School Feeding Initiative Ghana Netherlands (SIGN), a Dutch-based platform, that has been supporting the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) for the past 6 years, is organizing a conference on Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF).

The conference will seek to share or transfer knowledge and experiences on multi stakeholder cooperation in support of the GSFP. Focus areas will include experiences with the SIGN model as a way to support the GSFP, partnerships formed around the GSFP and opportunities for future cooperation on Home Grown School Feeding. Experiences on other critical themes like Social Accountability, Leadership and Good Governance and effective linkage with smallholder farmers will also be shared.

These objectives will be fulfilled through presentations and panel discussions centred on SIGN’s six years of collaboration with policy makers, civil society, business people and researchers on the GSFP.

The conference is scheduled to take place in late October 2011 in the Netherlands and will be opened by Her Excellency Mrs. Aanaa N. Enin; Ghana’s Ambassador to the Netherlands and closed by Dr. Ben Knapen, Dutch Minister for International Cooperation. Other invitees include the strategic partners of the GSFP, interested parties in HGSF, Media personnel and partners of SIGN.

Leading up to the conference, the Centre for Learning on Sustainable Agriculture is hosting an online debate around the following statement: “HGSF programs have the potential to not only benefit children but small scale farmers as well: because food necessities can be procured locally, a new market may be created for farmers. But is it a worthwhile investment in terms of scale and possible economic benefits?”

Carmen Burbano (Policy Officer at the World Food Programme) and King-David Amoah (Director ECASARD Ghana) initially take a stand. Interested in what they have to say? Join the debate!

For more information about the program, registration or following SIGNs blog, visit the
SIGN website