

The Human Right To Food In Kenya

Perspectives from a stakeholder workshop

3rd and 4th March, 2015



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1 Introduction

The Human Right to Food is now almost universally accepted as a core human right. But its actual realisation is multi-dimensional, complex and context-specific. It is therefore not surprising that many African countries still struggle to ensure their citizens enjoy this right. What does the right to food really mean and how can one assert it? The Heinrich Boell Foundation (East & Horn of Africa) organised a 2 day workshop in Nairobi, comprising a diverse set of participants, to understand and deliberate on the different dimensions of the human right to food. Primarily, this workshop allowed participants to appreciate the issues involved in providing food in a consistent and dignified manner, and started an ongoing debate that, hopefully, will raise general consciousness about these issues.

The workshop – held at the Heron Portico Hotel on the 3rd and 4th March 2015 - brought together individuals from the public sector, private sector, research and policy analysis, farmer organisations, civil society and academia.

The meeting was facilitated as, mostly open, engaging discussions. Combinations of participatory methods were used. These include: buzz groups, working sessions at round table groups, input presentations, panel and plenary discussions. The presentations were made through flip charts, meta-cards, power point slides and oral summaries.

The main outputs of the workshop were presentations and discussions on different dimensions of the right to food including;

- a) The global food context and how that affects countries like Kenya
- b) Economic, political and legal issues when dealing with chronic and acute hunger
- c) Focus on increasing productivity versus improving distribution as contemporary policy choices
- d) The role and evolution of smallholder production systems
- e) The role of the media in reporting agriculture and hunger
- f) Technology options and how they affect safe and efficient food production: e.g. GMO, large irrigation projects

The workshop program is attached as Annex 1 and the list of participants is Annex 2.

2 Understanding hunger and the human right to food

2.1 Definitions

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), “Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions which interfere with fundamental freedoms and human dignity”.

Specifically, as defined by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in

community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.”

Further, the United Nations Special Rapporteur states the human right to food to be: “The right to have regular, permanent and free access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free of fear.”

Although there are plenty of discussions on hunger and food (in)security, a human rights perspective to food is necessary. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2012) defines hunger as a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. According to FAO, “Food security exists...when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” Although FAO describes food security as “... a precondition for the full enjoyment of the right to food”, the idea is itself not a legal concept per se, and it therefore does not impose obligations on stakeholders, nor does it provide entitlements to them.

In contrast, the right to food places legal obligations on States to overcome hunger and malnutrition and realize food security for all. It also addresses the obligations of States beyond their borders, including trade-related ones. The human right to food approach requires a particular focus on vulnerable groups and places specific obligations on states to protect this right. These obligations must therefore be reflected in political and economic actions. As a concept, therefore, the right to food lens demands a detailed understanding of the differential impacts of political and economic measures on different groups and their ongoing access to enough, socially acceptable food in a dignified manner.

2.2 A Global Perspective

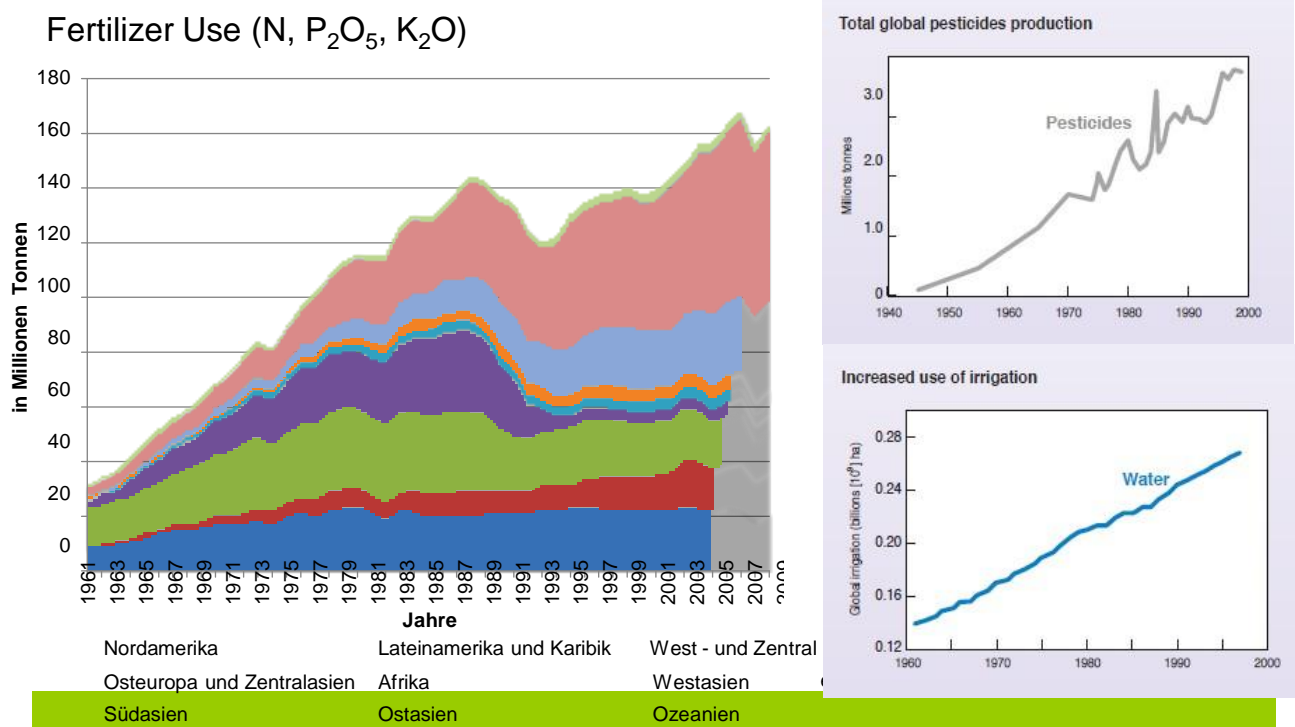
(Ms. Christine Chemnitz, HBS, Berlin)

The global demand for food is expected to continue to grow due to population increases and rising incomes. Projections show that by 2050, demand for agricultural products will increase by 60%, driven by consumption of meat & dairy products; and the rising use of bioenergy. Global cereals consumption (for human and animal feed), is projected to reach some 3 billion tons by 2050. This means that annual production, currently at 2.1 billion tons, will have to grow by almost a billion tons. Within the same period, meat production will need to rise by over 200 million tons, to reach a total of 470 million tons, 72 percent of which will be consumed in developing countries, up from the 58 percent today.

