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Topic: Food and nutrition security

Title: Developing sustainable value chain entry points and enabling policies for emergent and small scale farmers for enhanced food and nutrition

Presentation Type: Workshop

Technical content

Food and nutrition security are “wicked” multi-dimensional problems that are part of larger open systems and almost un-solvable due to their frequently opposite challenges and solutions. Small scale/emergent farmers in South Africa remain excluded from mainstream markets and occupy the bottom end of the food value chain, with high vulnerability to food insecurity and climate change. Despite various forms of government/NPO interventions, the sector trails behind smallholder success stories in other developing economies regionally and globally. Participation and integration in short value chains, with associated policy reform, administrative support, and committed financial, legal and institutional investment, is essential for enhanced food and nutrition in local urban/rural communities for poor producers/consumers. The proposed engagement methods represent a way to reconfigure markets and production regimes in order that they accommodate small-scale emergent producers and consumers.

Process

i). Engagement of diverse contributors

Food and nutrition security can only be addressed by a coalition of stakeholders that act in concert and this workshop shows how this can be realised. The Facilitator will guide the workshop contributors to initiate discussions around a generic process that aims to mobilise a diverse range of stakeholders to take local and broader action for enhanced food and nutrition security to allow a cross-cutting dialogue straddling gender, race, class and geographical boundaries.

ii). How active involvement of the audience will be facilitated

The aim of this first stage of this social innovation is to mobilise stakeholders by gaining an understanding of their local contexts and interests about food and nutrition security through a 'discovery' stage in which they draw their own stakeholder map. This stage involves the mobilisation of stakeholders by launching the intervention at a large open

event in a central location. The subsequent 'visioning' stage allows participants to imagine "what it looks like when there is food and nutrition security" and to identify concrete actions, events, spaces and supports that enable the vision. This establishes a baseline for monitoring and planning and enables communities to focus on solutions. Participants may create organisations, associations, social capital and launch actions through the creation of organisations, enterprises, media and events.

The next stage is a strategy stage where broad action plans and intermediate mileposts are established to targets/objectives leading to the next 'creation of tactics' stage. This is a creative stage using multiple/diverse media for participants' learning journeys in order to develop imaginative solutions and plans.

The following stage deals with tactical activities in order to realise intermediate objectives, which are often accomplished by local rather than outside contractors. These play a direct role in delivery/ oversight, in effect establishing an informal monitoring system that aims at making adjustments as the process unfolds. The monitoring feeds into the next cycle of action which then starts the process anew.

(iii). Tangible outcomes of the session

1. Process for applying this methodology in local contexts is explored and defined, and kick starts the project cycle.
2. Value chain entry points and relevant supportive policies are identified for enhanced food/nutrition in poor communities.