

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
IFPRI 2020 CONFERENCE ON “LEVERAGING
AGRICULTURE FOR IMPROVING
NUTRITION AND HEALTH”**

DELHI, INDIA, FEBRUARY 10–12, 2011

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INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IFPRI 2020 Conference on “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health” was held in New Delhi, India, February 10–12, 2011, and attracted more than 900 attendees. Conference activities included 12 plenary sessions, 15 parallel sessions, 14 side events, an ongoing knowledge fair with more than 25 exhibit booths and tables, six informal discussion groups, and roughly 30 “rapid fire” presentations during coffee breaks. Assessing the impact of this Conference is a task complicated by multiple issues such as assessment coverage and impact attribution. The assessment methods used here include surveys of conferees, Internet searches, website and literature searches, and extensive personal interviews. Distinctions are drawn between short-term and medium-term impacts, and also among impacts on individuals, on institutions, and on professional discourse.

Impacts on individual conferees were measured through pre- and post-Conference surveys and telephone interviews. The impacts on the substantive views of those who attended the Conference were found to be small. Most conferees (75 percent) came to Delhi already convinced that a cross-sector approach to agriculture, nutrition, and health (ANH) was appropriate. At the individual level, the Conference impacted motivation and empowerment more than beliefs. The Conference gave those who attended new information, new networking opportunities, and various “positioning advantages” that made them more effective within their own institutions back home. Such advantages were primarily important in the short term.

Regarding impacts on institutions, the 2020 Conference produced important but mixed results. Direct impacts on national governments were small, in part because ministerial structures and bureaucratic routines in governments are traditionally segregated by sector, and resistant to anything more than incremental change. Direct impacts from the 2020 Conference on private companies and NGOs were also modest, but for a different reason: these institutions are inherently comfortable working across sectors, so most of the private companies and NGOs participating in the Conference felt little need to change. The strongest institutional impacts from the Conference came within a category of organizations that wanted to integrate nutrition with agriculture, but were unsure of how, or how quickly, to move forward. These institutions included the CGIAR itself as it moved to create the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (CRP4); the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as it responded to an internal evaluation of its own work in nutrition; and a number of donor institutions including most prominently the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), which used the materials and policy energy generated by the 2020 Conference to help guide and push a major expansion of bilateral funding into the ANH arena. These DFID responses alone were a large enough payoff to mark the Conference a success.

A third significant impact from the Conference was on professional discourse. The 2020 Conference helped change the conversation about agriculture and food security by boosting the frequency of reference to cross-sector impacts on both nutrition and health. Impact measurement becomes difficult here, because the Conference was not the only initiative highlighting cross-sector linkages underway. Nonetheless, the average number of Google Internet hits per search for the phrase “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health” increased from 9,288 in the pre-Conference period to 13,508 in the immediate post-Conference period of March–May 2011. Searches of organization websites revealed that 18 of 21 of the sites had more links to agriculture, nutrition, and health issues immediately following the Conference compared to just before, and 20 of 21 had an even higher number of such links one year later in July 2012.

The most obvious limitation on impact has been at the level of national government policy (excluding donor policies). Partly this reflects attendance. Only 19 percent of those who attended the 2020 Conference were government officials, compared to 41 percent who came from research institutes or universities. Yet, even where Conference impacts on governments might have seemed probable, they have proved (so far) to be mostly tentative or modest.

- The government of Malawi co-hosted its own version of the 2020 Conference in Lilongwe in September 2011. While this was an important step, the Conference was donor-suggested and donor-funded, and senior officials from the Ministry of Health were unable to attend.
- In Uganda, the 2020 Conference helped sustain an effort to mainstream nutrition within the Ministry of Agriculture. However, this effort was underway before the Conference, and parallel efforts from USAID, WFP, and FAO did as much to sustain it.
- In China, the leadership of the State Food and Nutrition Consultation Committee was briefed on 2020 Conference materials, which may have helped to establish a new (but already approved) food safety and nutrition development institute at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). Since Chinese leaders had been unable to attend the Conference itself, impacts in the country also depended heavily on a separate outreach effort by IFPRI leadership.
- In India, national officials and researchers—and IFPRI—made concerted efforts to use the Conference to shape language in the new 12th Five-Year Plan (2012–16). While some engaged in this effort claimed progress in that direction, nothing definitive has emerged and in India it appears that little has changed in the traditional separation between the agriculture ministry and the nutrition and health sectors. The Conference’s largest impacts within India were felt at the individual level, at the level of discourse, or within some state administrations, not within national governmental institutions.

What can one reasonably expect when looking for impacts from a single international Conference? In the case of the 2020 Conference in Delhi, where the goal was to change the way individuals and institutions were thinking about ANH issues and considering them in professional discourse, *measurable progress was made toward each of these goals in both the short term and the medium term*. IFPRI took a risk by designing the Delhi Conference to challenge traditional paradigms. This assessment shows that, in both the short term and medium term, the risk has been rewarded.

ACRONYMS

A4NH	Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (formerly CRP4)
ACF International	Action Against Hunger
ACP-EU	European Union – African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
ADB	Asian Development Bank
Ag2Nut	Agriculture to Nutrition
AGN	The Food and Nutrition Division of FAO
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ANH	Agriculture, nutrition, and health
AN-TWGs	Agriculture Nutrition Linkages Technical Working Groups
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
B20	Business-20 Summit
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CAADP	The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAAS	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CG	Consultative Group
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CIP	International Potato Center
CIPs	Country Investment Plans
CRP	CGIAR Research Program
CRSP	Collaborative Research Support Program
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DC	District of Columbia
DFID	United Kingdom's Department for International Development
DG	Director General
ECOWAS	The Economic Community of West African States
E-HFP	Enhanced-Homestead Food Production
Embrapa	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
EPPI-Centre	The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre
ESA	The Agricultural Development Economics Division of FAO
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G8	Group of Eight
G20	The Group of Twenty
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAP	Global Action Plan
Ghits	Google hits

GINA	Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance
GIZ (formerly GTZ)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
HarvestPlus	HarvestPlus Challenge Program
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HKI	Helen Keller International
HUNGaMA	Hunger and Malnutrition
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICN	International Conference on Nutrition
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IFS	Integrated Farming Systems
IGIDR	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
IGOs	Intergovernmental organizations
IIE	Independent External Evaluation
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INCLEN	International Network for Clinical Epidemiology
ISPC	Independent Science and Partnership Council
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project
KfW	German government-owned development bank
LANSA	Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia
LCIRAH	Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health
LIDC	London International Development Centre
MAAIF	Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MWP	McGill World Platform for Health and Economic Convergence
NAC	National Advisory Council
NAFSIPs	National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans
NCDs	non-communicable diseases
N-CRSP	Global Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	nongovernmental organizations
NTT	East Nusa Tenggara region of Indonesia
R&D	research and development
RAIN	Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition
RFPs	requests for proposals
SAFANSI	South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative

SAGCOT	The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania
SFNCC	State Food and Nutrition Consultation Committee
SOFA	State of Food and Agriculture report
SRFSN	Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition
SUN	Framework for Scaling Up Nutrition
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TANDI	Tackling the Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAP	Uganda Nutrition Action Plan
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN HL Task Force	United Nations High-Level Task Force
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNSCN	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
U.S.	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is submitted pursuant to a research agreement between Robert Paarlberg and IFPRI (Contract No. 2011X087.PAA), signed March 8, 2011. Under the terms of this agreement, Paarlberg was to prepare by July 2011 an interim impact assessment of the February 10–12, 2011, IFPRI 2020 Conference in Delhi, “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health.” This report is an “Interim Report on Short-Term Impact,” to be followed in November 2012 by a final report on medium- to long-term impact.

Paarlberg was to base the interim assessment on several interlocked initiatives, including a survey questionnaire sent to registered conferees prior to the meeting in Delhi, a follow-up survey three weeks after the Conference, and individual telephone interviews conducted by Paarlberg with a smaller structured sample of 20–25 conferees. Paarlberg was to prepare the ground for these follow-up interviews through personal contacts made in Delhi Conference. Several other indicators of short-term impact were also to be employed, including tracking news coverage of the Conference, counting downloads from the Conference website, and tracking the prominence of Conference themes (the links between agriculture, nutrition, and health) on the Internet in general, and on the websites of relevant organizations. Paarlberg took these steps, which provided the basis for an interim report submitted to IFPRI on August 1, 2011.

Paarlberg had originally planned one other step: sending follow-up requests to all conferees, asking them to fill out an action plan for initiatives they hoped to take during the remainder of 2011. Based on early post-Conference findings, this step was not taken, as the methodology for this final assessment was adjusted to focus more on actions by organizations and institutions rather than individual conferees.

PART ONE: THE 2020 CONFERENCE, ORIGINS, AND CONTEXT

Since 1995, the 2020 Vision Initiative within IFPRI has organized periodic international multistakeholder Conferences for dialogue, debate, information sharing, and consensus building. The first Conference was in Washington, DC, in June 1995. The second was in Bonn, Germany, in September 2001. The third was in Kampala, Uganda, in April 2004. The fourth was in Beijing, China, in October 2007. The fifth was the February 2011 Conference on “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health” in New Delhi, India. This fifth Conference took place in an unusually energized global context, marked by rapid economic transitions in China, India, and Brazil, plus unusually high international food prices.

Planning for this 2011 Conference began in December 2009, coincident with the appointment of a new director general at IFPRI, and a time of high concern about agricultural price volatility and food security. It would have been understandable for IFPRI to plan the Conference around these themes, but IFPRI decided instead to focus on the nontraditional theme of agriculture’s link to nutrition and health. By March 2010, IFPRI’s 2020 Conference planners had developed a preliminary note laying out a Conference plan and setting a date. In May 2010, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed to inaugurate the Conference in Delhi.

Conference Purpose and Content

The 2020 Conference was a major undertaking, organized by IFPRI with support from a range of donors including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Indian Economic Association, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Irish Aid, PepsiCo, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Feed the Future Initiative, and the World Bank.

The Conference objective was to examine linkages among three intimately connected policy sectors: agriculture, nutrition, and health. IFPRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium, a research network that has historically focused on agriculture rather than nutrition or health. Meanwhile, many within the nutrition and health sectors routinely ignore agriculture. IFPRI wanted the 2020 Conference to show agriculture’s potential for improving nutrition and health, while encouraging leaders from all three sectors to reach across traditional boundaries.

Connections between nutrition and health can be obvious, but close connections also exist between agriculture and nutrition, and between agriculture and health, particularly within agricultural societies in the developing world. Productive farming systems usually reduce rural poverty, bringing positive benefits for both nutrition and health. Farming

systems that lack crop diversity can be a source of unbalanced nutrition, and some agricultural activities carry health risks such as occupational exposure to toxic chemicals, consumer exposure to chemical residues, and downstream water pollution. Meanwhile, poor health in farming communities reduces the productivity of agricultural labor, deepening poverty and food insecurity while posing still greater risks to health. These cross-sector connections have all been recognized in the abstract, yet they have not been adequately researched, and even when they are, policymakers typically remain in separate silos and seldom pay attention.

With its CGIAR mission, IFPRI naturally wanted to highlight the contribution that agricultural productivity growth could make for both nutrition and health, hence the Conference theme of “leveraging agriculture.” Yet IFPRI wanted the initiative to stimulate cross-sector communications and interactions in all directions, produce greater consensus regarding cross-sector actions, and bring more cross-sector coordination to research.

IFPRI organized the 2011 Conference in Delhi through its outreach-focused 2020 Vision Initiative, in the office of the director general. The head of IFPRI’s 2020 Initiative and chief of staff at IFPRI was the Conference director, assisted by a core staff of six. Conference planning was based on input from an international advisory committee consisting of 30 senior individuals from all three sectors, all key regions, and a full range of key institutions (governments, intergovernmental organizations, universities, civil society, and the private sector). The principal research and policy products presented at the Conference included eight Conference papers and 21 Conference briefs, all made available electronically on the Conference website.

The Conference was a three-day event hosted at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, India. More than 900 people participated. Conference activities included 12 plenary sessions, 15 parallel sessions, 14 side events, an ongoing Knowledge Fair with more than 25 exhibit booths and tables, 6 informal discussion groups, and roughly 30 “rapid fire” presentations during coffee breaks.

In immediate follow-up, IFPRI made available on its Conference website a condensed “2020 Conference at a Glance” PowerPoint presentation, along with a Conference highlights video and a mini-documentary, to help conferees brief colleagues on what had taken place in Delhi. Two months later IFPRI published a 15-page “Highlights of the Conference” summary (once again available in electronic form on its website), capturing some of the more important messages delivered at Conference sessions. To ensure added sharing of information on Conference themes, IFPRI also established a 2020 Conference literature hub on WorldCat—a website that allows users to search a large network of library-based content and services. This dynamic bibliography of more than 100 documents was updated weekly and viewed roughly 1,200 times as of early July 2011. IFPRI also created a Mendeley academic social network group. Among other follow-up events, IFPRI scheduled a May 12–13, 2011, workshop in London on “Measuring Effects of Agri-Health Interventions,” designed to explore and develop common tools and

methods for measuring outcomes in this area. This was done in partnership with the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH).

Assessing Impact

Assessing the 2020 Conference's impacts is difficult because of both sampling and attribution problems.

Sampling problems arise from not knowing exactly where to look for impact, since the 2020 Conference had potential to produce impacts across a vast institutional landscape. For example, in the field of child and maternal nutrition alone, according to a count done in 2008 by *Lancet*, there are at least 14 different relevant UN agencies, five relevant international and regional development banks, 5 relevant regional cooperation organizations (such as the African Union), more than 20 bilateral aid agencies, at least five major charitable foundations, some 35 universities and research centers with international scope, 12 major nutrition companies, and several hundred academic journals.¹ The number of food and agriculture institutions potentially impacted by the Conference is almost certainly as great. Examining all these separate institutions for possible impact is impossible, so a review of only the largest institutions or the most probable sites for impact appears here.

Attribution problems also arise because several parallel efforts were underway to bridge gaps between agriculture and nutrition within the same 2010–11 timeframe. The most important parallel efforts were the following:

- Within IFPRI's own CGIAR system in March 2010, a prominent international consultation took place in Montpellier, France, to develop a new CGIAR Research Program in the area of agriculture, nutrition, and health.² This research strategy initiative drew support and resources from IFPRI, but it went forward within the CGIAR on a largely separate track from planning for the 2011 Delhi Conference.
- Also within the CGIAR system, building bridges between agriculture and nutrition had long been a goal of the HarvestPlus initiative for crop biofortification, begun in 2004.
- Within the United Nations system, efforts to add a stronger nutrition dimension to the Millennium Development Goals led to a Framework for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), presented during the spring 2010 meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. At a September 2010 UN General Assembly Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, more than 100 national governments, donors, businesses, and development agencies endorsed this plan,

¹ Saul S. Morris, Bruce Cogill, and Ricardo Uauy. "Effective International Actions Against Undernutrition: Why Has It Proven So Difficult and What Can Be Done to Accelerate Progress?" *Lancet* (2008): 371.

² This initiative was originally called CRP4. It was eventually named "Agriculture for Nutrition and Health," or A4NH.

which addressed undernutrition in the earliest stages of a child's life—from conception to age two (the first 1,000 days). Connections between nutrition and agriculture were not the explicit focus of this initiative, but they were an implicit concern.

- Elsewhere within the UN System, in December 2010 the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) convened an International Symposium on “Food and Nutrition Security” in Rome to examine food-based approaches to improving diets and raising levels of nutrition. The goal was to insert nutrition objectives more directly into agriculture, food security, economic, and other development policies and programs. This event was intended as a lead-in for a second joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) International Conference on Nutrition (ICN+20), originally planned in Rome for 2012, 20 years after the first ICN in 1992.
- The UN General Assembly scheduled a High-Level Meeting for September 2011 to focus on actions to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, naming agriculture and food production among the important sectors in which policies should be developed to support health objectives. In anticipation of this General Assembly meeting, late in 2010 the Chicago Council on Global Affairs commissioned “Bringing Agriculture to the Table,” a report on agriculture, food, nutrition, and the growing threat of diet-related chronic diseases.
- By 2010, nutrition concerns beyond conventional definitions of food security had also spread into the work of the G8. At a June 2010 meeting of the G8 in Canada, leaders endorsed the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health to parallel their 2009 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. By the time of the 2012 G8 meeting in the United States at Camp David, official language described the Muskoka Initiative and the L'Aquila Initiative in the same sentence.

Because IFPRI's 2020 Conference planners invited participation in Delhi from the organizations pursuing these parallel initiatives, some of the institutional actions that followed the 2020 Conference were not just parallel; they became blended, further complicating the attribution problem.

Attribution problems are often easiest to solve when examining impacts that take place in the short term. Yet in the area of international food policy some of the more important impacts may not be seen until the medium or long term. This report attempts to consider all of these timeframes. First, short-term impacts are detected through August 2011, the six-month period immediately following the Conference. Then this report examines medium- and long-term impacts detected during an 18-month period following the Conference, through August 2012. Even this 18-month timeframe will miss some of the long-term Conference impacts, but beyond this timeframe, the problem of direct attribution becomes increasingly difficult to solve.