Even as the supply of agricultural products is expected to increase, overall growth rates are projected to decrease. Moreover, even though the area under agriculture is expanding, the actual share per person is decreasing, with the most dramatic changes notable in Latin America and former Soviet Union countries.

Globally, there is an increase in the use of agricultural inputs, including inorganic fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation systems. In regard to fertilizer, the application in developed countries has risen drastically since the 1963. However, although, there has been an increase, Africa's usage of fertilizer still remains relatively low. In addition, the cost of fertilizer has gone up steadily, leading to a declining terms of trade between fertilizer and grain. While in 1970, a bag of fertilizer cost as much as a bag of grain, in 2008, it peaked at 6 times as much, and in 2011, still costs 2.5 times as much. To pay for the fertilizer farmers now have to produce two and a half times more than they did in 1970.

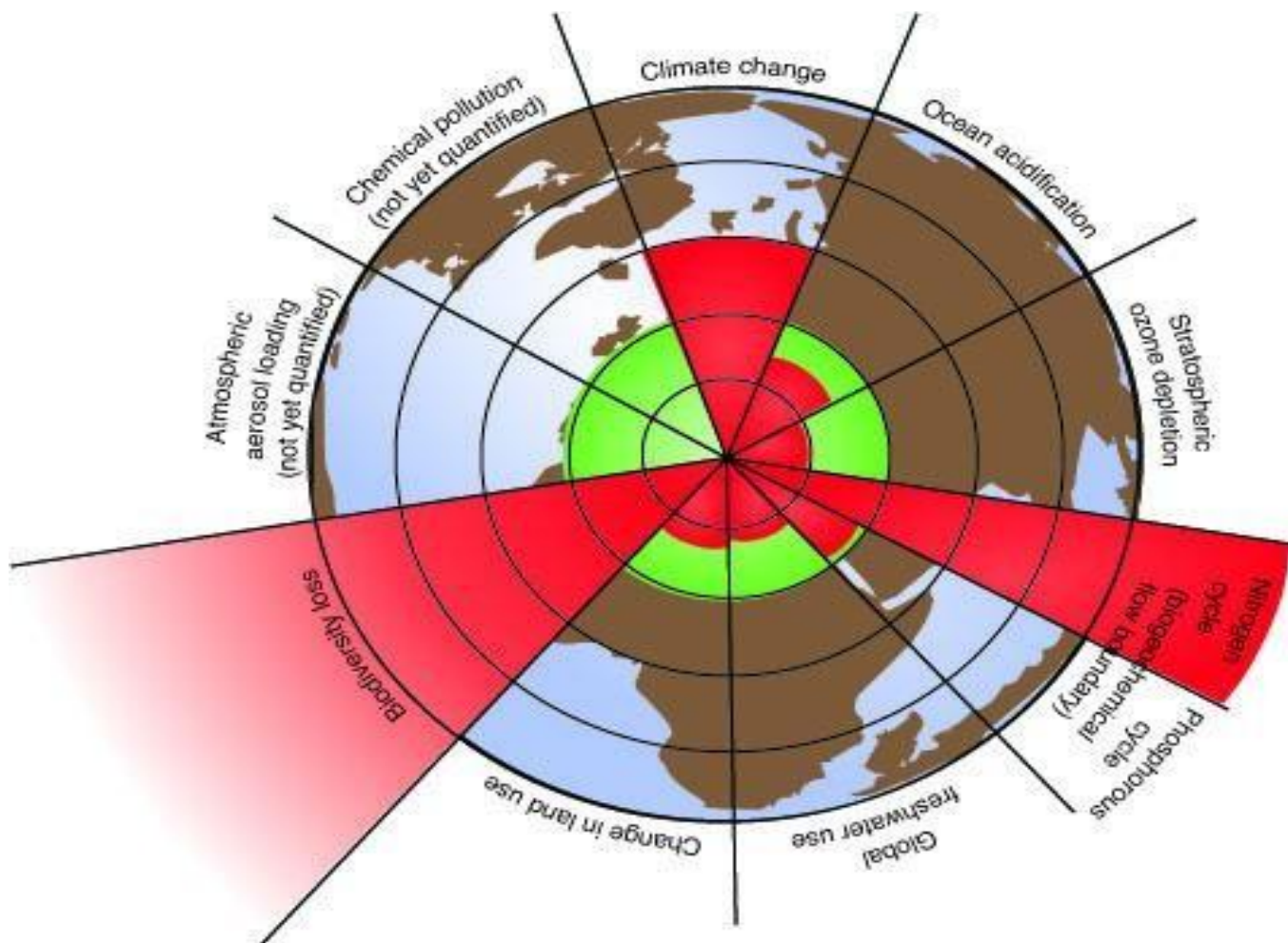
5. Use of agricultural inputs increases



These global dynamics are unfolding in a context where natural resources are under increasing pressure. In fact some studies¹ have shown that the earth is fast approaching the boundary limits on various natural phenomena with biogeochemical flow and biodiversity losses having breached critical levels. Climate change, ocean acidification and global freshwater use are approaching dangerous levels. It is difficult to predict what might happen when all these 'planetary resource use boundaries' are breached. For sure, Africa will be affected inordinately. Already the largest percentages of populations living under water stress are found on the continent.

¹ See planetary boundaries research studies from the Stockholm Resilience Centre <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/21/research/research-programmes/planetary-boundaries.html>

Planetary Boundaries are crossed



These dynamics, taken together with the global trading systems, have led to high and volatile food prices. The pressure to produce more is leading to global land grabs and consolidation of production. Today, in Africa, 80% of farmers utilise only between 10 – 20% of the agricultural land, with most of them working on less than a hectare.

Finally, Christine also highlighted the stark gender disparities in land holdings, particularly in Africa. By 2005, less than 20% agricultural land holders in Africa were women, despite their important roles in securing household food and nutrition security; and providing the bulk of rural household productive and reproductive services

2.3 Lessons from Ghana

(Dr. Samuel Darkwah, Ghana & Mendel University, Czech Republic)

In Ghana, agriculture is predominantly conducted on a smallholder basis, with about 90% of farm holdings being less than two hectares in size, although there are some large farms and plantations, particularly for cocoa, rubber, oil palm and coconut and to a lesser extent,

rice, maize and pineapples. The main system of farming is traditional and subsistence as opposed to mechanized and commercial.

