

Private Sector Meeting

HIGH LEVEL LUNCHEON

HOSTED BY: International Agri-Food Network, www.agrifood.net



DATE, LOCATION :

Wednesday, October 19 / 12:30 - 14:00 / Hotel Forum / Bus Departs FAO for Forum at 12:35

SPEAKERS :

Master of Ceremonies:

Luc Maene, Chairman, International Agri-Food Network

Welcome:

Noel de Luna, Chairman, Committee on Food Security

Keynote Speaker:

Bruce McNamer, CEO, TechnoServe

MEETING SUMMARY (NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS)

The meeting saw a gathering of more than 60 delegates covering Ambassadors from 10 countries, association representatives, donor organization, FAO and World Bank. The theme of the luncheon was “Developing Investment”, and with the objective of understanding the key policy recommendations that are needed to build better private sector engagement in the food value chain in developing countries. The delegates were encouraged to consider what governments need to do, what international companies need to do, what local companies and donors need to do. The topics discuss encompassed,

1. Risk and Benefits of Foreign Direct Investment
2. Aggregating smallholders
3. Private- Public Partnerships
4. SME Development
5. Regulations
6. Food Security and Nutrition

Each table was headed by a facilitator and rapporteur. It was a very fruitful and effective meeting as this model was used in other UN type meeting and this was the 1st time this High level Luncheon was organized during CFS meeting. The delegates had very active discussions around the topics and provided a long list of recommendations to enable stakeholders to focus and prioritize its objective in achieving better private sector engagement in the food value chain in developing countries.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS, INCLUDING NEW PROJECTS OR PARTNERSHIPS (NO MORE THAN 10 BULLET POINTS)

1. Risk and Benefits of Foreign Direct Investment

- I. Well informed, clear policy and stable policies
- II. Ensure ministries are coordinated when dealing with private sector and all stakeholders.
- III. Both donor and host countries must be pro-partnership
- IV. Take a long term view of investment
- V. Better communication on proven and success stories on investment
- VI. Better risk mitigation for all stakeholders – Design investments, services, policies so as to mitigate/share and strengthen the ability for all stakeholder to manage them.

2. Aggregating smallholders

- I. Invest in Infrastructure and value chain: Support farmers to produce, access to finance and processing.
- II. Sound tax structure to promote investment in Agriculture
- III. Partnership between local and international to access knowledge and networks but yet value local knowledge

3. Private- Public Partnerships

- I. “To be competitive, we need to cooperate”: To look together into the future and the future of food chains: Identify where R&D and/or development of infrastructures can create new development opportunities (or overcome existing constraints).
- II. PPP is about sharing risks for new opportunities, where partners do not seek to abandon their “business” objectives, but to mutual understanding and trust in the development.

- III. Ensure protections for all partners: conditions for mutual trust, transparency, attribution of responsibilities, level playing field, deal with existing asymmetries amongst partners

4. SME Development

- I. Catalytic role in providing the good frameworks for transformative partnerships, enabling small scale development. The state has a crucial role to play in facilitating access to Credits, Insurance, technical and extension services and markets.
- II. Opening up the agriculture to integrate food and energy production systems
- III. One stop centre for small business to register their business
- IV. Need instruments for International companies to establish business relationship with small holders.
- V. Leverage on Global Compact and link RAI principles developed by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and the world bank into the framework.
- VI. Focus on bottom up solutions with the stakeholders.

5. Regulations

- I. National guidelines are key and should be the ultimate goal, as they are more effective. Guidelines at international level can help a lot to support to the development of national guidelines. CFS can play a critical role.
- II. Strengthening regulatory system (Governance, anti-corruption, transparent legal system, effective guidelines to ensure transparency and clarity of the rules of engagement).

6. Food Security and Nutrition

- I. Disseminate adequate technology and effective implementation.
- II. Focus on smallholder: Most actors are often of very small scale and as a whole they form the greatest share of the agriculture economies.

- III. Require broad base education including availability of nutrition.
- IV. Increase availability of nutritional foods, improve distribution and integrated production strategies linking agriculture and nutrition.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS (NO MORE THAN 10 BULLET POINTS)

1. Establish a Conducive Operating Environment
2. Responsible Agriculture Investment
3. Support entrepreneurship and Private enterprise
4. Research , Development and extension service
5. The Power of Partnership
6. Increasing in Investment
7. Improving Markets
8. Expanding Technology Access and R&D
9. Effective communications on Success Stories