



Special Programme for Food Security

Special Programme for Food Security (The SPFS)

IFA/FAO Agriculture Conference
Rome, 26-28 March



Special Programme for Food Security

Context

- 800 million people lack sufficient food
- 70 % of poor live in rural areas of developing countries
- Urgent need for strategies and actions





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Background

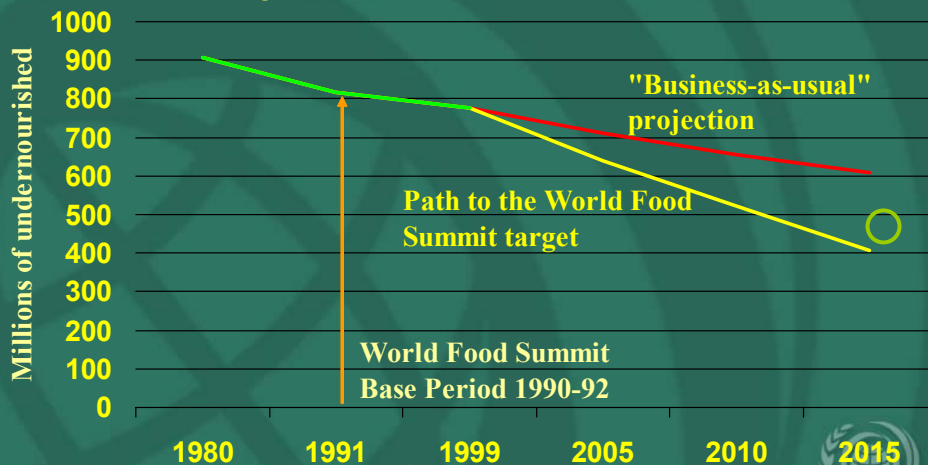
- Launched by FAO on 1994:
- Expanded and strengthened after the WFS 1996
- **Main objective**
empower communities to increase food production and productivity on a sustainable basis and broaden household access to food leading to improved livelihoods.



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Cutting Hunger

Progress towards 2015 is far too slow





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Distinguishing Features

- Explicitly links SPFS with achievement of WFS goal for 2015
- Nationally owned: all concerned partners involved
- Builds on opportunities for scaling up on-going successful localised programmes (not only SPFS)



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Distinguishing Features

- Adopts simultaneous rather than sequential approach to adjustment in farming methods, policies and institutions
- Combines productivity improvements with broadening food access





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Implementation

- Piloting simple low-cost innovations within the farmers' reach
- Creating local institutional capacities to continue the process of innovation
- Placing effective demands on support services
- Looking at food security from a community perspective, especially vulnerable groups
- Building capacities also through Farmer Field Schools, WUAs, School gardens



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Water and soil management:

Improving soil conditions and moisture availability, small water harvesting, low-cost drainage and irrigation systems (e.g. treadle pumps)



Raising productivity on a sustainable basis :

Improved and accessible technologies and farming practices (e.g. IPM, storage, agro-processing)



Farm diversification:

Better household nutrition and livelihoods through small-scale animal husbandry (e.g. poultry, goats), aquaculture, and agroforestry



Participatory analysis of socio-economic constraints and opportunities:

focusing on food security constraints, based on food production and income, access to natural resources and markets, and social equity issues





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Scaling up

The SPFS is progressively scaled up towards national coverage...

... integrating and focusing on additional elements e.g. support services (storage, processing, marketing, rural financing) and capacity building...

... at the same time as a National Programme is being developed



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SPFS - National Programme

- A national programme involving a pluralistic approach to cutting the incidence of hunger including:
 - Engagement of all institutions and key actors
 - Establishment of comprehensive programme for food security including agricultural policy reform
 - Investment in agricultural production and wider capacity building





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Status of implementation of the SPFS

- Started in 1994 in 15 countries: budget \$3.5M
- Now operational in 74 countries
- US\$ 500 million committed – more than half from developing countries
- 28 South-South Cooperation agreements signed



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Collaboration with the IFA under the pilot scheme

- The objective is to support the establishment of pilot fertilizer supply mechanisms by the private sector for the provision of inputs and to develop the purchase capacity of pilot farmer groups
- The pilot scheme has been applied in 6 countries: Cambodia, Congo DR, Ecuador, Eritrea, Mali and Nigeria.