The main causes of hunger in Ghana are persistent poverty, low agricultural output, seasonality of weather, fluctuations in food prices and rapid population growth.

There are large disparities between the northern and southern parts of the country. In the former, about 88 percent of households rely on crop production whereas in the south, most people are employed in the services and the industrial sectors. Communities in the north account for 63 percent of those living below the poverty line in Ghana. The highest proportion of food insecure households is in the Upper East region, where 27 percent of households are at risk of hunger. Stunting rates in the Northern, Upper East, and Upper West regions are 32, 36, and 25 percent respectively – with two of these regions above the national average of 28 percent, and classified as serious by the World Health Organization.

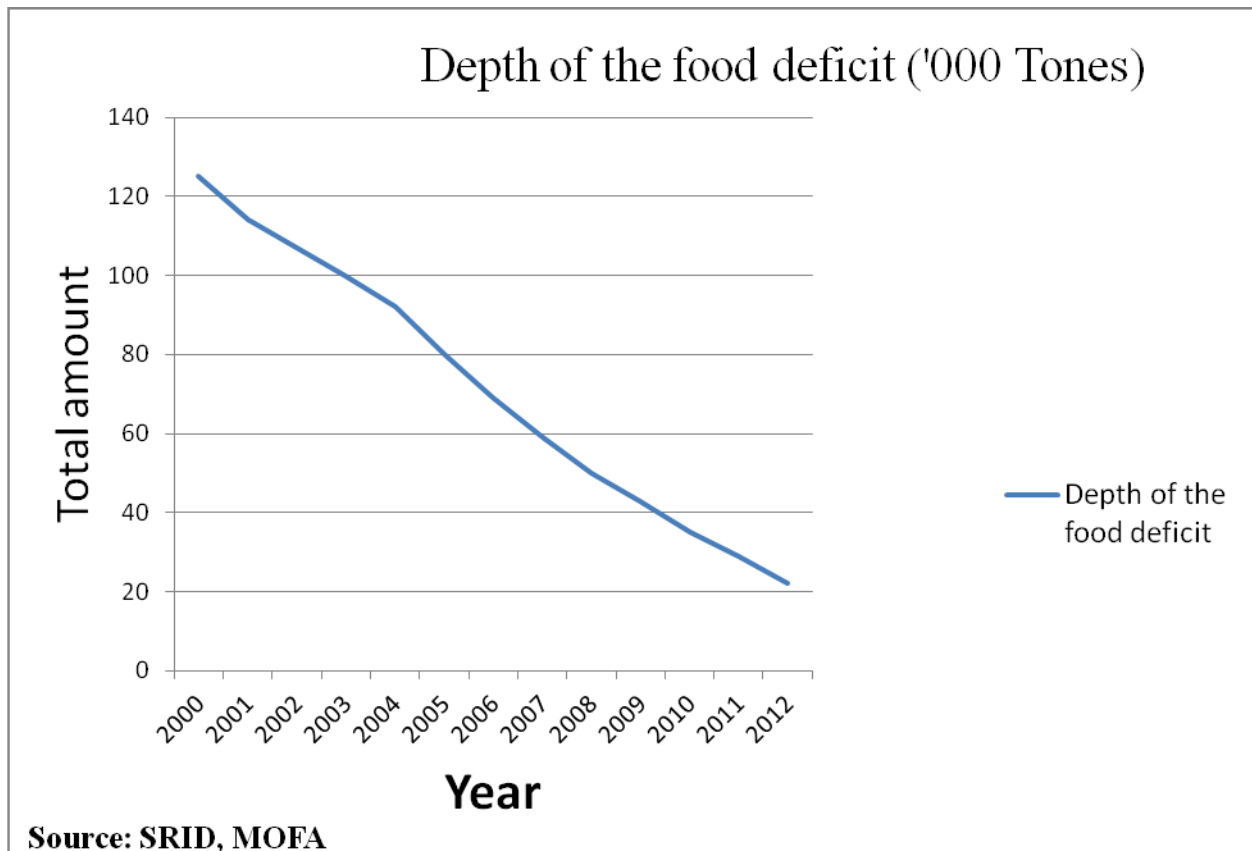
The government of Ghana has had some achievements in hunger reduction. For instance, over the 24 years, between 1990 and 2014, the number of under-nourished people in Ghana fell from 7 to 1 million. In 1992, 13 million people (80 percent of the population in Ghana), was consuming less than the nutritionally required amount of food. By 2013, this figure had declined to 1 million (less than 10 per cent). Poverty levels (those earning less than \$1 a day), fell from 52 percent in 1992 to 28 per cent in 2005, which is probably the best record in poverty reduction in Africa in the last 20 years.

This partial success is as a result of: expansion in production and use of high yielding varieties of staple food crops such as maize, yam, plantain and cassava; increased market access for farmers to sell their produce; expansion of land under agriculture (arable land in Ghana has more than doubled in size since 1980).

The government's efforts are supported by a variety of developmental initiatives and policies, which include: the National Plan for Action for Food and Nutrition; Medium Term Agricultural Development Program; Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy and the School Feeding Programme.

In addition, the United States of America has introduced a number of programmes in Ghana, which provided effective and practical approaches to appropriate technology and innovative agriculture sector financing. The most interesting of these is the Feed the Future initiative which has a private sector focus, working through nucleus farmers who have direct contractual relationships with thousands of smallholder farmers, as well as collaboration and coordination with other development partners.

