

THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

TOKYO : 26-27 OCTOBER 2009

DAVID NABARRO
COORDINATOR UN SYSTEM HIGH LEVEL
TASK FORCE ON THE GLOBAL FOOD
SECURITY CRISIS

CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

- Current situation
- High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (HLTF) – *structure, mandate, programme of work, activities, support mechanism (HLTF Secretariat, Coordination Network, Senior Steering Group)*
- High Level Meetings and Food Security: Outcomes
- Challenges and Way Forward

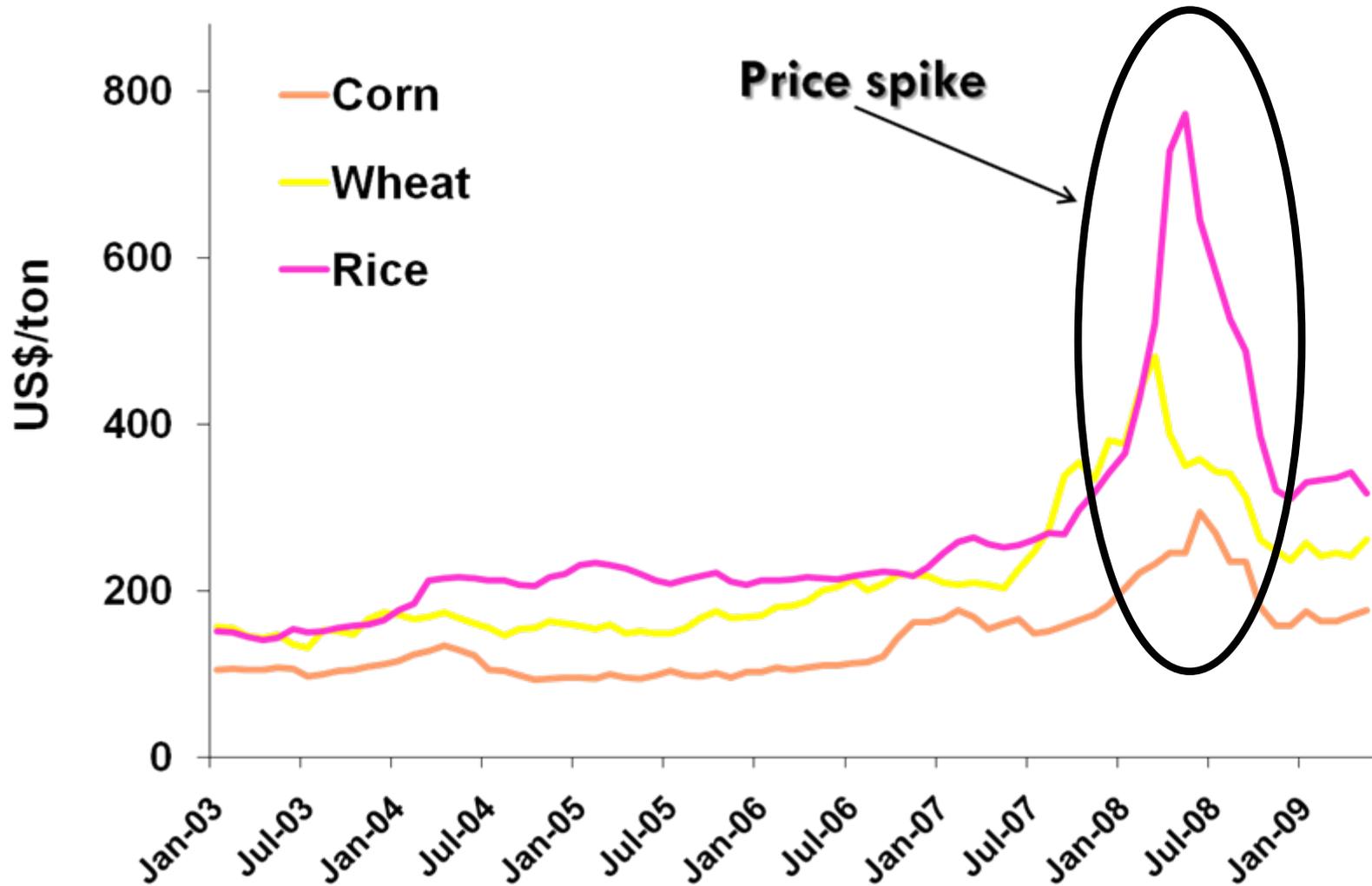


CURRENT SITUATION

SUMMARY

