

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

It is evident throughout the research that food insecurity has been a lingering issue in Ethiopia. The state has seen notable progress in building its national food security yet hunger is still prevalent. With the expansion of actors and issues in international politics, FAO becomes a relevant actor to be involved in Ethiopia with its capabilities to provide solution for food and agriculture issue. This leads to the research question of, **“What are FAO’s efforts to tackle food insecurity in Ethiopia from 2016 to 2019?”** Throughout this research, it can be concluded that FAO’s efforts can be divided into two categories: improving food production and productivity, and improving livelihoods resilience.

This research sees that the persisting food insecurity in Ethiopia is rooted in three causes: deteriorating food production capacity, population growth and poverty, and conflicts. As a landlocked state with no effective access towards the sea, Ethiopians rely on its agricultural production, livestock production, and trade to meet their diet intake. Factors such as human-induced climate change that affects precipitation rate, unproductive livestock and land degradation contribute to the deterioration of food production capacity.

This issue is sharpened by high population growth in Ethiopia and poverty that still prevails among the people – forcing Ethiopians to produce more food with inadequate capacity while at the same time, having no economy access towards food in markets. In addition to that, conflicts that occasionally break out

in Ethiopia forced the people to migrate to other regions that already struggle with food insecurity. Ethiopians face food insecurity and the influx of people only causes food crisis as food supply no longer sustain the needs of everyone in the region.

Several attempts have been made by the GoE to tackle the issue of food insecurity by providing safety net like PSNP; encouraging household assets through HABP; education on nutrition and food aids in NNP. These programs, without doubt, had improved the household food security of several Ethiopian families. Even then the programs had their flaws and were not enough to alleviate food insecurity completely from Ethiopia.

Following the tenets of neoliberalism, the situation of anarchy does not prevent the interaction between FAO and Ethiopia to occur. Bound by its identity of being established to achieve a collective goal, this creates a link for FAO and Ethiopia to engage with each other. With complex interdependency that transcends the traditional state to state relation through transnational relation, FAO's efforts are carried out to achieve food security by addressing multiple dimensions of food security. This includes the involvement of FAO in political, social and economical aspect of Ethiopia while engaging with several ministries and the GoE.

In the process of carrying out efforts to tackle food insecurity, FAO also functions as an actor. This means FAO can act on its own decision while identifying itself as a corporate body, advocating policies and affecting the decision of states with its diplomatic skills. The signing of CPF 2016-2020

signifies FAO's stand as an actor and this agreement gives FAO the leverage of developing Ethiopia's food security after active participation and coordination with the GoE. Guided by the CPF, FAO's efforts are based on the three priority areas agreed by both parties: crop, livestock, and natural resource management.

Priority area 1 sees the improvement in crop production, productivity, and commercialization of crop production. In this priority area, FAO has implemented programmes like Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation System, Reducing Food Losses through Improved Postharvest Management and Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economy Empowerment. FAO had introduced climate-smart agriculture practice, metal silos to improve food storage, providing networks for agribusiness and raising awareness on women's participation in food security by providing access to production tools. The outputs of these programmes lead to the uptake of sustainable agricultural practice, adequate technologies for agriculture and broadening participation in household food security. Overall, the programmes in this priority area addressed two of three root causes in Ethiopia, deterioration of food production capacity and poverty.

Priority area 2 on the other hand, is rather similar to the first priority except it addresses the livestock and fisheries sector. The efforts carried out in this priority area includes supporting the implementation of the GHSA through One Health approach in Ethiopia, developing national capacities to control Tsetse and animal African trypanosomiasis (AAT), promoting better quality and practice of livestock feed, and conceiving Blue Growth (BG) Strategy for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Eastern Africa within the Blue Growth Initiative.

The efforts in the livestock and fisheries sector can be concluded as improving livestock health to ensure production and productivity, along with introducing aquaculture as a solution to food security. Only the outputs from promoting better quality and practice of livestock feed are related to the deterioration of food production capacity and poverty, as it increases the production and quality of ASF. The rest of the efforts produced a systematic and comprehensive framework and surveillance system on livestock and fisheries.

The last priority area focuses on natural resources management and improving livelihood resilience to threats and crises. This priority area sees the implementation and support for programmes like REDD+, Information for Nutrition, Food Security and Resilience for Decision Making, and the last but not least, Action Against Desertification. In this priority area, FAO actively conducts training along with assessments for data needed to address and understand the issue of degradation and resilience in Ethiopia – as well as solutions that can be procured from the information gathered.

The implementation of these programmes resulted in improved assessment of forest degradation, biodiversity protection, strengthening government's policy on early action and resilience for disaster situations, and increasing awareness on land degradation, desertification, and restoration. REDD+ and Action Against Desertification are solutions to deteriorating food production capacity as both seek to restore soil quality, while Information for Nutrition, Food Security and Resilience for Decision Making is not related to any root causes of food insecurity.

Concluding all these elaborations, it is apparent that all FAO's efforts during the ongoing CPF period can be categorized into two: those that directly tackle the root causes of persisting food insecurity and those that address the current situation of Ethiopia's food insecurity but are not root causes. While most cases in Ethiopia can be related to the root causes, looking from the food security dimensions perspective, it can be observed how complex food security is and how it creates a layer outside the root causes. This can be seen on how Ethiopians can produce food but the community does not have adequate technologies to maintain food quality and quantity. At the end of the day, both are food insecure. This is precisely what FAO focused on through its activities in providing workshops, technologies, and networks to improve production capacity.

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