



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Training Community Workers in Odisha, India



Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture



The Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project has developed a curriculum that will help community resource persons and service providers understand and promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture in their local areas. The curriculum complements a training on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) developed by SPRING and Digital Green during a successful community video project in India in 2014. This new nutrition-sensitive agriculture curriculum feeds into the development of community-led videos that teach improved nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices and provides a link between the MIYCN training and a proven community-led video agricultural extension method used by Digital Green and partners.

TRAINING DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Conduct Formative Research

Define Focus Practices for Training

Training Development

Iterative Process of Training Review

Approach



This two-day nutrition-sensitive agriculture training follows a two-day MIYCN training. Together, the trainings empower community-level agents with the knowledge they need to facilitate discussions with community members about nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices.

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture addresses the underlying causes of undernutrition via three main pathways as they relate to agriculture: food, income, and women's empowerment. It is distinct from nutrition-specific interventions, which address the immediate determinants of undernutrition: food and nutrient intake; health, WASH, and caregiving; and disease burden.

We used the Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways to frame the design of the curriculum. Participatory formative research helped us define sets of nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices relevant to local conditions and farming systems in Odisha. In choosing focus practices for the training, we considered these criteria:

- potential to impact nutrition
- likelihood of adoption by target beneficiaries
- sustainability after end of project support
- ease of promotion.

Contributes to Improved Nutrition

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Training Topics



- Seasonal changes that affect nutrition
- Daily activities that affect nutrition
- Communication styles, relationships, and household decision making
- Making spending decisions together (husbands and wives)
- Getting enough food all year
- Addressing challenges from production through buying and selling
- Men's and women's roles from producing through selling and buying
- Health and environmental safety

Methods



Because the nutrition-sensitive agriculture training in Odisha targets a low-literacy population of frontline community workers, it uses visual guides with icons and illustrations to introduce and discuss key concepts of the Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways that resonate with community members. The training is interactive and uses participatory adult learning methods. Each session builds on participants' knowledge of local community challenges.



Participants work together during a training in maternal, infant, and young child nutrition in Odisha, India.

Icons Convey Key Concepts



Food
Production



Shared
Decision
Making



Men's and
Women's
Labor Roles

Outcomes



This training equips local community resource persons and service providers with nutrition-sensitive agriculture knowledge so that they are well positioned to—

- identify local nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices
- support the development of locally-relevant videos to promote these practices
- facilitate discussions with beneficiaries during local community video screenings.



Further Resources



- Learn more about SPRING's approach to nutrition-sensitive agriculture here: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/stories/spring-promotes-nutrition-sensitive-agriculture>
- Learn about a nutrition-sensitive agriculture workshop SPRING conducted in India with partners here: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/about-us/activities/spring-conducts-orientation-nutrition-sensitive-agriculture-india>
- Access SPRING's *Community Video for Nutrition Guide* here: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/series/community-video-nutrition-guide>
- Find photos from SPRING's formative research here: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/media/galleries/formative-research-miycn-hygiene-and-nutrition-odisha-india>

This training curriculum is part of SPRING's technical assistance to the UPAVAN project (also known as the Community-driven and digital technology-enabled agriculture intervention for nutrition: A cluster randomized controlled trial in Odisha, India)—a partnership among SPRING, Digital Green, the Voluntary Association for Rural Reconstruction & Appropriate Technology (VARRAT), and Ekjut India. The project is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK's Department for International Development.

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