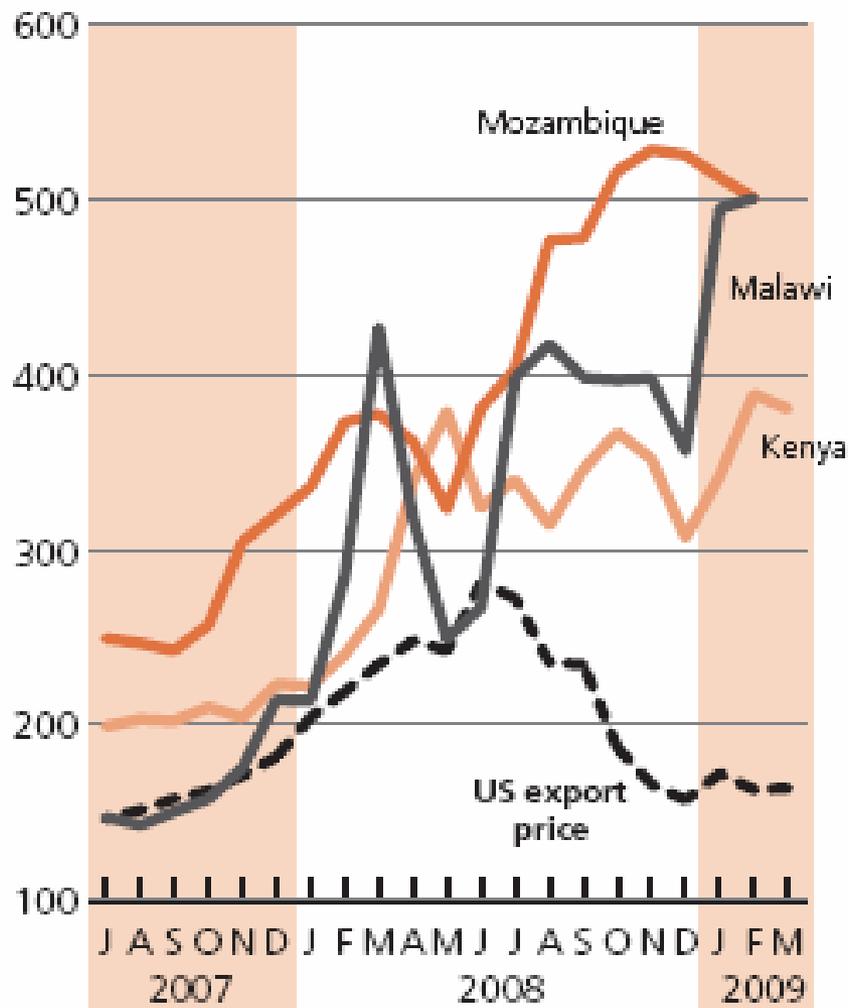
- Food and nutrition systems have been in crisis long before food prices shot up in 2008
- Climate Change and Economic Contraction are making the situation worse
 - ▣ High levels of malnutrition, growing hunger
 - ▣ Increasing numbers unable to realize their right to food, access the food they need when they need it
 - ▣ Production, processing and distribution systems not serving interests of small-scale producers
 - ▣ Differences between price paid to producer and paid by consumers
 - ▣ Volatility in prices and variations in supplies
- Progress towards the MDGs is compromised

