
RUSSIA

REVERSE THE DECLINE IN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

In the view of continuous food shortage and food prices volatility Russia expand measures taken to improve global food security by implementing projects in policy analysis, agricultural research, nutrition, safety nets and veterinary support as well as emergency food delivery and development food aid in cooperation with international organisations and bilaterally.

In October 2010 Russian Government adopted Comprehensive Programme of Russia Participation in the International Agriculture, Fishery and Food Security Cooperation. This step confirms adherence to common international measures and challenges on food security improvements through collaboration and cooperation with international organization in particular FAO, WFP and international forums G8, G20 and L'Aquila Food Security Initiative as well as through expansion of bilateral cooperation in food security assistance, demand driven technical support to national authorities and academic community.

In this regard, Russia reaffirms support to global food security under the AFSI frame and justifies its pledge to allocate up to 330 mln USD in the period of 2009-2011.

SUPPORT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LED PROCESSES AND PLAN IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since the global food price spike in 2008 Russia has been undertaking measures to enhance food security in Eurasia region by ensuring food access and reducing nutritional vulnerability among poor, support for the governments in the design of sustainable policies as well as emergency food delivery and development food aid in cooperation with international organisations and bilaterally. For these purposes in particular Russia in cooperation with the World Bank established Russia Food Price Crisis Rapid Response TF, jointly with the World Bank and CGIAR undertakes Russian Agricultural Development Aid Cooperation Initiative and implements with the WFP School Feeding Program.

Russian Food Price Crisis Rapid Response TF with contribution of 15 mln USD in 2008-2010 was established by Russia and the World Bank with the main purpose to reduce the negative impact of high and more volatile food prices on the lives of the poor, support governments in the design of sustainable agricultural and food security policies, including local and regional capacity building, and support broad-based growth in productivity and market participation in agriculture to ensure sustainable food supply response in Eurasia region. Currently implementing in Tajikistan 94,000 households benefited in increasing domestic food production and reducing livestock losses, 4,000 households in the remote areas received potato seeds and fertilizer and 65 community production groups have been established.

SUPPORT STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING TROUGH REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ARCHITECTURE

Promoting a more comprehensive approach to food security assistance Russia launched Social Feeding Program in the Eurasia Region to strengthen and adopt national policy of social feeding (schools, hospitals, etc.) to current situation and to ensure quality of nutrition. It aims to mitigate the impact of the economic and social crisis on vulnerable households by ensuring nutrition and improving the access to education, health care, etc.

Currently implemented in cooperation with the WFP, the pilot project in Armenia provides nutritionally balanced meals for 50,000 primary schoolchildren in the most vulnerable and food-insecure districts and supports the development of a sustainable and affordable national school feeding policy and

programme embedded in national priorities and budgets. Russia is determined to launch Social Feeding Programs in Kirgizia and Tadjikistan starting in 2011-2012.

RESEARCH-INNOVATION

In the light of the need to expand research and innovations in the agricultural and food security to address this area Russia jointly with the CGIAR and the World Bank is undertaking Russian Agricultural Development Aid Cooperation initiative aimed to improve food security in the Eurasian region and globally, to enhance environmental sustainability of agricultural production, in particular in response to climate change and food price volatility, including new knowledge, analytical tools and empirical evidence on policies and strategies for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development, strengthened institutional capacity for agricultural and food policy research, and improved content for distance education for effective implementation of food security policies in the region. This new initiative has been implementing through support collaborative research programs focused on the Eurasia region by supporting the CGIAR Fund and Establishment of the Eurasian Centre for Food Security (ECFS). Contribution to CGIAR equals up to 15 mln USD for the period of 2010-2014 for Collaborative Research & Capacity Building Program for the Development of Sustainable and Resilient Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia under the Conditions of Changing Climate.