

**CSD 17 Partnership presentation submitted by
International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA) and global partners**

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development



**Urban-Rural Linkages for Food Security and Vibrant Markets –
the Potential of Public Procurement**

Organizing Partners:

International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA); School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University; New York City Office of School Food; School Food FOCUS (invited); US Department of Agriculture (invited); World Food Programme (invited), FAO (invited), NEPAD Home Grown School Feeding program (invited).

Introduction:

The SARD Initiative is a civil society-led umbrella framework that engages civil society, governments and intergovernmental organizations for multi-stakeholder action to achieve sustainable development goals. In the context of “urban rural partnerships for food security and vibrant markets,” the provisioning of food in institutional settings has a crucial role to play in advancing the sustainable development agenda at global, national and local levels. The advantage of having sustainable agriculture in and around cities of all sizes has benefits for ecosystems services to communities including green spaces, wildlife habitat, higher quality water and decreased run-off to name a few. By creating markets and improved livelihoods for both rural and urban quality food producers, public food policies hold the potential to promote ecological sustainability, healthy eating and social inclusion. This is especially true for creative school feeding policies, which embody the core of sustainable development thinking through their explicit focus on children –i.e., future generations.

In the context of the current food and fuel crisis, cities are emerging as especially prominent actors in devising public food strategies which aim, among other things, to help them re-connect with their rural hinterland. Indeed, decentralized political strategies can be laboratories of sustainable development, especially when risk and uncertainty are so pronounced. By aiming to reducing the environmental costs of food, while at the same time guaranteeing citizens’ right to healthy eating, these strategies deserve special attention for their potential to meet the economic, environmental and social objectives of sustainable development.

Methodology of the Session:

The session will feature a presentation and invited respondents followed by a partner/participant working session addressing the findings of an international research project on school food reform in both developed and developing countries - where the UN’s Home Grown Program is emerging as a means to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

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Through a focus on community food planning, the presentation will highlight the role of cities in addressing the growing problem of food insecurity by becoming engines of rural development and the participants will discuss recommendations to CSD and next steps to move forward collaboratively. Respondents will describe case studies that illustrate opportunities for (and barriers to) the delivery of sustainable development objectives through urban food planning strategies. Whatever little victories are achieved at the sub-national level, they will remain spatially isolated and politically fragile unless they are scaled up to (and validated by) the national and global governance levels. To help facilitate this process, this session has been designed in a highly interactive manner so as to facilitate knowledge-exchange and best practice sharing amongst different governmental and non-governmental food chain actors interested in using the power of purchase to deliver food security and, more generally, sustainable development goals.

Target audience, objectives and impact:

Government, academia and Major Group delegates and UN organizations addressing sustainable agriculture and urban/rural development linkages that enhance the role of stakeholders including national government/local authorities, smallholder rural and urban farmers, particularly women, and public institutions.

The objectives include disseminating knowledge and best practice; understanding the policy-context that would advance the food security and sustainable development agenda at the global level (e.g., the Doha trade talks, the post-Kyoto agreement on climate change); understanding how the public realm can be encouraged to set more demanding standards for health and wellbeing, particularly for the poorest in society; re-thinking home-grown as a learning-by-doing exercise in which the end product (the provision of nutritious food) is just one part of a much larger process.

Expected Outcomes and relevance to the CSD: The presentation will identify challenges as well as good practice examples of institutional feeding initiatives in developed and developing countries and make innovative policy recommendations to help CSD 17 address a range of food security and development goals. This session will help advance the goals of CSD multistakeholder partnerships by bridging the worlds of policy, academia and practice; devising more effective diffusion mechanisms to promote knowledge transfer between organizations and localities; and enhancing understanding of the food dimension of urban poverty.