PART TWO: SHORT-TERM IMPACTS

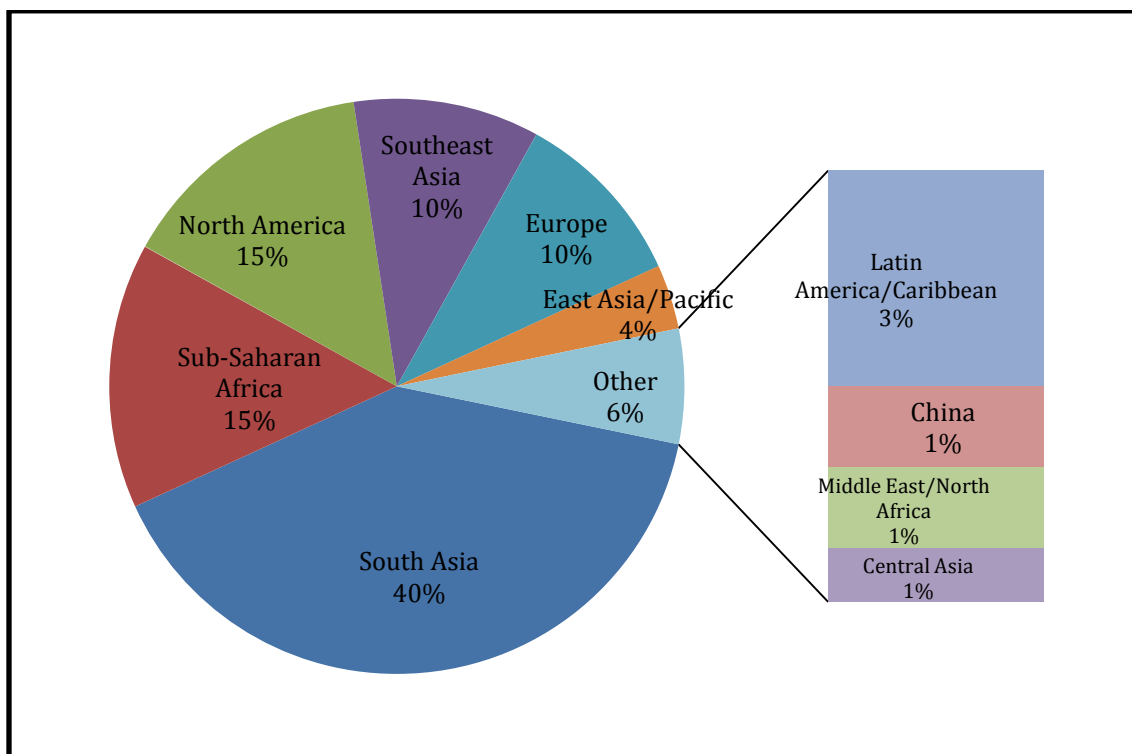
When measuring short-term impacts of the 2020 Conference through August 2011, this report reflects the use of a range of techniques and indicators, including pre-Conference and post-Conference surveys of those who participated, post-Conference telephone interviews of participants, patterns of media coverage, and counts of Internet references to the Conference and to Conference themes. When these indicators are viewed together, an adequate composite view of short-term impacts begins to emerge.

Surveys of Conferees

Several weeks prior to the 2020 Conference in February 2011, a pre-Conference survey was sent by email to 975 prospective conferees. There were 265 responses to the survey (27 percent response rate). This pre-Conference survey provided both a profile of some who would be attending the Conference and an assessment of their opinions regarding the integration of the agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors.

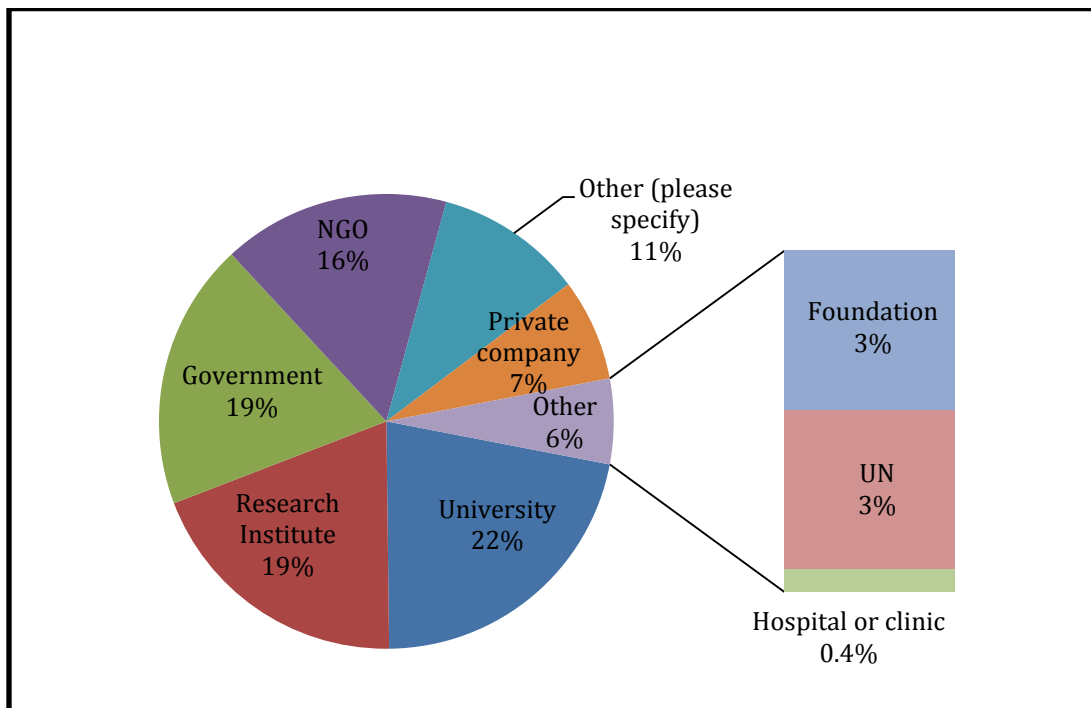
Unsurprisingly, a disproportionate number of those attending the Conference (who were not on the program) were from South Asia, with 381 specifically from India. Significant numbers of conferees also came from Africa, North America, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Figure 1 provides percentage responses to the survey question “Where do you currently reside?”

Figure 1: Where do we currently reside?



When asked to identify their primary institutional affiliation, the largest numbers of respondents to the pre-Conference survey came from universities and research institutes, yet significant representation was present from governments, NGOs, and private companies as well. Media representatives also attended. Figure 2 provides percentage responses to the survey question “Which of the following best describes your current affiliation?”

Figure 2: Which one of the following best describes your current affiliation?



The pre-Conference survey provides the data to create an opinion profile of the prospective attendees, specifically on ANH issues. Prospective conferees were asked, for example, “which institutions” should “take the lead” in handling the intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health. In the pre-Conference survey, more than half (56 percent) identified *national governments* as the best institutions to lead in cross-sector efforts. This was a significant endorsement of national public sector leadership, given that only 19 percent of respondents had identified themselves as government officials. Twenty percent of respondents said intergovernmental organizations should lead; 13 percent said community leaders, grass roots organizations, or individuals; 8 percent said international foundations and international NGOs; and only 2 percent said private companies.

A second survey question also captured an important pre-Conference view among prospective attendees. When asked if agriculture, nutrition, and health should be “separately handled” or “handled by the same policymakers,” 75 percent said “by the same policymakers.” Most conferees were therefore coming to Delhi already sympathetic to the vision of policy integration across all three sectors.

A third survey question raised the more divisive issue of resource allocation: “If it were possible to allocate new funding, into which sector should the funding first go?” One might expect the conferees to favor their own sectors, and the balance of their preferences did, in the aggregate, match the balance among sectors. For example, the percentage of prospective conferees identifying themselves as working primarily in agriculture (57 percent) was nearly identical to the percentage saying new funding should go to agriculture (54 percent). Likewise, the percentage of people identifying themselves as working primarily in nutrition (29 percent) was close to the percentage saying new funding should go to nutrition (33 percent). Likewise for health: 15 percent worked in the sector, and 13 percent said new funding should go to health.

These matches were somewhat misleading, however. While many prospective participants did choose their own sector, significant numbers also assigned budget priority to another sector. For example, 31 percent of those from the agriculture sector assigned higher marginal funding priority to another sector, 45 percent of nutritionists assigned priority to another sector, and 73 percent of health sector conferees named another sector.

When conferees were asked how much their sector had to contribute, sectoral loyalties once again broke down. When agriculturalists were asked what their sector contributes to the others, 82 percent said “a very great amount,” and when they were asked what the other sectors could contribute to agriculture, only 41 percent said “a very great amount.” Yet this result most probably reflects an honest assessment of the greater leveraging potential of agriculture, because nutritionists and health specialists did not rate the leveraging potential of their own sectors nearly as high. And, when nutrition and health specialists were asked how much agriculture could contribute to their sectors, a high percentage agreed it was “a very great amount” (86 percent and 76 percent, respectively). A predominant view at the Conference, then, was that agriculture had more to give to than receive from cross-sector work, while nutrition and health had more to receive than to give.

Conferees did not differ strongly about where money should go or where the greatest leveraging potential could be found, but rather about who was best qualified to understand realities in the other sectors. Here, each sector believed it was the best at cross-sector understanding. Seventy-nine percent of respondents in the pre-Conference survey who self-identified as agriculturalists said they had a good understanding of nutrition and health, but only 16 percent said those in nutrition and health had a good understanding of agriculture. Among nutritionists, 89 percent claimed cross-sector knowledge, while 16 percent allowed the same level of knowledge to non-nutritionists. Among those from the health sector, 72 percent claimed to have good cross-sector knowledge, while only 17 percent credited those from the other sectors with understanding health. This finding brings into focus a serious challenge: most of IFPRI’s prospective conferees came to New Delhi already believing that the sectors (particularly agriculture) had strong cross-sector contributions to make, and most believed they should be handled jointly rather than separately, yet many implicitly disparaged representatives from other sectors as perhaps not knowing enough to be in charge. This suggests that

increasing cross-sector respect may be as important as increasing institutional connection or information when promoting effective cooperation across the fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health.

To learn what short-term impact the 2020 Conference may have had on the conferees themselves, this same pre-Conference opinion survey was re-administered six weeks after the Delhi meeting. A total of 315 people responded to this survey (response rate 32 percent). The breakdown of regional, institutional, and sectoral representation closely paralleled the pre-Conference survey. This post-Conference survey revealed only very modest changes in substantive opinions among conferees. For example, on the question of who should take the lead in handling the intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health, the pre-Conference preference for national governments remained strong. It had even strengthened slightly following the Conference, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Which organizations should take the lead?

	Pre-Conference (%)	Post-Conference (%)
National governments	56	63
Intergovernmental organizations	20	19
Community leaders, grassroots organizations, or Individuals	13	11
International foundations and international NGOs	8	5
Private companies	2	1

On a second important question of whether the agriculture, nutrition, and health nexus should be handled by the same policymakers or handled by separate policymakers, post-Conference survey results continued to favor “same policymakers,” but in this case a bit less strongly than before the Conference (Table 2).

Table 2: Who should handle policy?

	Pre-Conference (%)	Post-Conference (%)
Same policymakers	75	67
Separate policymakers	25	33

This small opinion shift toward favoring separate handlers of these issues should not be interpreted as a rejection of the message of the Conference. Several prominent Conference speakers explicitly advocated a “separate policymakers” model, arguing that officials should think in an integrated fashion about the three sectors, but then take separate policy actions within their own sectors, thereby avoiding paralysis and preserving accountability.

The post-Conference survey revealed almost no opinion change on the question of where new funding should be allocated. The balance of pre-conference and post-conference opinion was essentially unchanged, with agriculture continuing to claim the highest priority (Table 3).

Table 3: Where should new funding be allocated?

	Pre-Conference Opinion (%)		Post-Conference Opinion (%)
Agriculture	54		55
Nutrition	33		36
Health	13		10

The pre-Conference tendency of respondents to rate their own cross-sector knowledge as superior to that of those from other sectors was also changed little by the Conference. If anything, the regard of the attendees for their own cross-sector knowledge increased slightly, while their respect for the cross-sector knowledge of others slightly diminished.

Table 4: Understanding of other sectors

Sector Identification	Pre-Conference: I understand other sectors (%)	Pre-Conference: Others understand my sector (%)		Post-Conference: I understand other sectors (%)	Post-Conference: Others understand my sector (%)
Agriculture	79	16		81	13
Nutrition	89	16		96	10
Health	72	17		81	10

Upon reflection, it is not surprising that opinions among the conferees would be so little changed by the Conference experience. Those that attended the 2020 Conference were almost all elite professionals with advanced training and years of experience, and hence well-established views on most things. Among those who responded to the survey, 93 percent were older than 30, while 44 percent were actually 50 or older. Also, among those who responded to the post-Conference survey, 99 percent had at least a bachelor's degree, 92 percent had at least a master's degree, and 52 percent had a doctorate. A mature professional audience of this kind is unlikely to be "transformed" by any Conference experience, no matter how challenging or intense. The elite status of the conferees may also help explain the (possibly inflated) opinion so many held of their own cross-sector understanding.

Measured Impacts on Public and Professional Discourse

To what extent did the 2020 Conference "change the conversation" surrounding agriculture, nutrition, and health? The answer to this question can be found by counting visits to the Conference website, reconstructing media attention to the Conference, using an Internet search engine to monitor attention to the themes of the Conference in cyberspace, and monitoring institutional websites for changes in attention to the themes of the Conference.

Attention paid to the Conference in the media was fleeting and not by itself an indicator of impact. Yet it did give the Conference message and materials a wider audience, and media attention also helped to validate the importance of these messages and themes. In the conventional print media, between October 2010 and May 2011, there were at least

33 stories by international journalists invited to the Conference, including in *The Atlantic* (USA) and *Die Welt* (Germany), plus at least 15 stories in Indian media outlets and at least 25 additional media stories in English, French, and German found in prominent outlets such as the *Washington Post* and *The Economist*.

Beyond these print media, there were at least 36 separate blog references to the Conference from around the world, and at least 22 electronic stories covering the Conference through “donor/stakeholder outlets” such as Zunia, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) blog, and ILRI Clippings. The tone of this coverage ranged from simply factual to strongly favorable. A report on the Conference that appeared in April 2011 in the journal *Food Security* described the Delhi meeting as “critically important in providing the momentum to a much needed area of work in development.... [T]here has not been a ‘meeting of the minds’ of this scale and visibility across the three critical sectors.” In June 2011, one foundation-based blogger described the Conference (to an online community at Central Desktop) as a “historic event,” and “a leap forward in convening the communities of experts in these fields.” Coverage in the conventional print media was also extended electronically to wider audiences. A March 24, 2011, *Economist* story covering the Conference (16 paragraphs in length, including a summary of two of the papers presented at the Delhi meeting) was published online, where it received 56 “recommends,” 75 tweets, and 577 Facebook “likes.”

A third method for measuring attention to an event such as the 2020 Conference is to conduct periodic Google searches on the Internet for the name of the event. Accordingly, the consultant did periodic searches for the formal name of the Conference (“Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” enclosed in quotation marks) between January 7, 2011, and May 3, 2011. Due to substantial pre-Conference publicity, there was already considerable Internet awareness of the Conference during January 2011, the month before the Conference took place. Comparing average numbers of Google hits (“Ghits”) during this pre-Conference month in January 2011 to the Conference month of February 2011 and a post-Conference period of March–May 2011, we see in Table 5 that the Internet visibility of the Delhi Conference continued to increase throughout this period.³

³ Trends in Google hits become less reliable over longer time periods, since they can be affected by changes in Google’s algorithm. The evidence such data provide must be used with qualification and great caution.

Table 5: Number of Google hits when searching for “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	Post-Conference period: March 8–May 3, 2011
Number of searches conducted	12	13	12
Average hits per search	26,600	54,000	85,100
Peak number of hits per search (date search conducted)	30,000 (1/28)	85,900 (2/23)	96,000 (3/28)

Beyond the Conference title, generic changes in the Internet visibility of the major Conference themes can also be tracked by conducting periodic Google searches for “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health,” a combination of words that captures the theme of the Conference without repeating the formal title. The total number of hits for this kind of search was significantly smaller than for the formal Conference title, reassuring us that we were capturing independent references to the Conference themes rather than the Conference title. The Internet presence of these themes also increased significantly during the Conference and post-Conference periods, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Number of Google hits when searching for “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	Post-Conference period: March 8–May 3 2011
Number of searches	12	13	12
Average number of Google hits per search	9,288	9,839	13,508
Peak number of hits per search (date search conducted)	9,910 (1/7)	11,500 (2/23)	18,100 (4/27)

Notice in Table 6 that during the post-Conference period the average Internet presence of this combination of Conference themes increased by 45 percent compared to the immediate pre-Conference period.

A simple two-theme Google search for just “agriculture” and “health” also triggered many more hits after the 2020 Conference than before, once again suggesting that the Conference theme of linking these two sectors had gained wider electronic prominence (Table 7).

Table 7: Number of Google hits when searching for “agriculture” and “health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	Post-Conference period: March 8–May 3, 2011
Total searches during period	12	13	12
Average hits per search	167 million	203 million	202 million
Peak hits per search (date search conducted)	179 million (1/14)	234 million (2/18)	227 million (3/16)

Institutional websites provide another venue for tracking Conference impacts on discourse, in this case professional rather than popular discourse. Did attention to the themes of the Conference on key institutional websites increase following the Conference in Delhi? To answer this question, periodic searches were done for the number of times “agriculture” and “nutrition” and “health” were found on the websites of 21 different organizations, both pre-Conference and post-Conference. The number and variety of links available on these sites differed dramatically, so the numbers differed as well, yet in nearly all cases post-Conference numbers for “agriculture” and “nutrition” and “health” were significantly greater than pre-Conference numbers (Table 8).

