

Introducing the INGENAES Project

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



INGENAES

Integrating Gender and Nutrition
within Agricultural Extension Services

What we stand for



IN

Integrating

GE

Gender and

N

Nutrition

A

within Agricultural

E

Extension

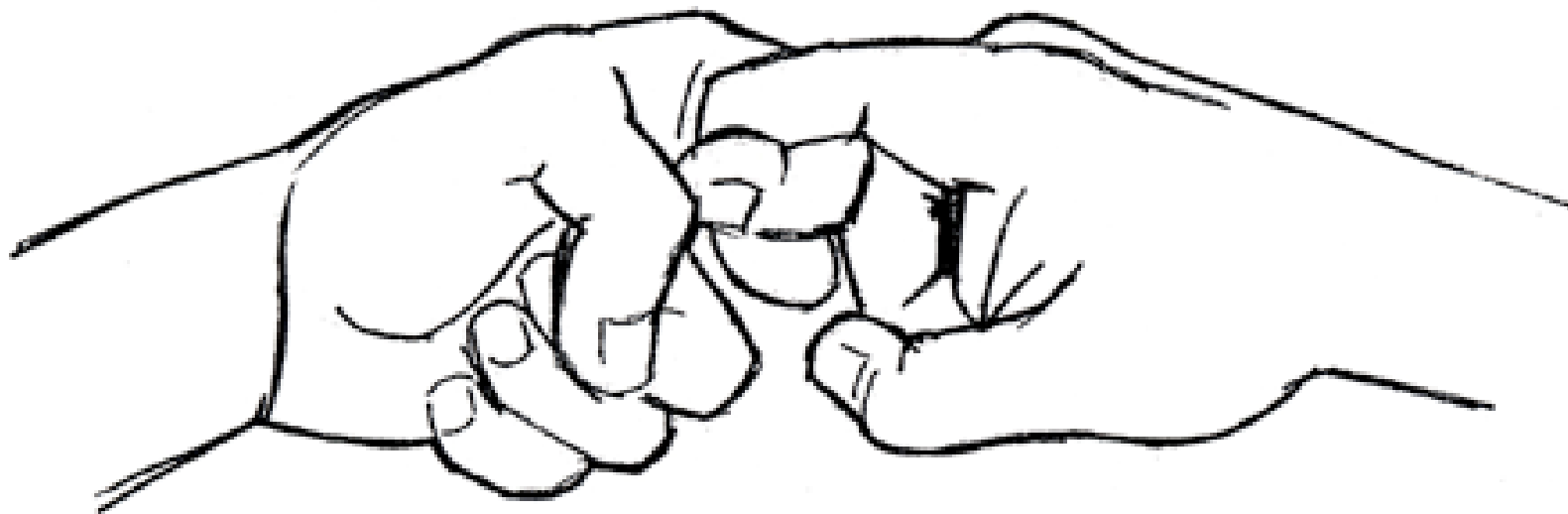
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Services