Food price spike, 2007-08

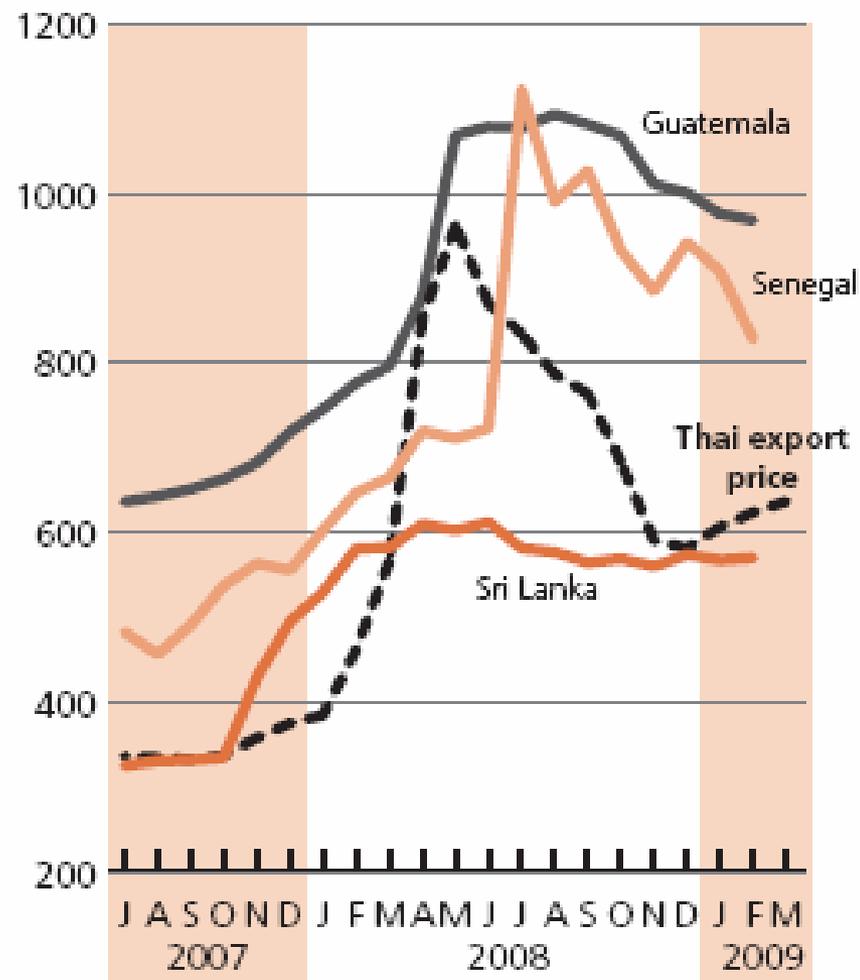


The food crisis is not over

Maize



Rice



Main reasons for price volatility

- Income and population growth
- Energy and biofuels
- Slow agricultural growth
- Speculation and financial crisis

The financial crisis and the recession add to food insecurity

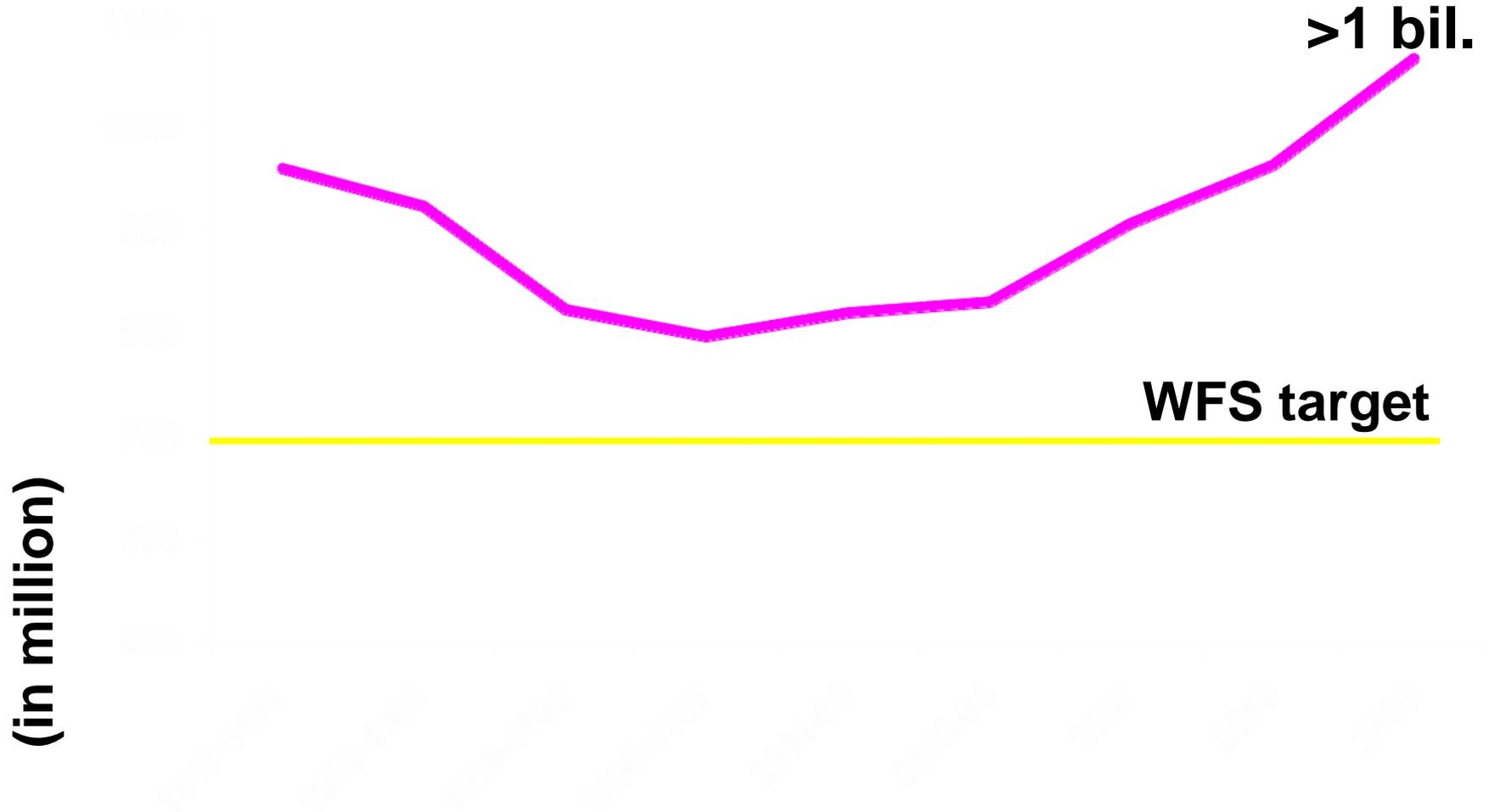
- Less capital available today and in the future for the agriculture
- More debt specially for small holders which had already invested in the expansion of their production
- Shift of attention of policies for agriculture and reduction of public investment
- Reduction of employment and wages of low skill workers
- Reduction of remittances