Table 8: Number of times “agriculture” and “nutrition” and “health” were found when searching organization websites

Name of Organization	Pre-Conference search (January 19, 2011)	Conference period search (February 15, 2011)	Post-Conference search (May 3, 2011)
ADB	10,800	5,780	4,900
AGRA*	35	33	38
CGIAR	2,000	1,930	5,800
DFID*	1,050	1,060	2,050
FANTA-II	290	289	271
FAO	9,180	9,340	30,000
Feed the Future	40	47	58
GAIN	25	35	45
Gates Foundation	758	443	409
GTZ	6	57	85
HKI	63	81	129
Irish Aid	92	109	134
Micronutrient Initiative	41	50	52
NEPAD	32	48	87
PepsiCo	57	61	155
UN H.L. Task Force	177	200	227
USAID	5,480	5,880	26,800
WFP	2,770	3,050	5,020
WHO	6,010	6,540	13,300

Name of Organization	Pre-Conference search (January 19, 2011)	Conference period search (February 15, 2011)	Post-Conference search (May 3, 2011)
World Bank	9,020	9,230	30,500
World Vision	852	628	1,020

Taking all of these measures together—media attention, Internet visibility, and professional website visibility—we see that the 2020 Conference had a measurable short-term impact on both public and professional discourse.

Post-Conference Actions by Conferees

Some impacts from the Delhi meeting took place at a “retail” level, as a result of post-Conference actions by individual attendees. The more than 900 conferees in Delhi made up a diverse group, and each made use of the Conference in a slightly different way. The immediate post-Conference survey, which generated more than 300 separate responses, provided a glimpse into this variety of actions. Details were also gleaned from post-Conference telephone interviews with a structured sampling of 16 individual conferees (16 reached out of a 20-person sample), and subsequent telephone interviews in the spring of 2011 with members of the Conference advisory committee.

As already noted, most individual conferees did not undergo significant changes of opinion during the Conference, since most brought firm, long-established views with them to the meeting. The Conference produced individual impacts not by changing the views of conferees but instead by giving those conferees useful new opportunities for learning and networking, as well as opportunities to promote some of their own projects, report new information to their colleagues and superiors, and use Conference materials to better their position within their own work environment.

Learning

Many attendees used the 2020 Conference to upgrade and update their understanding of cross-sector issues. For example, one younger development assistance professional working for a major donor came to the Conference to give herself a quick course in nutrition and health, since her formal training had largely been in agriculture. This person described the Conference as a “confidence builder” for her; it confirmed a number of suspicions she had about the agriculture-nutrition-health nexus, it gave her materials she could study in greater depth, and it helped her think more carefully about competition for budget resources between the sectors. One important nutrition-oriented NGO, Helen Keller International, sent 13 of its field staff to the Conference as part of an institutional effort to build capacity in cross-sector issues. One interviewee, who had a background in public administration and planning in the health sector, said he valued the Conference because it gave him more confidence to do work in nutrition.

Networking

Many attendees valued the Conference for the networking opportunity it provided. A number of attendees from the developing world mentioned in interviews the opportunity this Conference provided—particularly between sessions—to converse and exchange

business cards with senior specialists, with counterparts from other countries, and also with delegates from their own country. One attendee claimed to have exchanged cards with 50 other conferees. In some cases, the networking led directly to new projects. One attendee, a senior government official, was contacted soon after the Conference by a food security adviser for an important regional organization who had also attended the Conference, and was asked to prepare a concept note on food and nutrition security to be presented at an upcoming regional summit meeting.

Not all of the networking was international. Several of those later interviewed went out of their way to mention how valuable the Conference was in introducing them to counterparts from their own country also looking for ways to work across the agriculture-nutrition-health nexus. One health-sector conferee from Latin America who previously had no links to her agriculture ministry at home mentioned how valuable it was to travel to the Conference with a colleague from the agricultural ministry, and thus form a personal tie. The most extensive “within country networking” at the Conference was clearly among delegates from the host country, India. But as a consequence these host-country conferees may have done less international networking; one Indian attendee joked he was one of few Indians to use the Conference to make new contacts with foreigners.

It also seems that a majority of the new ties formed at the 2020 Conference remained at least tentatively in place after the conferees returned to their home institutions. Among those from the agricultural sector who responded to the post-Conference survey, 66 percent reported that they had remained in touch with someone they had met at the Conference for the first time, and 74 percent of these new contacts were reported to be in another area of specialization—a particularly desirable achievement for a Conference of this kind. Among nutrition-sector attendees, 58 percent reported remaining in touch with a new contact, and 79 percent of those new contacts were reported to be outside the nutrition sector. Among health-sector attendees, 56 percent reported remaining in touch with a new contact, with 78 percent of the new contacts being outside the individual’s area of specialization. Significant cross-sector bridge building among conferees was thus one short-term impact of the Conference experience.

Promoting

A number of conferees came to Delhi with something to promote, and their use of the Conference for this purpose emerges as another kind of impact. For example, one corporate representative valued the opportunity, at the Conference, to publicize his company’s new prize competition linking water, rural development, and nutrition. Another private-sector conferee valued the opportunity, through the knowledge fair, to make contact with counterparts who can now help him add nutrition outcomes to a computer model of national agricultural systems he had been developing. Building this capacity may bring to his firm new clients, including donors and philanthropic foundations. Another attendee, along with two colleagues, had organized a series of paper presentations (on “the agriculture-nutrition disconnect in India”) at a side event at the Conference, and these papers proved to be of sufficient quality to be accepted as core chapters in a forthcoming IFPRI book on the same subject.

Reporting

When most attendees at the 2020 Conference returned to their home organization, they delivered a report on the event either to their superiors or to co-workers or both. This important multiplier of the Conference message was anticipated by IFPRI planners, who made available to all attendees a set of PowerPoint slides presenting key Conference highlights. These “Conference at a glance” slides were far from a complete summary of the Conference, but they ensured that post-Conference reporting by attendees (and others) would be more accurate, and more nearly within the spirit of the meeting. Post-Conference survey and telephone interviews confirmed the value of these materials. Six weeks after the Conference, 86 percent of agricultural-sector attendees reported they had shared Conference materials with others who had not attended. Among nutrition-sector attendees, 78 percent had shared materials. Among health-sector attendees, 84 percent shared.

Some conferees delivered private reports to their boss only, while others made full presentations to their fellow workers, often with a Director General present. The materials shared through such presentations included not only the “Conference at a Glance” PowerPoint presentations, but also the Conference papers, the two- to three-page summaries of the papers prepared by IFPRI, and documents picked up at the knowledge fair. In some cases this reporting was quasi-official. One senior conferee sent a briefing note on the 2020 Conference to his country’s president, to the national planning authorities, and also to the relevant ministers and permanent secretaries, plus his various foundation and private-sector contacts.

Using Conference Materials

Attendees also reported, in post-Conference surveys and telephone interviews, using materials from the Conference in the course of their own work. Among the agricultural-sector attendees who responded to the post-Conference survey, 67 percent reported that they had used Conference materials in their own work during the six weeks following the Conference. Among nutrition-sector attendees, 66 percent reported they had used Conference materials. Among health-sector attendees, 65 percent reported using Conference materials in the first six weeks following the Delhi meeting.

These reported uses of Conference materials were highly diverse, befitting the diversity of both the materials and the attendees. For example, agriculture-sector attendees reported using Conference materials in the following ways:

- “in the preparation of a food security plan...”*
- “as reference material for writing proposals...”*
- “for briefing my organization and planning follow-up action...”*
- “for planning a food and nutrition security program for the country...”*
- “for helping in development and delivery of high-iron pearl millet...”*
- “for submitting a concept note on a new research proposal...”*
- “for staff training...”*
- “in writing newspaper articles...”*
- “in making policy decisions regarding food security...”*
- “in fine tuning an agriculture sector planning document...”*

“in developing a new project proposal on livelihoods...”
“for developing an Agricultural Sector Development Plan for my country...”
“as a reference in writing a white paper...”
“as material for a full page article in a national newspaper...”

Nutrition-sector attendees also reported a variety of uses of Conference materials:

“in teaching my course on global nutrition problems to PhD students...”
“in reviewing our National Nutrition Action Plan...”
“in influencing agriculture and health sector officials I work with...”
“in my work on community nutrition...”
“in my advocacy to policymakers...”
“in teaching MSc and PhD students and researchers...”
“in preparing a presentation for our ministry, and in communicating with NGOs and UN partners...”

Responding health-sector attendees found other uses for Conference materials:

“for revising the conceptual framework of our proposed programs...”
“for developing concept notes to be presented to funding agencies...”
“for use by our students...”
“for making policy on nutrition and health at a high level within the Ministry of Health...”

Post-Conference telephone interviews between March and July 2011 provided further detail on the variety of short-term uses of Conference materials. Several of those interviewed were teachers and researchers who made use of Conference materials in the classroom, or in updating their own research libraries. One conferee working for a South Asian government reported using the final declaration of the Conference in preparing a country investment plan. This agricultural sector person worked with another attendee from his country—from the nutrition sector—to include a “nutrition agenda” in the country investment plan, one that stressed private-sector involvement and a strong gender dimension, both important themes at the Conference. Another conferee, a government official working at the subnational level, used Conference materials to persuade his state minister of finance that nutrition and health benefits would be realized from increases in agricultural productivity. Another attendee, a senior national budget official, used some of the case study materials provided at the Conference in designing a national budget strategy. Another said that he expected to use Conference materials in developing a new strategic plan for his organization’s work in a disadvantaged region.

Positioning

Telephone interviews revealed one additional way conferees benefitted in the short-term from attending the Delhi meeting. Many who came to the meeting were already trying to work at the intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health, but were poorly positioned to do so because the leadership of their organization undervalued cross-sector linking and leveraging strategies. These attendees used the materials from the Conference, and the visibility of its senior participants, to present themselves anew, as advocates for a message now enjoying strong international support. For example, one attendee from the

private sector said the 2020 Conference helped her in promoting a “health agenda” with senior leaders inside her company. Another attendee, an agricultural-sector specialist doing cross-sector work in health, said his experience at the Conference, when reported inside his own organization, provided “a validation” for the cross-sector approach he had long been promoting. For example, he now has more leverage inside his organization to propose a new initiative for employing technologies suited to previously neglected legume crops.

Satisfied versus Dissatisfied Conferees

Conferee “satisfaction” with the meeting in Delhi is not by itself an important impact, yet it may capture indirectly the extent to which those attending were engaged or energized. In the weeks immediately following the Conference, the organizers at IFPRI received 98 unsolicited letters and email messages from conferees (many quite senior) expressing satisfaction and extending heartfelt thanks. A number of these messages even included statements of resolve regarding steps they would take going forward, and also some proposals to IFPRI for partnerships in taking such steps.

The post-Conference survey also generated evidence of strong conferee satisfaction. When the survey asked attendees to “describe in one sentence any impact the Delhi Conference has had, so far, on your own work,” 184 out of 194 responses (95 percent) referred to impacts that were positive rather than negative.

At the same time, the post-Conference survey and telephone inquiries did turn up some complaints from conferees not completely satisfied. In the post-Conference survey, a small minority of respondents observed that the meeting had “no impact,” or they “did not learn much,” or there was “not enough time to interact,” or the plenary sessions had a “lack of substance,” or were “too general.” Overt expressions of dissatisfaction were unusual, however, as they came from only 5 percent or less of those surveyed.

Occasional complaints also emerged from post-Conference interviews. One conferee asserted that the schedule was too full, making it impossible for attendees with mutual cross-sector interests to go much beyond exchanging business cards. This attendee thought a less crowded program would have resulted in more time for personal interaction, as opposed to passive listening. Several others expressed dissatisfaction that “nothing new” was presented at the Conference, or that too little time was spent addressing the more practical “how to do it” issues facing project managers. One prominent senior analyst (an individual known to hold and express strong views) complained that the Conference did not bring forward any new data or analysis. This individual offered the opinion that too much plenary session time was taken up with short cameo talks rather than with challenging new analysis.

PART THREE: MEDIUM-TERM IMPACTS

The long-term impacts of the 2020 Conference will not be known for years, but a variety of medium-term impacts had become visible by the summer of 2012. A slightly different range of techniques and indicators was used to assess these medium-term effects, including:

- a June 2012 survey of conferees;
- updated search results from the Internet;
- an examination of the dissemination of Conference materials; and
- a systematic review of post-Conference actions by a sampling of prominent or relevant institutions, including donors, governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private companies.

Survey of Conferees

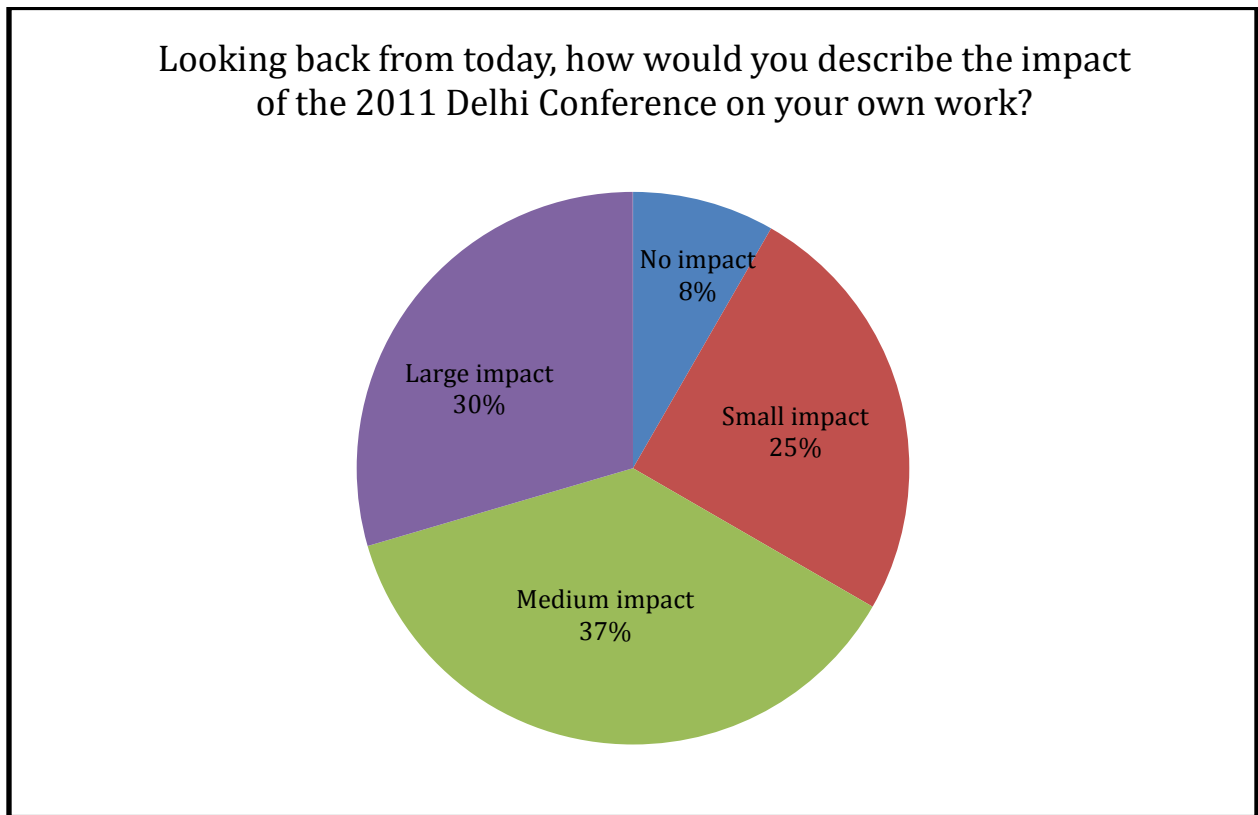
In June 2012, 16 months after the 2020 Conference, an email survey questionnaire was sent to those who had attended in February 2011. As should be expected, this delayed post-Conference survey generated fewer responses: a total of 132 responses by July 1, 2012, out of 903 people receiving the survey. This was a response rate of 14.6 percent, significantly lower than the 32.0 percent response rate for the immediate post-Conference survey conducted in 2011.

This new 2012 survey addressed the question of Conference impact directly. A first question asked, “Looking back from today, how would you describe the impact of the 2011 Delhi Conference on *your own work*?” Respondents could select one of four responses:

- Conference had *no impact* on my work
- Conference had a *small impact* on my work
- Conference had a *medium impact* on my work
- Conference had a *large impact* on my work

The distribution of actual responses is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Conference impact on participants' work



The chart reveals of those responding 16 months after the Conference, two-thirds asserted that the Conference either had a medium or a large impact on their work. This claim of significant impact should partly be discounted, given the low response rate. Still, even if we count every non-responding conferee as a “no impact” response, we can calculate that 13 percent of attendees still reported some impact on their work 16 months after the Conference.

As for what kind of impact these conferees experienced, a second question gave respondents an opportunity explain their first answer with a one-sentence narrative. If the Conference had no impact on their work (as reported by 8.3 percent of respondents), they were invited to explain why. If the Conference had either a small, medium, or large impact, these respondents were invited to “describe the impact.” The narrative sentences describing impact were then inspected and placed into one of three categories of impact:

- New thinking or rethinking
- Networking or communicating
- Taking actions of another kind

Most respondents who submitted a narrative (67 out of 105) said the Conference led to some kind of new thinking or a rethinking of concepts. Some examples of these responses:

It made me more conscious of the Ag sector perspective on nutrition/food production linkages, and that gender seems to be a new or newly important idea for Ag folks! Not much of my current work requires that knowledge, but it helped me figure out how to best dialogue on these topics within the mission.

The Health and Agriculture nexus in dealing with issues of food and nutrition were made clearer and now at the African Union Commission we can see the good results as we implement the cluster of Food and Nutrition in a more coordinated manner.

While presenting my paper in a Conference or seminar held after New Delhi Conference...the contribution of research persons at the Conf. in advancing my knowledge, etc., were enormous.

A smaller number (19 out of 105) said the Conference led them to do more networking or communicating. Some examples of these responses:

At the Conference I met several important contacts and benefited from a coordinated push among funding and implementing agencies towards more integrated research and programming.

We got in touch with a number of international players who wanted to replicate our work model.

Knowledge that I got from the Conference is helping me to convince various implementing partners on how to bridge the Nutrition and Agriculture gap.

Another group (17 out of 105) said the Conference led them to take actions of some other kind. The following are some examples of these responses:

I developed a research project on agronomic biofortification of rice and wheat crops to reduce zinc malnutrition.

