

The Double-Burden of Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa: Engaging Youth in Access to Nutritious Food"

COHERENCE OF AGRO-FOOD POLICIES WITH NCD PREVENTION POLICIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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15 June 2021

Background

- Agricultural sector determines what the general population consumes
- Commercial production determines the varieties, quantities & quality of fruit & available for consumption at household level (DOA, 2013).
- South Africa -food secure country –sufficient production of the staple food & is able to import when there are shortages
- Food security at the household level remains a challenge (Ndinda et al 2016).
- The inability of households to afford healthy foods such as F&V inevitably drives households to consume what is affordable and not necessarily, what is nutritious
- These often-processed foods are high in salt and fat content

Background

- The agro-food policies - align with the Constitution -food is a basic human right
- Strategic thrust of policy 'ensure the availability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels' (Department of Agriculture (DOA), 2013:6).
- In this study, agri-food policies encompass agriculture, food and trade policies.

Policy Coherence

Global consensus- unhealthy diets are risk factors for NCDs such cardiovascular diseases, cancer, hypertension, stroke and kidney disease among others (World Heart Federation (WHF), 2015; Heart and Stroke Foundation (2013)).

Agro-food policies-focus on undernutrition.

The food and nutrition security policy (2013) -13.5 million South Africans are food insecure.

South Africa like low income countries faced with triple burden of undernutrition, HIV and NCDs –then COVID-19

Focus – coherence of agro-food policies with NCD prevention

POLICY COHERENCE

- Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)
- “foster synergies across economic, social and environmental policy areas; different trade-offs and reconcile domestic policy objectives with internationally agreed objectives” (Michel, 2016:67).

Policy Coherence

- achieved when
 - “policies across a range of domestic areas support, or at the very least do not undermine the attainment of... development objectives” (Barry et al 2010:207).
 - PCSD – agriculture & food policies on F & V support NCD prevention

Methodology

- Policy analysis & review- Local and international policies
- Key informant interviews – 35
- Regions – Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga
- National & district levels - KIIs

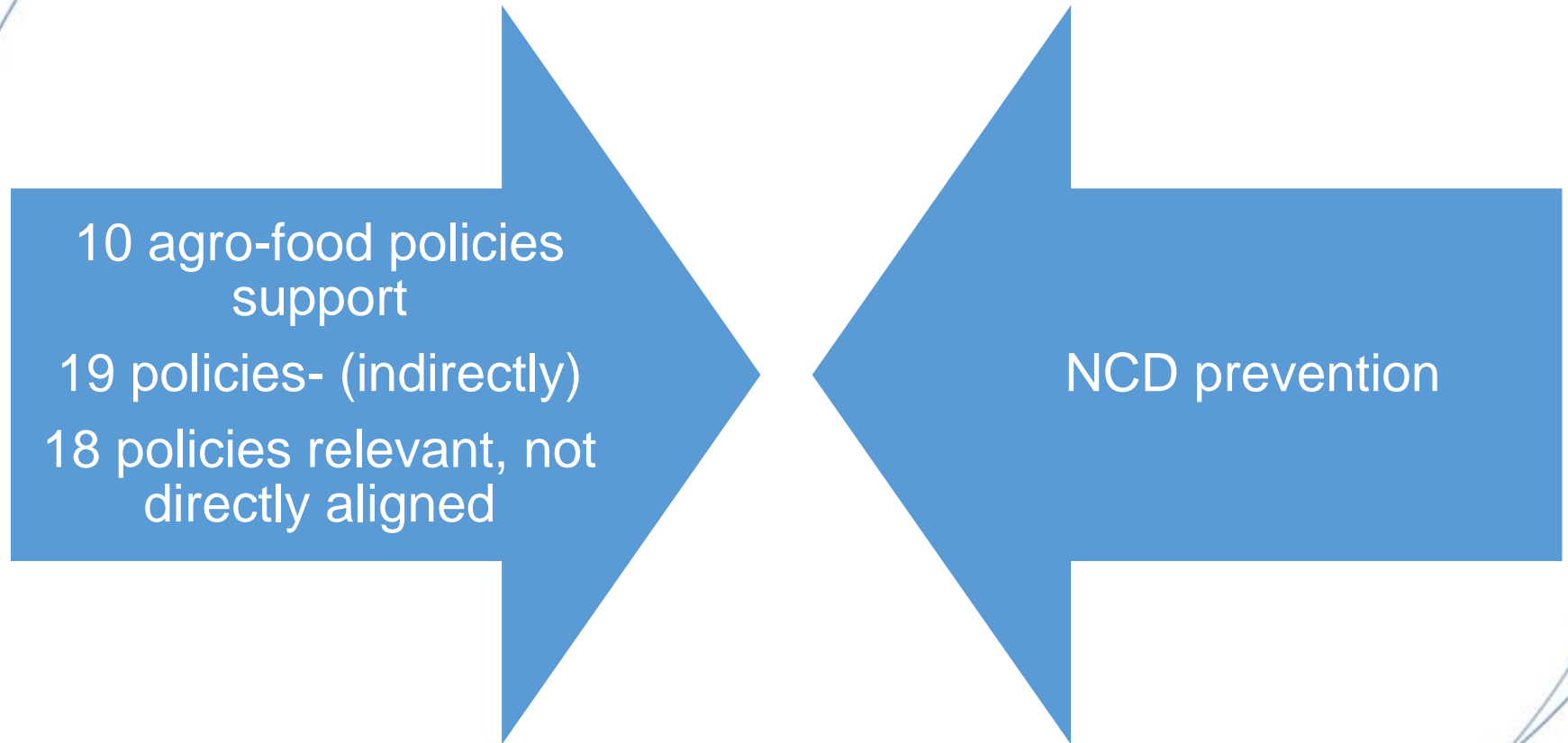
Findings

- Identified and reviewed 63 agricultural policies and programmes
- Reviewed them for any relevance, linkage or alignment with production & consumption of F & V
- Assessed alignment with NCDs – i.e. mention of nutrition and health
- Coherence – support improved nutrition & health
- Lack of coherence – no mention of nutrition or health in the policy or programme identified
- Agricultural policies assessed against objectives of NCD prevention and control

