Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy
Global Learning and Evidence Exchange

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Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Experiences from Bangladesh
Aaron K. Hawkins, Chief of Party, SPRING/Bangladesh
Overview

• Example of integrated program from SPRING/Bangladesh
• Agriculture-nutrition pathways (quick recap)
• Lessons learned and key takeaways
Bangladesh Context

• Rich experience in food security, livelihoods, homestead food production, and farmer field school work
• High rates of stunting
• Low rates of dietary diversity
• Significant challenges with hygiene
• Goal of improving the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age
  Special emphasis on two poorest wealth quintiles
• Working inside the Feed the Future “Zone of Influence”
  40 sub-districts along Bangladesh’s coastal belt
• Collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture, using multiple channels to reinforce key nutrition messages
Underlying Causes/UNICEF
Agriculture-Nutrition Pathways

Key components of the enabling environment:
- Food market environment
- Natural resources
- Health, water, and sanitation
- Nutrition/health knowledge and norms

Adapted for Feed the Future by Anna Herforth, Jody Harris, and SPRING, from Gillespie, Harris, and Kadiyala (2012) and Headey, Chiu, and Kadiyala (2011).
FNS and the Ag-Nut Pathways

Key components of the enabling environment:
- Food market environment
- Natural resources environment
- Health, water, and sanitation
- Sociocultural context
Farmer Nutrition Schools (FNS)

- Group-focused, community-based participatory learning for resource-poor households to improve their production and consumption of diversified, micronutrient-rich foods
- Low-cost approach to improve nutrition outcomes with simple technologies
- Builds on experience with HFP and FFS
- Small "doable" actions to help participants link food production with improved nutrition/hygiene practices
- Integrates nutrition and agriculture: both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions
- Follow-up support to ensure practices will continue in the community
Farmer Nutrition Schools – Cont’d

Vegetable production

Pregnant and lactating women learn by doing

Improved methods for poultry rearing
Egg production from indigenous chickens can be significantly increased

Nutrient-dense small indigenous fish
Poor households raise fish to meet the demand for animal source food

Everything built around and anchored in nutrition and hygiene (the essential nutrition and hygiene actions)
Farmer Nutrition Schools – Cont’d
Mean dietary diversity score of pregnant and lactating women
# FNS Results (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Group</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other fruits &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A rich fruits &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flesh foods</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes &amp; nuts</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grains, roots &amp; tubers</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Barisal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Khulna</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Improved dietary diversity in children (6-23 months)**
Challenges

• Sustainability
  How to link to Government?
  How to keep people motivated?
  How to maintain quality inputs?

• Maintaining quality of agriculture and nutrition practices
Farmer Nutrition Schools are one example of a low-cost, scalable, and evidence-based multisectoral intervention to improve access to and consumption of a more nutrient-dense and diverse diet at the community level using nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches, simple technologies, and peer-to-peer learning.
Key Takeaways (general)

• Small doable actions and innovations are key
• Multiple channels and a variety of actions can help reinforce messaging
• Important to establish on as early as possible what you are trying to achieve
• Think creatively looking to evidence from other proven models
• Sometimes it can be better to focus on the enabling environment instead of nutrition outcomes/impact-level indicators
FNS Resources

**Farmer Nutrition School Session Guide**

ESSENTIAL NUTRITION ACTIONS, ESSENTIAL HYGIENE ACTIONS, and HOMESTEAD FOOD PRODUCTION

May 2014

Thank you