The learnings from the Conference were shared as knowledge inputs with grassroots NGOs working on issues of malnutrition. The knowledge generated from the Conference has informed the strategies of these NGOs.

Two or three presentations influenced my decisions. One presentation in particular helped me establish an entire new area of work in my group.

It served as a model for a similar conference being organized at the OECD on mobilizing the food chain for health.

It catalysed our programmes to complete a multisectoral nutrition action plan for Uganda (UNPA, September 2011) and to create a Secretariat to coordinate implementation of the UNAP.

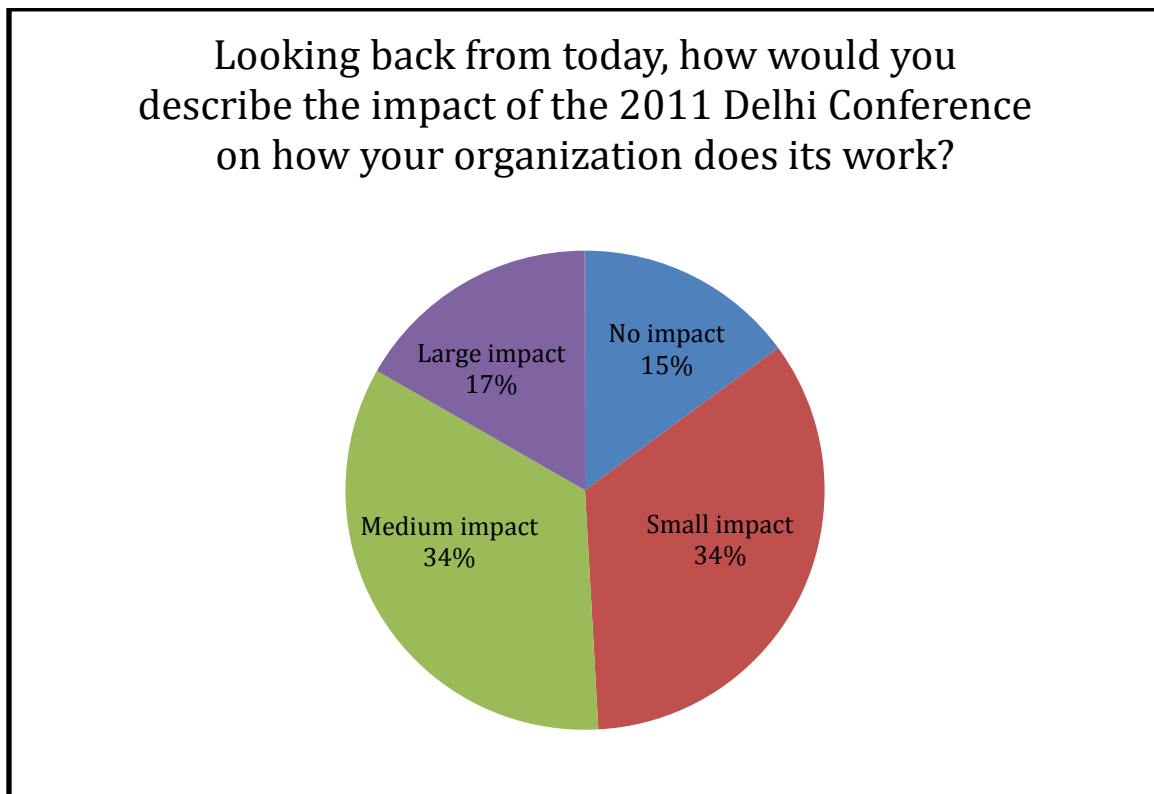
Another question in the survey asked respondents about impacts not on their own work but on the *organization* they work with. This question read, “Looking back from today,

how would you describe the impact of the 2011 Delhi Conference on how *your organization* does its work?” Respondents could select from among four responses:

- Conference had *no impact* on my organization.
- Conference had a *small impact* on my organization.
- Conference had a *medium impact* on my organization.
- Conference had a *large impact* on my organization.

The distribution of actual responses is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Conference impact on work of participants’ organizations



Of those who responded to this survey 16 months after the Conference, roughly half asserted that the Conference had either a medium or a large impact on their organization. Once again, however, the very low response rate must be taken into account.

Conference impacts on organizations can be far more important than impacts on individual conferees because organizations (depending on their size) are more likely than any one individual to generate secondary impacts. Respondents who reported impacts on their organization were invited to “describe the impact” in one sentence. The narrative sentences received were seldom detailed enough to reconstruct the full impacts being claimed, yet the following sample of claimed impacts gives a flavor of the responses:

In formulating Agricultural Policy for the state of Rajasthan (India) we took note of the nutritional aspects, pleading for more attention to the coarse cereals.

My organization's R&D department changed the outlook towards nutrition breeding aspects.

It enabled us to develop effective biofortification work on pulses.

The organization is writing more proposals emphasizing nutrition and particularly food security.

My press agency has prioritized stories related to agriculture, food and health. Advocacy has been stepped up urging governments to scale up budget allocation to the ministries of Agriculture and Health.

Visibility of our relatively small nutrition focus group within my organization increased.

We are now more closely allied with the Helen Keller Foundation than previously, thus strengthening our work on homestead gardens.

A next set of questions invited conferees to evaluate *progress since the Delhi Conference in integrating the separate fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health*, and then to evaluate the contribution that the 2020 Conference made to this progress. Conferees were first asked, “Overall, do you believe the separate fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health have become better integrated today, compared to two years ago? They could answer either yes, or no. Figure 5 shows the distribution of responses.

As seen, among respondents three quarters believed the separate fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health had in fact become better integrated over the previous two years—whatever the role the 2020 Conference played in this outcome. Those who responded “yes” were then asked: “How much of this improved integration do you believe can be traced back to the 2011 Delhi Conference?” They could answer “none,” “a small part,” or “a large part.” Figure 6 shows the distribution of responses.

Figure 5: Overall, do you believe the separate fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health have become better integrated today, compared to two years ago?

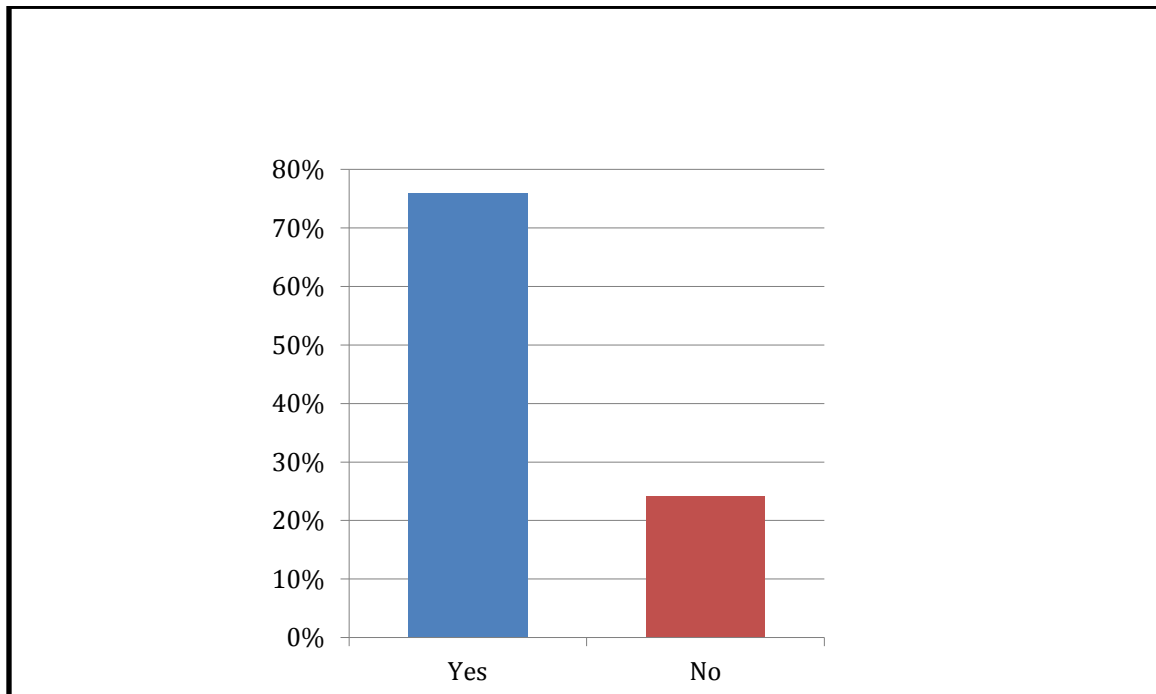
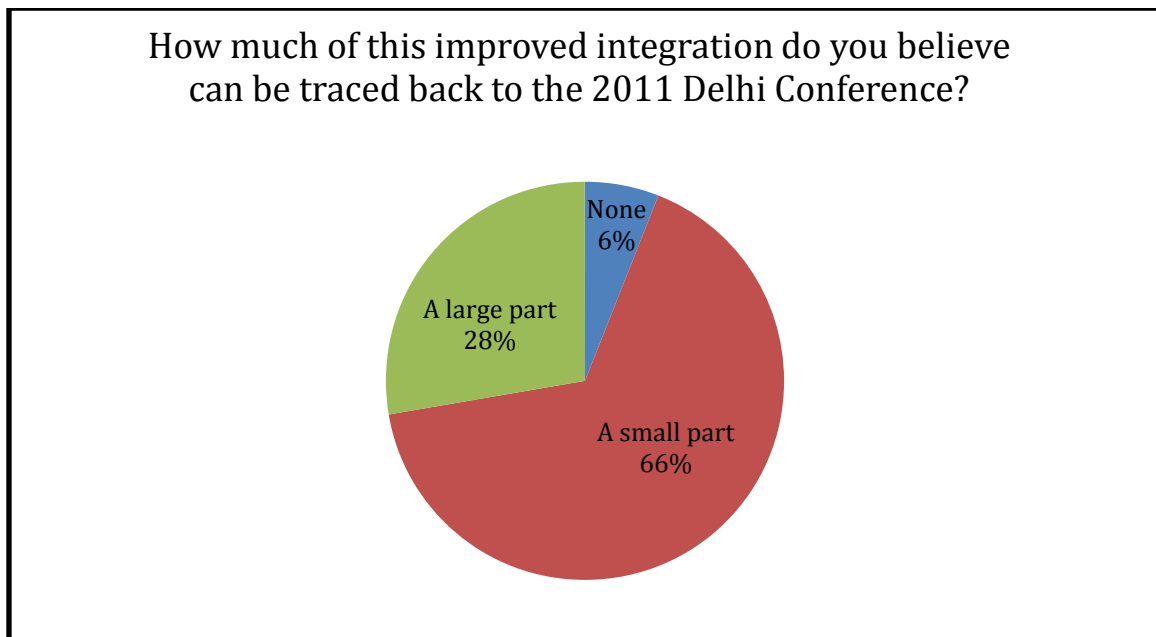


Figure 6: How much of this improved integration do you believe can be traced back to the 2011 Delhi Conference?



So, among the three quarters of respondents who saw better integration, two thirds gave the Delhi Conference credit for “a small part” of that improved integration, and 28 percent gave the Conference credit for “a large part” of the improved integration. Only 6 percent gave the Conference no credit at all. Once again, these results must be discounted as appropriate given the low survey response rate.

Internet Search Results

We have already seen that Internet searches before, during, and immediately after the February 2011 Conference revealed significant and durable short-term impacts on the visibility of Conference themes. Updating these searches into 2012 revealed that in most instances this higher Internet visibility endured in the medium term as well. In most cases the visibility of Conference themes continued to grow, yet attributing a certain portion of this continued growth to the 2020 Conference becomes increasingly problematic with the passage of time.

Consider first the trend in Google hits when searching for the Conference name, “Leveraging Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health. Table 9 shows that through March 2012 the Internet visibility of the Conference name continued to increase.

Table 9: Numbers of Google hits when searching for “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	March 8–May 3, 2011	May 12–October 4, 2011	Nov. 7, 2011– March 23, 2012
Number of searches conducted	12	13	12	13	10
Average hits per search	26,600	54,000	85,100	55,700	367,800
Peak number of hits per search (date search conducted)	30,000 (1/28)	85,900 (2/23)	96,000 (3/28)	84,400 (10/4)	746,000 (3/23)

Some of the dramatic increase in the Internet visibility of the Conference name seen here, especially in early 2012, reflects not the Conference itself but further post-Conference efforts by IFPRI to promote Conference materials, such as the online publication in February 2012 of the Fan and Pandya-Lorch volume containing documents from the Conference.

Internet searches into 2012 also show sustained increases in the Internet visibility of Conference themes, such as “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health.” Table 10 shows that in the most recently searched period (November 2011–March 2012) both the average number of Google hits per search for this theme, and the peak number of hits per search, continued to increase. The average number of hits per search between November 2011 and March 2012 reached four times the January 2011 level, just prior to the Conference.

Table 10: Average number of Google hits when searching for “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	March 8– May 3, 2011	May 12– October 4, 2011	Nov. 7, 2011– March 23, 2012
Number of searches	12	13	12	13	10
Average number of Google hits per search	9,288	9,839	13,508	20,500	36,900
Peak number of hits per search (date search conducted)	9,910 (1/7)	11,500 (2/23)	18,100 (4/27)	23,800 (6/14)	44,800 (2/10)

Source: “IA Google Hits December 2010 to present,” file assembled by IFPRI staff, July 27, 2012.

A closely related search for the two words “agriculture health” revealed, with many more hits, a similar pattern of growth. Both the average numbers of Google hits per search and peak hits per search continuously increased following the Conference and into 2012. Table 11 shows that in the most recent period (November 2011–July 2012) average hits per search were twice the level of the pre-Conference period:

Table 11: Average number of Google hits when searching for “agriculture AND health”

	Pre-Conference period: January 2011	Conference period: February 2011	March 8– May 3, 2011	May 12– October 4, 2011	Nov. 7, 2011– July 18, 2012
Total searches during period	12	13	12	13	14
Average hits per search	167 million	203 million	202 million	260 million	335 million
Peak hits per search	179 million (1/14)	234 million (2/18)	227 million (3/16)	323 million (6/23)	663 million (7/18)

Source: “IA Google Hits December 2010 to present,” file assembled by IFPRI staff, July 27, 2012.

As noted earlier, the value of counting Google hits diminishes over time, given probable changes in Google’s own search algorithm. Yet searches of organization websites also reveal a sustained increase in the prominence of ANH issues. Table 12 shows that for 20 out of the 21 organization sites monitored, “agriculture, nutrition, and health” searches generated a larger number of responses in July 2012 than in May 2011, immediately following the Conference. Only the African Development Bank site showed a smaller

number of responses. Yet Table 12 also reveals a serious weakness in the longer-term value of this indicator. When organizations make changes in their sites, the same search can suddenly generate much higher numbers, as seen for the organizations marked with an asterisk in the following table.

Table 12: Number of times “agriculture, nutrition, and health” were found when searching organization websites

Name of Organization	Pre-Conference search (January 19, 2011)	Conference period search (February 15, 2011)	Post-Conference search (May 3, 2011)	Post-Conference search (October 4, 2011)	Post-Conference search (July 18, 2012)
ADB	10,800	5,780	4,900	5,720	2,960
AGRA*	35	33	38	23 million*	20 million*
CGIAR	2,000	1,930	5,800	5,430	16,300
DFID*	1,050	1,060	2,050	19 million*	2,410
FANTA-II	290	289	271	248	288
FAO	9,180	9,340	30,000	152,000	87,100
Feed the Future	40	47	58	106	369
GAIN	25	35	45	574	93
Gates Foundation	758	443	409	627	2,990
GTZ	6	57	85	125	396
HKI	63	81	129	440	177
Irish Aid*	92	109	134	24 million*	20 million*
Micronutrient Initiative	41	50	52	419	481
NEPAD	32	48	87	97	191
PepsiCo	57	61	155	272	725
UN H.L. Task Force*	177	200	227	17 million*	20 million*
USAID	5,480	5,880	26,800	31,000	28,100
WFP	2,770	3,050	5,020	6,270	10,100
WHO	6,010	6,540	13,300	15,100	17,000
World Bank	9,020	9,230	30,500	107,000	455,000
World Vision	852	628	1,020	2,010	2,370

*This result must be disregarded due to suspected changes to the website.

These Internet search results through 2012 confirm that the 2020 Conference took place amid significant growth in the international prominence of ANH issues, both within the professional world of important organizations and more generally. We can attribute a significant part of this growth to the 2020 Conference for two reasons. First is timing: the moments of steepest growth came immediately following the February 2011 Conference. Second is the inclusion of the word “health” in our searches. Other cross-sector efforts such as those from SUN or the December 2010 FAO Conference were branded with phrases such as “food and nutrition security;” only IFPRI’s 2020 Conference branded itself by using the word “health.”

Dissemination of Conference Materials

An important distribution point for Conference materials was IFPRI's Conference website: <http://2020Conference.ifpri.info/>. This site was most heavily visited just prior to the Conference and during the month of the Conference itself. The site had 5,995 visitors in January 2011, then 10,738 in February 2011, and then down to 3,319 in March 2011, the month following the Conference. As of July 2012, the site was still receiving more than 600 visitors a month, and had registered a total number of 45,551 cumulative visits. More than 40 percent of visitors came to the site multiple times. Google Analytics reveals that the most visitors were located in the United States (15,926 total visits), and the second largest number in India (6,133). Yet significant numbers of visitors came from African countries such as Kenya (852), Nigeria (517), and Uganda (454). Seven of the top 10 visiting countries were English speaking.⁴

One important function of the website was the dissemination of Conference documents. The core documents that were presented in printed form at the Conference were 8 Conference Papers (300 copies of each distributed) and 21 Conference Briefs (1,500 copies of each distributed), but following the Conference these documents were available only from the Conference website.⁵ After the Conference up until August 2012, the website received 23,929 hits for the Papers and 25,477 hits for the Briefs. Following the Conference, 1,640 print copies of a 20-page highlights brief were distributed through mass mailing and at Conferences, while hits to the website provided an added 1,819 viewings of this document.