Trend in food deficit of Ghana, 2000 to 2012



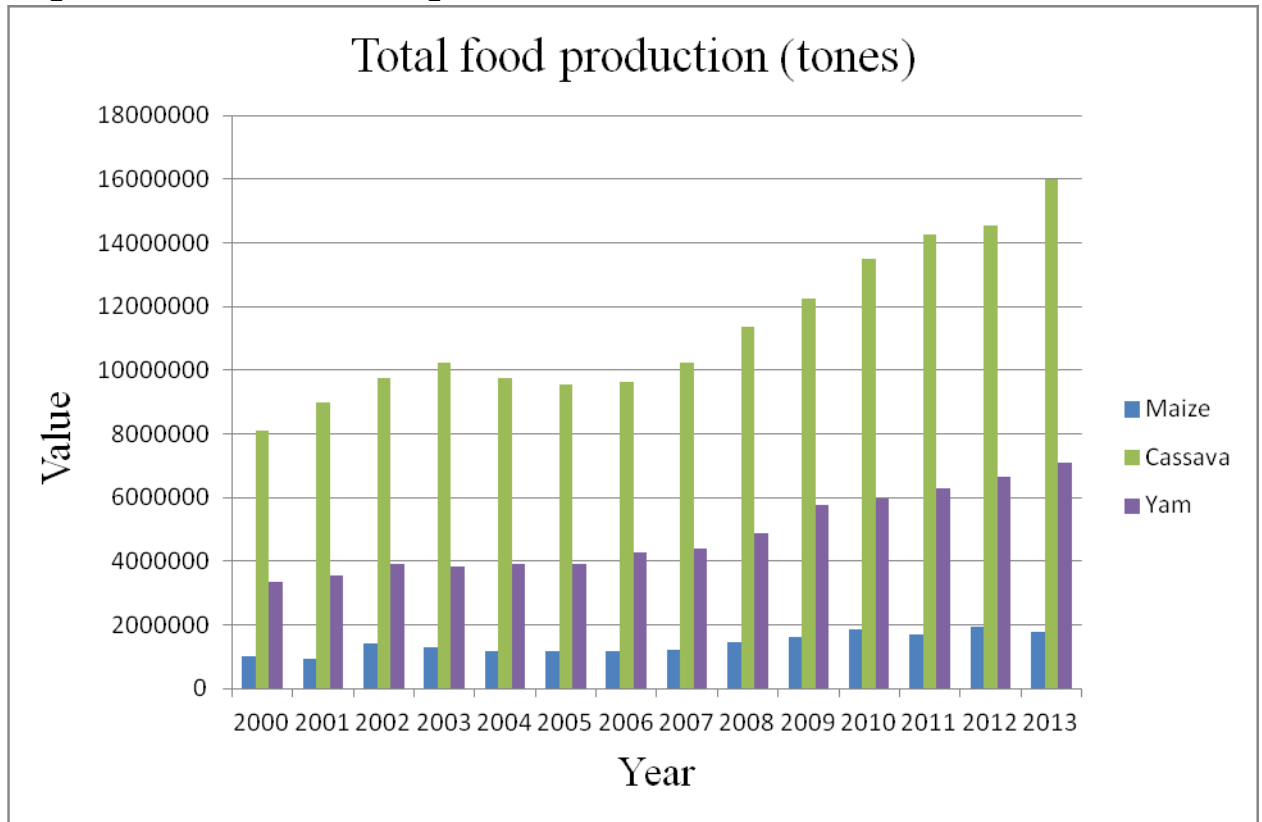
Despite these advances, there are some shortcomings in Ghana's quest to reduce hunger and ensure food security in the country. They include; access to finance, problems with fertilizer distribution, inadequate strategies to mitigate post-harvest losses, pests, diseases, limited food processing, illegal mining, inadequate land reforms, low technology transfer and as well poor road networks.

Discussion

In the discussions ensuing from these presentations, participants made several observations:

- *Staples diversification:* Participants observed a major difference between West Africa (WA) and East Africa (EA) as being the wider diversification of food crops in the former. In EA, there is overdependence on maize, while in WA, communities still consume, in addition to maize, a range of other staples including plantains, cassava, and yams.

Total production of three staple foods



- *Enhanced cassava production:* Instigated by presidential intervention, Ghana produces higher yields of cassava which are processed into a variety of products for local consumption and export.
- *Youth and agriculture.* Although agriculture has been introduced in schools in Ghana, it is still not attractive to young people, and the curriculum does not fully prepare them to undertake it as an enterprise.
- *Smallholder agriculture and land tenure issues:* It was observed that in Ghana, as in most of Africa, the decreasing smallholder land holdings is a major problem. This opened up a discussion on the challenges and ways to effectively support small-scale farmers, for instance by building their capacity and economies of scale through cooperatives, supporting value addition and building market linkages.
- *Reliable Data:* Questions were raised about the data being used to discuss poverty in Africa, which is often presented in proportionate in terms (for instance in percentages). Some participants felt that average poverty data concealed the great inequalities that exist in African societies: where extreme wealth co-exists with poverty. It was suggested that to understand issues around the human right to food, absolute measures focussing on households would be better.

3 Food and Hunger Situation in Kenya

3.1 Major Policy Interventions by the Kenyan Government to Reduce Hunger

(Francis Karin, Egerton University)

In Kenya, there has been a number of policy and legal reforms towards reducing hunger, which include the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA) Act of 2013, and under it, the Crops Act, 2013, and the Fish Market Information System, known as EFMIS-Ke. National government strategy papers such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERSWEC) and the Vision 2030, Kenya's development programme covering the period 2008 to 2030, consider agriculture to be a key driver to the country's economic development.

There are also programmes initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, for instance the *Njaa Marufuku* Kenya (NMK) programme, the National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access Program (NAAIAP), and strategic grain reserve (SGR) initiative all of which are designed to support the increased production and availability of food. The Government has also instituted various empowerment funds (such as the *Uwezo Fund*) to promote income generation for women and youth, as well as a social protection fund for the aged.

A number of national expanded irrigation programmes are being implemented, for instance the Galana/Kulalu Ranch project. The Kenyan government is also making efforts to improve meat production, for instance by developing disease free zones in potential beef production areas. Construction of abattoirs and slaughter houses in arid and semi arid lands is also ongoing. There is also the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), a partnership between the Government of Kenya, the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme.

Some of the questions for discussion posed by Francis as he concluded his presentation included:

- The practicality of commercialization of agriculture and market development within the context of the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol. Are the three EAC countries really serious?
- How can Kenya double her food production by 2050, and would the application of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) be a key component of such an effort?
- What is the scope for and challenges of mechanizing agriculture in Kenya?
- What are the ways in which the Kenya government can take the food needs of vulnerable groups into account?

Discussions

In the discussions ensuing from the presentation, participants made several observations:

Policy and strategy shortcomings: A number of policies discussed during this session had not benefitted from citizen participation, despite this being a constitutional requirement. In particular, smallholders felt their views had not been considered in making policy and law despite the potential effects of these on their livelihoods and food security. Specific reference was made to the Crop Act, 2013, which, it was claimed, makes it compulsory to use certified seeds for certain crops, with huge penalties on farmers who multiply seeds or share uncertified seeds. Smallholder farmers suggested that such provisions undermined their traditional seed systems and their ability to produce food.

