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About the workshops

In February/March 2013 the first AgriDiet stakeholder workshops were held in Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam. Stakeholder workshops will be held throughout the programme with key actors in Agriculture and Nutrition. These platforms form part of Work Package 7 and are led by IDS and convened by in-country partners.

As a first step, stakeholder mapping was conducted to identify actors involved in agriculture and nutrition in the two countries. Stakeholders were identified through:

- Desk based research of key organizations involved in agriculture and nutrition
- Using existing stakeholder information from similar programmes (Transform Nutrition, HANCI, Irish Aid and GAIN. *mainly relevant for Ethiopia*)

These platforms, through encouraging information sharing, discussion and learning, will help to increase the stakeholder's access to knowledge and also stimulate the desire, capacity and demand to use and apply this knowledge. The face to face workshops will also inform our knowledge mobilization strategy.

The objective of these stakeholder platforms is to ensure the use of the generated research to influence policy and practice, bringing together stakeholders from the two sectors in a single space and encouraging the sharing of information and experience and the promotion of good practice.

These first workshops covered the following issues;

1. Introduction to AgriDiet with an overview of the research and objectives of the programme
2. Aims and hopes for the platforms with a round-table discussion on participant views and ideas
3. Identification of other existing networks and platforms in-country
4. Barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition
5. Participant presentations on current areas of work, allowing opportunities for all participants to identify areas of co-operation
6. Stakeholder mapping session to identify further stakeholders for the platform
7. Knowledge attitudes and practices questionnaire to explore behaviours and preferences around information sharing and attitudes on making agriculture more nutrition-sensitive

1. Stakeholder attendance

The organisations present at each workshop are outlined in boxes 1 and 2.

Box 1. Stakeholder attendance at AgriDiet Ethiopia workshop

CIP, Ethiopia (International Potato Centre)
International Committee for the Development of People (CISP)
Ministry of Health (MoH)
World Bank
Save the Children
Ministry of Finance & Economic Development (MoFED)
Central Statistical Agency (CSA)
Irish Aid
Micronutrient Initiative
Catholic Relief Services
Public Health Department, AAU
FAO
CARE International
World Vision International
Mekelle University – AgriDiet Partner
Haramaya University - AgriDiet Partner
Ethiopian Health& Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI)

Box 2. Stakeholder attendance at AgriDiet Tanzania workshop

Ministry of Agriculture & NR-Zanzibar
Feed the future; Tuboreshe Chakula Project
Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
Presidents Office
Prime Minister’s Office
Save the Children
Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA)
OXFAM
AFRICARE
OXFAM
FAO (UN)
REACH
CONCERN
Consultant (Nutrition)
Help Age International
UNICEF
USAID
COUNSENUH
World Food Programme (UN)
Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre

2. Aims and Hopes for the Platform

The aim of the platform was presented to the participants

The objective of the platform was presented to participants; to convene stakeholders from the Agriculture and Nutrition sectors, identify research priorities, share knowledge among stakeholders and build cooperation for further collaboration.

A round table discussion was held where the participants were encouraged to share their hopes for the platform. The following points were expressed:

- working across actors
- to share what has been done so far by other organization
- create a forum for knowledge sharing
- building a sustainable community of practice
- build on the experience of stakeholders

The platforms were welcomed by stakeholders in both Ethiopia and Tanzania as a means of focusing on understanding the links between agriculture and nutrition, improving the availability of reliable research in this area and facilitating better networking in this field.

