

Increasing Nutrition-Sensitivity of Value Chains

A Review of Two Feed the Future Projects in Guatemala

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INTRODUCTION

The effect of agriculture on nutrition is multifaceted. Agriculture—



- contributes to a healthy life by producing foods for household consumption and increasing availability of foods within local markets
- affects the status of women in producer households since health is impacted by a woman's time use, energy expenditure, and control over household income.

• increases income for producer households, which enables the purchase of more diverse

food and may leverage greater access to and diversity of healthy foods in local markets

Yet the agriculture sector encompasses a far greater sphere than agriculture producer households; it comprises people and institutions that are involved in the consuming, disposing, marketing, processing, and producing of food.

Opportunities to enhance nutrition-sensitivity can exist at each stage of the value chain and food system.

Key Stages of an Agricultural Commodity Value Chain and Food System

INPUTS PRODUCTION PROCESSING, STORAGE MARKETING/ CONSUMPTION WASTE



Nutrition-sensitive interventions address the underlying determinants of malnutrition:

- access to health services
- access to caregiving resources
- food security
- a safe, hygienic environment.



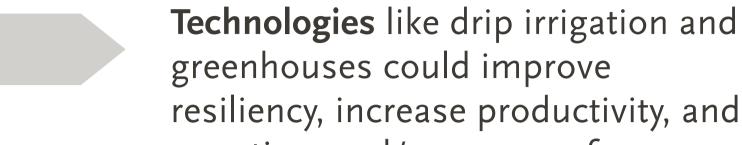
METHODOLOGY

SPRING examined two USAID-funded export-oriented value chain activities in Guatemala (Asociación Guatemalateca de Exportadores [AGEXPORT], and the Asociación Nacional del Café [ANACAFE]) to better understand how and where linkages to nutrition may be leveraged within agricultural value chain programming.

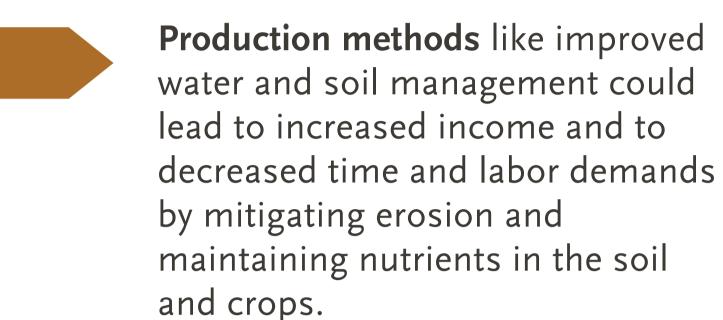
The study focused on a qualitative review of three commodity value chains (coffee, green beans, and handicrafts).

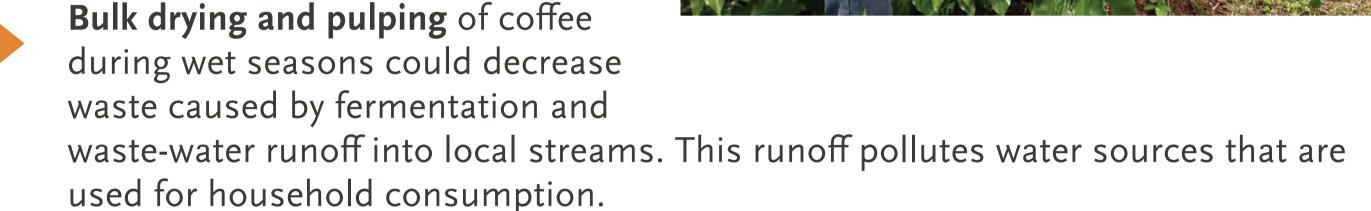
RESULTS

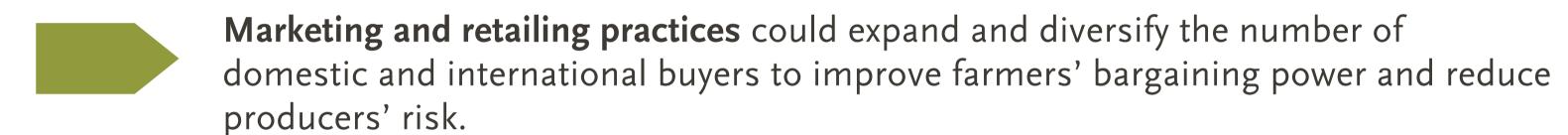
The findings revealed opportunities to incorporate nutrition-sensitive agriculture thinking and interventions in these areas for the Guatemala programs:

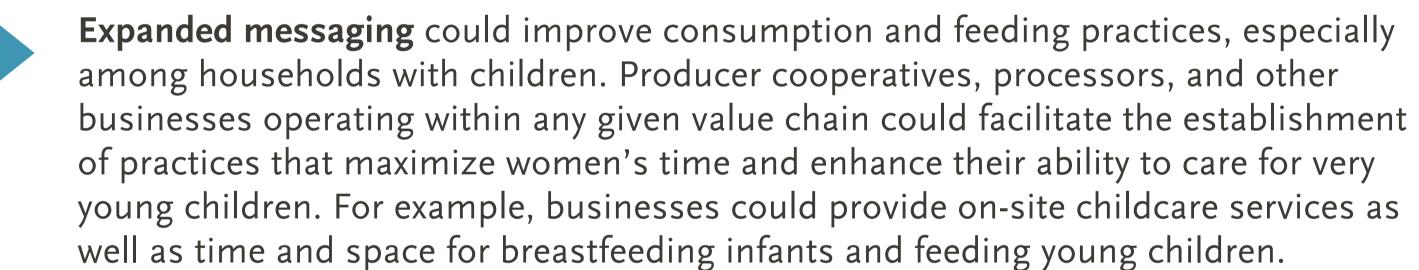


resiliency, increase productivity, and save time and/or energy of producers.









Safe disposal of agricultural waste materials, such as empty pesticide containers, could help deter communities' use of pesticide-contaminated containers to store drinking water or food, which would improve residents' health.

CONCLUSION

Opportunities exist for improving the nutrition sensitivity of any value chain, regardless of the commodity's nutritional content. The underlying determinants of undernutrition—food, health, and care—may be useful for identifying leverage points where value chains can better contribute to positive nutritional outcomes among producers and in target communities.

Good agriculture practices can be nutrition-sensitive and can yield—

- increased production of diverse foods
- improved soil and environmental health
- increased incomes for male and female producers
- more time available for mothers to spend caring for their families.

As part of program design, stakeholders should consider identifying nutrition-sensitive actions to be performed by the range of actors within any target value chain, from input suppliers to processers and buyers. This will strengthen the enabling environment for nutrition, ensuring that agriculture does no harm and instead contributes to improved food, health, and care.