It was agreed that there is need for better understanding of the policymaking process, mechanisms for engagement and how inputs from workshops could be integrated.

Public investments and resource allocation: A gap in the discussions was the lack of clear data and analysis on the levels of investments and budgetary allocations – at national and county levels – to agriculture and food production.

The role of fertilizer subsidies: The way in which fertilizer subsidies are historically applied, particularly for maize farmers is economically inefficient (they are price subsidies that benefit manufacturers and large-scale farmers). Fertilizer support has also assumed political significance and seem to be focused on promotion of blanket fertilizer application as opposed to more holistic sustainable land management.

Disease Control: It is important to understand efforts being made by the government to intervene in managing crop and livestock diseases, for instance, in the case of the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MNLN).

The real causes of hunger in Kenya: There was considerable deliberation as to whether hunger in Kenya is caused by the lack of enough food (low production), or inadequate access, to food (poor distribution). In the former case, a subsidiary question was whether GMO's (and more generally genetic technology) could help increase production. Most participants opined that distribution and access were the bigger constraints and not production and productivity. The need for greater clarity and emphasis on food quality and nutrition was agreed.

3.2 Production, Consumption and Price Trends of Food in Kenya

(Timothy Njagi, Tegemeo, Kenya)

Data on three major cereals, maize, wheat and rice, shows Kenya to be a net importer of food. With regard to maize in recent years, production is usually lower than consumption, with a marked shortfall from 2007–2012. Further, a comparison between yields and area planted with maize suggests that any increased production is simply the result of increases in area, and not productivity.

The wheat output figures also show a consistently huge gap between production and consumption, with no notable change in the yield-to-area ratios. This scenario probably

suggests that it may be more beneficial for Kenya to import, rather than grow wheat locally.

There has been an increase in national consumption of rice, yet the area under cultivation has not changed. The productivity - 5 tons/acre - is the highest in Africa.

For the last 10 years, the prices of these three cereals has been on the increase, with the cost of rice having gone up by four times. While this somewhat supports producer income; it makes it difficult for consumers to afford enough food.

3.3 Political Economy of Food in Kenya

(David Ndi, Africa Economics)

In his discussion, David placed the problem of hunger in Kenya firmly as part of a larger economic and political problem; characterised by extreme inequalities. In Kenya, food production accounts for just under half of all commercial agricultural output. Agriculture therefore produces much more than just food. In addition, we must understand that farmers do not have an obligation to feed the wider population. Their key priority is income generation i.e., to make a living out of agriculture. To achieve this goal, farmers will take any necessary action to make their outputs more marketable, and they will sell their produce to the person who offers the best price. Therefore, logically, improving agricultural productivity does not necessarily mean that the poor will afford food.

Food insecurity can be categorised into two:

- a) Episodic insecurity, which results from income shocks or other calamities such as weather, conflict, diseases etc
- b) Chronic food insecurity, which is often the result of lack of enough income to meet basic needs, including food. In Kenya, a quarter of the population is so poor that even if they spent all their income just on food, they would still not have enough to eat.

Data also shows that there is an adequate supply of food to meet the population's caloric needs, with many people consuming around 1800 calories – against the recommended 1700. Generally, the problem is at the distribution level of food, and in the quality of food being consumed. As a result, 50% of the population is undernourished.

In view of this assertion, Dr Ndi discussed several issues in the food economy, as follows:

- a) Episodic insecurity, and the accompanying crisis, receives most attention. This is because famines are politically expensive, as they undermine State legitimacy. In contrast, chronic hunger does not make headlines because it is not visible (for instance, people do not immediately die directly from it). Therefore, it is not an immediate political problem, and it does not exert the same political pressure on the government. There is need for citizens to counter the seemingly high levels of political tolerance for chronic hunger.
- b) It is ironic that most of those who are chronically hungry are resource poor farmers. These farmers need help to improve their agricultural productivity and incomes.

These help may come in the form of assets such as farm implements, irrigation pumps or skills development programs. They also need risk management support and safety nets to protect them from risks such as diseases, drought and price volatility. Subsidies should be structured smartly; to avoid dependency.

- c) There is also need to diversify from maize dependency, and cash crops such as wheat, sugar, which would make available more land to produce food crops.
- d) The planning behind the current infrastructure development, which is interpreted in terms of middle-class real estate also needs to be re-thought. Infrastructural development needs to be re-aligned to support vulnerable groups and promote equity.
- e) The misuse of natural resources is depressing profitability in agriculture.
- f) For long, the Kenyan government has been far away from the people and their day to day issues. However, the devolved style of government brings government closer to issues such as food insecurity, and interventions can be sought at county level.

Discussion

Infrastructure: Some participants sought clarification on the issue of infrastructure, observing the need for better transport systems to move food from one region to the other. Dr Ndii noted that problem with infrastructural development is that mega projects were not necessarily designed to help the poor.

3.3.1 Generating political goodwill and support for food as a human right

The participants interventions with potential to generate political will for championing food as a human right.

Use of the legal process: Issues of hunger and food insecurity should be linked to human rights violations. This is what a rights-based approach portends. The right to food must also be applied to groups that are chronically hungry, and not just to those facing acute hunger. Examples where communities have petitioned the government using the court system on other human rights violations, can be used for violations of food as a human right. While focusing on rights, it is important to pay attention to responsibilities, and to identify those who have the duty. For this to be achieved, there should be a clear articulation of the right to food, and what does it actually means to people. This will be an important part of the conversation going forward.

Influencing the policymaking process may have significant impact. Policy-makers e.g. members of parliament, could be lobbied to enact legal frameworks for food as a human right and to lobby for responsible investments in other aspects e.g. infrastructure, security, food aid, resource (re)allocation (e.g. safety nets policies) and land policies.

Awareness raising among farmers and consumers. There is need to arouse and create interest of food as a human right, for instance by mobilising farmers, providing them with education and organizing them, to take the lead in advocacy of food as a human right in Kenya. For instance, they could push for lower food prices. The right to education could be used as an example of the manner in which people can agitate the right to food. Civic education is also needed on legal aspects of human right to food. It is also important to

identify the right moments when issues of human right to food can be articulated, for instance, on the World Food Day. Later in this document we focus on media reporting on hunger.

