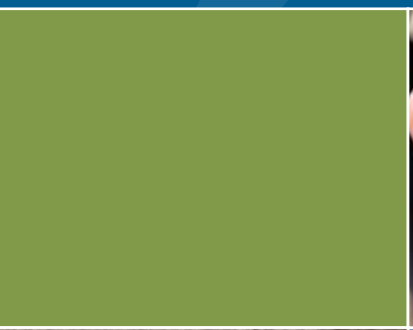
# IFPRI AT A GLANCE

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IFPRI®
A CGIAR
consortium center

*sustainable solutions for ending hunger and reducing poverty*



**Food** is a basic human right. Evidence-based **policies** help ensure that all people have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious, and sustainably grown food. **Food policy research** generates the evidence.

IFPRI's research themes cover a wide range of topics focused on one central mission: ending hunger and reducing poverty sustainably. We approach this from the perspective of the rural farmer, the politician, the consumer, the woman, and the child. Our multiple approaches allow us to see problems from many angles and find evidence for solutions that have impact.

# IFPRI Research: Thematic Focuses

## What is Food Policy?

**Food policy** is the sum of decisions made by public entities that affect the production, distribution, and consumption of food.

IFPRI researchers assess food policies and other policies affecting agricultural and food outcomes. This **food policy research** provides policymakers with the knowledge they need to make the best decisions with regard to the availability, accessibility, affordability, and use of food.

## Diet Quality and Health

Hunger is defined not just by the quantity of food but also by the quality. A diet with little variety is frequently deficient in much-needed micronutrients such as iron and vitamin A. Malnutrition early in life causes lifelong harm to health, productivity, and earning potential. IFPRI research seeks to improve the diet quality, nutritional status, and health of mothers, infants, and young children in impoverished environments, with a particular focus on the "window of opportunity"—the 1,000 days from the start of pregnancy to a child's second birthday.

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## Environment

In a world of increasing resource scarcity, IFPRI's research builds local capacity, identifies policies, and develops long-term strategies that support increased agricultural production, particularly through yield-enhancing technologies; facilitate adaptation to global change; and reduce energy intensity—while conserving natural resources, reducing hunger and poverty, improving rural livelihoods, and increasing incomes of the rural poor.

## Governance

Good governance is widely acknowledged as an important factor in eradicating poverty, promoting development, and ensuring food security. Weak state capacity, mismanagement, and corruption can hamper policies and institutions needed to reduce hunger and improve agricultural infrastructure and services. Poor governance particularly affects smallholder farmers, who typically lack a political voice. Governance research focuses on how evidence-based economic and political will can improve agriculture and rural development to benefit the poor. Researchers provide policymakers with information on topics ranging from natural disaster preparation to cash transfer programs for impoverished citizens.

## Markets

Evidence shows that agricultural growth reduces poverty at twice the rate of nonagricultural sector growth, but this growth has been held back by policy, institution, and market failures. As a consequence, the poor pay more for their food and are paid less for their produce. Small agricultural producers face enormous challenges, but they also have great potential to feed the world. IFPRI offers sound and innovative research focused on identifying government policies that improve institutions in order to promote market efficiency, reduce transaction costs for producers and consumers, and resolve bottlenecks across the value chain, helping smallholder farmers achieve better access to markets.

# From Research to Impact

## Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health

Poverty and agricultural practices have a huge impact on nutrition, while poor health affects productivity and exacerbates poverty. Though the agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors are deeply intertwined, they have frequently worked in isolation from one another. IFPRI's work to broaden the understanding of the interrelationships among the three sectors has helped strengthen their collaboration and inform action to better use agricultural investments to achieve food and nutrition security and good health for the world's poor.

## Food Security

IFPRI research has led the way in informing the global food security discussion, particularly during the recent food price crises. From the role of biofuels in price crises to the debate over physical and virtual food reserves to the effects of trade agreements, IFPRI research has provided policymakers with the information they need, when they need it. And now, IFPRI's new Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System alerts policymakers and humanitarian agencies when major crops have extreme price fluctuations.

## African Agriculture

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) guides efforts by African governments to accelerate growth, reduce poverty, and increase food security by revitalizing agriculture and rural development. IFPRI has helped to refine and communicate the CAADP agenda; conduct collaborative, country-level research to support implementation planning; and establish Regional Strategic and Knowledge Support System nodes to facilitate review and dialogue. By effectively engaging stakeholders at all levels, IFPRI has helped to raise the profile of African agriculture in development strategies.

## CGIAR Research Programs

IFPRI is one of 15 international CGIAR research centers. CGIAR centers and partners are involved in CGIAR-wide research programs—planning and implementing the research and communicating the results. IFPRI leads two research programs: "Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health" and "Policies, Institutions, and Markets to Strengthen Food Security and Incomes for the Rural Poor."

# IFPRI Research on the Ground

IFPRI is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has a strong presence in the developing world, with three regional offices and numerous project offices across Africa and Asia. These offices provide local stakeholders broader access to IFPRI while allowing the Institute to better align its portfolio with the needs of the regions and individual countries. By increasing the proximity to its clients and partners, IFPRI has increased its effectiveness on the ground.

The **Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC)** is home to one of world's most challenging rural development environments due to adverse geography, huge land-access inequality, and striking income inequality despite economic growth. But the region's experience with structural reforms provides significant learning opportunities for other parts of the world. IFPRI works in the region in the areas of macroeconomy; trade; climate change and investment policies; market access; technological innovation in agriculture; and poverty, health, and nutrition.

African countries have experienced a period of sustained economic recovery since the mid-1990s, but have yet to make up for ground lost to poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in the past 25 years. The **West and Central Africa Office** in Dakar, Senegal, is extending IFPRI's reach across the region to help these countries grow steadily while also sustaining their poverty-reducing efforts. The office provides closer access to IFPRI's products and services and conducts research, capacity-building, and communications activities that support the region's continuing progress.

Many people in eastern and southern Africa are in desperate need of food security, poverty reduction, and improved livelihoods. To help meet these needs, the **Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, conducts research and capacity-strengthening activities on topics ranging from agricultural education to health and nutrition to social protection and social safety nets. The office emphasizes monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment to determine the relevance of development policies and programs in the region.

South Asia features a combination of rapid economic growth and high levels of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. IFPRI's **Asia Office** in New Delhi, India, has responded to these challenges by developing research programs and policy communications in several key areas: making growth pro-poor, revitalizing agricultural research and technology dissemination, improving market efficiencies, better managing land and water scarcity and degradation, formulating development strategies, leveraging agriculture for improved nutrition and health, and scaling up nutrition interventions.

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