Climate change will challenge future food production

Climate change impact on average crop yields

Crop/ management system	Sub Saharan Africa	East Asia and Pacific	South Asia
Irrigated rice			
NCAR	-14.1	-19.8	-15.5
CSIRO	-11.4	-13.0	-17.5
Rainfed maize			
NCAR	-4.6	1.5	-7.8
CSIRO	-2.4	-3.9	-2.9
Rainfed wheat			
NCAR	-21.9	-14.8	-44.4
CSIRO	-19.3	-16.1	-43.7

The number of hungry people in the developing world is rising



Land acquisition: in search of food security



Source: von Braun and Meinzen-Dick 2009, with data compiled from media reports.

The image features a horizontal decorative bar at the top. It is composed of two adjacent rectangular sections: an orange section on the left and a blue section on the right. The text is centered within the blue section.

The High Level Task Force on Global Food Security (HLTF)

HTLF STRUCTURE

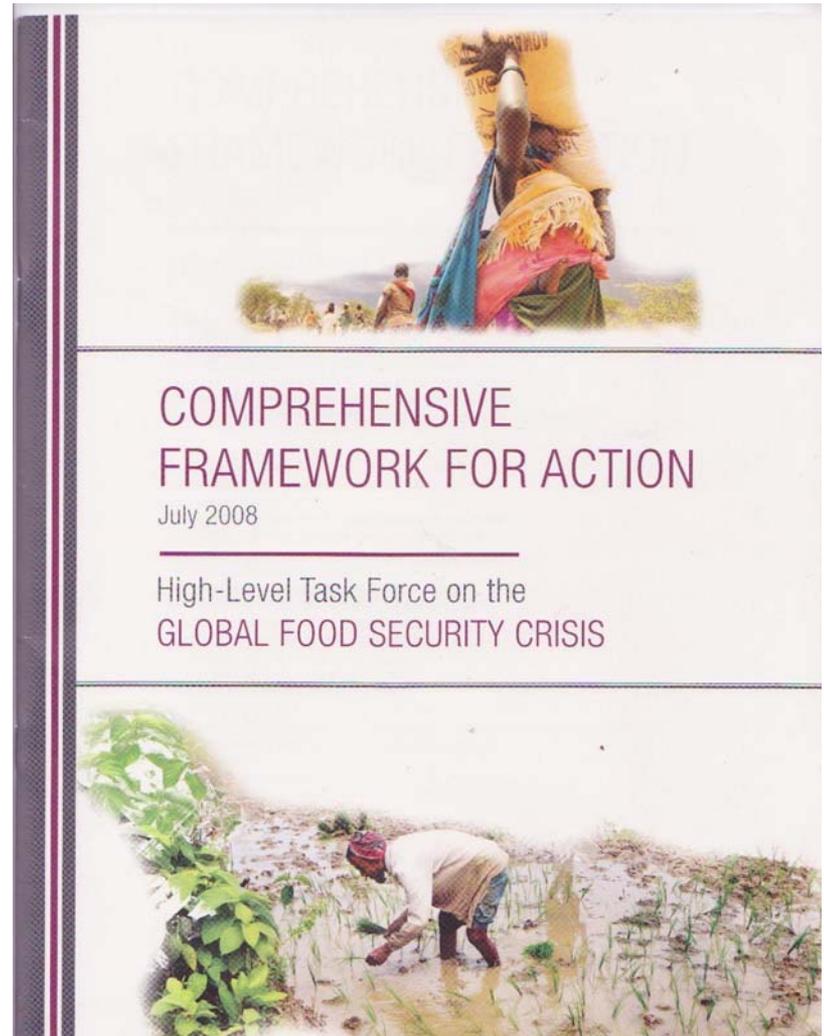
- High Level Task Force **is a time-limited UN system entity** established at the end of April 2008 by the UN Chief Executive Board in Bern (UN system Top Management)
- Includes FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, IMF, UNICEF, UNDP, WTO, UNCTAD and 13 other UN entities (Funds, Programmes, Departments); ILO just joined
- UN Secretary General as Chair: FAO Director General as Vice Chair
- One Coordinator and Secretariat

