

AgriDiet

2nd Stakeholder Workshop Report

November 2013

Table of Contents

<i>About the workshops</i>	3
<i>Stakeholder attendance</i>	4
<i>Participant presentations and areas of co-operation</i>	5
<i>Barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition</i>	8
<i>Discussion on meso level coordination</i>	9
<i>Presentations of AgriDiet research to date</i>	10
<i>Knowledge, attitudes and practices of key stakeholders: Current perceptions on linkages</i>	10
<i>Conclusions and next steps</i>	11

About the workshops

In November 2013 the second set of AgriDiet stakeholder workshops were held in Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam. Stakeholder workshops are 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.

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. These face to face workshops will also continue to 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.

The workshop agendas were developed by country partners, with input from IDS. The agendas contained common core sections in both countries, but allowed for some variation depending on the priorities identified by country leads.

The workshop agendas included the following;

1. Introduction to AgriDiet with an overview of the research and objectives of the programme
2. Re-cap on the findings from the previous workshop and how AgriDiet is addressing the gaps and needs identified
3. Participant presentations on current areas of work, allowing opportunities for participants to identify areas of co-operation and for partners to identify relevant information for other work packages
4. Discussion around the levels of coordination and institutional structures at the meso level (Tanzania only)
5. Barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition
6. Knowledge attitudes and practices questionnaire to explore behaviours and preferences around information sharing and attitudes on making agriculture more nutrition-sensitive

Stakeholder attendance

Box 1. Stakeholder attendance at AgriDiet Ethiopia workshop Nov 2013

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Ministry of Industry
Ministry of Education
National Planning Commission
Central Statistical Agency
Irish Aid
Micro Nutrient Initiative
CRS-Ethiopia
UN FAO
CARE International
UNICEF
GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition)
Food and Nutrition Society
FMFACA
GAIN
IDS/UK
EDRI
Mekelle University
Haramaya University

Box 2. Stakeholder attendance at AgriDiet Tanzania workshop Nov 2013

Irish Aid
UN FAO
AFRICARE
Oxfam
ANGOZA
Tanzania Consortium of Nutritionists (TCN)
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives
Helen Keller International
Prime Minister's Office
Sokoine University of Agriculture
St Augustines University
IDS /UK
University College Cork / Ireland
University College Dublin /Ireland

Participant presentations and areas of co-operation

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia we invited three key organizations to give presentations on their current areas of work and relevant projects. The presentations were given by UNICEF, CARE international and GAIN

UNICEF presented on the work they are involved in which supports agriculture – nutrition linkages. This has not been a traditional mandate for UNICEF, but through partnering with other organizations, they are beginning to address this space. The key points were:

- UNICEF were very influential in the revision of the National Nutrition Plan (NNP) to include more multi-sectoral cooperation
- UNICEF are a strong force in advocacy at the national level
- They build coordination at the local level, through encouraging both health and agricultural extension workers to visit the same households
- They partner with FAO on the local production of complimentary foods
- Partner with CASCAPE (capacity building for scaling-up of evidence based best practices in agricultural production in Ethiopia) on integrating agriculture with community based nutrition
- Capacity building activities to scale up good agricultural practices. Including production of nutrient rich foods, post harvest processing techniques and these are linked to growth monitoring

CARE International gave a presentation on the GRAD programme; a regional programme focused on food security which includes a nutrition component and a focus on value chains

The key points of the programme are:

- Covers 65,000 households in four regions
- Includes the production of diversified foods for consumption. Poultry and small ruminant animals, vegetable gardens and honey
- Includes nutrition education and cooking demonstrations for both men and women
- partner with CIP on introduction of orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP) for Vitamin A
- The nutritional outcome measured is dietary diversity
- The final survey will be collected in 2015

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) gave an overview of the work they are conducting currently in Ethiopia, working at national level on different activities such as large scale food fortification with support from the Gates foundation. These activities include:

- Potassium iodization
- Wheat flour and edible oil fortification
- Strengthening national fortification through Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade
- Supporting micronutrient survey to start in December 2013
- Developing home fortification model

Tanzania

In Tanzania, all participants were invited to give a brief overview of their work, highlighting areas which addressed the agriculture/nutrition nexus.

FAO gave an overview of their current and relevant areas of work:

- Involved in smallholder farming of cassava, including research into disease resistant varieties and more recently OFSP. They are looking to identify other nutritious foods that are not currently available to end-users and how to make these available through the value chain.
- They partner with the Ministry of Agriculture to build capacity of research through to delivery, and also provide training along the value chain.
- Working with Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) on ways to improve the nutritional content of foods through processing and packaging (eg cassava chips and fortified flour)

Ministry of Agriculture, food security and cooperatives (Tanzania) talked through their work in research and training of staff to improve capacity.

- A main priority in this area is to develop technologies for small scale farmers in 7 zones involving 16 research institutions
- Within the scope of nutrition specifically, they are scaling up a number of different crops: OFSP using innovation systems, ground nut varieties, high quality rose apples and increasing vegetable based farming in peri-urban areas.
- They are aiming to build research capacity within nutrition and currently have one member of staff conducting a PhD in human nutrition. They have good links with universities across the country, but the links between research and extension workers are limited.
- It was highlighted that their policies come directly from the Minister.