The most comprehensive post-Conference document was a 23-chapter book, *Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health*, published by IFPRI in February 2012, on the first anniversary of the Conference. This book, edited by IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, consisted of peer-reviewed revised versions of the "background briefs" originally commissioned for the Conference. This volume was published in hard copy (paperback available from Amazon for \$11), but it was also made available free, through chapter-by-chapter downloads from IFPRI's website. The total print publication distribution was 655, and by August 2012 an additional 699 views or downloads had come from the Internet. In January 2012, a pre-publication overview chapter from this book was distributed both in print (941 copies) and on the web (more than 3,000 total web hits as of August 2012).

The first review of this book appeared in the October 2012 issue of the journal *Food Security*. The author of this review, Jeff Waage from the London International Development Centre, began by offering a significant characterization not of the book, but of the 2020 Conference itself:

⁴ GoogleAnalytics, <http://ifpri.info>, 2020 Conference. August 1, 2010–July 30, 2012.

⁵ To help build interest prior the Conference, IFPRI had also distributed 2,545 print copies of an eight-page information brochure published in December 2010.

On rare occasions, a single scientific gathering becomes a defining, global milestone for a new direction in research and development. This was the case for the Conference in February 2011 in New Delhi entitled “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This meeting brought together over 1000 scientists, development professionals and policy makers to explore what we know about the linkage between agriculture, nutrition and health. There were no scientific advances or breakthroughs reported. Rather, the gathering gradually came to the conclusion that we know surprisingly little about these interactions. Further, it concluded that progress was unlikely to be made without greater collaboration between agricultural, nutrition and health researchers.

The most widely distributed printed publication on the Conference was a separate version of the final chapter of the book, an eight-page summary titled *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health: The Way Forward*, with a total print distribution (including through mass mailings and Conference distributions) of 2,560 copies by August 2012. A final IFPRI publication to emerge from the Conference was a follow-up paper titled “Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Essentials for Non-specialist Development Professionals.”⁶

Assessing the impact of these various Conference publications is a challenge. In the case of mass mail and on-scene distribution of print copies, little presumption can be made regarding actual reader interest or use. In the case of hits or downloads, we can presume at least some intent to scan or use. As of August 2012, the website had received roughly 55,000 such separate Conference document hits or downloads.

In one case the Conference gave a push forward to a separate IFPRI publication developed prior to 2011. In January 2010, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had funded an initiative called Tackling the Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India (TANDI), and the team for this initiative organized a side event at the 2020 Conference to present a series of papers. These papers proved to be of sufficient quality to be accepted as core chapters in a forthcoming IFPRI book on this topic. The TANDI project itself was not an impact of the Conference, as it was launched more than a year before the

⁶ Jody Harris, “Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Essentials for Non-specialist Development Professionals,” May 2011, IFPRI. This paper provided, in one place, a handy primer on Agricultural Essentials (including concepts and definitions, tools and indicators, policies and programs, and key publications in the evidence base), Nutrition essentials, and Health essentials, plus an appendix on measures of hunger and nutrition.

Conference, and two TANDI products published as Discussion Papers in May and June of 2012 actually made no reference to Conference.⁷

Some non-IFPRI publications were at least partially shaped by the 2020 Conference. For example, in the spring of 2011 the Chicago Council on Global Affairs launched an advocacy and study project on “Healthy Agriculture and Non-communicable Diseases.” This effort went forward independent of IFPRI’s 2020 work, but the Chicago Council consulted with IFPRI’s 2020 leadership regarding the cross-sector dimensions of the project, and the Advisory Group to the Chicago Council study contained several individuals who had participated in the 2020 Conference. The study produced by the Chicago Council later in 2011, authored by Rachel Nugent and titled *Bringing Agriculture to the Table: How Agriculture and Food Can Play a Role in Preventing Chronic Disease*, drew on three of the papers commissioned for the 2020 Conference. In September 2011, Dr. Nugent then participated in a policy seminar at IFPRI on “Leveraging Agriculture to Tackle Non-communicable Diseases,” a seminar timed to take place just ahead of a United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and in the course of her remarks described the 2020 Conference, with explicit appreciation, as the beginning of a “third generation” of thinking about agriculture, nutrition, and health (one founded on a much “broader conception” cross-sector linkages).⁸ A review of this policy seminar, written by Zhenya Karelina and Heidi Fritschel, was subsequently published in the December 2011 issue of *Public Health Nutrition*.

Attribution problems arise when reviewing the proliferation of published work on ANH appearing since the 2020 Conference. In April 2012, the United Nations FAO released a preliminary version of a study titled “Guiding Principles for Linking Agriculture and Nutrition,” which was an attempt to summarize the consensus emerging from guidance documents in this area recently published by prominent development institutions.⁹ This study listed 43 relevant agriculture-nutrition “linkage” documents in all, from over two-dozen institutions. A count of these 43 relevant documents revealed 17 were published before the February 2020 Conference, versus 26 published either in the month of the Conference or later.

Some contribution of the 2020 Conference to this growth can be confirmed, since 7 of the 26 FAO-identified documents that were published in February 2011 or later were

⁷ One of these, a May 2012 Discussion Paper titled “Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India,” did reference one policy brief presented in Delhi, but the other, a June 2012 Discussion Paper titled “The Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India: What Do We Know?,” drew primarily on earlier literatures and did not reference any Delhi papers or briefs. See S. Mahendra Dev, “Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India,” IFPRI Discussion Paper 01184, May 2012. Washington, D.C.: IFPRI; and Stuart Gillespie, Jody Harris, and Suneetha Kadiyala, “The Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India: What Do We Know?” IFPRI Discussion Paper 01187, June 2012. Washington, DC: IFPRI.

⁸ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocn--02XuvE&feature=relmfu> (minute 6:30).

⁹ “Guiding Principles for Linking Agriculture and Nutrition: Synthesis from 10 development institutions,” Anna Herforth, consultant to FAO, April 2012, Final Draft for Consultation.

documents that emerged directly from the Delhi Conference itself, including the final report of the Conference.¹⁰ Among the 19 non-IFPRI documents published in February 2011 or later, 4 at least made reference to the 2020 Conference, and 3 of these made multiple references to the 2020 Conference.¹¹

Impacts on Institutions

The institutions IFPRI hoped to reach when designing the 2020 Conference included other institutions engaged in conferencing and research, international donors, governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (including philanthropic foundations), and private corporations. This impact assessment can review only a sampling of the most prominent of these institutions, or those most likely to have been influenced by the Conference.

Reviewing these institutions for impact was done in two-steps. As a first step we looked for post-Conference changes in the actions or behaviors of these institutions that *might* have been a direct or indirect result of the Conference. As a second step we sought evidence linking the change to the 2020 Conference, in some cases finding strong evidence, in other cases finding only weak or ambiguous evidence, and in still other cases no evidence at all. The sources used included document and institutional website searches, post-Conference survey responses, plus more than 3 dozen telephone interviews with individuals inside the institutions in question, conducted in July and August 2012.

A. *Institutions Engaged in Conferencing and Research*

Conferences often inspire or shape other conferences, and so it was with the 2020 Conference in Delhi. In the short term, the 2020 Conference inspired some changes in other conferences already being planned, and in the medium term it led to some entirely new conferencing activities.

Post-Delhi Conferences

Impacts from the 2020 Conference on other conferences include the following:

¹⁰ One of the steps taken in FAO's search methodology had been to gather statements from bilateral, multilateral, or NGO leaders given at the 2020 Conference, further testimonial to the centrality of Conference materials in the growing ANH discourse.

¹¹ Bioversity International's "Resilient Food and Nutrition Systems: Analyzing the role of agricultural biodiversity in enhancing human nutrition and health" made one reference; ACF International (Action Against Hunger) produced "Maximizing the Nutritional Impact of Food Security and Livelihoods Interventions: A Manual for Field Workers" (Geraldine Le Cuziat and Hanna Mattinen, July 2011), which made three references to Delhi; Save the Children, UK, produced "A Life Free from Hunger: Chapter 4: Harnessing the Potential of Agriculture to Tackle Malnutrition" (2012), which made three references to Delhi; and CGIAR produced "CRP4: Agriculture for Improved Health and Nutrition" (2011), which made six references to Delhi. These counts were based on an electronic word search of all documents. Separate searches were undertaken for the words "IFPRI," "food policy," "2020," "Delhi," and "leveraging," followed in each case by an inspection of any findings (both in the text and the bibliography) for any mention of the Delhi Conference.

May 2011, Berlin

A Consultation on post-2015 drinking-water and sanitation targets and indicators in Berlin in May 2011, organized by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program, was reshaped with the format of the IFPRI Conference in mind, to help stimulate debate and intensify interactions between participants. Following this consultation the 64th World Health Assembly adopted a new Resolution on Water, Sanitation, and Health based in part on inputs from a WHO official who had attended the Delhi Conference, with several 2020-like cross-sector themes, including an agricultural dimension.

June 2011, Brussels

In June 2011, IFPRI and the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) co-sponsored a half-day briefing in Brussels on “Addressing ACP Nutrition Security,” to reaffirm the importance of agriculture/nutrition linkages. With more than 200 policy experts and stakeholders present, a number of speakers who had earlier presented at the 2020 Conference repeated the message, this time to a Brussels-based audience. A July 2011 CTA Policy Brief summarized this meeting and listed three documents from the 2020 Conference as further reading.¹² On the following day in Belgium, HarvestPlus conducted a consultation with European donors on “Reducing Malnutrition through Micronutrient-Rich Crops.”

October 2011, Des Moines

In October 2011, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and IFPRI co-sponsored the event, “Connecting the Dots: How Agriculture Can Contribute to Global Health,” in conjunction with the World Food Prize Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa. Representatives from IFPRI, CIP, and the university community shared results from the 2020 Conference plus views on biofortification and the status of cross-sector work within the CGIAR and beyond.

November 2011, Dakar

One attendee at the 2020 Conference, a senior food and nutrition security adviser to the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), then borrowed from the cross-sector structure of the Delhi Conference to help frame a subsequent conference she hosted in Dakar, Senegal, in November 2011. This was a “West Africa Regional CAADP Nutrition Programme Development Workshop,” co-hosted by NEPAD and ECOWAS, supported financially by USAID and the World Bank.

This conference was designed to strengthen the nutrition component of the CAADP Country Investment Plans (CIPs) in the region, and also to help regional member country governments integrate nutrition objectives into their respective National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs). Roughly 180 government officials participated, from 17 governments from the region. Each government was represented by a senior team (at the level of directors and technical officers) from a broad variety of

¹² Charlie Pye-Smith, <http://brusselsbriefings.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/no-3-improving-nutrition-in-acp-countries.pdf>.

ministries, including agriculture, health, education, planning, and even finance. After hearing presentations from experts representing different international institutions (including IFPRI), these country teams sat together to discuss how best to incorporate nutrition objectives into their respective country investment plans. Some participants commented that this was the first time they had crossed ministerial boundaries to hold discussions of this kind. Other participants commented on how remarkable it was to hear finance ministry officials actually thinking and talking about nutrition policy.

Although the multi-sector nature of this conference was inspired by the 2020 Conference, many of the materials at the conference emerged from the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, and from FAO and WHO efforts to prepare for ICN+20. Materials and briefs from the 2020 Conference were available to support the discussions at this meeting in Dakar, but the focus was on specific country plans rather than on research results or analytic abstractions. The quality of the documents that emerged from the meeting was not particularly high, but the cross-ministerial relationships and conversations, and in particular the engagement of finance ministries, provided much to build on, since the final goal was not just to include more nutrition language in national plans but to secure more national budget support as well. As a follow-up to this West African workshop, NEPAD began planning a similar meeting among the Eastern and Central African countries in Dar es Salaam in November 2012. The structure of this meeting was again to be built on cross-ministerial country teams looking for ways to integrate nutrition into national plans.

A senior food and nutrition security adviser to NEPAD who conceived these conferences had been an adviser to IFPRI planners for the 2020 Conference, and had been a visible participant in the Conference itself. This person asserted that she still “moves around carrying pamphlets from the Delhi meeting,” which she found useful for convincing both politicians and technocrats of the importance of nutrition, and of integrating ANH policy work. She was also extending these 2020 Conference materials on nexus thinking into more traditional nutrition policy settings, for example in a presentation to a SUN meeting for East African countries in Nairobi, in May 2012.

This individual has also reported the heavy use of 2020 Conference materials in composing the official note for the October 2011 commemoration of “African Food and Nutrition Security Day,” an African Union initiative since 2010 that specifies commemoration activities in all member states.

November 2011, Bonn

The 2020 Conference inspired other kinds of “tri-sector” meetings as well. The German government (ministry of economic development and cooperation, and ministry of environment) had planned to host a November 2011 conference in Bonn on “The Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus,” as part of its run up to the “Rio2012” conference. IFPRI, on the strength of its Delhi meeting, was asked to serve as a strategic partner for this November 2011 conference. Tri-sector conferences of the Delhi kind are now being referred to as “nexus conferences.” The German organizers of the water, energy, and food security conference told IFPRI they were planning the consultation “having witnessed

your impressive and successful conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health.”

June 2012, New Delhi

In June 2012, the McGill World Platform for Health and Economic Convergence (MWP) and the International Network for Clinical Epidemiology Trust International (the INCLEN Trust International) hosted a two-and-a-half-day high-level workshop in New Delhi, titled “Paths to Convergence for Agriculture, Health, and Wealth.” The links to the 2020 Conference are only indirect, as this event was supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and it built largely upon the research and development agenda of the CGIAR’s new comprehensive research program on agriculture, nutrition, and health (A4NH).

LCIRAH

Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) is a University of London research consortium, chaired by an active and effective advocate for conducting policy-relevant basic research, including metrics development, at the intersection of agriculture and health. Since 2010, with support from DFID, LCIRAH has been active in pushing the CGIAR to take this same approach, so it was natural that IFPRI would partner closely with LCIRAH while planning and convening the 2020 Conference.

Even before the Conference in Delhi convened, IFPRI had planned a follow-up conference with LCIRAH, a workshop on “Measuring Effects of Agri-Health Interventions” in London on May 12–13, 2011. This technical meeting brought together agriculture and health specialists to develop common tools, methods, and metrics for evaluating “agri-health” interventions. Roughly 100 international experts—academics and practitioners from multiple countries—participated in the two-day workshop, including many who had previously participated in the 2020 Conference.

The Chair of LCIRAH, who is also Director of the London International Development Centre (LIDC), later said this 2011 workshop was “an important step towards developing a common language, shared tools, and overcoming a range of institutional and cultural barriers.”

As an important move toward institutionalizing this kind of research collaboration, LCIRAH next took the step of creating an ongoing university-based network working at the intersection of agriculture and health. The Chair had first called for such a network in July 2010 at a CGIAR workshop in Addis (a workshop to create an agriculture/nutrition

research program within the CG system. The Chair then used the 2020 Conference to make public this plea for a network, and learned that others shared his opinion.¹³

With encouragement from an IFPRI researcher, the LCIRAH Chair then went ahead in March 2011 to solicit commitments to develop a new international University Network on Interdisciplinary Research in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health. In the Chair's vision, this network would promote cross-sector training as well as research. By July 2011, ten universities with ongoing ANH initiatives had responded that they would like to participate in such a network.¹⁴ The plan was to use LCIRAH as the network hub, and to publish a Newsletter of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health, to which each institutional partner on the Network would contribute. The Newsletter plan was slow to materialize, as IFPRI itself was asked to manage the process but declined. Yet LCIRAH, with DFID support, has continued to grow as an international hub for ANH research activities, including more regular international conferencing activities.

For example, as follow-on to its May 2011 workshop with IFPRI, LCIRAH held another workshop in London in June 2012. This time LCIRAH partnered with USAID's Global Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (N-CRSP). The workshop's purpose was to find ways to use a selected set of actual ANH projects as material for a structured, case-study exercise.¹⁵ Immediately following this workshop, LCIRAH then convened in London a second annual conference on "The Role of Agricultural and Food Systems Research in Combating Chronic Disease for Development," featuring two senior IFPRI researchers and a former IFPRI director general as speakers. The purpose of this workshop was to "think about upstream solutions" to non-communicable diseases in developing countries, for example restructuring agricultural policy to encourage production of healthier crop mixes.

¹³ One individual he met in Delhi was a physician and Associate Dean of Public Health at Des Moines University, who had already created something of a model for such a network, a "Heartland Global Health Consortium" within the state of Iowa. This individual had come to Delhi following conversations with the Iowa seed company Pioneer, about funding village-level work in Tanzania using a multi-sector ANH approach. He was then inspired by the Delhi Conference to draft a new proposal to Pioneer to create an agriculture/nutrition/health center at Des Moines University that would combine research in child and maternal health (heavy emphasis on maternal anemia, and zinc and Vitamin A deficiency, with demonstration projects in agricultural villages in Africa. The envisioned Des Moines Center would include degree programs (Masters in Health Administration and Masters in Public Health) and it would link to eight other Iowa colleges and universities through a "Heartland Global Health Consortium." As of July 2012, this proposal had been favorably received by Pioneer, and was awaiting approval by Pioneer's parent company, DuPont.

¹⁴ These were Des Moines University, University of Stellenbosch, Cornell University, University of Copenhagen, University of Pretoria, University of La Paz, Columbia University, University of Ghana, and Makerere University.

¹⁵ "Integrating Agriculture and Nutrition Actions to Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition: Research on Program Impact Pathways," Report of an LCIRAH/N-CRSP workshop, June 28–29, London, www.lcirah.ac.uk.

