WORD FOOD CENTER
The mission

The World Food Center leverages intellectual capital to create solutions for sustainable food and health.
How we work

- Convene leaders to shape policy and strategy
- Connect research to society and the marketplace
- Serve as a focal point for deepening the university’s collaboration with partners
What we do

• Building healthier outcomes from our food system

• Improving energy and water efficiency for a sustainable food future

• Institute on Food and Agriculture Literacy

• Growing the innovation economy
Aligning UC Davis interdisciplinary expertise
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges 2014

FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH TO NUTRITION
Optimal Health & Nutrition
reduce malnutrition, reduce chronic disease

Consumption of Diverse Diets

Demand
affordability, preference

Behavioral Change
Nutrition education, women’s empowerment

Production & Trade
availability, income

Postharvest & Markets
safety, quality
Overview of Sessions

- Diets: their role in linking ag & nutrition, their composition, and the need for improved data
- Markets: their impact on the links between ag & nutrition
- Convenience: time, resource constraints and their implications for food choice
- Demand: opportunities for ag & nutrition sectors to increase the market pull for healthy foods
Key Findings

• Related to availability:

  • Diets are where agriculture and nutrition meet, and demand mediates agriculture’s contribution to diet quality

  • Food supply is inadequate for a healthy diet in some countries

  • Interventions that reduce risk to producer households smooth demand
Results, Scenario 2

"Dietary Gap" in Cameroon:
Difference in 2011 FBS Supply & DASH Recommendation

DASH Food Groups

- Dairy
- Fats and oils
- Fruits
- Grains and starchy staples
- Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs
- Nuts, seeds, and legumes
- Vegetables
More Key Findings

- **Food choice**
  - Consumer demand mediates agriculture’s connection to dietary quality
  - Caregivers are willing to “trade up” to buy special (healthy) foods for their children, but health is a lesser factor in choice of adult foods
  - Increasing market integration influences diets, even among the poor (which are not necessarily more healthy)
  - Regional differences influence consumption more than age or sex
  - Nutrition-related social and behavior communication change efforts have not adequately impacted food choice
Presentations and additional background available at

www.worldfoodcenter.org