3. Identification of existing networks and platforms in-country

A preliminary review of the existing networks and platforms within agriculture and nutrition in the target countries was conducted in collaboration with country partners and workshop participants. From this exercise the following platforms and initiatives were identified:

Ethiopia

- A Multi-Agency Nutrition Taskforce (MANTF) has been set up under the Ministry of Health, to coordinate nutrition issues and oversee the nutritional programs at national level. Nine sector ministries are represented (including Agriculture and Federal Affairs) and meet bi-annually, however it was felt amongst the participants that this group is currently not very effective.
- FAO workshop on Agriculture and Nutrition .
- UN REACH- Initiative involving FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and IFAD to assist governments of countries with a high burden of child and maternal undernutrition to accelerate the scale-up of food and nutrition actions. REACH operates at country level as a facilitating mechanism in the coordination of UN and other partners support to national nutrition scale-up plans
- ENGINE - Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic opportunities is a new five-year (2011-2016), \$6 Million USAID-funded project in Ethiopia (led by Save the Children). The goal of ENGINE is to improve the nutritional status of women and young children across Ethiopia through sustainable, comprehensive, coordinated and evidence-based interventions.
- Bureau of Health Nutrition Taskforce

Tanzania

- The Technical Working Group reporting to the High level Steering Group in Tanzania was felt to be the key national platform regarding the Food and Nutrition Strategy. Though it was noted that the agriculture focus of these groups was less than that of nutrition. All of the major NGOs both local and global are invited, as well as government departments and embassies. Also it was noted that the

regional platforms had yet to be established, although nutritionists had been appointed at local authority level.

- PANITA – Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania. Their mission is to advance advocacy efforts, improve coordination and reduce malnutrition by strengthening the capacity of and increased mobilization and coordination of civil society organizations, private sector organizations, the media and other development partners (including the agricultural sector) to facilitate a more effective national and local response to addressing malnutrition.
- UN REACH.

From our initial stakeholder consultations we assessed the need for creating a new stakeholder platform, avoiding duplication. The majority of networks and platforms identified focus on Nutrition and the stakeholders present in both workshops felt that there was no platform focussing on both agriculture and nutrition and expressed the view that there is a need for a space which convenes actors across sectors to promote networking, cross-sectoral learning and information sharing.

Action Point: In order to ensure co-ordination of efforts, AgriDiet will liaise with the identified platforms to gain a clearer understanding of their scope and where possible highlight areas for collaboration.

Links with other programmes

There are a number of other agriculture and nutrition programmes working in the region. These include

- Transform Nutrition (DFID)
- Hunger reduction and climate change adaptation (Irish Aid)
- GAIN
- Future Agricultures Consortium
- Feed the future

Action Point: In order to avoid duplication and maximise impact, we will liaise with these programmes, and will invite members of these programmes to become part of the platform, sharing information and reports.

4. Barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition

The following points were raised by participants as issues which they perceived to be barriers in linking agriculture and nutrition effectively in Ethiopia

- Implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy is not progressing sufficiently well
- Ministry of Agriculture is not well sensitised on nutrition issues. They were invited to the AgriDiet workshop, but did not attend.
- Nutrition is not well streamlined in the government with targets for many sectors not including nutrition outcomes
- Nutrition in the government falls within health; not multi-sectoral
- Lack of advocacy for agri- nutrition linkages
- Access to research is limited for policy and programme staff
- Research is often not applicable to national or local context
- Research conclusions are often contradictory – no clear guidance on what to do

The following points were raised by participants as issues which they perceived to be barriers in linking agriculture and nutrition effectively in Tanzania

- Capacity of existing platforms is limited
- Platforms operate only at national level, with little or no local level engagement
- Lack of good quality, clear research on how to make agriculture more nutrition sensitive
- Enforcement of the national nutrition security plan is lacking
- Agricultural programmes are often still focussed on production only

The issue of research access was raised on a number of occasions, and many participants were not aware of some of the recent reports on nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Stakeholders in both countries were asked what could be done to improve the effectiveness of the existing platforms. We will aim to use this feedback to guide the way we shape the AgriDiet platform.

- Active engagement, including regular meetings
- Sharing best practices
- Discussion forums
- Web-based communication in addition to the face to face workshops
- Link to grassroots level initiatives / involve extension workers
- Increased capacity for coordination of the platforms is needed.

