This presentation is part of the

Agriculture and Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange

(AgN-GLEE)

held in Bangkok, Thailand from March 19-21, 2013.

For additional presentations and related event materials, visit: http://spring-nutrition.org/agnglee-asia
Linking Agriculture and Nutrition
Challenges in creating enabling environment for Integrating Agriculture and Nutrition
## 2010 Global Nutrition Policy Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>AFR</th>
<th>AMR</th>
<th>EMR</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>SEAR</th>
<th>WPR</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total responses</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>123</td>
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<td>Member States</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Countries covered</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population covered</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>Territories</td>
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- Module 1: Overview of the nutrition policy and architecture
- Module 2: Infant and young child nutrition
- Module 3: International Code of Marketing of BMS
- Module 4: School-based programmes
- Module 5: Vitamins and minerals
- Module 6: Obesity and diet-related chronic diseases
- Module 7: Food security and agriculture policies
Sectors involved in nutrition coordination by region

Intersectoral coordination mechanism on nutrition exists but varying degree of involvement of some relevant sectors (i.e. trade, social welfare, development, finance, women's welfare, etc)
Sectors involved in the coordination of nutrition policies & programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>SEAR (%)</th>
<th>WPR (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumers Group</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Positioning of nutrition coordination mechanisms (119 countries)

- Coordination mechanisms are seldom positioned at high level policy-making body (Office of Prime Minister or President, or Planning Commission)
- Limited authorities and responsibilities to allocate funds or control budgets
Policies are generally in place but ...

- Many countries have policies or strategies to address nutrition
- Many of the countries have overarching policy documents addressing all forms of malnutrition
- Nutrition policies are often not officially adopted
- Do not always address existing challenges in countries
- Programmes are seldom implemented on national scale
- Food and agricultural strategies seldom include nutrition goals
- Insufficient focus on gender and vulnerable groups
- National development plans seldom considered as important policy documents to advance nutrition
Challenges

- Agriculture policies (incl. crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry) needs to contribute – *but how*?
- Political commitment exists but limited clarity on what to do and how
- Role of agriculture is often stated in multisectoral nutrition policies *but*…
- Nutrition is often tasked by the Ministry of Health
- Nutrition is poorly addressed in Agriculture and Food Security policies, programmes and investment plans
  - no clear responsibilities
  - no resources (human and financial)
From narrow ‘nutrition lens’ to wider development lens

Financial and Credit sector
Transportation sector
Agriculture sector
Health sector
Water and Sanitation sector
Education sector
Private sector
Other sectors…

Multi-sectoral Nutrition Lens

Increasing space for new sectors and partners

Adapted from Meera Shekar, World Bank
Case Studies – Development of Nutrition-Sensitive Policies
National Policies and Programs

Lao PDR made significant progress in putting nutrition on high government agenda

National Nutrition Policy
12 / 2008

10 / 2009

National Plan of Action on Nutrition
10 / 2009

Nutrition-sensitive Policies—Laos PDR

• Nutrition objectives integrated into the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plans (2011-2015)
  - increased national budget allocation for direct nutrition and nutrition-sensitive programmes

• Multisectoral Food and Nutrition coordination in the Prime Minister’s Office
  - institutional capacity and coordination regarding food and nutrition security;
  - knowledge on food and nutrition security concepts at the national and sub-national levels;

• Nutrition integrated into Agriculture and Food Security Strategy
  - Increase understanding and skills on development and implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture food-based interventions

• Nutrition integrated into the National Education Curricula of the Ministry of Education (to support school feeding, school garden and school lunch programmes)
Guiding Principles for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Policy

*Nutrition-sensitive agriculture policy...*

- Increases incentives/reduces disincentives for production of nutrient-dense foods
- Increases incentives/reduces disincentives for production diversification
- Increases incentives/reduces disincentives for environmentally sustainable production
- Invests in research to increase productivity of nutrient-dense foods in low-resource conditions and diverse systems
- Invests in higher education that trains future leaders on agriculture-nutrition linkages
- Builds capacity among ministry staff and extension workers to understand the linkages and communicate relevant behavior change information
- Support the incorporation of nutrition consideration into agriculture research, the adoption of technologies, the transfer and diffusion of varieties with higher nutritional value
- Provides nutrition information about foods and diets, through schools, extension, and markets
- Improves access for smallholders to government-controlled markets, such as food aid/social protection, school lunch programs, hospitals, and cantinas
- Improves infrastructure needed for market access for smallholders and other vulnerable groups; improves access to market price information; avoids trade policies that would preclude smallholders’ market access
- Builds resilience against shocks through infrastructure and social safety net programs
- Has institutional mechanisms and incentives to coordinate with other sectors relevant to nutrition (health, social protection, education, and others).
Enabling environment for making agriculture nutrition-sensitive

- Political will and commitment translated into policy promulgation, strategy paper and a plan of action is needed to stress the need for prioritizing nutrition.
- Well-functioning organization with a network that extends to the village level can contribute to program success.
- Leadership in nutrition needs to be developed to create nutrition champions/advocates in agriculture sector.
- Sensitize the agriculture policy makers on developing action plans to allocate resources accordingly.
Key principles for making agriculture nutrition-sensitive – cont.

- Investment in country-owned, country-led agriculture strategies that have nutritional objectives and components;
- Foster strategic coordination regionally and locally;
- Leverage private sector investment to support nutrition-sensitive agriculture;
- Regional dialogues to identify opportunities for action and collaboration among sectors.
Functional and sustainable inter- and intra-sectoral coordination

- Importance of establishing/strengthening multisectoral coordination mechanisms
  - From central to local level
  - Specifying institutional anchorage and roles
  - Ensuring mechanisms are operational
- Global (SUN, REACH) and regional (ASEAN, SAARC, PIF) initiatives can support country-level coordination
- Agriculture-nutrition linkages must be systematically addressed in agriculture sector-specific coordination mechanisms