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## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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### REVERSE THE DECLINE IN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

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#### Actions and best practices

The EU, as the biggest aid donor and as a major actor in the international arena, reaffirmed in 2010 its commitment to improve the food security situation in developing countries.

In March 2010, the Commission renewed its **policy on food security** - *An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges* - providing a comprehensive approach to addressing food insecurity and focusing on four interrelated priority areas: (i) smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods; (ii) effective governance at all levels; (iii) regional agriculture and food security policies; and (iv) assistance mechanisms for vulnerable population groups. This policy framework, endorsed by the Council in May, sets out the EU food security agenda for the coming years.

Furthermore, in November 2010 the Commission launched a debate via a **Green Paper** – *EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development* – raising the question of how the EU can best support developing countries' efforts to speed up progress towards the MDGs. The Green Paper identified Agriculture and Food Security as one of the key areas.

In December 2010, following its Mid-Term Review, the **Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)** was updated and a new Multiannual Indicative Programme for 2011-2013 was adopted with an overall budget of €750 million. Over the coming three years, the FSTP will focus on three main priorities: (i) research, technology transfer and innovation to enhance food security; (ii) strengthened governance approaches for food security; and (iii) addressing food security for the poor and vulnerable in fragile situations.

Along with the **Food Facility instrument** established in December 2008 as a rapid response to soaring food prices in 50 developing countries, this instrument illustrates concrete signs of the EU's strong commitment towards improving food security in the developing world.

Together, these policy and financial instruments form part of the Commission's delivery of its commitments made in the context of the **L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, AFSI**. The Commission financial pledges for food security amount to a total of 3.8 billion USD for the period 2010 – 2012.

#### Results

The magnitude of the global challenge following the 2007-2008 food price crisis required bold action and additional funding. With a maximum three-year lifespan, the **€1 billion Food Facility** aims to bridge the gap between emergency aid and long-term development assistance. It finances interventions that help farmers with essential agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, equipment) and services, increases access to local food for the most vulnerable and encourages the development of agricultural infrastructures and services to help raise productivity.

The financial commitments taken by the European Commission in 2010 show that despite a very tight timeframe, the implementation of the Food Facility is fully on track with both the original planning and with the budgetary provisions.

By the end of 2010, all four financing decisions concerning the Food Facility have been adopted; the full amount of the €1 billion has been committed. **More than 80% of the payments have been made** (i.e. over €800 million) in 2009 and 2010. The Food Facility has resulted in **134 projects** implemented by NGOs and Member States' agencies, **68 projects** by international organisations, **3 regional projects** and **11 budget support measures**. Even if projects were implemented in record time, strict controls were applied through monitoring, evaluation and audit procedures to safeguard quality. Best practices and lessons learnt from the Food Facility will be incorporated in FSTP actions.

The Food Facility has demonstrated Europe's ability to react rapidly, efficiently and transparently to a global food security crisis.

### **Concrete examples of projects supported by the Commission:**

-Shielding children, pregnant women and nursing mothers: in Guatemala, the Commission is funding a WFP/FAO project to protect children, pregnant women and nursing mothers from the impact of high food prices by improving market deliveries and subsistence production. Food-for-work, food-for-training and food-for-asset activities are improving the living conditions of 210,000 vulnerable beneficiaries and the productive system of 8,000 subsistence farmers in target rural areas.

-Supplying inputs for farmers: the Commission and the FAO have joined efforts to supply 176,000 small-scale farmers in Zimbabwe – representing between 10% and 15% of communal farmers in the country - with 26,000 tonnes of seeds and fertilizers. With good seasonal rain, timely implementation and effective coordination, this project could almost double traditional food production in the regions concerned.

-Support to the Commercialization in Kinshasa of staple foods produced by rural communities in the province of Bandundu (Democratic Republic of Congo): the Commission has supported the creation and the strengthening of farmers' organizations with the aim to commercialize their staple food productions in the market of Kinshasa. The 4 projects encompass activities including: distribution of improved plant varieties, training of local organizations, creation of warehouses, transformation, processing of agricultural products, restoration and maintenance of farming tracks etc.. As a result the agricultural production has significantly increased in the communities concerned. During the period 2008-2010 the production delivered in the market of Kinshasa has been multiplied by 3 (more than 1000 tons/year of staple food).

For those projects the Commission has committed and paid 13.5 Million Euros.

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## **SUPPORT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LED PROCESSES AND PLAN IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Actions and best practices**

The EU renewed calls for improvements in governance and investments and involvement of private entities at regional and national levels. This includes stronger forms of coordination for enhanced coherence of policies, strategies and interventions in the field.

At regional level, the Commission supports the development and implementation of food security policies and strategies and the work of the key organisations and platforms involved. In Africa, these latter include organisations involved in the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme** (CAADP) such as the African Union Commission (AUC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and thematic organisations such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

It should also be underlined that the Commission will further strengthen its support in '**information for governance**', which refers to the use and making available reliable and timely food security information and '**participation for governance**', under which key stakeholders in food security governance, such as farmers' organisations, private sector organisations and other civil society groups, will play a more pro-active part in food security dialogue, policy formulation and implementation, and lesson learning.

### **Results**

In the framework of the Food Security Thematic Programme, the Commission addresses the four thematic pillars of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

### **Concrete examples of projects supported by the Commission:**

- **CAADP Multi-donor Trust Fund:** The Commission support amounted to 5 million EUR in 2010.
- **CAADP Pillar One "Sustainable Land and Water Management":** the Commission support in 2010 to the Regional Programme of Sustainable Land Management and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Sahel Region and Western Africa (10 million EUR).
- **CAADP Pillar Three "Food Security":** the Commission support in 2009 to the linking of information and decision-making to improve food security response strategies in CILSS and CEDEAO countries (10 million EUR) as well as to a Nutrition Strategy in West and East Africa (15 million EUR).

- **CAADP Pillar Four** "Agricultural Research and Innovation": in 2009 the Commission supports to the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (4 million EUR) and in 2010 the support to the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) with a 11.475 million EUR envelop.

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**SUPPORT STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING TROUGH REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ARCHITECTURE**

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**Actions and best practices**

The EU supports the implementation of the Food Security agenda in the context of the G8/G20, in particular the **L'Aquila Food Security Initiative**.

In this regard, and throughout 2010, the EU further enhanced **strategic dialogue and cooperation** on food security with a number of actors, including with the United States, in the framework of **EU-US** development policy dialogue and with the three Rome-based **UN agencies** (FAO, IFAD and WFP) for a more strategic and focused cooperation, based on their respective mandates and comparative advantages.

**Results**

The EU contributed to further promoting food security governance at the global level by supporting the reform of **the Committee on World Food Security** (CFS) to become the central body on food security, and its High Level Panel of Experts, as concrete expressions of the Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN). At its session in October 2010 the Committee decided, inter alia, to develop policy options for price volatility. To strengthen inter-agency coordination, the Standing Committee on Nutrition was invited to be part of the CFS Advisory Group.