5. Participant presentations and areas of co-operation

In the Ethiopian workshop brief descriptions of work and current projects were made by CIP, World Vision, Irish Aid, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Central Statistical Agency, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Transform Nutrition and the Ethiopian National Health Research Institute. These presentations allowed participants to share information and discuss complementarities within their areas of work.

A number of important links were made at the first workshops, illustrating the value of convening stakeholders from both sectors and providing them with a forum within which to share and discuss their areas of work.

- i. CIP were invited by the MoH and Micronutrient Initiative to join the working group for drafting new micronutrient guidelines within the government.
- ii. Stakeholder feedback indicated that they felt the workshop was very valuable, informative and timely. A number of stakeholders expressed the desire to be more involved in the next workshop in November, including FAO with whom we are in discussions around working with more closely on convening more regular Agriculture/Nutrition focussed workshops.
- iii. EHNRI discussed with CIP, the mechanism through which advocacy to the ministries could be conducted, by sharing the evidence base for their work within orange flesh sweet potato in the form of a policy brief to EHNRI and therefore into the government. From this, CIP have expressed the desire to have help with formulating the evidence into a policy brief format – this is something that AgriDiet may be able to help with.

In the Tanzanian workshop presentations and descriptions of work were made by the President's Office, PANITA, the Ministry of Agriculture – Zanzibar, UN WFP, USAID Feed the Future, FAO and Muhumbili University of Health and Allied Sciences.

6. Stakeholder mapping

We undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise in each workshop to identify actors within nutrition and agriculture who did not attend the workshop but were felt to be key actors with whom we should engage. We then plotted them on a chart according to their influence and interest. This exercise identified a wide range of actors in each country (Tables 1 & 2) and from this list the participants then highlighted those actors who it was felt were key to the project and with whom we should actively try to engage in future platform activities (highlighted in red italics in the tables).

Table 1: Ethiopia Stakeholder Map

Organisation	Degree of influence	Interest/commitment
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>	High	Low
Ministry of Education	Medium	Low
Ministry of Women and Children	High	High
Ethiopian Standardization Authority	High	Low
Food Security Coordination at MoA (Disaster Reduction and Food Security)	High	Low
EIAR/Regional	Medium	High
Ethiopia Seed Enterprise (ESE)	High	High
<i>ATA (Agricultural Transformation Agency)</i>	High	High
<i>Health Extension Program</i>	High	Low
<i>SAVE the children- Engine- feed the future project</i>	Medium	High
SG2000 (Sasakawa Global 2000)	Medium	High
WFP (world food program)	Medium/High	High
USAID	Medium/High	High
Orthodox church	Medium	High
Relief Society of program		High
UN-OCHA	Medium	High
USAID	Medium	High
SNV	Medium	High
IDRC	Medium	High
JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	Medium	High
GOAL	Medium	High
CONCERN	Medium	High
Mercy Corps	Low	Medium /High
GIAN (Global Initiative for Agricultural and Nutrition)	Medium	High
<i>Agricultural Colleges</i>	Medium	Medium/High
Food and Nutrition Society	Medium	High

Table 2: Tanzania Stakeholder Map

Organisation	Degree of influence	Interest / commitment
<i>Association of Non-Governmental Organisations in Zanzibar</i>	High	High
Africa Stockpiles Programme	High	Low
<i>African Vegetables Research and Development Center</i>	High	High
Traders in food stuffs	High	Low
Central Zone Sunflower Oil Production Association	Med / High	High
Catholic University of Health and Applied Sciences	Low	High
Family Health International	Med / High	High
<i>Helen Keller International</i>	High	High
<i>International Fund for Agricultural Development</i>	High	High
Media	High	Low
Ministry of Water	High	Low
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Mainland Tanzania)	High	High
Ministry of Community Development	High	High
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training	High	Med
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	High	Med
Ministry of Health	High	High
Ministry of Home Affairs	Med / High	Med
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development	High	Med
Ministry of Industry and Trade	High	med
Mohammed Enterprises (Traders in food stuffs)	High	High
Mtandao wa Vyama vya Wakulima Tanzania	High	Low
<i>National Agricultural Research Institute</i>	High	Med
Open University of Tanzania	Low	High
Participatory Ecological Land use Management	High	High

