



Agriculture for Nutrition: An AgriDiet conference

Enhancing Nutrition through Agricultural Policies and Programmes

17th July, 2015 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





Conference Programme

Opening remarks from Mr Sean Sherlock, T.D, Ireland's Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North-South Co-operation

Session 1 – Overview of the AgriDiet project and focus on policy issues, with guest speakers from Ethiopia, Dr Ferew Lemma and Tanzania, Mr Obey Assery Nkya

Session 2 – Initial findings from the AgriDiet household survey and other field research in Ethiopia and Tanzania, with an opening address by guest speaker Mr Tom Arnold on the challenges of linking agriculture and nutrition

Session 3 – Initial findings from the AgriDiet meso-level research and evidence from pro-nutrition agricultural interventions and stakeholder workshops in Ethiopia and Tanzania, with an opening address by guest speaker Dr Lindiwe Sibanda on the challenges of linking agriculture and nutrition

Session 4 – Summarising the AgriDiet research and Q&A session





Session 1

Overview of the AgriDiet project by Dr Nick Chisholm, Principal Investigator

Guest speakers on the policy challenges in linking agriculture and nutrition, with Dr Ferew Lemma from Ethiopia and Mr Obey Assery Nkya from Tanzania

Findings from the AgriDiet Policy Reviews in Ethiopia and Tanzania by Dr Tassew Woldehanna and Professor Joyce Kinabo





The AgriDiet Project

Overview



Overall Goal, Partners and Approach

Overall Goal: *“To contribute to poverty reduction through the identification of policies and interventions that can make a positive impact on the nutritional status of vulnerable rural households”.*

- 3-year research project (Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2015) in Ethiopia and Tanzania: funded by Irish Aid
- 8 research partners: EDRI, Mekelle & Haramaya Universities (Ethiopia), Sokoine and St Augustine’s Universities (Tanzania), Institute of Development Studies, (U.K.), University College Dublin and University College Cork (Ireland). UCC is lead institution.
- Strong partnership – leadership of work packages distributed between partners
- Multi-faceted and multi-level approach
- Observational research – aim to advance understanding of agriculture-nutrition linkages through in-depth analyses: no direct interventions