The problem of linking nutrition research and extension at zonal level was discussed, particularly in relation to the lack of resources and capacity. At present the Ministry is focusing on improving productivity through better technology, which should help to improve availability, income and, thereby, diet. But the difficulties in measuring outcomes of this strategy were highlighted and the question was raised as to how AgriDiet may help in this regard?

Africare presented their work on improving nutrition in Tanzania and Zanzibar.

- The programme is funded by USAID and is targeted to reduce both stunting in children under 5yrs of age, and maternal anaemia by 20% in 5 years.
- One key area is to ensure that agricultural practices are aimed at reducing undernutrition.
- The programme includes home gardens, fish and small animals and uses behavior change communication (BCC) strategies to challenge the behaviors and beliefs which are barriers to good nutrition.
- The implementation of these BCC strategies lack capacity, but they are partnering with Manoff group who are experts in this area, and conducting capacity-building sessions in conjunction with the Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (**COUNSENUH**) and local district offices. It was noted that nutritional officers had been allocated at district level, but that a lack of resources had restricted activity so far, although it now seems that a specific budget will be allocated to the delivery of these offices.

ANGOZA are an umbrella organization of NGOs in Zanzibar.

- Primarily work within capacity building, research dissemination and advocacy.
- On Zanzibar, nutrition is the mandate of the MoA and ANGOZA's activities are guided by the strategy outlined to help NGO's implement programmes.
- They advocate up to the Zanzibar steering committee to inform policies and they convene NGO demonstration events to educate on best practice.
- An example given was vegetable farmers focus on income generation but don't consume their produce for nutrition.

Irish Aid

Supporting the government to improve nutrition, including support to the international SUN initiative

Irish Aid's Country Strategy for 2011-2015 has 3 pillars;

1. Improve livelihoods for smallholders and pastoralists
2. Improve food security and nutrition, particularly for women and children

Enhance the quality and equity of local health services

The challenges of policy coherence in relation to improving food and nutrition security were noted.

Oxfam are working on food security and nutrition in Dar es Salaam. They have 3 areas of focus

1. Which foods are available, accessible and consumed by people in the city?
2. Which policies and guidelines are available?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the links?

Tanzania Consortium of Nutritionists are a new organisation whose aim is to contribute to improvement of quality of health, through nutrition education and communication.

- They use multimedia approaches to increase their reach; radio and social media (targeted at working mothers).
- Training includes promoting the nutritional benefits of fruit and vegetables to orphanage staff in meal planning and cooking
- They also run a programme on pastoralism for people living with AIDS which involves training and education.

Hellen Keller International (HKI)

- Mainly involved in community gardens, implementing under the MoA. This is currently mainly within the Lake zones but they are looking to scale-up.
- Working with the International Potato Centre (CIP) on OFSP, and are also involved in vitamin A supplementation with the TFNC.
- At the local level they work with both agriculture and health extension workers, building capacity and coordination.
- Also providing seeds and young livestock to vulnerable households
- At national level they are working on large-scale food fortification of vegetable oils and wheat with Vitamin A and folic acid, etc.

Barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition

This session involved a guided discussion with stakeholders around the issues which they perceived to be barriers in linking agriculture and nutrition effectively.

The following points were raised by participants in Ethiopia.

- Implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy is progressing only at the national level
- Ministry of Agriculture is not well sensitised on nutrition issues. They were invited to the AgriDiet workshop, but did not attend and participants felt that they are usually not represented in nutrition forums
- Nutrition is still viewed as a food security or emergency issue
- Although the NNP is multi-sectoral, the budget for nutrition still lies within the Ministry of Health and so other sectors are less motivated to contribute
- Access to research is limited and the research that is available is more focussed on statistics rather than more useful programmatic and strategic evidence
- Research is often not applicable to national or local context
- There are no **regular** meetings or forums to share evidence and experiences between sectors
- The existing structure at grass root level such as health and agricultural extension is not well utilized
- There is no inventory of work done and networking of who is doing what
- The need for coordination among programs/stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts
- Lack of resource/capacity assessment for the different sectors (certain areas are limited)
- There is no specific information on agro ecology and thus impact on households

The following points were raised in Tanzania.

- Nutrition still falls under the health sector and the two sectors have different priorities.
- Coordination at sub-national level is still limited
- For those working within agriculture, their focus is on yields and production for income, not on nutrition.

These points were all very similar to those raised in the previous workshop, indicating that as yet there has been little perceived progress in overcoming these barriers to linking the two sectors.

Discussion on Meso level coordination (Tanzania only)

In Tanzania a discussion around levels of coordination and institutional structures at the meso level was facilitated. This was based around three key questions which were developed by Nick Chisolm of UCC as a means of exploration to contribute to work package 4.

The questions asked were:

1. Do lower-level agricultural workers (district level or below) have a mandate to address nutritional issues?
2. Are there institutional arrangements at lower levels (e.g. multi-sector working groups, discussion fora, etc) that facilitate a multi-sectoral response? If so what are they?
3. What capacity-building activities exist to equip lower-level workers to address ag-nutrition issues?

