

## ANNEXES

### Annex I: Conference Communiqué

#### CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE` Republic of Kenya



#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Agri-Nutrition Conference 2019

#### ‘Enhancing Multisectoral Agri-Nutrition Approaches for Improved Nutrition Outcomes in Kenya’

#### COMMUNIQUE OF RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 3<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL AGRI-NUTRITION CONFERENCE 2019 HELD AT THE NAIROBI SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI

24<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

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#### I. PREAMBLE

We the 422 delegates gathered here at the Third National Agri-Nutrition Conference on September 24-26 September 2019, at The Nairobi Safari Park Hotel representing stakeholders in Agri-Nutrition have *discussed and explored how* to build on current efforts to enhance Agri-nutrition multisectoral approaches for improved nutrition outcomes in Kenya through showcasing progress towards improving access to diverse nutrient dense foods, increasing productivity to achieve food and nutrition security and subsequently increased consumption of diverse diets.

The overall objective of the conference was to demonstrate national efforts to improve nutrition outcomes through multi sectoral Agri-Nutrition approaches by evidence exchange and learning based on the progress on implementation.

During the forum,

- Stakeholders took stock of the progress made in agri-nutrition since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Agri-Nutrition Conference,
- Reflected on ways to improve our understanding on Agri-Nutrition based on the relevant evidence and translation into multisectoral programming
- Shared practical examples of Agri-Nutrition multisectoral approaches based on stakeholders’ experiences, tools and approaches, and
- Identified national needs for ongoing technical assistance, tools, information and data on Agri-Nutrition.

In particular, the delegates;

**TOOK COGNISANCE OF** The Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) which provides an overarching framework covering the multiple dimensions of food security and nutrition improvement. This policy has been purposefully developed to add value and create synergy to existing multisectoral and other initiatives of government and partners.

**RECOGNIZED** the need for multi-sectoral and private sector involvement, and that hunger eradication and nutrition improvement is a shared responsibility of all Kenyans. In particular, delegates reiterated the importance of involvement of youth in agri-nutrition and food system value chains,

**NOTED That** despite efforts made in alleviating malnutrition, Kenya is still affected by a triple burden<sup>4</sup> of malnutrition where 26% of children below five years of age are stunted (KNBS, 2014), 41% of women of reproductive<sup>5</sup> age, anemic and 28% of adults between the ages 18-69 years are overweight and/or obese.

**REITERATED That** good nutrition is an outcome of various actions from all sectors. In this respect, delegates applauded The Food and Nutrition Linkages Technical Working Group, through the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and implementing partners for successfully coordinating the last two annual Agri-nutrition conferences.

## 2. The Key Challenges

Delegates noted that despite the progress made, there are still challenges in the following areas;

- i. Low public investments in nutrition: Low public investments and inadequate resources allocated to nutrition. Across all sectors, investments in nutrition programs are not commensurate to its critical role in reducing child mortality.
- ii. There is still low understanding of the linkages between national food security, basic education, and water and sanitation strategies on one hand and nutrition on the other.
- iii. Low agricultural productivity caused by, a multiplicity of factors such as the lack of quality inputs, distorted input and output markets, minimal adoption of modern production technologies, high incidence of pests and diseases, poor soil health, poor delivery of extension services, and low investment in infrastructure,
- iv. Increasing food prices and growing food deficits: Shifting demographics imply that by 2025 the majority of Kenyans will be in urban or peri-urban households and moved from majority agriculture producers to agriculture consumers, reducing production and increasing demand for food,
- v. Slow progress in governance reforms and institutional coordination in agri-nutrition sector marked by the failure to restructure and organize around modern policy priorities that enables acting with a sense of urgency as the food crisis necessitates,
- vi. Limited access to credit and financial services for the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector suffers from low levels of credit and financing and commensurately sub-optimal levels of investment.