Agriculture and Nutrition go Hand in Hand

EXTENSION

GENDER



AGRICULTURE

Food

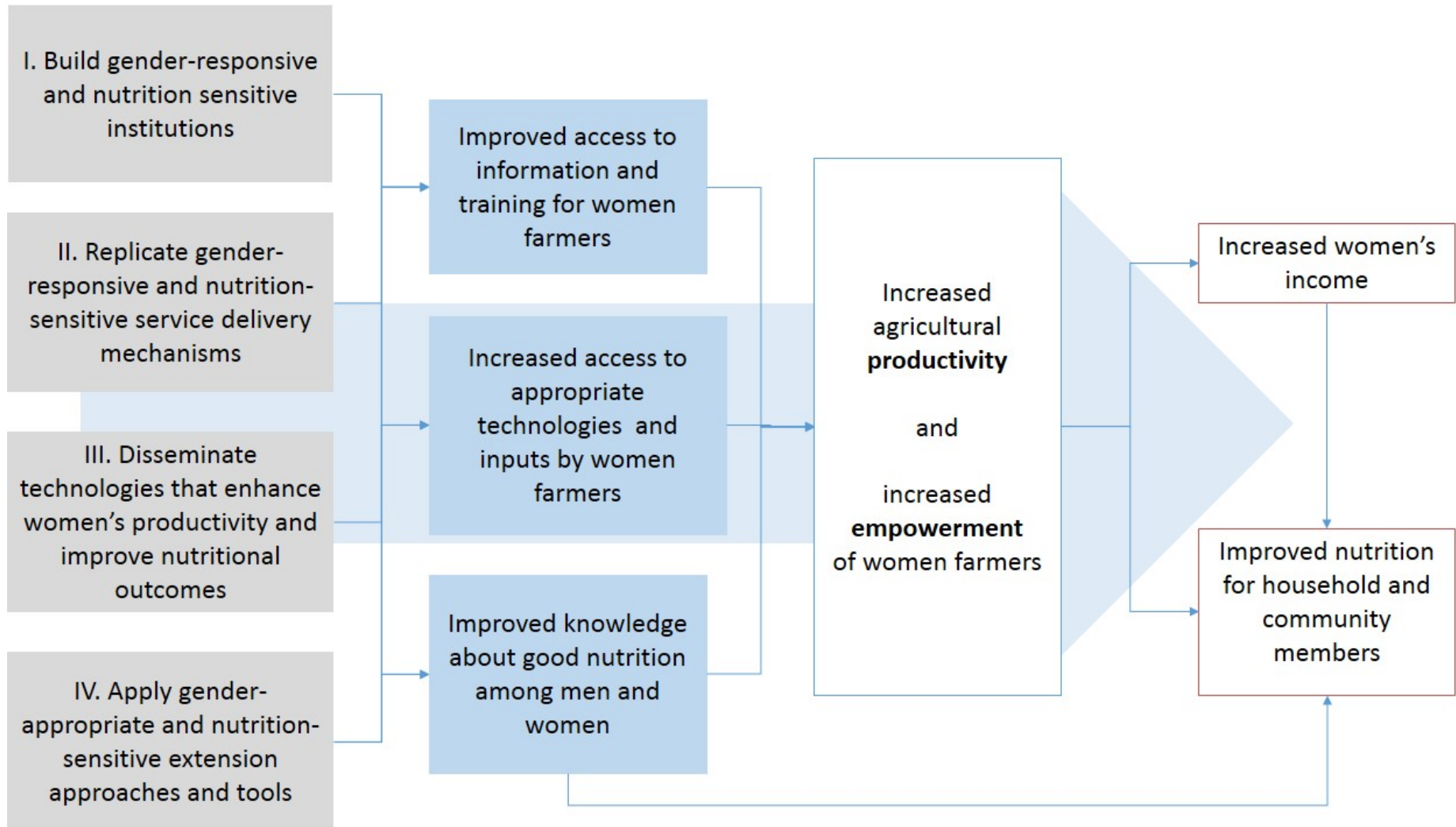
NUTRITION

Health

Income

Care practices

INGENAES Conceptual Framework



The Role of Extension in Supporting Improved Nutrition through Gender Responsive Approaches



Which instrument do diverse ag extension service providers play, when, and what's the tune?



Conceptual Framework:

How can extension impact nutrition?

- Pluralistic agriculture extension is logical: extensionists interact with farm families to improve farming practices
 - Existing relationships, trust, infrastructure
 - Traditional focus on agricultural production
 - May influence food consumption (household & beyond)
- Gender-responsive, nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension combines three aspects shown to have ability to impact nutrition:
 - Women's empowerment
 - Nutrition education
 - Availability of (and access to) diverse, nutrient-dense foods

While bearing in mind...

- Challenges to leveraging extension for improved nutrition:
 - Markets rarely demand nutrition, and farming is a for-profit endeavor
 - Extension is often underfunded; coverage suboptimal
 - Extensionists have multiple, important agendas:
 - Climate-smart agriculture
 - Conservation agriculture
 - Market orientation and farm management
 - Others...

INGENAES Mode of Operation

- We have the opportunity to operationalize the contribution extension can make to improved nutrition as we:
 - Support institution-level capacity building in specific contexts:
 - Asia, Africa, and Latin America
 - NGO- and gov't-led extension
 - Document and widely disseminate experience
 - Including production of project-level case studies
 - Test impact of ag technologies on nutrition- & gender-related outcomes; disseminate promising ones
 - Test and disseminate tailored approaches and metrics
- Constraints:
 - Time-limited project with limited research mandate
 - Will not assess individual-level outcomes



Nutrition Smart Agricultural Extension

- Focus on food
 - Complementary feeding: focus on dietary diversification, locally-available and more nutritious cultivars, availability throughout the year (planning for lean/hunger season)
 - Breastfeeding: focus on care capacity and women's time allocation (not technical details)
- Consider market connectivity:
 - Where limited, promote dietary diversification and diversified production: kitchen gardens, livestock, fisheries
 - Where (better) integrated, promote bio-fortified or high-nutrient varieties for production or purchase
- Nutrition community also needs to better understand farming systems, farmer decision-making process and drivers, economies of scale at farm gate vs. production diversification

BANGLADESH: Desired Outcome

The good nutrition education and nutrition-ag training materials produced by projects are made more accessible and adaptable

- 1. Increase awareness of what is “out there”**
- 2. Encourage utilization of this material (as is) by more institutions. “Democratization” of content**
- 3. Enable these institutions to build on existing high quality material**
 - Grow the circle of beneficiaries
 - Have impact beyond the scope of projects
 - Enable innovative new uses (e.g., mobile apps)

INGENAES in BANGLADESH

Nutrition Expo on Aug. 5, 2015

- INFS, FAO, CARE, CARITAS, HKI, FHI 360
- “Stocktaking” spreadsheet

Dropbox folder

(contact abohn@Illinois.edu to be added)

Extension platform

<http://extension.org.bd>



Linking mPower with Proshar, FAO, World Fish, HKI, ...