3.4 Changing Course of Agriculture in Kenya

(David Amudavi, Biovision Africa)

The Changing Course in Global Agriculture (CCGA) initiative is being spearheaded by the Millennium Institute, Washington DC, USA; Biovision Foundation, Switzerland and the Biovision Africa Trust, Kenya supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It is being implemented in Kenya, Senegal and Ethiopia. CCGA started in 2011 and it is now in its second phase (2015 – 2017).

CCGA aims to strengthen the policy support for sustainable agriculture and food systems at the national and international levels. The project is implementing three core activity lines on policy coherence, governance, and civil society strengthening. The project supports national authorities in defining national policies and strategies that allow for effective and comprehensive planning in order to foster systems that achieve food and nutrition security, economic growth and environmental stability.

In Kenya, CCGA is using the T21 model, an integrated and dynamic planning tool, to inform effective, comprehensive and long-term policies geared towards fostering the implementation of a better and sustainable agriculture.

The T21 model is a system dynamics based model designed to support national development planning and conduct policy analysis. It is a powerful tool to analyse medium-long term socio-economic-environment development aspects at the national level.

3.4.1 Suggestions for supporting smallholder farmer development.

Kenya's agriculture is largely smallholder based and the need to discuss the development of smallholder agriculture – possibly transforming it was discussed at length.

Participants agreed that smallholder farmers need to be empowered as much as possible; with tools and information. Another empowering activity is collectivisation – bringing groups of farmers together at different levels; ward, sub county & national. This could take the form of cooperatives and farmer companies.

Existing farmers' groups need to be restructured, to facilitate democratic election of leadership from the grassroots, which take the issues of the smallholder base seriously and promotes accountability. Cooperatives and other farmer organisations should also have a constitutional structure, which restricts the term that leaders can serve in office. There should also be a clear vision, and governance programmes aligned to it. It is important that farmers are represented by real farmers (not the so-called briefcase farmers)

Leadership in farmer organisations can also be improved through training, for instance through Kenya Cooperative Association (KCA), Kenya Dairy Association, and through government initiatives.

3.5 Communication of Hunger in the Kenyan Media

(Irene Cege, Twaweza Communications)

Irene Cege presented the findings of a study conducted between April 2013 to March 2014, which analysed the communication of food security and hunger in the leading print publications in Kenya: *Daily Nation*, *The Standard*, *Business Daily* and *The EastAfrican*.

According to the study, in the publications under review, it is evident that there is regular coverage of food security and hunger issues, presented as features, news, comment, letters-to-the-editor advertorials and opinion pieces. There are also, more recently, dedicated pull-outs, e.g. ‘Seeds of Gold’ which is published by the *Daily Nation*.

Through this media coverage, different voices are heard; including those from the government, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), agricultural experts, civil society and ordinary Kenyans.

The government largely articulates its proposed and ongoing solutions to food security and hunger. For instance, there is constant reference to the government’s efforts to open up arable land through irrigation projects; agricultural mechanisation, fertilizer subsidies, information on new resilient seed varieties, and funding opportunities for agriculture. The county governments mostly communicate the implementation of policies and projects often in collaboration with NGOs.

Other news reports touching on hunger and food security are about the need for more investment in agriculture, the need for better seed varieties and home-grown solutions for food security. There is also the occasional criticism of government policies, for instance in regard to the perennial delays fertilizer. Talk about GMOs in the media is periodic with both pro-and anti-GMO news covered.

The publications under review have attempted to define hunger, for instance by referencing the Kenya’s position in the Global Hunger Index. However, food security is often cited as synonymous with a sufficient maize harvest. According to the media reports, communities mostly affected by hunger and food insecurity include those living in North Rift, sections of the coastal region, parts of Laikipia county and North Eastern.

The challenges with press reportage of food security and hunger include incomprehensive coverage, which for instance, omits on budgetary allocation to scientific research. The reporting also lacks depth because generalist reporters – without deep research – often comment on technical subjects. It is unclear in some of the analyses what solutions are being proposed as most of them analyses challenges and problems. Most reporting is also event-based, with minimal follow-up particularly of promises made on by politicians (which are rarely fulfilled). There is also need for clearer definitions of ‘hunger’ as contrasted to ‘food security’. There has hardly been any reporting regarding what ‘the right to food’ means as a concept.

Some recommendations offered at the meeting included cultivating closer relationships with media and the (re)training of journalists and editors to identify and cover food security issues more systematically. It was also suggested that stakeholders, including the ministry of agriculture and civil society organizations, could be more deliberate and strategic in their communication.

4 Speakers' Corners

As part of the discussions, participants, with the help of the facilitator organised themselves around three broad topics; 1). The promise of large irrigation projects (with specific focus on the Galana-Kulalu project), 2). Devolution and agriculture and 3). The potential role of GMO's in managing food security.

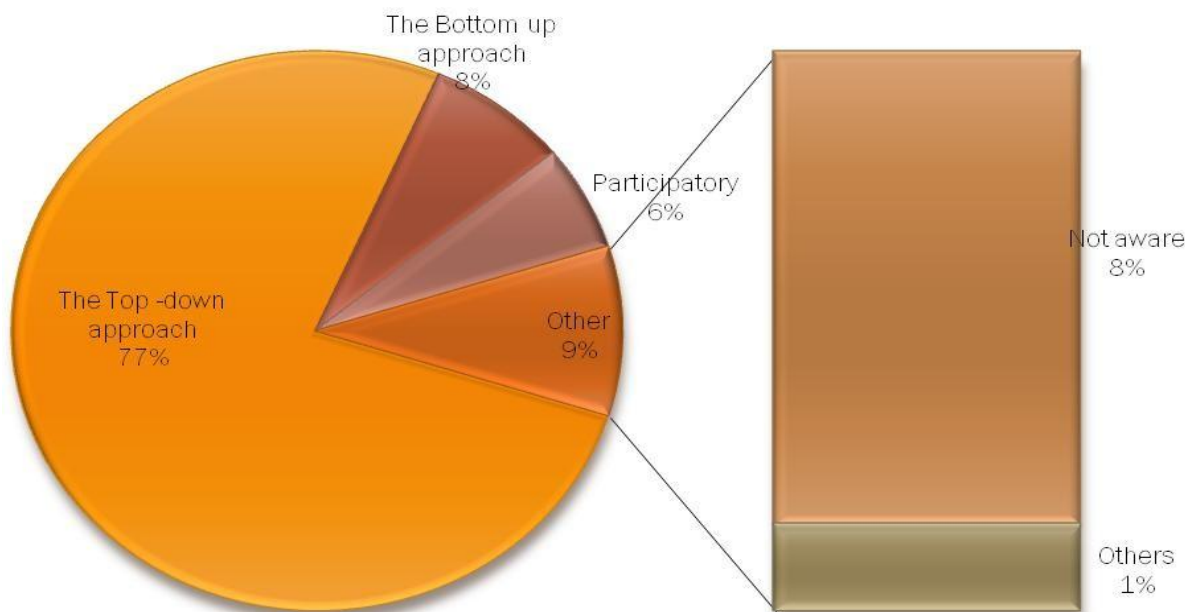
4.1 Large irrigation schemes: are they the missing link to a food secure Kenya?