These 2012 workshop and conference activities at LCIRAH confirm that ANH issues have become an institutionalized concern in the wider research community. The 2020 Conference was an important direct and an indirect contributor to this success.

CGIAR

The 2020 Conference also produced impacts within the international agricultural research community, including within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The strongest apparent impact, based on chronology alone, was a post-Conference creation within the CGIAR of a new research program on agriculture, nutrition, and health.

Three months after the 2020 Conference, on May 19, 2011, the Consortium Board of CGIAR formally approved CGIAR Research Programme 4 (CRP4), entitled “Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, which was designed to connect the CGIAR system with partners in the nutrition and health communities at an unprecedented scale.¹⁶ The CGIAR Fund Council approved CRP4 at the end of December, 2011, and the Program itself was launched January 1, 2012, headed by a program director housed at IFPRI. Later in 2012 this new research program was re-titled “Agriculture for Nutrition and Health” (A4NH).

Despite this chronology, the 2020 Conference can take only partial credit for the launch of A4NH. A formal effort had been underway within the CGIAR since 2004–05 to develop new research programs around cross-cutting issues including specifically “nutrition and health,” and this effort was reinforced in a new CGIAR Vision that emerged from the reform process in 2007–08. Moreover, the original concept note for CRP4, drafted by IFPRI and ILRI, was submitted in May 2010, ten months before the 2020 Conference. Planning for the meeting in Delhi was already underway within IFPRI in May 2010, but those planning the Conference at IFPRI and those drafting the concept note were from different offices.

The next step in developing CRP4 had been a workshop among stakeholders from multiple Centers in July 2010, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At this workshop IFPRI and ILRI, plus other interested researchers including as Jeff Waage of the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH), made a decisive push for a CG research program on ANH, and in September 2010 IFPRI and ILRI submitted a CRP4 research proposal to the CGIAR Consortium Board.¹⁷ The Board then requested

¹⁶ “Consortium Board approval letter for CRP4, “Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health,” Consortium Office, Montpellier, May 19, 2011.

¹⁷ *CGIAR Research Program 4: Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health*, A proposal submitted to the CGIAR Consortium Board by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on behalf of Bioversity International, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Potato Center (CIP), International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and WorldFish Center, September 10, 2010.

modifications in the proposal, pushing off a final approval off until May 2011, yet by September 2010 it was nearly certain that approval would come sooner or later, with or without the 2020 Conference.

Nonetheless, the 2020 Conference played an important role. There had not been universal enthusiasm within the CGIAR for adding the CRP4 concept, and the success of the 2020 Conference helped create a stronger consensus within the CGIAR research community, including within the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC), that a new research program linking farming to nutrition was fully justified. Moreover, when IFPRI and ILRI submitted their revised proposal for CRP4 in 2011, the text not only contained all the key themes explored at the 2020 Conference (nutritional health burdens and benefits from various agricultural interventions, biofortified foods, and making nutrient rich foods affordable for the poor and accessible to them), it also gave explicit acknowledgement to the role of the 2020 Conference in building a supportive consensus for CRP4:

A recent IFPRI 2020 Conference in New Delhi, “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” brought together about 1,000 stakeholders to examine how agriculture could be energized to become a more powerful tool to tackle the persistent problems of food insecurity, malnutrition, and poor health. Building on the momentum created by those discussions, the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (CRP4) is designed to fill the existing gap between agricultural development and its unfulfilled health and nutritional benefits.¹⁸

In more general terms, the contribution of the 2020 Conference to CRP4 was to transform a narrow planning process among CGIAR insiders into a broader and more public conversation with multiple researchers and stakeholders. The Conference provided, especially for the donor community, a touchstone event for understanding, explaining, and maintaining focus on the ANH policy nexus. Moreover, materials presented at the Conference convinced donors that effective work at this nexus required more than just scaling up what was already being done; to expand our understanding of what must be done, a larger ANH research effort of the kind envisioned within CRP4 would also be fundamentally important. As a secondary matter, the 2020 Conference also played a role in determining that CRP4 (now A4NH) would in the end be headquartered at IFPRI, rather than at (or shared with) another CGIAR center. Influential CGIAR Consortium Board members attended the 2020 Conference where they witnessed IFPRI’s leadership capacity on ANH issues, which favored the subsequent decision to direct A4NH from IFPRI.

HarvestPlus biofortification efforts will be an important part of A4NH, and the 2020 Conference was also a major success in building donor support for this approach.

¹⁸ *Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health: Executive Summary*, CGIAR Research Program 4, Proposal submitted by the International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2011, www.ifpri.org.

Biofortification was publicly endorsed at the Conference by the President of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates had been a long-term funder of HarvestPlus) and also by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In its 2011 Annual Report, HarvestPlus explicitly credited the 2020 Conference with building momentum not only for a new grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), to be described below, but also for a June 2011 meeting in Brussels with European donors, co-convened with DFID, which led to increased DFID support as well (also described below).¹⁹

B. Donor Institutions

G8

International food security issues were originally pushed onto the agenda of Intergovernmental groups such as the G8 and the G20 not by any international conference, but instead by the dramatic food price spikes of 2008 and 2010. In the G8, the first move came at a 2009 meeting of the heads of government in L'Aquila, Italy, where the United States government took a lead in calling for a three-year pledge of significantly increased international assistance for agricultural development and food security. The resulting L'Aquila Pledge was then followed by a parallel initiative at the June 2010 G8 meeting of heads of government in Toronto, Canada: a Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health. All this took place well before the 2020 Conference.

In the 18 months since the 2020 Conference, the G8 has continued to focus on both agriculture and nutrition, and just prior to the G8 heads of government meeting at Camp David in the spring of 2012, the G8 Foreign Ministers explicitly linked these two concerns together:

“Donor and partner government investments in agricultural development have proven to be one of the most effective means to promote broad-based economic growth, especially when they are nutrition-sensitive and target smallholder farmers and women.”²⁰

Just prior to this same Camp David meeting, President Obama also announced a new G8 initiative called “New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.” This was a pledged \$3 billion commitment to public-private partnerships developed by a Grow Africa Partnership between the African Union, NEPAD, and the World Economic Forum.²¹ The goal was to promote agricultural growth and lift 50 million Africans out of poverty, to support SUN, and also to leverage agriculture for nutrition directly through “the

¹⁹ *Breaking Ground*, HarvestPlus Annual Report 2011, p. 19.

²⁰ G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting Statement on Food Security and Agriculture.

²¹ World Economic Forum, “U.S. President Announces Multi-billion Dollar Investments for African Agriculture as Part of an Initiative Developed in Collaboration with the World Economic Forum,” News Release, 18 May, 2012, <http://www.growafrica.com>.

accelerated release, adoption, and consumption of biofortified crop varieties, crop diversification, and related technologies to improve nutritional quality of food in Africa.”²² All were themes earlier stressed at the 2020 Conference. Immediately following this G8 summit in 2012, the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, convened three expert panels to discuss biofortified crops, which moved this ANH technique further into the mainstream.

In fact, none of these important G8 actions in 2012 can be traced back to the 2020 Conference. These actions emerged from a high-level pre-summit consultation process among G8 governments, and multiple organizations and advocacy groups made explicit efforts to influence this process (including the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, which hosted the Symposium at which President Obama announced the New Alliance), but none of these outside influence efforts made use of 2020 Conference materials, and none was successful in any case.²³

The 2012 New Alliance Initiative emerged instead from within USAID, where Administrator Raj Shah saw a need to bring more private-sector money into agricultural development (as he had stated earlier, speaking to the World Economic Forum in January of that year). USAID had earlier taken an interest in WEF’s New Vision Initiative, and its young “Grow Africa” partnership, established in 2011 between WEF, the African Union, NEPAD. WEF’s agricultural work had been moving out from Davos to various country-level initiatives in Africa (especially in Tanzania), where African governments also wanted more private-sector participation in the agricultural development process. Seeing this WEF work as a chance to bring both private-sector money and African governments to the table, USAID pushed to make it the new agricultural centerpiece within the G8, as a follow-up to the L’Aquila Pledge initiative. The 2020 Conference can claim no direct influence on this outcome. The 2020 Conference in Delhi may have had some indirect influence through WEF, however; as will be explained below, the 2020 Conference helped strengthen the ANH mindset within WEF.

G20 and World Bank

At a June 2012 G20 meeting in Mexico, five donor governments (Britain, Canada, United States, Italy, and Australia, plus the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) announced support for a new AgResults fund of up to US\$100 million, to be administered by the World Bank, initially to launch three pilot projects: one designed to bring improved crop storage to Kenya, a second to help Zambian farmers grow maize varieties rich in vitamin A, and a third to reduce contamination of maize crops in Nigeria

²² The White House, May 18, 2012, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/18/fact-sheet-g-8-action-food-security-and-nutrition>.

²³ The Chicago Council’s March 7, 2012 White Paper made no reference to IFPRI or to the Delhi Conference Chicago Council on Global Affairs, “G8 Agricultural Development Working Group Proposal: U.S. Leadership in Global Agricultural Development and Food Security,” White Paper prepared for the U.S. government in advance of the G8 Summit 2012, March 7, 2012.

by aflatoxin fungus, a potent carcinogen.²⁴ These three projects nicely mirror the 2020 Conference vision of leveraging agriculture not only to improve food security and income for the poor, but also nutrition and health. Can these more integrated approaches taken by donors within the G20 be linked in any way back to the 2020 Conference?

In the case of the AgResults fund, direct impacts from the Delhi Conference cannot be found. According to Britain's International Development Minister Andrew Mitchell, the idea for AgResults emerged instead from a June 2010 meeting of the G8 in Toronto, Canada, the year before the 2020 Conference.

Other recent developments within the World Bank can be directly linked to the 2020 Conference, however. One of these is a new SecureNutrition Knowledge Platform sponsored by the World Bank's Knowledge and Learning Council. SecureNutrition seeks to bridge operational knowledge gaps between agriculture, food security, and nutrition by offering a space—both virtual and physical—to exchange experiences, disseminate information, and ultimately increase coordination, collaboration, and the co-generation of knowledge.²⁵ One of six World Bank Knowledge Platforms, SecureNutrition lists among its objectives themes that parallel the goals of the 2020 Conference.²⁶ The platform posts a video covering the Conference and also the IFPRI book that emerged from the Conference. SecureNutrition also uses information from Conference briefs when presenting its own “Background and Rationale.”²⁷

In fact, the proposal to create this platform was submitted in 2011 by a World Bank official who conceived of the idea after attending the 2020 Conference. The Bank decided to fund the proposal in September 2011, for a period of three years with a total budget of US\$1.5 million. SecureNutrition is already a widely networked initiative, because it crosses institutional boundaries inside the Bank. It is administered jointly by three Bank Vice Presidencies—Agriculture and Rural Development, Human Development, and Poverty Reduction and Economic Management—with support and participation from a number of governmental and nongovernmental partners, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, World Food Programme, IFPRI, HarvestPlus, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Concern Worldwide, Bread for the World, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Knowledge Services, Save the Children, and University of Pretoria. In its first ten days of monitoring use, in July 2012, SecureNutrition attracted 93 visitors.

²⁴ Megan Rowling, “Fund aims to put new technology in poor farmers’ hands”, Tue, 19 Jun 2012 17:49 GMT, Alertnet.

²⁵ <https://www.securenutritionplatform.org/Pages/FAQs.aspx>.

²⁶ For example, SecureNutrition's second focus theme will be, “How can we deliver interventions through the agriculture sector that will have positive impacts on nutrition? How can we minimize possible negative impacts that agriculture interventions may have on nutrition?”
<https://www.securenutritionplatform.org/Pages/AboutVision.aspx>.

²⁷ www.securenutritionplatform.org, “SecureNutrition: Linking Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition,” L.Elder_SecureNutritionMay%2017.pdf.

SecureNutrition operates in parallel with another electronic community, the Agriculture to Nutrition (Ag2Nut) Community of Practice, a forum created in the summer of 2010 prior to the 2020 Conference. By mid-2011, Ag2Nut had 150 registered members and was managed by the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). When forming SecureNutrition, the World Bank first looked for ways to merge its efforts with Ag2Nut, but the two communities remained distinct, although with overlapping memberships and frequent cross-postings.

USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was well represented at the 2020 Conference, with 45 staff in attendance led by Ambassador William Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator of USAID's Feed the Future initiative. The Obama Administration's 2009 Feed the Future initiative had been mindful from the start of the need to integrate agriculture with nutrition. In 2010, one year before the 2020 Conference, the Agency had already taken at least three important steps in the nutrition area: A five-year \$15 million Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP), to explore agriculture-based strategies for improving nutrition and health;²⁸ a Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance (GINA); and, most importantly, a commitment to support the multi-donor Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework, which focused specifically on malnutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. SUN was personally endorsed by USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah in April 2010, and then in September 2010 by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. At a UN General Assembly session in September 2010, USAID and Irish Aid teamed up as co-promoters of SUN. All this took place before the 2020 Conference.

The central impact of the Conference, then, was to give the USAID Administrator and top leaders a fresh opportunity to remind the somewhat separate bureaus within the Agency (Food Security, and Global Health) of the need to think cooperatively across sectors, and to program agricultural projects with nutrition outcomes in mind. USAID had been adding new staff in both agriculture and health, and it also used the 2020 Conference as a training opportunity. Half the USAID delegation came from the agriculture side, and half from the health side.²⁹

²⁸ The CRSP sponsors research that "focuses on the population-level effectiveness of all kinds of interventions, including particularly the integration of agriculture, health, and nutrition programs...." See <http://nutritioncrsp.org/>. In May, 2011, the Nutrition CRSP-Asia invited proposals for grants (up to \$250,000 each) to support integrated food security and nutrition programming in Nepal.

²⁹ Following the Conference, USAID also sent documents and briefs from Delhi to be used as training materials to six new junior staff recently sent to the field. One USAID official who had been promoting cross-sector work within the agency for several years expressed appreciation for IFPRI's strong expression of this approach; immediately following the IFPRI Conference, she said, her staff became more willing to meet together across sectors and program in a coordinated manner.

At the time of the Conference, USAID officials testified to its significance. On the USAID Blog on February 14, 2011, Kimberly Flowers remarked about the landmark quality of the Conference:

*Sometimes bringing together nearly a thousand development leaders and experts from around the world around an issue can spark a global movement. Last week, I participated in a conference hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in New Delhi, India, that was designed to leverage agriculture for nutrition and health. It was more than just a series of workshops and side meetings that merged experts from seemingly disparate fields. I believe it brought life to an already growing momentum. This energy change comes at a crucial time when food security couldn't be more critical in an increasingly interconnected world.*³⁰

Following the 2020 Conference, moreover, USAID leadership began promoting nutrition and agriculture even more clearly as a joint concern. In March 2011, Administrator Shah drafted a message to his field staff that first reminded them of the importance of the SUN initiative, but he then included a strong endorsement of the 2020 Conference:

*In February, many of USAID's food security and nutrition staff participated in the "Leveraging Agriculture to Improve Nutrition and Health" conference hosted by IFPRI in New Delhi, India. This important conference provided an opportunity to bring agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors together to unleash the potential of agriculture—as a supplier of food, as a source of income, and as an engine of growth—to sustainably reduce under nutrition and ill health for the world's most vulnerable people. Secretary Clinton provided opening remarks through video and continues to lend her strong support to the global nutrition agenda. Ambassador William Garvelink led the US Delegation to New Delhi, which included several SUN side sessions and country commitments to SUN.*³¹

One of the strongest impacts of the 2020 Conference on USAID—and through USAID on other donors—is just now emerging in the area of best practices for monitoring and evaluation. Within USAID's newly created Bureau of Food Security an energetic effort had been underway since September 2009 to develop a "Results Framework" for agricultural development assistance (through the Feed the Future initiative) that included nutrition as well as agriculture indicators.³² Much of the thinking for this framework was

³⁰ Kimberly Flowers, "Making Critical Connections: Agriculture, Nutrition, Health," Posted by Blog Administrator, USAID, February 14, 2011, <http://blog.usaid.gov>.

³¹ Administrator Shah specifically encouraged USAID's field staff to explore three of the papers presented at the Delhi Conference: one on value chains and nutrition, a second on nutrition-sensitive growth, and the third on homestead food production and nutrition education. His message also provided them with a link to the Delhi Conference website.

³² This explicit integration of nutrition indicators into monitoring and evaluation within the Bureau of Food Security at USAID needs to be exported to other bureaus within USAID, such as Food for Peace.

imported from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), but those who brought the framework to USAID cite the 2020 Conference in Delhi as a touchstone event for justifying the more integrated theory of change that lay behind the approach. At the Conference, USAID shared a “Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool” from its Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project (IYCN), designed to help agricultural project designers achieve improved nutrition outcomes. More recently USAID began sharing this approach with other donors in the form of a “learning agenda” for discovering and then scaling up the most effective practices, including those that bridge the agriculture/nutrition divide. USAID’s learning agenda has now been shared with DFID, FAO, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), IFPRI, and others.³³

Encouraging the emergence of this sort of “learning agenda” might seem a modest impact for the Delhi Conference, yet it is exactly appropriate to IFPRI’s own mission as a research institute. More than one donor organization came away from the 2020 Conference reminded of the additional research that will be needed before taking some ANH programs to scale.

USAID’s work at the ANH nexus continued to expand following the 2020 Conference, but much of this growth would have taken place without the Conference. For example, in May 2011, USAID posted the terms of a new \$35 million 2011–16 grants to scale up nutrition programs and services in Tanzania, including efforts to ensure that extension services in health, agriculture, and community development all include a nutrition component.³⁴ This activity emerged from USAID’s participation in the SUN initiative, not the 2020 Conference. Then in September 2011, USAID announced a new five-year cooperative agreement named FANTA III (Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III), the continuation of a longstanding technical assistance program to improve and strengthen nutrition and food security policies and programs in many countries in the developing world. The 2020 Conference had little or no impact on this extension of the FANTA program, which had long promoted cross-sector work. FANTA works primarily on maternal and child health and nutrition, in both development and emergency contexts, and also in contexts with HIV and other infectious diseases. Some USAID officials responsible for FANTA attended the 2020 Conference, and deeply appreciated the wide sharing of information regarding cross-sector work, and the high-level endorsement of cross-sector thinking, but they found little on the scientific or technical side that was new. Attending the Conference did, however, give these officials new leverage in their efforts to promote nutrition programs within USAID.

