extract from a briefing for Martin Nesbit (Director, EU, International and CAP Reform, Defra) with relevance to Defra's involvement in the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

(i) Food Security

An opportunity to discuss progress on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition established in 2012, including the hunger and nutrition events being planned for 8 June. Useful to re-enforce the shared (DfID/Defra) nature of the agenda, including through the draft joint statement on food security.

- New Alliance offers opportunities to pursue shared interests including the role of sustainable agricultural productivity in tackling hunger and food security. How best to capture that? And what role proposed for the food and nutrition event – planned for 8 June?;
- Open Data Initiative is a potentially valuable tool with significant benefits through data sharing. Need to ensure our input is aligned and consistent with approach on G20 AMIS track;
- (if raised) G8/G20 work captured within draft Defra/DFID statement on food security. Mindful of challenges ahead – including post-2015 agenda – useful to press on with that to help articulate our joint trajectory.

Background

At the 2012 G8 Summit leaders committed to the New Alliance for Food Security & Nutrition, which aims to: accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture; take to scale new technologies to increase sustainable agricultural productivity; and help reduce poverty in alignment with the MDGs. There are several workstreams. Defra's interests within these include:

(i) the Open Data Initiative work to establish a global platform for access to agriculture-related information, and relevant interlinkages with the G20 Agricultural Markets Information System (AMIS) and work of the Rapid Response Forum. DFID's Tim Wheeler (Dep. CSA) leads on policy; Ian Boyd has had initial discussions with [REDACTED] (USDA) to understand scope of work which is aligned closely with Defra objectives;

(ii) the role of the New Alliance in promoting sustainable agricultural productivity, including alignment with our ambition in the post-2015 development framework. A high-level event on 8 June aims to embed African ownership and unlock agriculture's transformative potential to end hunger – sustainable agricultural productivity should be part of this;

Development of the joint Defra/DFID Statement on Food Security continues. Neil Thornton and [REDACTED] met with Nick Dyer on the 17th January. They agreed to continue work and get a near final version ready in the coming months – reserving a view on whether the document should be published or for internal use.