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REGIONAL POLICY FORUM

From Farms to School:

Towards Sustainable and Inclusive School-Based
Food and Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia

24-25 April 2023 | Alabang, Philippines



Summary of Initiatives, Challenges and Recommendation on effective inclusion of FOs in SBFN

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Benefit of FO inclusion in SBFN

- Sustainable and Resilient
 - Shorter food mile
 - Traceability
 - Solidarity
 - Minimize dependence on external market
- Lesser cost for school
- Assured market for farmers (diverse market)



Challenges (bottlenecks / hindering factors)

- Low/less attractive demand from school compared to other market
- Mis-matched:
 - SBFN pilot areas are far from FOs with capacity to deliver steady supply
- Delayed payment
- Accredited Process
 - Voluminous documents
 - Standard / criteria may favor bigger players



Facilitating Factors

- Presence of Organized FO with capacity to aggregate supply and deliver product
 - Commodity clustering approach
 - Capacity to meet bidding requirement
- Strong Partnership (FO-school-WFP)
 - Access to information
 - Meaningful engagement of partners in review, monitoring and implementation of SBFN
 - Facilitation for accreditation



Recommendation

- Government to have favorable policy environment for SBFN
 - Mandatory procurement (30%) with FOs
 - Budget
 - Partnership Mechanism
- Review / Simplify accreditation
- Better matching of school and organized farmers
- Financing to guarantee the payment for farmers:
 - School: soft loan to ensure cash payment upon delivery
 - Farmer: advance payment to ensure steady supply of products to school
 - Attractive price





Thank you!




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