In September 2011, USAID/Ethiopia announced an initiative—an Innovation Fund for Ethiopian Agriculture—to diversify Ethiopia’s agricultural production and markets with

³³See USAID, “Draft Food Security Learning Agenda of M&E Partners,” July 25, 2012. This explicit integration of nutrition indicators into monitoring and evaluation should also be used more widely within USAID, for example by Food For Peace (FFP) food aid program administrators beyond the Bureau of Food Security.

³⁴ <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=93453&mode=VIEW>.

specific emphasis on improving nutritional outcomes for rural populations.³⁵ This \$12 million program was one part of a significant expansion of USAID agricultural work in Ethiopia that had been underway long before the 2020 Conference. Direct Conference influence is also hard to find on a March 2012 USAID announcement of a \$5 million grant program for Innovations in Gender Equality to Promote Household Food Security. This program was intended to increase women's leadership in the agriculture sector and to, among other things, enhance nutritional outcomes for women and children.³⁶ Programs of this kind would almost certainly have been undertaken by USAID without the 2020 Conference, but the Conference did allow them to be undertaken with greater ease and with wider support inside the Agency.

DFID

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) was a key supporter of the 2020 Conference. DFID was a Conference sponsor, and DFID's Senior Food Security and Agriculture Advisor in India served as a member of IFPRI's advisory committee for the Conference. A half-dozen DFID officials attended the Conference, including a significant number from headquarters, plus several from the South Asia region. DFID clearly had strong impacts on the Conference, but did the Conference have any impacts on DFID?

DFID officials report that before the 2020 Conference they knew they wanted to develop more grant making in the area of agriculture and nutrition, but they were unsure of what a complete program might include. Prior to the Conference, DFID had already invested in the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI), a multi-donor trust fund conceived in 2008 as a joint undertaking by DFID and the World Bank, later joined by AusAID.³⁷ DFID took opportunistic advantage of the South Asia venue of the 2020 Conference to conduct meetings on SAFANSI, and to host a knowledge-sharing booth and a panel discussion around this project. Moreover, at the Conference a SAFANSI administrator from the World Bank made contact with a private-sector analyst from the firm of Booz/Allen/Hamilton, leading to a mutually useful collaboration on data and modeling methods to fill knowledge gaps. In a subsequent joint presentation, these two organizations began by saying they "have IFPRI and the New Delhi Conference to thank for bringing the two groups together."³⁸

DFID was also planning several other projects on ANH prior to the 2020 Conference,

³⁵ <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=123573&mode=VIEW>.

³⁶ <http://www.grants.gov/search/download/>.

³⁷ The World Bank serves as Trustee and Administrator of the fund and is responsible for program development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation as well as overall program management, assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)—comprising experts from each of the region's countries—which provides guidance and advice to help the program achieve its strategic goals.

³⁸ "Linking Nutritional Outcomes to Adequacies of Food, Health and Care. John Newman, World Bank, and Patrick Johnson, Booz/Allen/Hamilton. SAFANSI, 2012.

including a new program eventually to be named “Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia” (LANSA), a name that clearly suggests close links to the 2020 Conference.³⁹ The funding proposal for LANSAs came from the Chair of LCIRAH, and the proposal was officially accepted on March 1, 2011, only a few weeks after the 2020 Conference. LANSAs is now underway in four countries in the region—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan—and is budgeted at £7.5 million during a six-year period.⁴⁰ DFID’s official “business plan” for the LANSAs project invokes the 2020 Conference as an important point of reference:

*IFPRI’s global conference in February 2011 on “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health” is the most recent overall assessment of the current state of evidence on the topic of agriculture and nutrition. The post-conference summary states that “The idea that development activities can exploit the links among agriculture, nutrition, and health still suffers from a weak evidence base. There is still little understanding of precisely how agriculture affects nutrition and health, and filling this knowledge gap would be of real value for decision makers trying to design the most effective programs and policies.”*⁴¹

DFID had also committed to the SUN Movement prior to the meeting in Delhi, but important themes from the 2020 Conference later made their way into a September 2011 DFID position paper on “Scaling Up Nutrition.”⁴² DFID had also commissioned an important Systematic Analysis of what was known about the link between agricultural productivity and improved nutrition prior to the 2020 Conference. This meta-study confirmed there were few rigorous studies testing this link, a research gap that was discussed at the 2020 Conference, but the study itself was not formally published until later in 2011.⁴³

Following the 2020 Conference, the DFID officials who had attended returned home, met together, and produced a joint after-meeting report—one that became a virtual work-plan for ramping up ANH work within the organization. This plan set out several different channels for action, beginning with capacity building on ANH inside DFID, including an internal speaker series on agriculture and nutrition, plus a distance-learning course based

³⁹ <http://www.lcirah.ac.uk/node/19>.

⁴⁰ LANSAs held its inaugural meeting in Chennai, India, March 19-20, 2012, facilitated by LCIRAH.

⁴¹ <http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/project.aspx?Project=202042>.

⁴² This paper cited a Delhi Conference document and then asserted: “A successful response to under-nutrition requires a range of policies and programs across several sectors: collective action bound by a common goal. Nutrition is the business of neither the health sector nor the agriculture sector: it is the responsibility of both but also involves tackling poverty, gender inequality, improving trade and markets, budget allocation and planning and much more besides.” See <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/scal-up-nutr-uk-pos-undernutr.pdf>.

⁴³ Edoardo Masset, Lawrence Haddad, Alex Cornelius, and Jairo Isaza-Castro (2011), *A systematic review of agricultural interventions that aim to improve nutritional status of children*. EPPI-Centre, University of London, May.

heavily on 2020 materials. DFID also added staff on agriculture and nutrition, adding a Senior Research Fellow in nutrition in January 2012. A second channel of effort was data, indicators, and evidence—where considerable work was already underway. A third thrust was a review of opportunities for DFID to use bilateral funding to support ANH research. Here, the high profile given to biofortification at the 2020 Conference strengthened DFID’s support for HarvestPlus.

Following Delhi, DFID agreed to co-convene with HarvestPlus a meeting of European stakeholders in Brussels in June 2011, sending half of dozen of its own representatives to this meeting. HarvestPlus would have held this meeting even without the 2020 Conference, but donor interest in biofortification had increased significantly thanks to the meeting in Delhi. Following the Brussels meeting, at the UN High Level Meeting on Nutrition in September 2011, the UK Secretary of State announced significant additional DFID funding for HarvestPlus. DFID had been donating \$3 million a year to HarvestPlus, but by the end of 2011 it committed to a new grant of \$15 million.⁴⁴ This important funding increase was also influenced directly by the views of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, but in part it can be traced back through the June 2011 Brussels meeting to DFID’s engagement in the 2020 Conference.

Looking to the future, DFID is now planning significant new funding for ANH research, including as much as \$30 million outside the CGIAR system. To shape this work, DFID asked its newly appointed senior research fellow in nutrition to commission a “gap analysis of research at the interface of agriculture, nutrition and health, relevant to international development being undertaken over the next 5 years, based on a rapid but detailed mapping exercise of major research activities.” This mapping exercise—largely conducted by LCIRAH—was completed on August 1, 2012.⁴⁵ With this work in hand, DFID began preparing to go forward with requests for proposals (RFPs) in the research areas that emerged from the analysis as gaps to be filled, all of which were ANH areas. This gap analysis, which examined 151 different projects, also became an important public document for use by others beyond DFID, including the CGIAR.

DFID’s increased commitment to ANH issues was on full view in August 2012, at a high-profile two-hour “Hunger Event” jointly hosted at Downing Street by British Prime Minister David Cameron plus Brazilian Vice President Michel Temer, on the closing day of the London Olympic Games. Highlighting the international spirit of the Games, Somalia-born British double-gold medalist Mo Farah and Brazilian football legend Pele took part. The first agenda item for this event was a question of “How can we embed links between agriculture and nutrition outcomes?” Officials from the Government of Nigeria, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) all spoke on topics explicitly related to the links between agriculture and nutrition, further evidence for the continuing impact of the

⁴⁴ *Breaking Ground*, HarvestPlus 2011 Annual Report, p. 19.

⁴⁵ Corinna Hawkes, Rachel Turner, and Jeff Waage, “Current and Planned Research on Agriculture for Improved Nutrition: A Mapping and Gap Analysis,” A report to DFID, 1st August 2012.

2020 Conference. This event made strong references to the SUN initiative, but the most important UK commitment had a clear agricultural dimension: increased support for CGIAR research through HarvestPlus on vitamin-enriched crops.

Senior officials within DFID confirm that the 2020 Conference played an important role in stimulating these various moves into deeper ANH work. The 2020 Conference happened at a fortunate time for DFID: Ministerial interest in multi-sector work on nutrition was up, interest in agricultural research was also on an upturn, and the organization had people on the inside ready to lead in the ANH area. DFID drew its strengthening interest in ANH from multiple meetings and consultations, but insiders confirm that the themes of the 2020 Conference became a part of DFID's "institutional psyche," and that "No other conference had the same momentum building effect" inside the organization as did the 2020 meeting in Delhi.

CIDA

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was represented at a high level in Delhi, resulting in a nearly immediate and conspicuous impact. The Vice President of CIDA attended a "donor breakfast" in Delhi, one of a significant number of side events that provided opportunities for intensive small group discussions. At this breakfast meeting, she had the opportunity to receive a briefing on crop biofortification from the head of the HarvestPlus project. CIDA had already extended support to HarvestPlus in 2010, to fulfill part of its L'Aquila Pledge in the G8, and ordinarily CIDA would have waited at least 12 months before providing more support. Yet the briefing in Delhi—plus the availability of some unexpended funds at CIDA—led to an immediate grant to HarvestPlus of an additional \$6–10 million.

CIDA's decision to send senior representatives to the 2020 meeting in Delhi illustrates one of the more useful aspects of the Conference. Donor organizations used senior participation in the Delhi meeting as a means to signal to their staff the importance of working more effectively across sectors. Within CIDA, nutrition programs had traditionally focused on industrial fortification with no reference to agriculture, but under the combined influence of the SUN program and IFPRI's 2020 Conference, this traditional habit of separation by sector began to break down.

GIZ

The German assistance agency, GIZ, has a history of strong work in both agriculture and health, but much less in nutrition, and little in the cross-sector connections among these three. Germany's delegation to the 2020 Conference nonetheless included the deputy director general from the ministry for economic cooperation and development (who chaired a panel) and also the head of Germany's public food agency within the ministry of food and agriculture. This was the first time such senior German officials had travelled to attend an IFPRI meeting, signifying at the outset a strong interest in the Conference. These officials then came away from Delhi impressed with the importance of leveraging agriculture into more effective cross-sector work.

Some European donors, such as the Netherlands, were finding it difficult to allocate more resources to development following the most recent Eurozone crisis, but Germany

enjoyed more room for doing so, and since the 2020 Conference GIZ's overall budget, and also the agricultural share of that budget, have both grown. The 2020 Conference, where the German delegation witnessed the widespread and high-level support others were giving to ANH themes, was one source of influence on this outcome. Budget resources for these themes have grown since 2011, although project implementation has been slowed by constraints on personnel resources both at GIZ and KfW (the German government-owned development bank).

Beyond budget resources, a new culture of cross-sector partnership also spread within GIZ following the 2020 Conference. Agricultural work became less isolated, and those seeking to initiate new projects are now expected to partner with others who have links to different sectors. The nutrition sector remains under-represented, but officials observe that one benefit from the 2020 Conference was to raise awareness regarding this deficit.

Thinking across sectors has also become more commonplace in GIZ beyond the ANH nexus. In fact, following the 2020 Conference, Germany hosted a somewhat similar “nexus” conference in Bonn in November 2011, on “The Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus: Solutions for the Green Economy.” The German government convened this conference, which brought more than 550 people to Bonn to explore better ways to manage policy interconnections between these three sectors.⁴⁶ This was not just an isolated event. In March 2012 Germany then launched a NEXUS Resource Platform on the water, energy, and food security nexus at the 6th World Water Forum, a platform that offers key “nexus documents” from science and policymaking, data and research results, and illustrative case studies that were intended initially to feed into preparations for the Rio+20 Conference.⁴⁷ GIZ launched this nexus work in partnership with WEF, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and also IFPRI.

Officials report that the 2020 Conference was an important source of encouragement to those planning Germany's nexus work in water, energy, and food security by demonstrating that a large multi-sector conference could be a success. Yet planning for the November 2011 Bonn conference was underway well before the 2020 Conference, and it was driven by the environmental community within Germany, a group that had paid little attention to the meeting in Delhi.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is currently among the top five donors providing grants for agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa, and also a top source of public R&D support for this region. The Gates Foundation was a supporting partner for the 2020 Conference and sent a small but high-level delegation to the meeting, including

⁴⁶ Federal Republic of Germany's Federal Ministry for the environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, “The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus: Solutions for the Green Economy, 16-18 November 2011,” Conference Synopsis. Bonn.

⁴⁷ http://www.water-energy-food.org/en/knowledge/topics/view_nexus_resource_platform.html.

its President of the Global Development Program, who had accepted an invitation to give a plenary address.

This senior involvement enhanced attention to ANH issues within the Foundation, and following the Conference in 2011, the Gates Foundation asked its Agricultural Development and Nutrition teams to conduct a review of published and project documents about the linkages between agriculture and nutrition. This review reinforced views within the Foundation that its agricultural development and nutrition programs could be part of a virtuous circle, and it went on to identify several specific focus areas along the value chain for making complementary investments to exploit such complementary benefits. These included biofortification (which the Foundation had been funding since 2004), work with smallholder farmers on animal, dairy, and horticultural projects, looking for ways to reduce mycotoxins in food crops, and also policy and advocacy. When publicizing this new set of approaches in August 2012, the Gates Foundation explicitly mentioned the 2020 Conference as an example of its own work in policy and advocacy.⁴⁸

The 2020 Conference had impacts on the Foundation at several levels. In addition to stimulating the cross-division ANH literature and grant-making review just described, the Conference helped the Foundation in two other ways. Attending the Delhi meeting gave leadership an opportunity to learn more about policy discussions first-hand on the ground in South Asia. Attending the Conference also provided a chance to build stronger personal relationships with DFID, the key non-US donor in the ANH arena.

C. The United Nations System

The United Nations system is a challenging venue for the promotion of cross-sector work between agriculture, nutrition, and health, because the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO) have a long history of institutional separation. The UN has maintained a Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) since 1977, but divergent views within this body regarding inclusion of the private sector discouraged donor support. In 2008 the World Bank initiated its own Global Action Plan (GAP) for scaling up nutrition, but with a public health focus that risked marginalizing agriculture.⁴⁹ Generating impacts within this fragmented United Nations system had not been a primary objective of the 2020 Conference, yet some modest impacts were nonetheless registered.

UN General Assembly

In March 2010, ahead of an anticipated UN General Assembly Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, more than 100 entities met to agree on a “Framework

⁴⁸ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “Connecting Our Work in Nutrition and Agriculture,” August 2012, <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/agriculturaldevelopment/pages/connecting-nutrition-agriculture.aspx>.

⁴⁹ FAO Office of Evaluation, “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Nutrition: Final Report,” Rome, June 2011.

for Scaling Up Nutrition” (SUN) to be presented at the Summit. FAO was not among these organizations, so it was the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition (SRFSN) who was asked to lead a process of developing a Road Map for SUN in time for the September 2010 Summit. This was six months prior to the 2020 Conference.

SUN focused on undernutrition in the earliest stages of a child’s life (the first 1,000 days), so connections between nutrition and agriculture were not originally an explicit focus. At the 2020 Conference in February 2011, IFPRI scheduled side sessions for those participating in the SUN movement, which helped prevent damaging competition between SUN’s “first thousand days” focus and IFPRI’s “leveraging agriculture” focus, and the SRFSN welcomed and participated in the 2020 Conference. Then in September 2011, the UNGA held then another High-Level Meeting to focus on actions to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs); this was separate from the 2010 meeting because NCD prevention had not been a part of the original Millennium Development Goals. The 2020 Conference did become one of several different initiatives feeding into this September 2011 UNGA meeting.

For example, in anticipation of this General Assembly meeting, late in 2010 the Chicago Council on Global Affairs commissioned a report on agriculture, food, nutrition, and the growing threat of diet-related chronic diseases, titled *Bringing Agriculture to the Table*. The September 2011 policy seminar at IFPRI noted above on “Leveraging Agriculture to Tackle Non-communicable Diseases” brought IFPRI and the Chicago Council together in providing input to the UNGA. Yet input is not the same thing as impact, and there is no evidence that the 2020 Conference had significant influence at the UNGA level.

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has traditionally defined its mission around agriculture and food security, with much less attention to nutrition. As recently as 2007, an Independent External Evaluation (IIE) of FAO had not challenged this tradition, and as of 2008–09, FAO headquarters had only 14 individuals working in its small Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division. These people devoted much of their time to food safety and food standards, rather than to nutrition as such, and only a bit more than 1 percent of FAO’s total resources were devoted to nutrition.⁵⁰

FAO began to reconsider this posture well before the 2020 Conference. In May 2010, the FAO Programme Committee decided, given the growing prominence of nutrition issues on the international agenda, to conduct an “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work on Nutrition.” The 2020 Conference took place while this Evaluation was underway, and when FAO’s Office of Evaluation produced its final report in June 2011, it used the example of the 2020 Conference to illustrate FAO’s lagging position in the nutrition area:

⁵⁰ FAO Office of Evaluation, “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Nutrition: Final Report,” Rome, June 2011.