HLTF MANDATE

- Avoid creating new bureaucratic and intergovernmental layers
- Provide concerted support to National Authorities
- Link with Regional political entities, Banks, Economic Commissions
- Focus on reducing vulnerability by:
 - 1) Enabling access to food - improving nutrition, social protection and food systems (taking account of life-cycle vulnerabilities),
 - 2) Improving availability of food - emphasis on small scale agriculture
 - 3) Making markets and systems for trading foods function in the interests of poor people
- Promote concerted action with a focus on MDG 1 and the needs of poor people
- Bridge short and longer term responses, humanitarian and development assistance

HLTF MANIFESTO: COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The HLTF developed the CFA as a means for organizing **collective actions in pursuit of immediate and longer terms outcomes**, to be taken forward by different stakeholders working in partnership (not limited to the HLTF membership) under the leadership of national authorities.



COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

OBJECTIVE

Improve access to food and nutrition support and take immediate steps to increase food availability

OUTCOMES

Meet immediate needs of vulnerable populations

- ▣ Emergency food assistance, nutrition interventions and safety nets enhanced and made more accessible
- ▣ Smallholder farmer food production boosted
- ▣ Trade and tax policy adjusted
- ▣ Macro-economic implications managed

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen food and nutrition security in the longer-run by addressing the underlying factors driving the food crisis

OUTCOMES

Building longer term resilience and contributing to global food and nutrition security

- ▣ Social protection systems expanded
- ▣ Smallholder farmer food production growth sustained
- ▣ International food markets improved
- ▣ International biofuel consensus developed

THE HLTF WORK PROGRAMME: WAYS IN WHICH THE HLTF MAKES A DIFFERENCE



1 Support realization of CFA outcomes in countries: HLTF will respond both to country needs, and requests from national authorities to stimulate more effective country level action through better coordination

WAYS IN WHICH THE HLTF MAKES A DIFFERENCE



2 Advocate for increase allocations of national and development resources: resources needed for urgent action and long term investment based on the need for all to enjoy the right to food and nutrition and to reduce vulnerability

WAYS IN WHICH THE HLTF MAKES A DIFFERENCE

3 Inspire a broader engagement in food security for all: encourage the full involvement of many hundreds of stakeholders at community, national, regional and global levels in a concerted movement for food security

WAYS IN WHICH THE HLTF MAKES A DIFFERENCE

4 Ensure accountability: assess achievements, review progress, demonstrate results, adjust activities that are sub-optimal and present reports that are analytical and useful

HLTF ORGANIZATION

- The **HLTF Senior Steering Group (SSG)** – made up of working level staff from HLTF member agencies - has a central role in supporting the coordinator and steering the Network
- The **HLTF Coordination Team** has been established with the coordinator and around 10 staff based in Geneva, New York, Washington and Rome (principal hub).
- The **HLTF Coordination Network** is being initiated (with 100 – 200 members) engaging civil society, NGOs and private sector



High Level Meetings and Food Security: Outcomes

G8 – L'AQUILA INITIATIVE ON FOOD SECURITY: JULY 8 – 10 2009

- Builds the Hokkaido Toyako Summit, Madrid Meeting, G20
- Focuses on Production, Access and Utilization – a comprehensive approach, both short and long-term
- Recognizes importance of Agriculture as a means for resilience, economic growth and development
- Pays attention to vulnerabilities: young children and women
- Commits to support national efforts to improve food security, regional initiatives and co-ordinated international response
- Engages producers, civil society, private sector (value chain)
- Commits at least \$20 billion

