

**PRESENTATION BY THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, GHANA AT THE
PRE-SUMMIT EVENT THE FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE**

**TITLE: TRANSFORMING GHANA’S FOOD SYSTEMS BY 2030, NATIONAL
COMMITMENT PAPER**

VENUE- FAO, ROME

FROM 26TH -28TH JULY 2021

EXCELLENCIES;

MINISTERS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES;

CONVENORS;

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I would like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to be part of this forum and to also contribute to the pre-summit event.

Introduction

Ghana is mindful of the Global and Continental Frameworks, which we have integrated into our Development Framework at country level. Guaranteeing food security and improved nutrition and overall optimum health for Ghanaians is a step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Union Commission Agenda 2063 and the Malabo declarations.

I. The current food systems

According to the 2017 Global Food Security Index Ghana is among the most food-secure countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Hunger and malnutrition however, persist in many parts of Ghana with about 1.2 million estimated to be hungry and this could increase given the unsustainable food production systems as well as the unpredictable shocks such as pandemics (COVID-19) and other natural disasters.

Ghana is plagued with the double burden of malnutrition with stunting levels at 19% in children under five and obesity at 29.3% of the population.

The key food security challenges in Ghana include sub-optimal staple food production characterized by changing agro-ecology characterized by unpredictable rainfall patterns and reductions rainfall and declining soil fertility.

II. Key areas to focus on in the short to medium term

The National Dialogues identified key areas that need to be intensified in the short to medium term in order to achieve significant gains in the achievement of the SDGS:

- Reduce levels of food loss, stunting, nutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.
- Promote resilient production systems with higher productivity of diverse nutritious crops, livestock and fisheries produced through sustainable and land-sparing strategies and measures that ensure food safety.
- Build strong and resilient food supply chains and improving implementation of policies and regulations and cooperation among actors.
- Promote extensive use of digital technologies that enhance access to extension services, markets, financial services and appropriate mechanization services.
- Empower smallholder farmers, women and youth to produce more efficiently with greater access to land and tenure security and other productive resources.

- Provide targeted social safety nets to protect livelihoods in the face of risks related to climate variability, conflicts and other shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Improve nutrition of school children through effective implementation of the school feeding programme.
- Increase consumer awareness and education on healthy eating
- Strengthen integrated policymaking and coherence, inter-sectoral collaboration, and private sector engagement for food systems transformation
- Ensure enforcement of regulations to increase consumer confidence and access to regional markets.

The key milestones include:

- Production of climate-resilient varieties of diverse crops especially vegetables and legumes using sustainable agricultural practices increased by 40% by 2030
- Reduction of postharvest losses by 50% through increased investment in affordable on-farm storage, handling technologies, transportation and logistics systems.
- Increase investment in technologies for value addition, food waste management, (conversion of organic waste into products such fish feed, bio-based products), and bioenergy by 20% by 2030.
- Implement Food based Dietary Guidelines to enhance to increase household dietary diversity scores by 30% and enhance nutritional value of meals for school feeding programs by 2030.

- At least 40% increase in access to affordable feed for the poultry and aquaculture industries by 2030.
- At least 20% increase in women empowerment in agriculture index by 2030
- Increased the number of youth-managed enterprises engaged in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food processing by 30% by 2030.

Conclusion

Ghana associates with the conviction that improved Food systems will contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Government will therefore ensure that the outcomes of the food systems summit are integrated into Development policies and plans and effectively implemented.