

Uptake Pathways into Food Security Policy Questions for E-Discussion

The background resource for this discussion is a Working Paper describing the results of an analysis of 50 case studies where research has influenced policy. They were collected as part of the Global Development Network Bridging Research and Policy project. The paper is available for download on the uptake pathways discussion page, or you can read a shorter web-based version of it on the GDN web site at http://www.gdnet.org/subpages/rapnet/Case_Studies_Synthesis_Summary.html .

Participants should also refer back to the paper and moderator comments from the first discussion on Policies, Politics Governance and Accountability

(http://www.odi.org.uk/Food-Security-Forum/E_Policy_process.html)

We suggest that the discussion for uptake pathways be structured according to the questions below. There is necessarily some overlap between these, and with issues addressed under other themes. Under each session we suggest questions to consider, but these are intended to be more illustrative than exhaustive. Again there are substantial overlaps, and no doubt there will be other questions that come up

Thursday 26th June to Friday 27th June

The discussion around Theme 1: Politics, Policies, Governance and Accountability identified a general lack of interest among governments in the region to address food security policy issues except during a crisis.

- * Is that uniform across the region?
- * What examples are there of new policies, institutions and processes intended to address food security in response to the 2001-03 crisis?
- * How and why do you think these have come about?
- * Who actually has the most influence on food security policy processes in your country – government, legislators, bureaucrats, civil society, the media, international organizations or other groups and interests?

Saturday 28th June and Sunday 29th June

- * Are donors and international organizations doing all they could to promote food security?
- * Do you think any of the new initiatives by, for example, DFID, EU, and USAID will make a difference?
- * If not, what else should donors and international organisations be doing?
- * Do donors have an accurate sense of the key problems?

Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July

- * Are the current policy arguments about food security in the region accurate?
- * Where do the policy arguments need to be changed?
- * Are policy makers over-influenced by the current concern with production aspects of food security, and with the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security in the region, to the exclusion of other important issues?

- * Is there a common agenda for food security policy issues in Southern Africa that policy makers and researchers are working on?
- * Are the researchers and advisers providing practical solutions that policy makers can operationalise?
- * If not, what are the constraints and what needs to be done to overcome these constraints?

- * Are the current generation of researchers and advisers on food security in Southern Africa trusted by policy makers?
- * What needs to be done to increase collaboration between policy makers and researchers?

Wednesday 2nd July and Thursday 3rd July

This Forum on Food Security has been set up to support the flow of information within Southern Africa on food security analysis, including evidence from other regions of the world.

- * In your opinion, what are the most useful practical steps the Forum can take to support current and planned food security policy processes in your country and Southern Africa as a whole?
- * Are the currently scheduled country issues papers, theme papers, and policy options papers [<http://www.odi.org.uk/Food-Security-Forum/Publications.html>] the most useful written outputs from the Forum?
- * Would it be useful to contribute to or organize food security policy discussion seminars for key stakeholders in countries in the region later in 2003, to discuss lessons from across the region from the 2001-03 crisis and how these food security issues have been tackled elsewhere in the world?
- * Would a regional seminar also be useful?
- * Will these really change policy, or is something more ambitious required?
- * If so, what?

Researchers and advocacy organisations who genuinely represent the interests of stakeholders who will be affected by policy changes have considerable policy influence.

- * Have advocacy/civil society organisations played a big role in getting the interests of food-insecure people better addressed by researchers and policy advisers in your country/the region?
- * Are new forms of campaign necessary in your country and/or the region?
- * What else is needed to ensure food security researchers, advisers and policymakers in Southern Africa really represent - and more importantly, respond to - the interests of food-insecure people in the countries in the region?

Friday 4th July and Saturday 5th July

Emerging Issues