



National Alliance Against Hunger in Burkina Faso

1) What went wrong in your country which prevented the most vulnerable and the poor to improve their access to safe and healthy food?

The main errors and acts of negligence in Burkina Faso that led to food insecurity and malnutrition in the poorest and most vulnerable members of society were, in my opinion, several, the chief ones being the following:

- Failure to control food prices,
- Tax exemption measures for the cost of food products,
- Poorly mechanised agriculture,
- Lack of promotion for local output,
- Lack of effective policy to restore soil fertility,
- Failure to develop seeds adapted to climatic situation,
- Poor access of improved cereal seed (rice, maize, sorghum and millet) for most producers,
- Poor availability of improved cereal seed (rice, maize, sorghum and millet) in production regions,
- Soaring prices of fertiliser,
- Failure to control rapid urbanisation which is emptying the rural areas of able-bodied labour that has always been essential to agricultural production.



2) Did you see any improvement in addressing hunger and malnutrition problems since the High level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy held last June at FAO headquarters, Rome?

Since the 2008 farming season, the government has launched a number of initiatives aimed at reducing food insecurity and malnutrition in the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the community. These are the main ones:

- Support for agricultural production through subsidies on farm inputs: seed and fertiliser (unfortunately, the subsidy for fertiliser focuses mainly on cotton cultivation),
- Providing access to improved rice seed for farmers,
- Developing trade of local rice output,
- Developing strategies for agricultural sectors,
- Giving publicity to modern farming initiatives so as to offer a model to other agricultural producers,
- Cloud seeding to improve rainfall,
- The introduction of jatropha cultivation to produce bioenergy.



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