Formation of Ag-Nutrition working group (not just for USAID funded organization)

- Meetings on 11/5/2015, again 12/8/2015



Topics to discuss

- Challenge of obtaining hard and soft copies from some organizations.
 - Why are soft copies not readily available on all USAID project/implementers' website?
 - Why is it difficult to obtain soft copies upon request?
- How can access and dissemination be facilitated so as to minimize effort for those who generated it?
- Good practice on copyright and licensing
- What access and dissemination channels for nutrition communication and nutrition sensitive agricultural training does the group recommend?



Topics to discuss

- **How to integrate nutrition to agricultural extension? (what messages, what mechanisms)**
- **What material is best suited for extension service providers?**
- What material might be most useful for “wide audience” as is vs. those that really should not be released without significant adaptation support from those who produced it in the first place?
- Role of the government as a clearing house for these materials?
- What are the barriers to public entities (like DAES, BIRTAN, AIS, BAU) piggy-backing on the material produced by USAID (or other donor) funded projects?



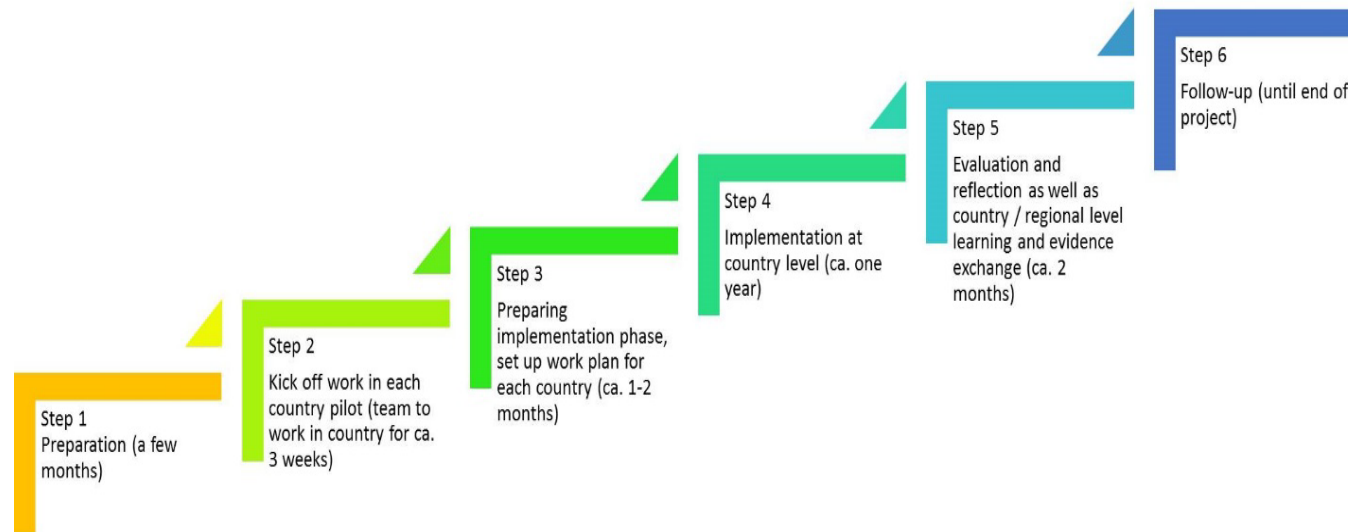
Nutrition-sensitive Agricultural Extension Zambia

- SUN Movement has mobilized government and other stakeholders to action
 - Committed donors – SUN Fund
 - Empowerment of NFNC but in MoH focus on 1000 days
 - Dynamic SUN Civil Society and Business Communities
- Ministries given mandate with funding
 - RAIN model - Coordination across Ministries and decentralization of program implementation (7 districts => 14 districts (out of 72+))
 - Ministry of Agriculture designing materials and programs NOW
- INGENAES opportunities for ag extension
 - Network and information exchange
 - Facilitate a learning process – document case studies, tap local expertise
 - Bringing global experience to local application





INGENAES Process & Activities in Zambia



Stakeholder workshop (3/2015): 25 organizations prioritized 4 activities:

1. Assess, map service delivery mechanisms in Zambia
2. Review agriculture technologies from a gender perspective
3. **Harmonize and disseminate nutrition messages**
4. **Develop more comprehensive and nuanced M&E tools for gender and nutrition impacts of agriculture**

INGENAES Approach in Zambia

Nutrition-focused activities

1. Agricultural Extension – Consistent and effective nutrition messages
 - High demand for nutrition messages
 - government extension
 - New agriculture projects with nutrition objectives
 - Need to understand more clearly what role extension can play
2. Context and scope-specific measurement of nutrition impacts of agriculture investments
 - Desire to better understand when different indicators are appropriate
 - Better tools and instruments to adopt appropriate metrics for consistent application

The Role of Extension in Supporting Improved Nutrition through Gender Responsive Approaches



Which instrument do diverse ag extension service providers play, when, and what's the tune?

Disclaimer

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