



FEED THE FUTURE

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

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Diversification: A Key Strategy for Better Ag and Nutritional Outcomes

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Who am I ?

Field Practitioner

- Degrees in both agriculture and nutrition
- Managed field programs (LTTA)
- STTA on ag/nut linkages all over the world
- Written several how to manuals for ag and nutrition field staff

What is going on here?





Key Messages

- 1) Diversity- foundation of HH resilience
(understand the existing structure and function) Why?
- 2) Simplification of ag. landscape-simplification of diet
(Development is about presenting options/ check with nutritionists first) Why?
- 3) Introduction of (1) a new crop/livestock and or (2) production methods with existing crops must be done in the context of preserving diversity (full disclosure/do no harm to resilience) Why?

Key Messages

- Indigenous crop diversity is designed to ensure flexibility , dietary diversity and income diversity.
- Indigenous farming systems aim for optimizing output per square meter and are multi dimensional (+ resilience)
- Commercial monocrop systems emphasize maximum output per plant and are primarily one dimensional (resilience?).

#1 Diversity- foundation of resilience

- Total return more important
- Natural landscape are mixtures of diversity. Build soil health to support life. Prevent erosion, leaf litter, soil moisture.
- Diverse ag. landscape structures mimic natural landscape structure-
human build multifunction/purpose. Food, fiber, income, meds. shelter.
- Income- fluid and dynamic. Value created in different parts of plants.

Key messages

- Culture trumps everything else.
- Identify foods with stories .Foods that heal.
(i.e pumpkin in Haiti)
- Role of tradition and food choices. Soda and snack foods? (where is the mother in law?)
- Target is very narrow- 1000days not whole community. Dietary needs can be met through home compound garden.
- Start with their food base they know and have. FFPN red flesh banana, pumpkin, OFSP, leaves.

Diversity: Complement/conflict

- Complement. Already in practice

Diverse cropping structure allows for determining function according to demand.

Opportunity to sell specific crop- then buy what is needed.

Conflict- potential market opportunity. Too much on one crop planted without preserving the diversity that is essential for food security resilience.