## 3. Moving forward

From the conference, delegates undertook to implement a wide range of commitments to address four

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<sup>4</sup> Triple burden of malnutrition comprises undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and over nutrition

<sup>5</sup> Women of reproductive age (15 – 49years)

(4) critical priorities to accelerate agri-nutrition. The priorities included;

**1. Strengthening multisectoral coordination, partnerships and mutual accountability**

- a. Increase the effectiveness of multisectoral engagements and coordination of agri-nutrition interventions for delivery of results at both national and county government level
- b. Reduce fragmentation and internal governance weaknesses of agriculture sector institutions
- c. Relook at the KNAP 2018-22 and accelerate support to county governments to develop their own strategies and plans
- d. Set up a high level inter-ministerial and intergovernmental committee to enhance multi-sectoral coordination
- e. Set up a formal structure at national and county levels to follow through and regularly report on progress made in the implementation of commitments at the national agri-nutrition conference

**2. Increasing productivity of food systems**

- a. Improve market linkages and private sector investments in food systems
- b. Innovation and use of digital and non-digital technologies in food systems
- c. Increase strategic investments for demand driven extension services at county level
- d. Tackle measures aimed at increasing productivity of food systems such as the promotion of food fortification and bio-fortification
- e. Improve national and county government proactivity in addressing food safety and quality issues, including those impinging on community nutrition and health through generation of necessary evidence, strengthening regulatory capacities and public information and awareness

**3. Sustaining nutrition and resilience of households**

- a. Promote sustainable dietary diversity approaches at household level
- b. Increase capacity of households to increase incomes from agricultural and livestock activities and other sources
- c. Promote utilization of indigenous foods which have a competitive edge in coping with climate variability and nutrition options
- d. Increase investments in small scale irrigation systems to enhance household food security
- e. Co-creation of interventions with local communities, private sector and relevant stakeholders in food and nutrition security to increase ownership and sustainability
- f. Advocate for greater investments in building additional systems such as basic social services like Universal Health Coverage, cash transfers and other social protection services which strengthen resilience of households

**4. Effective knowledge management and communication for Agri Nutrition**

- a. Increase the capacity of frontline actors in the public and private sector through the roll-out and implementation of the Agri-Nutrition curriculum
- b. Increase the use of location-specific data that include individual food consumption data to inform knowledge on local dietary gaps
- c. Scale up good practices in the application and use of innovative information, education and communication tools to raise awareness among local communities to influence dietary behavior
- d. Employ the application of innovative information, communication technologies solutions to empower farmers and strengthen linkages between farmers, service providers and buyers.

- e. Explore innovative social change interventions such as through image building campaigns, using informal markets to engage urban consumers and greater involvement of youth
- f. Establish a knowledge and information hub to translate knowledge to use and enhance knowledge exchange across sectors

### **On the role of the media and private sector**

- Improve linkages between research on food safety and quality and the utilization of the results by the private sector and the households for the benefit of consumers
- Strengthen nutrition sensitivity of various value-chains by addressing root causes and underlying determinants, empowering women, youth and raising awareness on healthy diets.
- Recognize the crucial role of small farmers, working with them as fully legitimate private sector actors in the field of agriculture and food systems, as they produce the majority of food but are still the most affected by malnutrition.
- Collaborate to foster an enabling policy framework that also mitigates the impact of trade policies and tax incentives on small- holder farmers; support informed food choices through nutrition labelling, dietary guidelines, nutritional education and behaviour change communication; and maximally align the priorities of the private sector with those of the public sector
- Improve linkages of food and nutrition value chains with private sector through SMEs and MFIs to increase their productivity, promote food and nutrition security and contribute to job and wealth creation
- Strengthen nutrition messaging and mobilization of stakeholders especially private sector through the SUN business networks

In conclusion, delegates rededicated their commitment to contribute to the delivery of the government's commitment to 100% food and nutrition security, which is one of the pillars of the Big 4 agenda of the Government of Kenya and the Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029.

Signed on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at The Nairobi Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

**Ministry of Agriculture,  
Livestock and Fisheries**

**Council of Governors**

**Development Partners**