Project Design, Implementation, and Policy Engagement for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture
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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

I have no conflict of interest to report in relation to this presentation.
The Million Dollar Question:

Increased Productivity/Production + Increased Income = Healthy Diets/improved Nutritional Outcomes?
If Not, Why?

• The product itself does not contribute to a healthy diet
• A healthy product is exchanged with an unhealthy product (compromising nutrient values)
• Ultra-processed food cheaper than less or unprocessed food
• Other financial obligations to be met first
• Unknown what a healthy diet entails
• “Modern” diet preferred
• Competition between superior and inferior food
• Workload requires convenient food
Workload compromising food preparation
Labelling of processed food – giving the wrong message
Food Value(s)
Walk the talk – How can agriculture improve nutrition

The essential and singular contribution of agriculture to improving nutrition is ensuring that diverse, nutritious foods are available, affordable and adequate to meet the needs of people at all ages at all times.

- Optimize agriculture’s contribution to improving nutrition
- Go beyond simply increasing agricultural productivity or raising incomes (which do not automatically in better nutrition)
- Identify specific constraints and opportunities within agriculture and food systems to improve nutrition
  - while not detracting from conventional goals of increasing smallholder incomes and agricultural productivity.
Essential Elements

- Empowerment of Women
- Engagement with female and male youth
- Consideration of Food Systems and Food Environments
- Protection of Biodiversity
- Responses to Climate Risks
- (Multisectoral) Partnerships
- Policy Engagement in particular at Country Level
- Foster Dialogue among Key Ministries e.g. Health, Agriculture, Education, Planning, Finance
What makes a Project or Country Strategy paper nutrition-sensitive?

A nutrition-sensitive project must:

1. Explicitly incorporate nutrition **objectives**
2. Identify **indicators** to track progress
3. Identify specific **activities** that ensure that the project contributes to nutrition

Trace the “impact pathway” – the steps from production to consumption needed for the intervention to improve nutrition.

A nutrition-sensitive Country Strategy Paper must:

1. Include a **nutrition assessment**: describe the nutrition situation in the country
Making a project nutrition-sensitive

Step 1.
Explicitly incorporate improved nutrition into the objectives and indicators of the project. Identify specific actions that ensure the project contributes to nutrition. For example, in a project to increase crop production, promote a nutrient-dense biofortified crop such as orange sweet potato (OSP).
Making a project nutrition-sensitive

Step 2.

To ensure the project has an impact on nutrition, trace the “impact pathway” – the steps from production to consumption needed for the intervention to improve nutrition. Design and implement project actions that will affect that pathway in a systematic way. For example, determine if a change in dietary habits is needed to encourage the consumption of OSP and, if so, implement actions to promote change.
Making a project nutrition-sensitive

**Step 3.**

Through policy engagement and partnerships, address opportunities and constraints that affect the pathway and the effectiveness of the project, such as the institutional environment, gender and environmental sustainability. For example, determine how promotion of OSP affects women in terms of their time or income; how production affects the environment or how climate change affects the crops, and what other actors need to be involved. Design activities to address these factors, including coordination with other key actors, to help the project in its efforts to improve nutrition.
Examples for nutrition-sensitive interventions

Make Value Chains More Nutrition-Sensitive. Value chains should be developed not only for monetary value, but also for nutrient value.

Incorporate Integrated Homestead Food Production. Backyard gardens, tree crops, small livestock, and fish ponds can contribute to dietary diversity.

Include Behavior Change Communications and Nutrition Education. Targeted messages can augment the positive effects of multiple interventions.

Improve Post-Harvest Processing and Storage. Simple advances in post-harvest practices can help to preserve and enhance nutrient quality.

Pay More Attention to Drinking Water Supply. Water for agriculture is important, but water for people should not be overlooked.
What is a nutrition-sensitive value chain?

A food value chain that has been shaped to alleviate constraints in supply or demand of food as they relate to the nutrition problem.

**Nutrition-sensitive** → NSVC aims to address a nutrition problem, especially in terms of diet quality.

**Value** → NSVC considers not only economic value but also ‘nutrition value’, that is, value relevant from a nutrition point of view.

**Chain** → NSVC encompasses investments along the different stages of the chain, from production to consumption.
Policy influence, engagement, and partnership

Create an enabling environment for nutrition-sensitive investments:

- Engagement in policy processes to influence policy priorities and promote political commitment to nutrition
- Advocacy for the role of food and agriculture in addressing problems of malnutrition at country, regional and global levels.
  - **Country**: to create a supportive environment for project implementation (SUN Movement and UN Network for SUN; IFAD/Laos multisectoral approaches, etc.)
  - **Regional**: CAADP
  - **Global**: UNSCN, CFS-Nutrition

**Partnerships**: Bilateral; Multilateral (RBAs, UN Agencies, etc.); Institutional (A4NH/CGIAR)
Thank you!