LEVERAGING AGRICULTURE FOR IMPROVING NUTRITION & HEALTH

Marie Ruel
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10–12 February 2011 | New Delhi, India
Why Now?

• Agriculture is high on the global agenda because of volatile food prices and other factors.
• Billions of people remain hungry and malnourished.
• Agriculture, nutrition, and health are linked in important ways, but the three sectors rarely work together toward their common goals.
• We need to learn much more about how to make new and existing agricultural investments more nutrition- and health-friendly.
AGRICULTURE – NUTRITION - HEALTH

HEALTH & NUTRITION BENEFITS AGRICULTURE THROUGH:
- Productivity
- Risk taking
- Education
- Cognition
- Endurance
- Physical strength

AGRICULTURE BENEFITS NUTRITION + HEALTH THROUGH:
- Livelihoods
- Income
- Employment
- Food security
- Dietary diversity
- Gender equity

AGRICULTURE POSES RISKS:
- Water-related diseases
- Food-borne diseases
- Zoonotic diseases

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Interventions

- Breastfeeding
- Complementary feeding
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Zinc supplementation
- Hygiene & sanitation
- Immunization
- Salt iodization

- Agriculture
- Poverty reduction
- Income generation
- Education
- Health systems strengthening
- Women’s empowerment

Immediate causes

Underlying causes at household/family level

Basic causes at societal level

Food security

Care resources

Health, water/sanitation services

Institutions

Political & ideological framework

Economic structure

Resources environment, technology, people

Conference Program

- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health: Where Are We Now? Where Do We Want to Be?
- Enhancing Nutrition and Cutting Health Risks along the Agricultural Value Chain
- Learning from Country Case Studies, Program Interventions, and Evaluations
- Key Levers and Incentives: Economic, Social, Governance, and Science and Technology
- Regional Perspectives and Priorities
- Addressing Priorities in Research and Action Gaps
- Reimagining How Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Can Link Better
Address by
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

“Leveraging agriculture for improving nutrition and health . . . is particularly important in developing countries where agriculture is also the mainstay of a very large number of people.”

Video
Inaugural Session

H.E. John Kufuor
Former President
Republic of Ghana

Video

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
USA

Video
A Wealth of Perspectives

1,000 participants
- from agriculture, health, nutrition, and related sectors
- representing a wide range of actors including governments, NGOs, private sector, and academia

150 chairs, speakers, and rapporteurs

65 countries represented

30 sessions

29 papers and briefs
**Way Forward: The Building Blocks**

1. **Fill the knowledge gaps by**
   - learning more about how different patterns of agricultural growth affect nutrition and health
   - investing in research, evaluation, and education systems that integrate information from all three sectors
   - increasing knowledge on governance

2. **Minimize harm by**
   - mitigating health risks posed by agriculture along the value chain
   - designing health and nutrition interventions that contribute to the productivity of agricultural labor
   - looking at downstream effects of subsidies for production or consumption on consumers’ nutrition and health
**Way Forward: The Building Blocks**

3. **Seek out and scale up innovative solutions by**
   - designing agriculture, nutrition, and health programs with cross-sectoral benefits
   - incorporating nutrition into value chains for food products
   - using all available levers for change, including economic, social, science and technology, and governance and inclusion levers
   - increasing consumers’ nutrition literacy and highlighting the consequences of dietary choices
   - upscaling successful interventions

4. **Create an environment in which cooperation can thrive by**
   - building partnerships among agriculture, nutrition, and health
   - developing mutual accountability mechanisms among the three sectors
   - correcting market failures
   - using communication and advocacy to promote change
Recurring Themes

1. Communicate better to
   - build awareness
   - raise interest
   - provide options
   - attract policy “champions” who can spread the word

2. Improve investments by
   - making existing ones more nutrition- and health-friendly
   - generating new ones that exploit the links among agriculture, health, and nutrition
   - setting priorities based on greatest impact

3. Build the evidence base
   Collect relevant data in timely fashion, improve tools and methods, and invest in monitoring and evaluation.
Recurring Themes

4. Don’t wait to act
   Move ahead based on available information and common sense.

5. Collaborate across sectors
   Look for ways to work together, while not losing the advantages of deep sectoral expertise.

6. Focus on education
   Develop multidisciplinary university-level education programs to inculcate a habit of broader thinking among future leaders in agriculture, nutrition, and health.
Recurring Themes

7. Look at food systems, not just agricultural systems
   Consider all the stages from farm to fork, and be sensitive to the sustainability of natural resources.

8. Proactively engage the health sector
   Find ways to reach out and include the health sector in agricultural activities.

9. Recognize that women are at the nexus of the three sectors
   Direct policies and programs to women to simultaneously strengthen agriculture and enhance nutrition and health.
“DO IT, TRY IT, FIX IT”: NEXT STEPS

- Accelerate research to help shape better programs and policies
- Raise awareness and interest through communication strategies
- Reach out to potential partners, and build links and networks
For presentations, publications, videos, interviews, and more

http://2020conference.ifpri.info
CGIAR Research Program on:
Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health
IFPRI-led, with 11 other CG centers
New CGIAR Vision

“To reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, and enhance ecosystem resilience through high-quality international agricultural research, partnership, and leadership”
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**Social Behavior Change and Communications**

**Enhancing Nutrition along the Value Chain**

**Biofortification**

**Integrated Programs and Policies**

**Prevention, Control of Ag-Associated Diseases**

**Component 1**

**Component 2**

**Component 3**

**Component 4**

**Figure 1. CRP4 Conceptual Framework**

- **Availability, access, intake of nutritious, safe foods**
- **Labor productivity**
- **Risk of AAD**
- **Income and gender equity**
- **Knowledge of nutrition, food safety**

**Better Nourished and Healthier Populations**
What will this Program do?

• Take a **systematic** view of how agriculture, health, and nutrition interact globally, nationally, and locally

• **Address gaps** in our knowledge of these relationships

• Develop a strong body of **evidence** based on rigorous research to help decision makers choose options and evaluate trade-offs

• Foster **effective approaches** and partnerships to improve nutrition and health that cross-sectoral boundaries
Focus

- **Women**: as participants, beneficiaries, key actors
- **Capacity strengthening**: individual, institutional, policy level
- **Communication and advocacy**: fostering x-sectoral work
- **Partnerships**: research, development implementers, policy makers, at local, national, international levels

https://sites.google.com/a/cgxchange.org/mp4/home