



National Alliance Against Hunger in Chad

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

As far as the first question is concerned, it is not a case of error or negligence, given that insecurity and malnutrition are recurrent problems linked to the poverty of Chad. The causes of insecurity are various and mainly concern: (i) the governance of political and economic plans, with the corollary of recurrent institutional instability, (ii) weak capacities for production, processing, storage and conservation of agricultural output, (iii) the weak level of information, training and community access to basic social services, (iv) the weak level of public and private funding for the rural sector,



(v) the land-locked nature of the country and the particularly arid climate conditions in the Saharan area, which covers 47% of national territory. Since 2003, these structural problems have been exacerbated by the humanitarian crisis in the East and South of the country due to the Darfur conflict, as well as that in the Central African Republic. The result has been an accelerated degradation of the productive base, together with increased pressure on natural resources caused by thousands of refugees, as well as internal displacement for Chadian communities in particularly fragile areas.

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?

Yes, the biggest improvement witnessed since the High-Level Conference held in Rome has been the significant increase in the share of the national budget allocated to the agricultural sector and a greater mobilisation on the part of the private sector in favour of the rural sector. The private sector has been specifically consulted and involved in the development of strategies aimed at reducing the impact of price rises for food products. Chad was represented at the highest level at this summit and the delegation took advantage of the conference to exchange opinions with other delegations, especially that of Brazil, which was cited as an example to Chad, and the national authorities started advocating for financing for the national food security programme (2006-2015). The government of Chad is planning to hold a special round table for this programme in 2009-2010 and FAO has been asked to help organise it.

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