(With John Mutunga)

Participants in this session agreed that irrigation has great potential in Kenya, especially in Central Kenya, along the coast and other regions where there are lakes and rivers. However, there are some challenges to effective implementation of irrigation schemes, which include the high; establishment and maintenance costs, low rate of return to investments, and mixed success rate observed in other irrigation projects. The way projects are implemented matters: poor community engagement and top down approaches often undermine implementation. Further, irrigation projects are best implemented through public private partnerships, which are often delicate and difficult to arrange.

Study findings- consultation of stakeholders

How the project was concived



In particular regard to the Galana/Kulalu irrigation project being implemented in the Kenyan coast, some positive aspects were noted, which include community awareness of perceived effects and impacts of the project locally and nationally. In addition, depending on how efficient the project becomes, it could increase production significantly, and have the impact of reducing consumer prices of various foods. The project could also increase the local availability of food and reduce the reliance on imports.

4.2 Are GMOs the answer to food security in Kenya?

(With Peter Mokaya)

Making reference to research reports, Peter's presentation outlined several challenges associated with the use of GMOs in agriculture; including their requirement for more synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and other external inputs. Some of these inputs result in residues that may be harmful to humans, animals, soils and plants. He also pointed out that GMO technology is not only more expensive, corporate-owned and protected by intellectual property; but is generally inaccessible to smallholder farmers. The use of GMOs also require a sophisticated regulatory framework, which Kenya does not currently have.

Worries were expressed during the meeting that the full health and environment effects of GMO's were still unknown and it would be dangerous to embrace them uncritically.

A discussion ensued over whether global hunger could be the result of inadequate food production (in which case GMO technology could help increase productivity) or whether the real challenge is poor distribution and limited access by those who need food. Food is also generally wasted – with the wealthy eating high-calorific foods (bacon, eggs etc) while the poor eating foods that have much lower nutritional density. Therefore, improving access equitable distribution and empowering resource poor households to afford food could obviate the need for GMOs. In addition, it is important for the country to embrace local and indigenous food production systems, which are more socially and environmentally sustainable.

4.3 Devolution and agriculture: what is at stake

(With Booker Owuor)

Booker led a discussion on the emerging agricultural landscape in which newly devolved units - Counties - are now responsible for agriculture. This presents significant opportunities but also important challenges.

It was clear that citizen participation agricultural policymaking and development projects could be greater than was the case initially. All counties have employed executives in charge of agriculture to lead the focus on agricultural development and food production. The discussion also noted the opportunity to focus on crops and livestock enterprises that were of highest priority and which offered greater comparative advantages.

Participants agreed that even with the positive aspects of devolution, there is still disconnect between the Kenyan government and the citizens. There are also challenges in regard to the flow of information between the national and county governments. This is compounded by problems in policy implementation, for instance those relating to land settlement issues and national government led schemes in agriculture (for instance the Galana Kulalu irrigation scheme).

An important – and troubling aspect of the discussion – was the lack of clarity on the county budget allocations to agriculture. It appears that counties are spending significantly more on recurrent expenditure than on supporting development activities. A deeper analysis of county budgets would help clarify where and for what development budgets. The participants concluded that civic education of farmers – particularly on the different roles of various governments - is needed to enable them to lobby their county governments effectively.

It is important to identify champions at all levels of government, to monitor county budgets, and the progress of issues and responses to human right to food, and hold the government accountable accordingly.

5 Open Spaces

At the end of the 2nd day, the workshop identified three issues that they felt needed more discussions in an open, flowing, self-organised manner. The open space discussions were not facilitated and small groups would come together around the topic and discuss issues around it. Some of the key highlights are summarised below

5.1 Understanding the fertilizer challenge

Participants in this session observed a range of challenges around the use of inorganic fertilizer. They include:

Overuse and irresponsible application of inorganic fertilizer, which has led to overstressed and contaminated soils. The right approach is to increase the humus content in soil through sustainable soil management systems. Mixed farming systems that allow for efficient nutrient cycling are a good example of more sustainable approaches: animal waste is used as fertiliser while plant residues are used as animal feed. A disturbing aspect of fertiliser use is the application of standard fertilisers without first testing soils to find out what nutrients are depleted. This may lead to nutrient overloads with the attendant negative consequences.

Cost: Due to an oligopolistic market structure in global fertilizer supply, it is becoming more expensive for farmers and governments. There were animated discussions as to whether the government expenditure on fertiliser, in the final analysis, is in public interest. Strategies such as fertilizer subsidies, are seen as an inefficient way of resource allocation because they end up benefiting fertiliser companies and large-scale farmers.

Is there a fertilizer crisis? The framing of fertiliser as an absolute necessity is misleading. It is usually seen as necessarily beneficial when in fact it may not be. It is therefore necessary to demonstrate and ‘scandalise’ the misplaced expenditure priorities in the use

of fertilizer. Although there is a large lobby for fertilizer, such misleading claims can be countered through well organized, solid arguments.

5.2 Strategies for escaping the ‘maize trap’

In much of sub-Saharan Africa, food security has been made synonymous to maize availability. To reduce the dependence on maize some of the strategies discussed in the open space include:

Changing eating habits (attitude change): It is important to promote other crops, especially for relief food and school feeding programmes. Maize and wheat have been promoted and used to the disadvantage of indigenous crops e.g. yams, arrow roots, traditional vegetables etc.

Investment in postharvest technology to increase the availability of alternative but perishable foods

Civic education and capacity building for pastoral communities to help them manage risks and convert their assets into cash. Some suggested that agriculture should be re-introduced as an examinable subject within the school curriculum, while sustainable peri-urban agriculture should be introduced for urban poor.