It was noted that although nutrition was not in the specific mandate of extension workers at district level or below, they do have some background training in nutrition, although they don't have a means of communicating any nutritional information back into the system. Most agricultural extension staff have specialist areas but only a basic understanding of nutrition from home-economics style training. The placement of nutrition staff within district offices is therefore a new development to overcome this deficit. It was felt that the Ministry of Agriculture needed to escape from its silo in order to link with other departments to a greater degree, but it was difficult to see how this could be realised at local level. At the District Council level there is the Council Management Team (CMT) which meets regularly. It constitutes all the Heads of different departments within the District, including Agriculture, Health, Community Development and others. The CMT meetings could potentially be a forum for discussing ag-nutrition linkages and for developing multi-sector initiatives. The newly appointed Nutrition Focal persons could be responsible for initiating relevant discussions within the CMT meetings.

District plans are now being developed to implement the national strategies. District Agricultural Development Plans and District Nutrition Plans are being developed by specialists working in teams and reporting to the District Steering Committee.

Some research has been conducted into farmers' cropping patterns, where it has become evident that nutrition is rarely a factor in such decisions. Nevertheless the focus on other factors such as yield may have good nutritional outcomes by increasing income and dietary diversity; so it is difficult to assess what is best for farmers.

Two suggestions for focussed interventions were on educational behaviour change strategies as these go straight to the beneficiaries at community level. Recent research in Tanzania also suggested that nutrition education (what foods to use and how to cook them) should be the focus as some research showed that income is not always a major impact on nutrition outcomes. However, others felt that poverty was an important factor in creating the income necessary for food and other essential purchases

It was noted that more information was required on food consumption and how farmers make production choices. We need to know how to frame agriculture as a force to improve nutrition. We also need to know what incentivises people to think about nutrition. Lower level agricultural staff mainly address agricultural production issues as nutrition is considered a health issue and is usually the mandate of the Health Dept. However, nutrition issues can be addressed within specific projects that have been designed with specific objectives and targets that may include nutrition.

The appointment of the Nutrition Focal person and the District nutrition committee are the only steps that have been taken to build district capacity to address nutrition issues. A lot still needs to be done to strengthen capacity and to see concrete action. Currently there are no specific capacity building activities except perhaps where some NGO programmes are operating, where capacity building is one of the activities.

Presentations of AgriDiet research to date

Presentations were made on the Global review and country studies by work package leaders, Jessica Meeker and Joyce Kinabo. The presentations covered the structure of the papers and the relevant key points.

Global review:

- Challenges to achieving global food and nutrition security
- Pathways through which agriculture can affect nutrition outcomes
- Evidence for these pathways
- Evidence for interventions which are proven to improve nutrition
- Guiding principles for policy and programming for nutrition sensitive agriculture
- Research gaps
- Framing and incentives for agricultural workers

Country studies:

- Nutrition situation in country
- Major nutrition issues
- Policy analysis
- Identified barriers to linking agriculture and nutrition in country

Both presentations are available online at <http://agridiet.ucc.ie/>

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

As a follow on from the first workshop, we aimed to capture the stakeholder's perceptions of how well the agriculture and nutrition sectors are linked currently in each country to monitor the perceived status of coordination. This exercise will also be repeated at the end of the project.

At this stage, stakeholders in both Ethiopia and Tanzania felt that there was some coordination, with some stakeholders actively communicating around policies, programmes and emerging research with some degree of success. Participants rated the level to which the sectors are working together as 3 out of 5.

In Ethiopia, it was commented that there is a lack of joint planning and actions and lack of awareness and strategic alliance between sectors. The new NNP is a multisectoral plan which includes the commitments of Ministers from multiple sectors, all committing to reduce undernutrition and that under this new plan, coordination is improving at the national level. However this coordination is yet to filter down to the regional, district and community levels.

In Tanzania, it was felt that there had been some minor improvements since the last workshop. Nutritional focal persons have been instated at the district level whose mandate is to coordinate between sectors; however the

general feeling was that there was still a long way to go, and that these focal people required empowerment to allow them to effectively conduct their roles.

Conclusions and next steps

Whilst the feedback from the workshops have clearly highlighted the need for a platform which convenes stakeholders from both the nutrition and agriculture sectors in both countries, the lack of participation from many stakeholders has raised the issue of how effective this platform is proving to be.

The suggestion of convening a workshop at regional / district level was raised in both workshops. Engaging with extension workers in both the health and agriculture sectors, regional or district government and organisations involved in programmes at this level was felt to have the potential to achieve a greater impact.

Next Steps

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

Internal follow up

- Partner organisations to contribute to dissemination of the Global reviews to key stakeholders who did not attend the workshops (in particular the Ministries of Health and Agriculture).
- Discuss opportunities for hosting regional workshops for year 3 with all partners

External follow up

- Contact CARE international, FAO and UNICEF in Ethiopia and HKI in Tanzania, about potential collaboration on hosting regionally focussed workshops. Engage with Ministries of Health and Agriculture around the global and country level reviews