

- 1. Anushree Shiroor: Given one of the global targets is on childhood overweight, is there any indication that this will be looked into in addition to adult and adolescent overweight/obesity? Faulty eating habits are being seen developing in school going children in India as well**

Yes. In India, we are converging with National Adolescent Health Program and School Health Program. Main strategy is to promote health lifestyle including healthy diet and screening for NCD risk factors. Some States are introducing provision of healthy dietary options in school canteens and forbidding unhealthy ones (fast foods, colas etc.)

- 2. Chelsea: can you please speak more on how India is working to reduce the food waste produced**

Some NGOs are working on this issue buying surplus cooked foods from hotels/restaurants and distributing to poor children. But this is on a very small scale; The Government is enhancing capacity for preservation of uncooked agri products in cold storage units.

- 3. Cecilia Gonzalez: What are the successes and challenges on promoting these actions in the agriculture sector? How are farmers receiving these policies being promoted?**

Since green revolution about 4 decades ago, there has been tremendous increase in production of crops and today India is self-sufficient. Many States have policies to regulate minimum purchase rates to benefit farmers and prevent exploitation. There are subsidies on fertilizers, soft loans for farming and now Crop Insurance.

- 4. Cecilia Gonzalez: how is impact being measured?**

Based on global monitoring framework, India has set up 10 goals and 21 indicators to monitor interventions for NCDs. The Indian Council of Medical Research has been entrusted the task to periodically estimate prevalence of NCD risk factors and key NCDs and implementation of programs in the health sector.

- 5. Anushree Shiroor: Would it be possible for you to dwell slightly on the strict enforcement of nutrition labelling and promotion of awareness on nutrition labelling amongst masses? Thank you**

This is work in progress. Food safety and standards authority of India (FSSAI) is the nodal body. The Ministry has recently constituted expert committee to make recommendations on contents and labelling of processed foods for salt, sugar and fats. You can visit FSSAI website for details

- 6. Lillian Odhiambo ENN: where does the private sector lie in the 4 areas of focus?**

Not much has been done so far except some pilot projects under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding. I feel NGOs and Private Sector need to play a major part to supplement efforts of the Government. India has large private health sector and many NGOs providing health care services. Health programs on HIV/AIDS, TB, Polio (now eradicated) and blindness have demonstrated the contribution of NGOs/Private Health Sector. There is need to have mechanisms for NCDs also, The Pharma and diagnostic establishments and private insurance companies have also role to play

7. Anushree Shiroor: Would it also be possible to talk a bit more about the financial allocation, big picture, towards implementing this multi-sectoral action plan?

Today NCDs have very small share in budget allocated for health. Similarly other sectors also need to allocate budget for their activities aimed at preventing NCDs. We hope there would be higher allocation in the coming years in the light of SDG goals.

8. Charulatha Banerjee: Dr. Bachani clearly mentions that childhood underweight (especially in the first 2 years) is recognized as a key cause for NCDs in later life. Is it not critical that the NCD group work with the Women & Child Department to address this cause?

It is very important for those working in NCDs and Maternal, Infant and Child Health to work together, given the importance of early nutrition to undernutrition and NCD risk. Increasing general awareness about the concept of double-duty actions can help make these connections to ensure coherence in policies to address both undernutrition and overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs.

9. Elizabeth R: For Amanda Pomeroy - can you speak more about the importance of surveillance to identify dual burden populations? DHS offers prevalence estimates of underweight, overweight, etc. by urban-rural residence, wealth, etc. What other data would be useful to have?

DHS is a good place to start - SPRING has used these data for sub-national NCD profiles: (<https://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/briefs/nutrition-related-non-communicable-disease>) DHS provides weight for children and mothers and stunting, but low birth weight is not always available via DHS, and often those data are estimations (i.e. reported by mother as small or very small at birth), and for all data the geographic breakdowns can only go down as far as the DHS is stratified - often only to the region or state level. In order for these data to be most helpful to policy makers and implementers, these type of indicators need to be included in the routine health information systems so they can be looked at to the district or hospital catchment level. Ideally, other information pertinent to NCD risk factors could also be collected at this level, like blood pressure, glucose levels, etc. Also, indicators of fruit and vegetable crop failure, price volatility for healthy foods, or other agriculture market failures could be useful to track - just as they do with staple foods, governments could use this to predict and prevent shortages.

10. Cecilia Gonzalez: are there any industrialized countries, like the U.S. for example, taking multi-sectoral actions for NCDs? where the burden is great

- Finland's National Nutrition Council is an inter-governmental expert body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with advisory, coordinating and monitoring functions, and composed of representatives from government authorities dealing with nutrition, food safety, health promotion, catering, food industry, trade and agriculture
- Malta established an inter-ministerial Advisory Council on Healthy Lifestyles to advise the Minister of Health on any matter related to healthy lifestyles. The Ministers of education, health, finance, social policy, sports, local government and home affairs appoint one

member each. In particular the Advisory Council advises on a life course approach to physical activity and nutrition and on policies, action plans and regulations intended to reduce NCDs.

11. Baburam Subedi: To how extent taking multi-sectoral Action for NCDs is suitable for developing countries like Nepal?

In long run, investment on preventing NCDs and reducing risk would be cost-effective as incidence of NCDs will go down and premature mortality due to NCDs decline. But results will not be instant. We need to convince policy makers and finance authority to understand this fact. There would be need for evidence. We have some evidence from the developing countries (Finland, Poland etc.) but we need to have country specific evidence as well.

12. Globally, what do you see as next steps for bringing attention to double duty actions for nutrition? How can we leverage the World Health Assembly Nutrition targets and WHO efforts to make this case?

As with any new concept, it's important that we continue talking about double-duty actions within our respective fields and networks and also look for opportunities to connect with others across the full spectrum of malnutrition to better understand how we can adapt existing policies, or develop and implement new policies to be double-duty. There's a role for researchers, civil society and policymakers to move this work forward. We need to better understand the impact of potential double-duty actions and develop indicators that allow us to capture impact on malnutrition in all its forms. We need dialogue at all levels, from high-level decision makers to those implementing policies on the ground to better understand the challenges and opportunities for double-duty actions. The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition aims to spur action to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, calling on governments to set SMART commitments to meet global nutrition, NCD and SDG targets. Using a double-duty lens may help accelerate progress in achieving these targets.