Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Applying the Income Pathway
Technical Guidance Brief

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SPRING Webinar: Does Increased Income Within Rural Households Lead To Improved Nutrition?
Sarah Titus, Food Security and Nutrition Manager
Multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition
Applying the Income pathway

**Background**

In order to make agricultural and development initiatives more nutrition-sensitive, interventions need to address the undernourishment and food insecurity at multiple levels. Agriculture investments can improve availability and access to food, while also ensuring that producer households have income to pay for caring resources and foods for their young children. As illustrated by the Figure below, using a nutrition-sensitive agricultural approach, agricultural transactions may also contribute to improving the nutrition of women and children (SFH, 2014). The pathway includes:

- **Food availability**: influencing the availability and accessibility of nutritious foods for households to consume.
- **Income**: for expenditure on food and non-food items.
- **Women’s Empowerment**: including control over use of income, leading and managing resources, and secure energy access.

This brief focuses on the application of the income pathway.

**Household, Income, and Nutrition**

Over three-quarters of the world’s poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as their primary source of income. In addition, most farming households are not better off, and without the intervention of income, on the poor and malnourished status of all household members.

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*Figure: Figure 1: The income pathway. 2014. (Credit: USAID/AFRICA-ARMS).*
Increase and diversify income sources
Promote the use of income for nutrition-related needs
Support gender-equitable roles and responsibilities in agricultural market systems
Promote innovative financial products and services

Photo credit: Amos Gumulira, Feed the Children
Strengthen institutional frameworks and government policies to make key nutritious foods affordable.
USAID welcomes comments on this brief and they can be submitted to Leslie Koo: lko@usaid.gov