

# Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Applying the Income Pathway

## Technical Guidance Brief

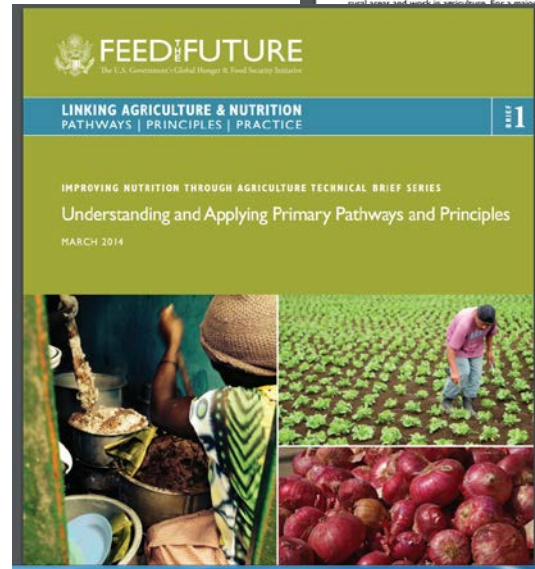
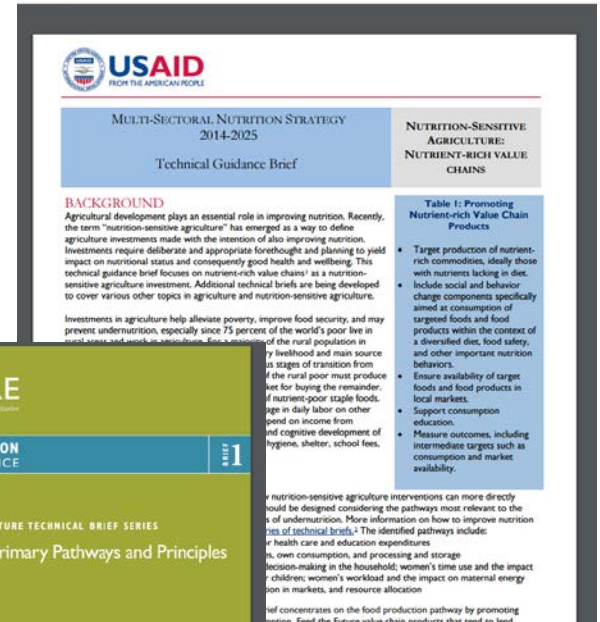
9 February 2017

SPRING Webinar: Does Increased Income Within Rural Households Lead To Improved Nutrition?

Sarah Titus, Food Security and Nutrition Manager



# Multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition





## MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION STRATEGY 2014-2025

### Technical Guidance Brief

## NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE: APPLYING THE INCOME PATHWAY

### BACKGROUND

In order to make agricultural market development activities more nutrition-sensitive,<sup>1</sup> interventions must address the underlying and basic causes of malnutrition.<sup>2</sup> Agriculture investments may improve availability and access to food, while also ensuring that producer households have income to pay for caregiving resources, and health care. As illustrated by [The Primary Pathways for Improving Nutrition through Agriculture Technical Briefs](#), nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions may ultimately contribute to improving the nutrition of women and children (SPRING 2014). The pathways include:

- **Food Production** – Influencing the availability and affordability of nutrient-rich foods<sup>3</sup> for household consumption;
- **Income** – for expenditure on food and non-food items; and
- **Women's Empowerment** – including control over use of income, feeding and caregiving resources, and female energy expenditure.

This brief focuses on the application of the income pathway.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND NUTRITION

Over three quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as their primary source of income.<sup>4</sup> In addition, most farming households are net buyers of food, underscoring the importance of income on the diet and nutritional status of all household members.

<sup>1</sup> The USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy 2014-2025 defines nutrition-sensitive interventions as those that address the underlying and systemic causes of malnutrition. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities are therefore those within the sector that influence outcomes related to food, health, and care. They can also serve as delivery platforms for nutrition-specific interventions (such as food fortification, micronutrient supplementation, nutrition education, infant feeding and others), potentially increasing their scale, coverage, and effectiveness.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF's) framework for malnutrition lays out the understanding of the determinants of malnutrition, including its immediate, underlying, and basic causes. Nutrient intake and health status at the level of the individual are the immediate determinants of nutritional status. Underlying these are the food, health, and care determinants which one can affect through agriculture. Finally, at a basic level, political, economic, and institutional determinants underpin all of these factors. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 1990. *Strategy for Improved Nutrition of Children and Women in Developing Countries: A UNICEF Policy Review*. New York: UNICEF.

# Applying the income pathway





# Increase and diversify income sources

Photo credit: SPRING



# Promote the use of income for nutrition-related needs



Photo credit: SPRING



# Support gender-equitable roles and responsibilities in agricultural market systems



Photo credit: Morgana Wingard, for USAID





# Promote innovative financial products and services

Photo credit: Amos Gumulira, Feed the Children



# Strengthen institutional frameworks and government policies to make key nutritious foods affordable



Photo credit: USAID





USAID welcomes comments on this brief and they can be submitted to Leslie Koo: [lkoo@usaid.gov](mailto:lkoo@usaid.gov)



[www.spring-nutrition.org](http://www.spring-nutrition.org)