FEED THE FUTURE

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

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Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally

Concurrent Sessions 2.3 Summary
December 12, 2012

2.3-A: Designing agricultural Value Chains for Nutrition –introduction to a tool

- It's still unclear the degree to which value chains can and should be responsible for nutrition outcomes.
- It is possible to retrofit projects with more nutrition sensitive activities, however planning nutrition activities and indicators at the design phase is much more likely to be effective.

2.3-B: What we know about changing behaviors in agriculture and nutrition programs

- We must know the situation and context to design effective behavior change strategies. This means having the time and resources to study the context adequately using formative research techniques. We cannot develop communications materials with canned messages and think this is sufficient.
- We must take into consideration competing demands on people's sparse resources. For example, a man buying drinks for his buddies in a bar may be building social capital that will protect his family later on. Is buying a chicken a butter use of that money?
- Extension workers are already overloaded. Projects need to be sensitive to that. How much can we add to their workloads and expect good results.
- We need to think about how to create demand for services. We have a lot to learn from many years of SBCC programming, the marketing world, the private sector and social marketing.

2.3-C: The role of water in linking agriculture, nutrition and health

- While the Lancet series was an important watermark, it may have missed the mark on WASH activities. WASH activities have only been shown to reduce stunting by 2-5%, but this is because these activities are only focused on reducing or eliminating diarrheal disease. The real culprit may be environmental enteropathy or chronic intestinal inflammation in children.
- Aflatoxins are also an important factor in health and could possibly account for more than 40% of stunting, especially in children with chronic intestinal inflammation. A mother with aflatoxin exposure has a much higher risk of giving birth to a baby with intrauterine growth retardation.
- Clay pot or sand filters offer sustainable, low cost solutions for water treatment. Clay pots are mass produced in some areas (e.g. in Ghana) and can also be considered a livelihood opportunity and a value chain.

2.3-D: Gender-sensitive programming for nutritional impact

- Gender programming is difficult, depends on context and can't be predicted
- There best practices but there are also knowledge gaps
- We need to take care burdens into consideration
- Understanding gender constraints are key for building equitable and effective programming
- Household approach to gender requires much community facilitation (trust and acceptance in the community are key)
- It's important to note that all pathways are affected by gender, though only three are obvious
- Discussion around each stage of the honey value chain and what issues/activities are gender sensitive
- If you can map the value chain and see where the men and women fit within it, you can take the gender issues and see how best to balance them into your program design
- Discussion of the women's empowerment in agriculture index
- Examples of how to undertake gender assessment and an overview of the "gender assessment checklist"
- We have culturally defined roles, so how do you decide who to involve in their program? Understanding these roles and context is key. We have to look within the community to find someone who the community looks up to.
- What is the relationship between the different projects under FTF? How do they work with one another?