L'AQUILA INITIATIVE ON FOOD SECURITY: 5 PRINCIPLES

- support country-led processes;
- ensure a comprehensive approach to food security;
- strategically coordinate assistance;
- support a strong role for multilateral institutions; and
- sustain a robust commitment of financial resources, including \$20 billion in resources pledged at the G8 Summit.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Concept of country and regional partnerships, and an overarching *Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition* evolved since 2008 – championed by G8 & EU
- Increased interest in *nutritional security* as partnership goal
- Should be inclusive, build on existing activities, encourage broad participation in policy, application of science, mobilization of funds, implementation of priority actions
- The spirit of Global Partnership has been reflected in 2009: revitalized Rome-based Committee on Food Security being seen as an important element of the Global Partnership

COORDINATED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- There is a need to improve procedures for funding food assistance, smallholder production and social protection.
- Present system is fragmented
- Options include:
 - Better coordination of funds provided through existing funding channels (World Bank, IFAD, WFP, FAO, regional banks, Bilateral donors and Foundations) so that they respond to country needs in an integrated way that reflects the Accra agenda for Action.
 - Establishing novel funding mechanisms that pool donor resources and react in a predictable way to country needs



CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

CHALLENGE 1

- Sustaining the comprehensive approach in a way that links efforts to improve food production and availability, to ensure that all are able to access the food they need (and enjoy their right to food), and to increase the likelihood that they can utilize (and be adequately nourished) by the food that they eat.
 - ▣ need for a shared analytical perspective on the issues being faced and on the options for response (analyzed from technical, institutional and political perspectives) within each country and region
 - ▣ need for a revision of the CFA as a basis for the HLTF's analysis, engagement and action – in close cooperation with the CFS' strategic work

CHALLENGE 2

- Ensuring effective support for country-led actions that improve food and nutrition security and include (a) joint investment planning, (b) coordinated stewardship (c) mutual accountability and (d) predictability and trust at national, regional and global levels
 - a role for HLTF entities at the interface between national authorities and other country-level stakeholders, regional mechanisms, multilateral banks and global intergovernmental arrangements
 - need for prompt action by donors and for their accountability systems squared with the principles of country ownership and leadership

CHALLENGE 3

- Advancing efforts to engage a broad range of public sector, business and civil society partners in this process at all levels, ensuring that global arrangements for partnering contribute to more effective action and outcomes at local and national levels;
- partners are able to engage in ways that ensure the participation of stakeholders from local, national and regional levels and that their interests are fully taken into account in discourse about “global governance”

CHALLENGE 4

- Ensuring a coherent and synergized multilateral contribution by the different elements of the multilateral system – working together at all levels while maintaining respect for diverse mandates; ensuring that synergy results in more effective outcomes without establishing additional bureaucracy
 - ▣ Work for a better understanding of the roles, comparative advantage and interagency working arrangements among different entities represented within the HLTF (as a part of the revision of the CFA, perhaps)
 - ▣ Single communication from heads of HLTF entities to their country representatives stressing the importance of effective joint working – synergy, coherence and partnerships at country level

CHALLENGE 5

- Tracking progress, and communicating both intentions and results at country, regional and global levels
 - Focus primarily on tracking the work of the HLTF entities so as to demonstrate how their individual and collective contributions add value
 - Establish coherent and comprehensible message boards that can be well used by all



THOUGHTS ON COORDINATION

WORKING TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY:

- 1 The move from *control* to *empowerment*. Staying separate (with our individual mandates) but working together; being both strategic and opportunistic at the same time (“*stropism*”); sharing credit for what is achieved; taking joint responsibility for actions (and being accountable, together, for lack of success).
- 2 Bring institutions together *behind political leadership*: Subscribing to one overarching set of policies, aligning institutions in support of the policies; ensuring effective and joined-up action to realize the policies; focusing on (and securing) results

WORKING TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY:

- 3 Stimulate *deeper political leadership* through *social movements*: Encouraging a broad understanding of the issues; seeking opportunities for action; always being eager to achieve; stimulating partnerships and networks that result in wide-ranging participation.
- 4 *Make coordination work*: Move from (a) ritual meetings, to (b) exchanges – and matrices – describing who does what and where; to (c) working in harmony and not undermining each other; to (d) working in synergy – the whole being better than the sum of the parts - to (e) unity when all are part of a coherent, single operation.

THANK YOU

www.un-foodsecurity.org