



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 2.5 Summary

March 20, 2013

2.5 A The Importance of Gender in Linking Agriculture to Sustained Nutritional Outcomes

- The answer to the “Why Gender?” question is simply that agriculture is highly “gendered” in developing economies and that women make up a large percentage of the agricultural labor force.
- We also know through data provided by the FAO, that women’s agricultural yields are 20-30% less than men’s.
- Pointed out that while three of the 7 Pathways are specifically women-focused, all are gendered.
- In Bangladesh, one of the leaders in aquaculture for the last 25 years, the focus has been on productivity, with large fish being mostly raised by men to increase household income. A switch to polyculture where big carp are raised with small fish allows the small fish to be used for home consumption and the larger carp to be sold for increased household income. In addition to this, women are able to raise vegetables, like sweet potatoes, on the pond dykes which keeps this homestead production close to home. As we know, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes are an ideal crop because they are a nutrient-dense, well-liked food, that is suitable for complementary food and which can also be sold.
- WorldFish has taught women how to use the sweet potatoes as part of a complementary food recipe that combines the small fish, sweet potato flour, soybean oil and rice flour and which according to Shakuntala is nutritionally on par with the CSB ++ promoted by WFP.
- Gender assessment includes information on women and men and their relationship to each other when doing formative studies, monitoring, impact evaluations, reporting, etc.
- A few important factors to remember about gender assessment:
 - inputs and outcomes must be measured at the individual level
 - it entails significant costs in money & time
 - it’s complex/no one size fits all gender indicators since relationships are determined by cultural norms
- We talked about a couple of gender assessment tools including the BMGF developed Living Standards Measurement Survey Integrated Surveys on Agriculture. This tool doesn’t collect nutrition information, but methodology on how they do gender disaggregation is useful.
- Another tool is the Gender and Agriculture Assets Project which is a joint initiative between IFPRI and the International Livestock Research Institute that evaluated the impact of agricultural development activities on women’s and men’s access to and control over key assets using quantitative and qualitative approaches.
- We spent quite a bit of time on the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index, which measures the inclusion of women in agriculture sector growth through a two part aggregate index that involves 5 domains of empowerment and a Gender Parity Index). Use index to track changes over time (e.g. baseline and final).
- Question posed about how FTF agricultural interventions will be judged if Missions are not able to change deep cultural norms in 3-5 years (e.g. control over income) to improve women’s empowerment. The index will help identify what the biggest constraints are to empowerment and can focus attention.

2.5 B Changing Behaviors for Promoting Sustainable Outcomes in Agriculture and Nutrition

- Presentations were given on changing nutrition behaviors in multisectoral agriculture and nutrition programs and the experience of the Bangladesh Title II programs with changing behaviors by Andrew Jones and Marc Nosbach.
- Andrew presented some change models like the health belief model, the transtheoretical model, social-ecological and other theories.
- He also presented what seems to work for improving both exclusive and prolonged breastfeeding and complementary feeding. It's interesting to note that lay support was especially important in improving exclusive BF while professional support was more important in prolonging any BF.
- As far as BC in multisectoral programming, like homestead food production, biofortification, and animal source food production, key factors for success are:
 - building nutrition explicitly in program/policy objectives
 - using multiple, reinforcing communication channels
 - basing SBCC on good formative research (do your homework)
 - delivering audience-specific, locally-adapted SBCC messages when the audience needs it most
 - first doing no harm
 - investing in women and using a good evaluation design
- Marc presented the BC approaches, results and lessons learned of three Title II programs: CARE SHOUHARDO II, Save the Children Nobo Jibon and ACDI/VOCA PROSHAR program.
- PROSHAR, for example, the BCC strategy was guided by formative research and used care groups. Changes in key MCHN behavior practices, such as exclusive breastfeeding, early initiation of breastfeeding, were striking over just less than a two year period. Lessons learned included the need for a focused BCC approach to stimulate service demand and the need to involve family members - especially the primary "gatekeepers" - directly in behavior change activities.
- For SHOUHARDO II, Village Development Committees were used as catalyst by including HHN issues in Community Action Plan (CAP) and in their monthly meetings. They organized GMP sessions and followed up with service providers.
- Lessons learned were that communities and key stakeholders need to be involved, comprehensive approaches are needed, not just one intervention, empowering women is essential and targeted messaging is also crucial.

2.5 C The Role of Water in Linking Agriculture, Nutrition and Health

- Luke Colavito, from IDE, presented the major approaches and data from the Nepal Smallholder Irrigation Market Initiative (SIMI).
- The objective of SIMI is conflict mitigation thru increasing incomes, nutrition, and health of poor and marginal smallholders.
- SIMI is implemented jointly by IDE and Winrock.
- One of the key aspects of the initiative is the establishment of community managed collection center for agricultural smallholders to build sufficient volume to establish the local private sector.
- And the use of water technologies to increase production like: Micro irrigation, micro sprinklers, and small scale water storage which have dramatically increase yields and incomes; multiple use

water system (MUS) which include piped water systems that provide water for domestic use and agriculture using micro irrigation technologies (MIT); ground water technologies like treadle pumps.

- There is also a health/nutrition program component of the initiative that reaches almost 15,000 HHs with mothers of children under 5.