Factsheet

Strong Cooperation for Better Food Security and Nutrition!
I. Background information

Food security and nutrition – from the agricultural value chain to nutrition – is one of the most important topics facing development assistance as we look towards shaping the future. How can we ensure that a global population of an estimated nine billion people by 2050 will have access to enough sufficiently nutritious food? Only targeted cooperation by dedicated partners will allow us to fulfill this pressing mission.

The event’s objective is therefore to present bilateral and trilateral cooperation projects in food security and nutrition between the BMZ and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with the involvement of the private sector. These projects fill the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with life that was signed between the BMZ and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2011. It envisioned cooperation partnerships in food security and nutrition.

The projects are set against the following background:

- In 2012 with the “New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition”, the G8 nations and African countries signaled their commitment to improving food security and nutrition. This is to happen on a wide scale in Africa in particular over the next ten years. Food security and nutrition is now a priority on the development policy agenda. The Alliance is striving to reach 50 million people and liberate them from poverty. In view of its investment potential in the agriculture and food sectors, the involvement of the private sector is an indispensable lever here. Germany also views cooperation with the private sector as essential to closing the enormous funding gap in the agricultural sector.

- The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative is another relevant undertaking on an international level. It provides a multi-sector platform for increasing global focus on nutrition. The UN estimates that around two billion people worldwide, almost one third of the global population, suffer from malnutrition. Malnutrition refers in particular to the insufficient intake of vitamins and minerals or micronutrients. It is an invisible phenomenon with drastic consequences. Without intervention for mothers and children during the first 1,000 days of life (starting at conception) children can suffer irreversible damage to their physical and cognitive development. In response, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the BMZ have resolved to make a significant contribution to improving food security and nutrition.
As a national response, the German Food Partnership (GFP) was founded in 2011. German, European and related international corporations and associations from the agriculture and food security and nutrition sectors have joined forces with public partners under the aegis of the BMZ in this umbrella organization. The GFP supports long-term projects involving multiple firms that contribute to the development and implementation of sustainable models for the firms’ core business in emerging and developing nations, though limited to the pre-competitive stage. These projects also generate additional development policy benefits. Local and international companies work together. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH works side by side with the firms as an implementing partner. All those involved strategically promote the expansion of the local agricultural and food sectors. The GFP is not an independent organization; it is a cooperative network with a coordinating office located at the GIZ, which works on behalf of the BMZ.

The cooperation partnerships will actively seek broad exchange with partner countries and civil society. The BMZ is also initiating a process for outlining guidelines for cooperation with the agriculture and food security and nutrition sectors.

II. Cooperation projects

The BMZ, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the German Food Partnership and additional firms have agreed on intensified cooperation to fight hunger and malnutrition.

These partnerships aim to strengthen agricultural value chains overall, using bi- and trilateral approaches, improve access to food, increase the nutritional value of this food and raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition. Ensuring women of reproductive age and their children have access to good nutrition is particularly important. The total volume of all the projects planned is over 80 million euros. The participating companies intend to commit more than 40 million euros in total.
1. Affordable Nutritious Foods for Women (ANF4W)

- **Total volume**
  approx. 3.6 million euros, with contributions from the BMZ, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and various companies (BASF, Bayer CropScience and Royal DSM)

- **Goal**
  The project will bolster both demand and supply to provide women of reproductive age with access to highly nutritious and affordable food. The partners will be active in three intervention areas: (1) increase availability of fortified foods specifically targeted for women of reproductive age; (2) test innovative approaches to improving maternal nutrition through agricultural interventions; and (3) improve the availability of mass fortified foods for women of reproductive age. The third component builds on the success of the Strategic Alliance for the Fortification of Oil and Other Staple Foods (SAFO), organized by the GIZ on behalf of the BMZ and BASF from 2008 to 2012. SAFO reached more than 150 million people in our partner countries. Pro-poor marketing strategies support all three intervention areas.

- **Country focus**
  Four core countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia
2. The African Cashew Initiative (ACi II)

- **Total volume**
  13.5 million euros, with contributions from the BMZ, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and various companies

- **Goal**
  In the second phase of the project, the ACi will further advance improvements in the cashew value chain in West Africa. 330,000 smallholder farmers, particularly women, will receive training in cashew production to sustainably increase their income (US$90 per year by 2015). Additionally, the ACi II is launching a new “Cashew Matching Fund” designed to help accelerate the overall sustainable development of the cashew industry in West Africa. In the first phase begun in 2009, the ACi has reached more than 240,000 smallholder farmers (27% of whom were women). Their net income increased overall by more than approx. 3.7 million euros. More than 3,800 new jobs were also created in the processing industry and some enterprises increased their productivity (in terms of processing capacity actually used) by more than 100%. This was made possible, not least, by substantial contributions from the private sector amounting to several million euros (especially from Cashew International, Intersnack, GDG, Kraft Foods, OLAM, Oltremare and SAP).

- **Country focus**
  Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Mozambique
3. Asian-German Better Rice Initiative (AGBRI, a GFP project)

- **Total volume**
  8.4 million euros, with contributions from the BMZ and the private sector (including Bayer CropScience, BASF, AGCO, AgraQuest, Royal DSM, Yara)

- **Goal**
  The project activities are aimed at improving entire rice value chains in four Southeast Asian countries. AGBRI will focus on the following points: (1) promote better rice production, in part by increasing quality and production and minimizing negative effects on the environment; (2) improve training for rice farmers, for instance in sustainable production methods, and support for young farmers; (3) better market access and demand orientation; and (4) improved rice-based nutrition. These activities are designed to enhance rice farmers’ income and nutrition, and optimize the food and nutritional status of the local populations. The project is part of the GFP and will be implemented in close cooperation with the GIZ and private partners. The private sector will contribute know-how and investment to support the project’s objectives.

- **Country focus**
  Four countries in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines)
4. Competitive African Cotton Initiative (COMPACI II)

- **Total volume**
  52.3 million euros, with contributions from the BMZ, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (inter)national firms and other organizations, in particular the Otto Group and the Aid by Trade Foundation (along with the Aga Khan Group, Cargill, C&A, Olam Plexus, Tchibo, and local cotton companies)

- **Goal**
  The partners will promote sustainable cotton cultivation in smallholder structures with a particular focus on food production by 650,000 smallholder families that also cultivate food as part of the crop sequence. Their income is to be increased by 45% and their food production by 15%. Measures aimed at sustainable cultivation techniques and improved productivity will result in better economic, ecological and social living conditions for the smallholder cotton farmers. At the same time, demand for African cotton is to be increased through the formation of an association of international textile companies interested in purchasing cotton grown according to ecological and social standards. This cotton will be marketed under the “Cotton made in Africa” label.

- **Country focus**
  Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania
5. GFP Africa – Improving the Value Chains of Food Staples
(e.g. tuber crops, oil seed and rice)

- **Total volume**
  23 million euros (planned) with contributions from the BMZ, corporations and other organizations

- **Goal**
  The central objective is to sustainably expand the value chains based on local and regional staple foods. This will both bring about lasting improvement to smallholder farmers’ incomes and significantly advance productivity, quality and value creation across the entire chain. This will result in an increase in the quality and availability of food at local and regional markets. In a joint effort with the firms involved in the GFP, the project will mobilize private investment and know-how, both of which are key to modernizing the agricultural and food security and nutrition sectors in Africa. The multi-country approach and direct networking of public and private stakeholders will promote synergies, limit implementation risks and strengthen economic sustainability, and, thus, increase the potential knock-on effects of the approaches applied.

- **Country focus**
  Sub-Saharan Africa