Participatory Group on Food security, Nutrition and Child rights	High	High
Planning Commission	High	Low
Prime Minister's Office	High	High
Prime Minister's Office - Regional Administration & Local Governments	High	High
<i>Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania</i>	High	Low
St. John's University of Tanzania	Low	High
Tanzania Horticultural Association	High	High
Tanzania Home Economics Association	High	High
Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation	High	Low
Tanzania Bureau of Standards	High	Med
Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority	High	Med
Tropical Pesticides Research Institute	High	Med
University of Dodoma	Low	High
UNICEF	High	High
Voluntary Service Overseas	High	High
World Bank	High	High
World Health Organisation	High	High
World Vision International	High	High

7. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of key stakeholders: Current perceptions on linkages

We aimed to capture the stakeholders' perceptions of how well the agriculture and nutrition sectors are linked currently in their countries, and will repeat this exercise at the mid and end line of the project.

At this stage, stakeholders in both Ethiopia and Tanzania felt that there was limited to some coordination, highlighting that sectors are aware of the need to work together and the benefits of collaboration and that in some cases there is communication around policies and programmes, but coordination is limited and the outcomes so far are poor.

8. Conclusions and next steps

The workshops have clearly highlighted the need for a platform which convenes stakeholders from both the nutrition and agriculture sectors in both countries. A key issue is how to strengthen two-way communication between agriculturalists and nutritionists at different levels.

The first workshops were well attended; however the participants were predominantly from the nutrition community, with key stakeholders such as the ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia not attending.

The challenge of engaging at the state level with extension workers was also raised.

AgriDiet has the opportunity to contribute to facilitating this dialogue through convening annual face to face workshops, focusing on bringing together a wider range of stakeholders from the agricultural sector. We will aim to do this by engaging on a personal level with key actors to secure their participation.

One suggestion was to reduce the length of the workshop to a morning session. This is something we will consider so as to secure participants who would otherwise not be able to attend a full day.

Engaging at the local level is a point for discussion with our partners, and this will be raised before the next meeting.

Access to quality research, clearly presented was raised on a number of occasions and AgriDiet will seek to contribute to this through our website resources section as well as through our research outputs.

Next Steps

In response to the issues raised during the workshops, AgriDiet members will take the following steps:

External follow up

- Follow up with FAO on potential for partnership on convening the platform in Ethiopia.
- CIP, policy brief for the evidence for orange flesh sweet potato. This is something that AgriDiet may be able to assist with. We will discuss it within the group and follow up with CIP.
- Contact identified stakeholders and invite to next workshop
- In country partners to contact key stakeholders in person (eg. MoA) to build a relationship and secure their participation at the next workshop
- Follow up with participants and update on progress – eg newsletter and website
- Contact the identified programmes in-country to discuss linkages and invite to next workshop
- Invite participants to prepare a brief presentation on their work and identify areas for potential collaboration for next workshop

Internal follow up

- Improve the resources section of the website (quality of evidence needs to be considered). Is there more we can do to address this gap?
- Discuss the possibility of working with CIP on a policy brief. Do we have the resources? Could this tie in with work package 6?
- Discuss how AgriDiet may address the identified research gaps within
 - dietary diversity (not being an effective measure in some areas of Tanzania, anthropometric measures being influenced by non-ag factors)
 - biofortification
 - behaviour change communication on diets
 - link between production and consumption (why are high production areas high in undernutrition?)
 - methodology

- Consider partnering with PANITA in Tanzania in support of their expanding network. As discussed earlier, their mission is to advance advocacy efforts across sectors to improve coordination and reduce malnutrition. The partnership has been very successful to date and has a wide range of member organisations and so their existing network would be a good link for AgriDiet to engage with.
- Discuss how we may engage the local level – translations of publications and key messages into local languages.