From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways and Principles

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Photos: Anna Herforth
Why is Ag-Nutrition “pathway thinking” important?

- Nutrition has historically been an important target for CRSP research

- USAID’s history of investment in nutrition research – First CRSP was Nutrition (UCLA, Neumann, et. al, 1977)

- Pre-FTF, CRSP-generated nutrition outcomes not well-integrated into USAID nutrition programming – e.g. outcomes of ENAM\Ghana Project under GL-CRSP
Why is “pathway thinking” important

- Ag-N “linkage” implicit throughout FTF programs and explicit in GH- and FFP-funded programs (Title II, GAIN, FANTA, TOPS, SPRING)
- In some countries, nutrition still an “add-on” to FTF value chain investments
- Foster dialogue: We need our GH\nutrition and Food For Peace colleagues to understand and use CRSP IL results.
FIGURE 1 – FEED THE FUTURE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Goal: Sustainability Reduce Global Poverty and Hunger

NATIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS: Prevalence of poverty and prevalence of underweight children

Inclusive agriculture sector growth
- Agriculture value added per person
- Incomes of rural households disaggregated by sex and income quintile

Improved nutritional status especially of women and children
- Prevalence of stunted children
- Prevalence of wasted children
- Prevalence of underweight women

Projects and policies to support agriculture sector growth
Projects and policies to increase access to markets and facilitate trade
Projects and policies to support positive gains in nutrition

Projects and policies to improve stability by reducing risk and vulnerabilities and to increase gender equality and environmental sustainability
Evidence from previous agricultural efforts to increase income

“Overall, cash-cropping schemes [whether staple crops or other] did not have a significant impact – negative or positive – on child nutritional status."

- Household incomes generally improved.
- Consumption effects depended on base household income, how much was controlled by women, and changes in relative prices.

Low availability and high prices of nutrient-dense dietary components

![Bar chart showing food quantities in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2003]

- Starchy roots and cereals
- Pulses
- Fruits and vegetables

Source: Herforth 2010, based on FAO data
Food production affects consumption

“With very few exceptions, home garden programs increased the consumption of fruit and vegetables; aquaculture and small fisheries interventions increased the consumption of fish; and dairy development projects increased the consumption of milk.”

Source: Masset et al, 2012

- Available data from home gardens programs also show positive impact on vitamin A status.
- Among agriculture projects that have improved nutrition, women’s active involvement has been a consistent element

Source: Ruel and Alderman (Lancet 2013)
Overall Messages: Pathways to Nutrition

OLD: Assumptions about nutrition impact have been challenged

- Increasing production of calories
- Increasing overall household incomes as a singular priority
- Agriculture as a contributor to overall economic growth; double-edged sword for nutrition

NEW: These need more attention if we are going to reach nutrition

- Increasing production of diverse, nutrient dense foods
- Increasing women’s incomes
  - And avoiding harm due to additional time demands or energy expenditure of women
- Incorporating nutrition behavior change communication for enhanced nutrition impact from food production and income
AgN-GLEEEs: Vision for Feed the Future

- Target the nutritionally vulnerable
- Empower women
- Increase production of diverse, nutrient-dense foods & improve processing
- Increase market access and opportunities for nutritious foods
- Design by context
- Coordinate multisectorally
- Incorporate nutrition behavior change communication
- M&E to capture and attribute impact
- Activities sustain the natural resource base

Nutrition objective
Agriculture-Nutrition Working Group on Agrilinks


Seeking results and “emerging evidence” of impact on nutrition from investment in agricultural research

• Host and join webinars
• Send blogs, Case Studies, Technical Notes
World Bank: Secure Nutrition Platform

https://www.securenutritionplatform.org/Pages/Home.aspx
For further information

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