5.3 Improving media reporting on hunger

Building the capacity of media to report on hunger: The media are too focused on sensationalised reporting of hunger issues as opposed to in-depth investigative journalism and analytical reporting. Refresher and issue briefings and training for editors and reporters would sensitize them on the relevant strategic issues that should be more often covered. It is also important to enhance understanding of the concept of food as a human right within the media. This can be achieved through partnership with media council. The open space discussion also recommended the inclusion of Journalism awards for outstanding reporting on agriculture and food security.

Stakeholder communication: To deepen analysis and obtain varied perspectives; the media should work with freelancers and expert columnists to develop features articles, op-eds, produce documentaries, and encourage and participate in TV and radio talk shows on issues of food as a human right. This process could be triggered through a campaign aimed at highlighting food as a human right. Such a campaign could also encourage farmers and members of the public to send letters to the editor raising important questions around food and hunger. Social media is seen as a growth area to foster interaction especially with the younger generation.

Advocacy aspects: Some ideas proposed include campaigns around different types of hunger, for instance to encourage people to eat healthily, ‘*Kula nduma; fukuza cancer*’, community film screening, *barazas*, and familiarisation for visits for various groups to agricultural research institutes. Smallholder farmers represent 80% of the total population voice in Kenya. Therefore, they have the ability to put the government to task, for instance on food prices, access and supply.

Access to information: Farmers require forums to share achievements and challenges and technologies, and linkages to diversified service providers. For this purpose, participants proposed platforms such as radio, TV, farmers' TV and magazines.

6 Personal commitments to improve the right to food

The facilitators inspired everyone to make a personal commitment to do something – however small – that will help to realise the right to food. These are summarised below:

Being a young person who constantly uses social media, I will share more content (including stories and links) on food security, and endeavour to make this topic 'cool'.

-Angela, HBF

I commit to advocate for organic fertilizer usage in my neighbourhood.

-Tabitha

I plan to engage my former school and college mates, and friends on social media on issues relating to the right to food (with particular emphasis on chronic hunger and food insecurity), and the possible solutions.

-Anne Murimi, African Biodiversity Network

I am going to write an article advocating for the diversification from maize.

-Irene Cege

I will make an effort to tell stories of life, struggles and affirmative action, through photography and video.

-Marlene C. Francia, IBON International, Africa

I intend to practice local seed multiplication with NGOMA farmers, and to introduce pilot kitchen gardens as an income generating enterprise.

-Jeremiah Kipkering, NGOMA

I will teach at least one child to understand agriculture and to embrace it as a possible career path.

-Millicent Owuor

I will increase awareness on the right to food within PELUM Network. I will also roll out a campaign for farmers to demand their right to food, if violated.

-Zachary Makanya

I will heighten sensitization and advocacy for action towards guaranteeing and realizing the right to food by every Kenyan through ecologically sustainable agriculture.

-David Amudavi, Biovision

I will create awareness among KOAN membership and Kenyans on the right to food.

-Wanjiru Kamau, KOAN

I will involve my family on better ways to be productive. I will also be involved in communicating food security issues.

-Sheba Akinyi, PICO-EA

I am going to influence others around me to diversify their food preferences.

-Booker

I will advocate and create awareness through community education and forums of diversification of diets to move away from the maize trap.

-Esther

I will promote planting of fodder trees for wood fuel and livestock.

-Mercy

I will practise conservation agriculture, and plant trees.

-Erick Ogallo, Me-net

I will include the human right to food to be part of university lectures at Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic.

-Samuel Darkwah

I will conduct out extensive run-off rain water harvesting.

-Justus Lavi

I will use the reflections from this Workshop to design, in an innovative manner, a HBS programme on the right to food.

-Katrin, HBS

I will promote diversification of our foods.

-Anne Maina

I will encourage tree planting at my local schools and local church, leading by example.

-Nelson Muthiani, Priority Action

I will continue mobilizing against industrial cartels in agriculture.

-Christine

7 Annexes

7.1 Annex 1: Workshop Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, March 03, 2015: Trends, policies, strategies and the politics of food

07:30h – 08:30h	Arrival, registration, tea & coffee	
8:30h – 9.00h	Opening and welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome statements ▪ Introductions and expectations ▪ Statement of objectives ▪ Meeting process 	Katrin Seidel, Fredrick Njau (HBS) Facilitator – Robert Ouma
9:00h – 9:20h 9:25h – 9:45h 9:50h – 10:10h 10:10h – 10:30h	Scene setting presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding Hunger and the Human Right to Food: A global perspective ▪ Understanding Hunger and the Human Right to Food: Lessons from Ghana ▪ Important trends in production, prices and access to food ▪ The role of food security policies in securing the right to food in Kenya 	Ms. Christine Chemnitz (HBS, Berlin) Dr. Samuel Darkwah (Ghana) Dr. Mary Mathenge (Tegemeo, Kenya) Mr. Francis Karim (Egerton Univ, Kenya)
10:30h – 11:00h	Coffee/Tea Break	
11.00h – 11.20h	The political economy of food in Kenya	Dr. David Ndi (Africa Economics)
11.20h-12.30h	Fishbowl discussion – with presenters	Facilitator
12: 30h – 13: 30h	Lunch break	
13:30h -15:30h	Breakout discussions: The challenges and opportunities for securing rights to food in Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief Interventions (<i>KESSFF, Ngoma and others</i>) ▪ Open discussion 	
	Coffee/tea	

Day 2: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 : Communication, partnerships and actions to secure the right to food

07:30h –08:30h	Tea & coffee		
8:30h – 9:00h	Re-cap of day 1		Facilitator
9:00 – 9:20h	Presentation: Changing Course in Kenyan Agriculture Plenary discussion on points arising		David Amudavi, Biovision Africa Trust
9:40h – 10:30h	Media Analysis: Perspectives on how the media communicates hunger in Kenya Plenary discussion on points arising		Irene Cege - Twaweza Communications
10:30h-11.00h	Coffee		
11.00h -12.30h	Parallel discussion sessions		
	Is GMO the answer to food security in Kenya? <i>Dr. Peter Mokaya</i>	Large irrigation projects: are they the missing link to a food secure Kenya? <i>Dr. John Mutunga</i>	Devolution and agriculture: What is at stake? <i>Mr. Booker Owuor</i>
12.30h – 13.30h	Lunch		
13:30h -15:30h	Open space		
	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
			Topic 4
15:30h – 16.00h	Workshop evaluation and closure		
	Coffee/Tea		