



South-South and triangular cooperation

Scaling-up purchase from Africans for Africa

Family farmers supply nutritious meals for school children

Development challenge

Food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition are complex problems. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 214 million people are chronically hungry and child and infant malnutrition rates are amongst the highest in the world. As part of a multipronged approach to addressing the challenge, the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has adopted Home Grown School Feeding as part of its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). There is a need to feed 50 million African schoolchildren. School Feeding Programmes (SFPs) to date have often relied heavily on development partners for funding and food provision.

Development solution

Based on the success of Brazilian local purchase schemes for school feeding and food assistance, the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) programme is sharing lessons learned by Brazil across continents. SFPs that directly purchase from smallholder farmers can provide important nourishment for children, enhance school attendance and enrolment, support family farmer's livelihoods and local food markets. While approximately 80 percent of the food produced in sub-Saharan Africa comes from smallholder farming, smallholder farmers face constraints with market inclusion. Estimates suggest that some 60 percent of the rural population have poor access to markets despite living in areas of agricultural potential. Efforts to shape national policies on food assistance and family farming, and support the ability of local actors to implement these policies, are essential to expand local purchase schemes in Africa.

Solution exchange

The PAA Programme links smallholder agriculture with school feeding through local procurement. PAA is a partnership between the Government of Brazil, the Government of the United Kingdom, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme's (WFP) Purchase for Progress initiative (P4P). Inspired by the Brazilian experience of fighting hunger, PAA supports home grown school feeding in five countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

PPA works at operational, programming and policy level. Its pilot activities are:

- **improving food access and availability:** encouraging institutions to procure food from local smallholder farmers to meet children's needs;

- **enhancing farmer's production methods:** to date, agricultural inputs and trainings have been provided to 5 516 smallholder farmers;
- **providing technical assistance, policy and programming support:** they include assessments of local contexts and challenges, as well as country-specific proposals to upscale and consolidate local food procurement.
- **advancing knowledge-building and sharing:** identifying lessons learned while implementing PAA activities and sharing them through South-South approaches, including workshops and trainings. For example, 170 participants from Ministries of Agriculture and Education, FAO and WFP country offices, civil society and other partner institutions took part in three international knowledge-sharing seminars and workshops.

Key results and lessons learned

Major accomplishments of the pilot initiatives implemented by PAA to date:

- **school meals for 128 456 pupils in 420 schools in five countries** with 1 025 tonnes of food procured locally;
- **increased of 5 516 family farmer's productivity rates** by an average rate of 114 percent, guaranteeing markets for an average of 37 percent of the food they produce;
- **enhanced capacity of governments, civil society organizations and local partners** in support to smallholder farmers, local food procurement and school feeding activities.
- **prioritize government involvement:** government participation in operations and policy dialogue at local, national and international level is essential for increasing ownership, developing institutional capacities, and advancing related policy and legal instruments;



- **strengthen dialogue with civil society:** tailored spaces of dialogue with civil society are important to ensure the sustainability of activities;
- **tailor agricultural support to smallholder farmers:** specific actions focused on increasing sustainable and diverse production and ensuring farmers' participation in institutional markets are paramount;
- **strengthen local institutional procurement arrangements:** contracting and payment modalities suitable to farmers' organizations and to the institutions procuring their goods are essential;
- **encourage diversified local products in school feeding:** linking school meals to local products can promote the development of nutritious menus adapted to local taste.

Potential for upscaling

There is a vast potential to upscale PAA in the five partner countries. Broader awareness of the benefits of local food procurement can be built, improving current results. An additional investment of USD 45 million would spread PAA benefits to another 16 700 smallholder farmers and supply local and nutritious food to over 263 000 students in these countries.



Contact us

Interested partners are invited to get in touch with FAO for more information:

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