

# FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ENHANCED THROUGH AN INTERPLAY OF POLICIES



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
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## FINLAND'S FOOD SECURITY PILOT

Several policies impact global food security. **Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)** entails minimising the negative side-effects of policies and ensuring synergies across policies when making policy decisions that have a bearing on developing countries' food security.

**Finland's food security pilot** was carried out as a part of Finland's Development Policy Programme, in which the Government committed to evaluating and promoting coherence in agriculture, fisheries, environmental, trade and development policies, by testing the OECD's PCD Tool.

The Pilot generated an inclusive analysis of the present situation of the different policies as well as objectives and recommendations for strengthening food security through more coherent policies. The Pilot also provided feedback to the OECD and suggestions on the PCD Tool. The results make it possible for Finland to better take developing countries' food security into account in decision-making. They form the basis for developing instruments that strengthen and monitor PCD in food security and in other Finland's PCD priorities.

## KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Cooperation and mutual understanding between key ministries, research institutions and NGOs increased markedly during the Food Security Pilot.** Causal relations between policies are a challenge. It takes special effort to address food security and PCD in decision-making.
- 2. Member states have a key role in ensuring that PCD materialises in EU policies,** the EU being the prime forum for key policies impacting global food security. Although challenging, Finland needs to determine actions that improve Finland's PCD in sectors where the EU has exclusive competence.
- 3. Country-level impact assessments are crucial in providing information on the quantitative and qualitative effects of incoherences on food security.** Countries differ as to the impacts caused by conflicting agendas of different policy sectors. Nevertheless, the findings in one country may indicate similar problems in other countries.
- 4. Improving PCD requires dedicated platforms for dialogue at national, EU and international levels.** In addition to political will, the impact assessments on e.g. food security demand communication, training and improved tools.
- 5. The OECD PCD tool is helpful in shedding light on PCD challenges.** It demonstrates the importance of taking an individualised, targeted approach when analysing policies.



## KEY OBJECTIVES (SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR ALL 12 OBJECTIVES AND RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS)

- › More effectively utilise development policy expertise on food security within the national EU coordination system, and in preparing trade and other agreements between the EU and developing countries. Food security in developing countries is addressed in trade policy with regard to agricultural and fisheries products.
- › Develop awareness and know-how on PCD, and impact assessment at the country level.
- › Actively advocate the tightening of greenhouse gas emissions targets to 30% as part of a broader global commitment.
- › Include global food security aspects in national and international strategies for a green economy.
- › Put more emphasis on the impact of climate change on global food security in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- › Strengthen development cooperation aimed at enhancing food security.

## FEEDBACK TO THE OECD ON THE PCD TOOL

### General remarks on the tool

- Influencing the EU's decisions on common policies should be better taken into account. The structure of the PCD tool should be altered to allow a more explicit consideration of different policy levels.
- In the PCD assessment, the identification of synergies and eventual conflicts between different policies should take centre stage.
- The UN agencies and other international organisations receive inadequate attention in the issues addressed.
- The section on agriculture in the tool lacks the inclusion of corporate social responsibility; related questions could be added. The role and impact of the private sector is difficult

for civil servants to assess. These issues could be considered separately, perhaps through a questionnaire targeted to private sector actors.

### Specific remarks on food security

- Both the positive and negative impact of the forest sector on food security should be taken into account.
- In assessing cross-sectoral policies it is important to consider how the decisions will affect agriculture in developing countries through, for example, land use policy.
- Issues related to land and water use are critical to food security and trade. The implementation and monitoring of existing guidelines that take into account different actors should be emphasised.
- Aquaculture is a growing sector. Sufficient weight should be given to it in issues related to fisheries.
- Promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources requires the identification of complex production and consumption chains, and the means to influence them. This requires new methods.
- The OECD Toolkit could be enlarged to cover natural resources and the policy linkages.

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**Finland's Food Security Pilot: Executive Summary  
of the Report:**  
[formin.finland.fi/en/developmentpolicy/publication](http://formin.finland.fi/en/developmentpolicy/publication)

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