Policy analysis

- Total: 63 policies identified
- 47 agro-food policies reviewed
- National agricultural policies - policy direction, resources (e.g., production inputs), as well as facilitate agreements with global
- Provincial level -support farmers, communities & collect information to verify the implementation of interventions on agricultural production
- Role of state- guarantee the right of access to adequate food, thus contributing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Coherence of policies with NCD prevention



Alignment of local agricultural policies with Global policies/ frameworks

Roadmap for Nutrition in
South Africa

Integrated Food Security
Strategy aligns Food Security
Programme and the National
Policy on Food and Nutrition
Security

Millennium Development goals
(MDGs) & SDG

1996 Rome Declaration on Food
Security, Southern African
Development Community

2012 Report of the United Nations
Special Rapporteur on the right to
food

Sustainable Development Goals

- Agro- food policies address SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security, & improved food security
- SDG 2.2. End all forms of malnutrition in children, adolescents and lactating mothers
- SDG 2.3. Double agricultural production
- SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well being for all
- SDG 3.4. Reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs
- SDG 2 & 3 are linked. Achieving SDG 2 is important for attaining 3. However, poor nutrition contributes to SDG 3.4.

Coherence of agro-food policies with NCD Prevention policies

Coherence

- Integrated Nutrition Programme (INP)
- National Roadmap for Nutrition in South Africa (2013)

Coherence

- Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Women's Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition in South Africa (2012)
- National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security (NPFNS) (2013/14)

Coherence

- Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS) (2002)
- Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme or IFSNP

Coherence

- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) (2014-2019)
- National Development Plan Vision 2030 (Chapter 6) (NDP)

Coherence

- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)
- Social Relief of Distress Grants (SRDG)

National food & nutrition security policy

- Promotes food security & improved nutrition
- Programmes of DLRD - Lima Letsema Programme
- Targets – emerging black farmers & communities vulnerable to challenges: lack of management capabilities, poor skills due to lack of training; lengthy procurement processes & severe drought conditions.
- Lima Letsema - cushion farmers from challenges, & assist them to improve production output
- Key Informant 1: Yeah its, er, policy that helps South Africa in terms of how it addresses food insecurity in the country, and it promotes issues of proper nutrition and all that (Gauteng, Health 2019).

Integrated food security Strategy

- IFSS- improved nutrition and sustainable access to food
- Access to adequate food now and in the future
- Empower citizens to make better food decisions for improved nutrition & ensure sufficient supply of safe & nutritious food during emergencies & disasters
- Sought to consolidate fragmentation in food policies & programmes
- address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Objectives – same as those of Lima Letsema program & National food security and nutrition policy

National School Nutrition Programme

- Integrated food security strategy (2002) programs
- The purpose is to alleviate hunger among learners
- Alleviate micro-nutrient deficiency
- Incentive for children to attend school
- Enhance the learning capacity
- Poor learners from grade R To 7 are provided with meals
- In areas where most learners are poor –all learners are fed
- Meals provided for minimum of 156 out of 196 days per year
- COVID-19 pandemic – lockdown conditions contributed to hunger & malnutrition – Government intervention in providing food parcels assisted. Not all vulnerable learners were reached.

School nutrition program

- Nutrition vs School feeding programme
- feeding programme is only concerned with providing food (any type of food) to keep school children
- nutrition programme pays attention to the nutritional value of every meal served
- School nutrition programme – objectives are relevant
- Implementation flawed- results in feeding scheme & not necessarily nutrition programme

School nutrition

- Challenges
- advertisement of school nutrition programme tenders
- Focus on pricing rather questions about qualified specialists- dieticians, nutritionists, & chefs in appointment of service providers
- Concerns related to consultation of specialists in planning and implementing the nutrition program in schools
- Concerns about sustained inspections & monitoring for compliance nutritional value of food as opposed to simply preparing pap and beans every day

Alignment of NCD policies with global policies

Strategic Plan for the Prevention of NCDs in SA

2011 Brazzaville Declaration on NCD Prevention and Control in the WHO African Region

Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCD (Department of Health 2013, 2015).

Discussion & Conclusion

- Alignment levels co-exist with implementation gaps
- Results- ineffectiveness of policies in achieving outcomes & NCD prevention & control
- Objectives of specific agro-food policies align with NCD prevention
- The policies are implemented by different departments
- Design of the policies aligns, the implementation of process results in misalignment. E.g. School nutrition programme. Objectives specify the goal should be improved nutrition. However challenges in schools result in flawed implementation – optimum nutrition & NCD prevention & control are overlooked
- Need for alignment both in design and implementation of agro-food policies to contribute to NCD prevention in SA.

**END
THANK YOU
ASANTE
SIYABONGA**