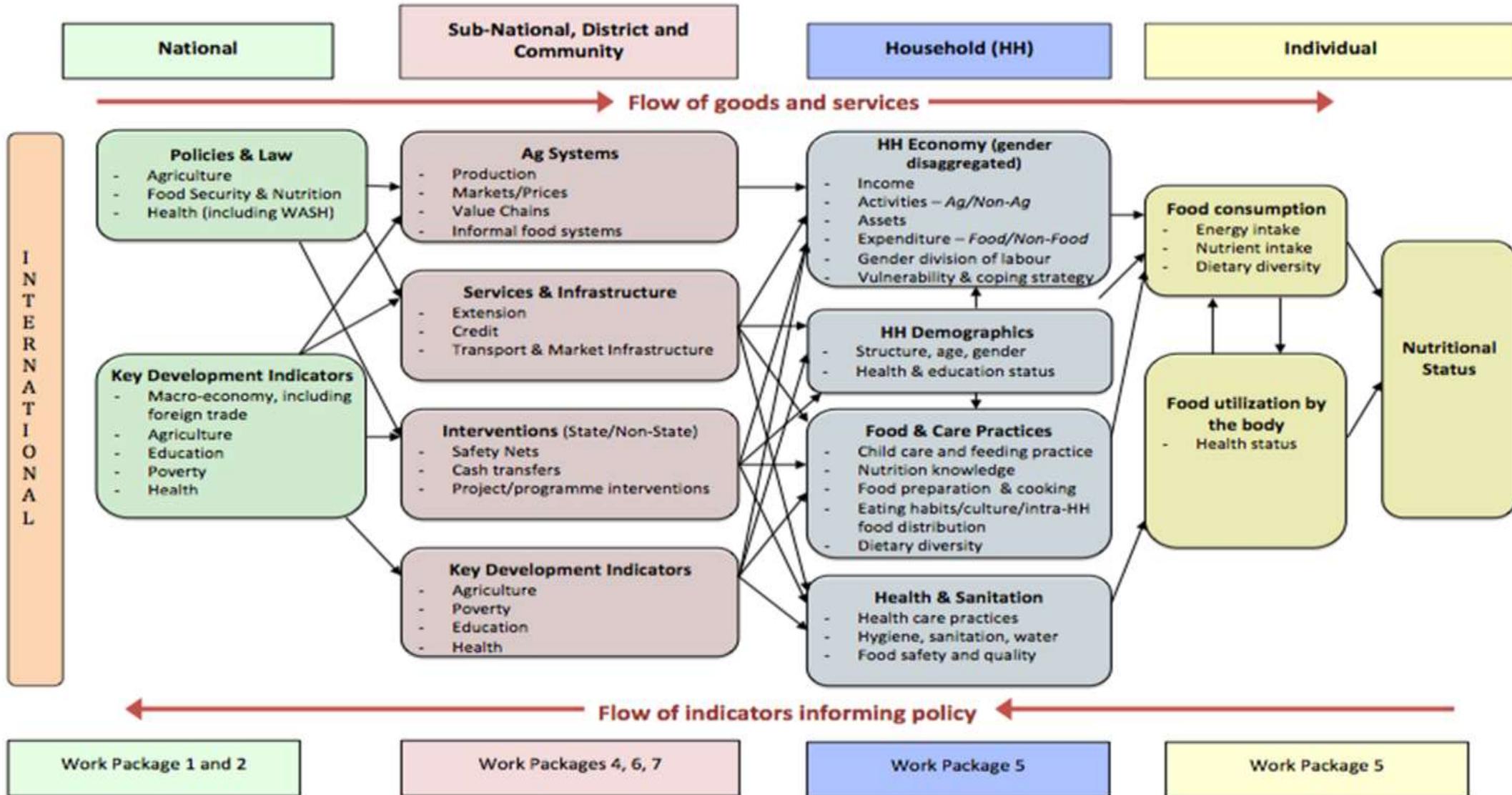


Research Questions

1. How does the wider economic and policy environment impact on food systems and nutrition?
2. In what ways do current agricultural and food systems impact on nutritional status, particularly of young women and children?
3. What existing agricultural initiatives are likely to have positive impacts on nutritional status and have potential for wider application?



Conceptual Framework



Work Packages

WP1 – Global review of ag-nutrition linkages

WP2 – Country policy studies

WP3 – Concept and methodology guidelines

WP4 – Meso-research of agri-food systems

WP5 – Household agri-nutrition linkages (PhDs)

WP6 – Review of pro-nutrition agri-interventions

WP7 – Stakeholder platforms

WP8 – Knowledge mobilisation



Global Review (WP1)

- Agriculture has the potential to contribute to reducing under-nutrition. But how?
- A number of identified pathways by which agriculture can contribute – but quite complex, including economic, social and gender issues: just increasing production not enough
- Mixed results from reviews of effectiveness of interventions – little evidence on changes in overall diet or micro-nutrient status: but nutritional effect more likely when agriculture interventions target women and include women’s empowerment activities
- Research gaps – e.g. (i) Research that considers the full pathway of change from agricultural inputs, practices, value chains, food environment to nutrition outcomes; (ii) effects of agricultural policy on nutrition; (iii) Governance and policy processes in development of agriculture-for-nutrition policies and programmes, and the ability to implement them at scale
- AgriDiet addresses some of these research gaps



Country-level Policy Reviews (WP2)

- Overviews of policy context in both countries
- Situational analysis
- Overview of evolution of policy and current policies
- Describe institutional structures for nutrition policy
- Assessment of adequacy of policies and strategies and gaps/constraints
- Recommendations for further policy development



Meso-level research (WP4)

Main focus is value chain analysis:

- Ethiopia – groundnuts (East Hararghe); fruit and vegetables and dairy produce (Tigray) – focus on commodities with potentially high nutritional value
- Tanzania – maize and rice (Mvomero District (Morogoro) and Kishapu District (Mwanza) – focus on key crops for food security – also important cash crops
- Other meso-level work in Ethiopia: cross-sectional co-ordination for agriculture-nutrition; land tenure-related issues in agriculture-nutrition; gender analysis of agriculture-nutrition linkages



Household Agri-Nutrition Linkages (WP5)

- PhD-based work – 3 PhDs from Ethiopia, 3 from Tanzania: all staff of local partner universities – registered in UCC and UCD respectively but also with local supervisors
- Important capacity-building component of project
- Innovative research: in-depth household-level data collection over two seasons (pre-harvest and post-harvest)
- Collection of data on agricultural and livelihood systems, and nutritional data (including anthropometric measurement and bio-markers)
- Both stand-alone and integrated analysis
- Despite improving picture at national level, survey data still show high levels of food insecurity and under-nutrition



Pro-Nutrition Interventions (WP6)

- Conceptual framework developed (based on Masset et al (2011)) to identify and assess existing agricultural interventions in terms of their effectiveness in improving nutritional status
- Interventions may lack explicit “theory of change”, i.e. how is the intervention expected to lead to improved nutrition?
- Strong evidence often lacking
- Some evidence on importance of women’s empowerment
- Integrated multi-sectoral approaches may be more effective



Stakeholder platforms (WP7)

- Stakeholder workshops held both at national level and at Regional level
- Bringing together policymakers, implementers and researchers at different levels
- Important to strengthen dialogue across sectors and between actors
- Implementation often lags behind formulation of policy and strategies – institutional barriers, lack of shared understanding, limited resources, etc.
- *“Nutrition is still viewed as a food security or emergency issue. Agricultural programmes are often still focussed on production only.”*



Knowledge Mobilisation (WP8)

- Broadening knowledge base and ensuring dissemination
- Website: <http://agridiet.ucc.ie>
- Policy briefs and research briefs
- Engaging with communities of practice
- Future research outputs



In summary...

- Under-nutrition remains a major development challenge
- Agriculture can obviously make a significant contribution to improving nutritional status
- But – how to do so is less obvious
- The AgriDiet project aims to provide a greater understanding of the current situation, and to identify elements of the “how” question, at different levels and in diverse agro-ecological conditions
- The conference aims to present analysis and findings which both enhance understanding and provide some practical proposals to strengthen agriculture’s contribution to improved nutrition
- Still a work in progress – more outputs over the next few months
- Conference may provide pointers to future actions