In February 2011, IFPRI convened an International Conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health in New Delhi, India, which was widely attended (including principal UN agencies, donors, governments, and research centres) and opened by the Prime Minister of India. The schedule also include a meeting of the SUN Development Partners. Only two persons from FAO headquarters (AGN and ESA) were authorized to travel to this event and the staff person who provided the only FAO presentation...was financed by the organizers. No-one from FAO senior management (including the Chair of SCN) was able to attend. This reflects to some degree the level of commitment and engagement that the Organization is prepared to make to the international agenda on nutrition on a theme that FAO should normally be driving.⁵¹

This Office of Evaluation report went on to recommend that FAO develop a stronger and more coherent vision in the nutrition area, mainstreaming nutrition into its overall Strategic Framework. In an official “Management Response,” FAO’s leadership noted some of the recommendations of the Evaluation were already being implemented, but endorsed the goal of re-establishing FAO’s global leadership role “for improving nutrition from a food and agricultural perspective.”⁵²

Officials within FAO assert that the prominence and success of the 2020 Conference in February 2011 helped influence this Evaluation process that was already underway within FAO, leading in the end to a stronger position on nutrition within the organization. Several qualifications must nonetheless be emphasized. First, the Evaluation process within FAO was launched before the 2020 Conference, suggesting that by May 2010 the organization had already embraced a need to change. Second, two months before the 2020 Conference, in December 2010, FAO hosted its own international symposium on “Food and Nutrition Security,” as lead-in to a second joint FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition (ICN+20) then expected to take place in Rome in 2012.⁵³ This preparation for the ICN would have strengthened nutrition work inside FAO even without the 2020 Conference. Finally, FAO’s positive internal response to the June 2011 Evaluation report in part reflected the independent appointment of a new Deputy Director-General, who was an individual sympathetic to expanding the nutrition role of the organization, and who was prepared to lead an interdivisional steering committee to implement this nutrition mainstreaming task.

FAO is now continuing to extend its work into the nutrition sphere. In February 2012, FAO’s Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition hosted an online discussion

⁵¹ FAO Office of Evaluation, “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Nutrition: Final Report,” Rome, June 2011.

⁵² Programme Committee, “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Nutrition—Management Response,” Rome, October 2011, p.1.

⁵³ Nutritionists at FAO reached out to IFPRI prior to this symposium, suggesting that it might be a joint FAO/IFPRI effort, but by that time IFPRI’s own plans for the separate 2020 Conference in Delhi were too far along, so IFPRI declined.

facilitated by a FAO Senior Food Security Officer and a visiting fellow from the Centre for Food Policy at City University in London, on the question of mainstreaming nutrition throughout the food system. FAO also played a visible role in the RIO+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, participating as a co-organizer of a session on “Partnerships for the integration of food and nutrition security, health and gender equity.” The aim of this event was to highlight the nexus between food, nutrition security, health, and gender equality—all of which were 2020 Conference themes.⁵⁴

FAO’s next strong move into nutrition will come in 2013 when it will publish its annual State of Food and Agriculture report (SOFA) on the theme of how to mainstream nutrition concerns throughout the food and agricultural system. Materials from the 2020 Conference in Delhi are being used in the preparation of this new SOFA, due to be published in June 2013.

ICN+21

In 2013 FAO and WHO are scheduled to co-host an International Conference on Nutrition, now to be called “ICN+21” because it will take place twenty-one years after the 1992 ICN. Preparation for the ICN will include a series of expert meetings on a variety of themes, but one of those themes will be “nutrition-sensitive agriculture.” Political and policy direction for the preparatory process will be in the hands of a multi-agency Steering Committee that will include IFPRI in its membership, along with the World Bank and others, in addition to FAO, WHO, and other UN organizations such as UNICEF and WFP. This Steering Committee met for the first time in July 2012. An ICN+21 Secretariat is also being established in Rome at FAO, to be supported by a Technical Taskforce to prepare background papers.

It is still too early to judge the extent of 2020 Conference influence over this ICN+21 process. The UN’s own SUN Movement has so far been the most frequent reference point. In fact, ICN+21 is tentatively scheduled to take place on the 1,000-day anniversary of SUN, to celebrate the gains that program will have made. Yet several key players in the ICN+21 process from WHO and FAO attended the 2020 Conference, along with the Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition. IFPRI as an organization will have some influence ICN+21 through its role on the Steering Committee, and some of that influence will derive in turn from the high profile success of the earlier 2020 Conference. Senior officials at FAO who are preparing the ICN point to the strong overlap between ICN+21 themes and the themes of 2020 Conference, and they expect materials and ideas from the Conference will influence ICN+21 at least indirectly.

We have already seen one indirect impact from the 2020 Conference on donor support for ICN+21. In 2011 the ICN asked USAID for support in setting up an “expert consultation”

⁵⁴ Partnerships for the integration of food and nutrition security, health, and gender equity. 20 June 2012. http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/630G1_LR%20_W_Partnership_for_the_integration_of.pdf.

on agriculture, nutrition, and health, but USAID's response was to say "IFPRI has already done that." USAID advised ICN to use materials from IFPRI's 2020 Conference as the "starting point" for any future work in this area.

D. *National Governments*

Malawi

The success of the 2020 Conference in February 2011 inspired a follow-on country-level version in Malawi, in September 2011. The head of Irish Aid in Malawi had attended the 2020 Conference and in May 2011 he asked the IFPRI office in Malawi to begin discussions, together with USAID, on how to sponsor a smaller version of the Delhi event in Lilongwe. The goal would be to reach high-level decisionmakers in the three sectors, from government and also from the donor community, academia, civil society, and the private sector. With financial support from both Irish Aid and USAID, this conference took place in Lilongwe on September 26–27, 2011.

The Malawi conference, co-hosted by Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development, was organized by IFPRI's Development Strategy and Governance Division and the 2020 Vision Initiative staff, and was titled "Unleashing Agriculture's Potential for Improved Nutrition and Health in Malawi." The planning process for the conference brought together officials from all three sectors, an important achievement within Malawi given the considerable isolation among ministries that had earlier prevailed (for example, the food security policy of the agricultural ministry had not been coordinated with the separate nutrition security policy of the department of nutrition).

The conference itself brought together more than 200 policymakers, researchers, civil society, academics, donors, and private-sector representatives. Staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development outnumbered those from nutrition and health at the event itself, in part because senior officials from the ministry of health were double-booked at another event, and had to be out of the country.

The reach of this conference extended beyond those who attended in-person. The conference was covered in the media (by *Zodiak Malawi*⁵⁵ and by *Teatro Naturale International*⁵⁶), and through more than a half dozen other organizations linked to the conference website. The conference website received 818 visits from 374 unique viewers from 54 different countries. YouTube videos of conference presentations on the website received 268 views in total.⁵⁷ The Proceedings of the conference were also captured in a

⁵⁵ <http://bit.ly/sRVsRX>.

⁵⁶ <http://www.teatronaturale.com/article/3033.html>.

⁵⁷ Briefing Note re Malawi September 2020 Conference follow-up event, IFPRI, November 21, 2011.

70-page Conference Report titled “Unleashing Agriculture’s Potential for Improved Nutrition and Health in Malawi,” made available on the IFPRI website.⁵⁸

The key output was a Policy Action Note released on November 10, 2011, and also made available on the conference website.⁵⁹ IFPRI staff in Lilongwe did not conduct a formal assessment of conference impact, but participants report that the conference raised the profile of ANH linkages in both public and policy debate in Malawi. Nutrition issues had already been gaining prominence in Malawi in part because of the parallel SUN initiative, but the two 2020 Conferences, first in Delhi then in Lilongwe, combined to forge closer country-level institutional ties between nutrition and agriculture. The planners of the Lilongwe Conference included a session on SUN in the program, to emphasize that policymaking in nutrition and agriculture should be discussed in a common setting.

The conference inspired proposals to IFPRI for several other follow-on measures, and IFPRI passed these on to potential funders such as Irish Aid and USAID. Irish Aid used the Policy Action Note in the conference proceedings to realign some of its new activities. IFPRI, Irish Aid, and USAID have remained in touch in Malawi, and continue looking for new ways to advance a more integrated ANH agenda in that country.

China

The timing of the Delhi Conference was fortunate from China’s vantage point, since the State Food and Nutrition Consultation Committee (SFNCC)—the highest level body in China dealing with nutrition—had just been charged with drafting a second 10-year plan for food and nutrition, and looked forward to sending a delegation to Delhi. Yet for visa reasons officials from the Government of China were not able to attend. The Chairman and the General Secretary of the SFNCC were both briefed by IFPRI about the Conference before the event. IFPRI shared the Conference program, key policy briefings, and other materials with the Chairman of SFNCC, who sent his written greetings, which were read to the conferees.

While SFNCC officials were unable to go to Delhi, they invited IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan and IFPRI’s China Program leadership to brief them after the Conference. A high-level briefing took place in September 2011, timed to coincide with a presentation by Fan to an international conference in Beijing on Food and Nutrition, hosted by SFNCC. This conference was attended by representatives from 12 countries and was fully multi-sectoral, with participation from FAO as well as WHO and UNDP. Fan met individually with the Chair, and also gave a 30-minute talk on “Leveraging Agriculture to Improve Nutrition,” explicitly highlighting the 2020 Conference and presenting “Conference Highlights” to his audience.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ “Unleashing Agriculture’s Potential for Improved Nutrition and Health in Malawi,” 11 April 2012, <http://malawi2011.ifpri.info/>.

⁵⁹ <http://malawi2011.ifpri.info/>.

⁶⁰ www.slideshare.net/shenggenfan/leveraging-agriculture-to-improve-nutrition.

On a parallel path, in 2011 SFNCC was also in the process of establishing a new food safety and nutrition development institute at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), and had asked IFPRI to provide technical assistance. This new institute had been approved by the time of the September international conference in Beijing, but it had not yet established, so the presentations by Fan and IFPRI provided timely advice. Materials from the 2020 Conference, including the book later published in 2012 by Fan and Pandya-Lorch (*Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health*), were shared with SFNCC to shape the vision of this new institute. The new institute has now been established as part of CAAS, and it is in the process of recruiting scientific staff.

It is difficult in the case of China to separate impacts from the 2020 Conference from IFPRI impacts that might have taken place without the Conference. IFPRI has been collaborating with CAAS for more than 15 years, and IFPRI also operates a China Strategy Support Program, to help with the design and implementation of national strategies in China on food and nutrition security, agricultural and rural development, and poverty reduction. Crediting the 2020 Conference with country-level influence in China depends primarily on how much the Conference influenced other IFPRI activities in China, especially the post-Conference visit of the IFPRI's DG. Based on the Conference-centered presentation made by the DG in China, this country-level influence was certainly noticeable, though it would have been greater had Chinese officials been able to attend the 2020 Conference in person.

Uganda

The Country of Uganda has had a close relationship with IFPRI's 2020 Vision Initiative, at least since the third 2020 Vision multi-stakeholder conference in Kampala in 2004. In addition, Uganda sent a significant delegation to the 2020 Conference in Delhi. As an added factor, some of the members of the Uganda delegation were deeply engaged at the time in drafting a new Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) for 2011–2016. This drafting effort had been launched in September 2010, after Uganda's Foreign Minister made a commitment to the SUN ("Scaling Up Nutrition") initiative at the UN General Assembly session in New York. A multi-sector Technical Committee was formed to draft the UNAP, and this Committee completed a draft for stakeholder consultation in early December 2010. But at this point the process became more political, and it required a new jolt of energy—something the 2020 Conference helped to provide.

For example, a Ugandan Technical Committee member and a Regional Senior Nutrition Advisor from the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project was a speaker in Delhi, and another Technical Committee member and 2020 Conference attendee was Head of the Home Economics and Nutrition Section of Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF). The energy generated by the 2020 Conference helped these officials to sustain the Ugandan planning effort.

A key pathway for influence in Delhi was the opportunity Uganda's delegates had to attend the side meetings on SUN that IFPRI's 2020 organizers had wisely decided to include when planning the Conference. Since Uganda's Action Plan had originally emerged from the SUN initiative, it was convenient for the Uganda delegates to continue their work in Delhi in a SUN context. In the case of Uganda, however, this did not mean

a complete loss of cross-sector perspectives, because under the Constitution of Uganda nutrition policy has always been a joint responsibility of both the Agriculture and Health Ministries, and the pre-Delhi draft of Uganda's Plan came from a Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee and combined agricultural and health perspectives from the start.

In part thanks to the sustaining energy that Ugandan officials derived from participating together at the 2020 Conference, the drafting process eventually reached completion, and partly in thanks to the high level attention brought to the process by the 2020 meeting, Uganda's top political leadership accepted the draft. The final Action Plan was promulgated under President Yoweri Museveni's signature in September 2011. While not making direct reference to the 2020 Conference or to any 2020 materials, this plan does describe itself as "multi-sectoral," and many of its objectives imply a "leveraging" of agriculture to achieve nutrition results, such as promoting the production and consumption of more nutritious and diversified foods, promoting the production of biofortified crop varieties, and supporting an integration of nutrition into Agricultural Ministry programs.⁶¹ The Technical Committee that drafted the plan included among its members an IFPRI Senior Research Fellow who had authored a Brief for the 2020 Conference, and who saw to it that Conference materials were available to the senior Ugandan officials on the Committee.

Ugandan attendees at the 2020 Conference now confront the difficult task of implementing their new Action Plan. One reported in November 2011 that, fortunately, his position had been upgraded to heading a division of Food and Nutrition security inside the ministry, with stronger competence for Food and Nutrition Planning, especially community-level nutrition interventions. Mainstreaming nutrition within the ministry of agriculture will be accomplished through Agriculture Nutrition Linkages Technical Working Groups (AN-TWGs).

IFPRI and the 2020 Conference were not alone in promoting integration of nutrition planning into agricultural policy in Uganda. Representatives from USAID (Uganda is a Feed the Future recipient country) have applied parallel pressures on the ministry of agriculture, insisting that its investment plans make adequate reference to nutrition, and both the World Food Programme and FAO have delivered the same message. Without the 2020 Conference, however, country-level progress would have been more difficult.

India

The 2020 Conference had considerable potential to produce country-level impacts within India, given that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh personally opened the Conference. The Deputy Chair of India's Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, was also in attendance, and more than 40 percent of all the conferees were from India. The impacts from the Conference on India have so far been significant at the level of some individual conferees, noticeable at the state level, and visible but less significant at the level of national policy debate.

⁶¹ "Uganda Nutrition Action Plan 2011–2016: Scaling Up Multi-Sectoral Efforts to Establish a Strong Nutrition Foundation for Uganda's Development. Government of Uganda, 29 September 2011.

While India has recently been a success story in many other areas, it has continued to struggle in both agriculture and nutrition. After registering a respectable 4.4 percent average annual growth rate in the agricultural sector in the 1980s, India allowed that rate to fall to 2.8 percent in the 1990s, and then all the way down to just 0.6 percent between 1999–2009.⁶² At the same time large segments of the population continued to experience poor nutrition, despite relatively high rates of overall economic growth. Roughly 40 percent of all the world’s malnourished children now reside in India.

Traditionally in India, agricultural policy and nutrition policy have operated at arm’s length from each other. India’s First National Agricultural Policy in 2000 did not mention nutrition at all, and the agricultural chapter of the *Eleventh Five-Year Plan* also made no mention of nutrition.⁶³ IFPRI reached a conclusion in 2008 that “India lacks a comprehensive nutrition strategy,” and leadership at IFPRI began approaching the Government of India at the highest level to call attention to this deficit.⁶⁴ In 2007, Prime Minister Singh had shown personal concern, calling the problem of malnutrition “a matter of national shame” in his 60th Anniversary Independence Day Address to the nation.⁶⁵ The 2011 Conference in Delhi thus presented IFPRI with a fresh opportunity to encourage an upgrade of nutrition policies in India, and other outsiders were pushing for the same objective, including DFID through its LANSa initiative (described above), and also the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, through its TANDI project (also described above).

An initial and somewhat surprising impact of the 2020 Conference was the explicit interest in biofortification expressed by Prime Minister Singh in his opening address to the Conference. Singh even mentioned Golden Rice, a genetically engineered variety of rice high in beta-carotene. The HarvestPlus program, which views India as its most important target country, actively followed up on this opening, hoping to build an endorsement of biofortification into India’s 12th Five-Year Plan for 2012–2016.

Several key policy officials and researchers within India also tried to use momentum from the Delhi Conference to influence the 12th Five-Year Plan, in hopes of building a more prominent position for nutrition inside the agricultural part of the Plan. This was

⁶² S. Mahendra Dev and Suneetha Kadiyala, “Pro-Nutrition Agriculture in India: Entry Points and Policy Options,” *IndiaHealthBeat* 5(8, June 2011).

⁶³ The document ignored nutrition even while managing to mention technology, irrigation, natural resources management and watershed development, strengthening of input and support services, food security, diversification, contract farming, food processing, livestock, fisheries development, equity issues, restructuring agricultural planning, and financing. S. Mahendra Dev, “Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India,” IFPRI Discussion Paper 01184, May 2012. Washington, DC: IFPRI.

⁶⁴ Joachim von Braun, Marie Ruel, and Ashok Gulati, “Accelerating Progress toward Reducing Child Malnutrition in India: A Concept for Action,” IFPRI, January 2008.

⁶⁵ Prime Minister Singh repeated this statement in January 2012, while releasing a new report on Hunger and Malnutrition (HUNGaMA).

certain to be a challenge, since Montek Singh, Deputy Chair of India's Planning Commission, was known to be skeptical about redesigning policy around agriculture-nutrition links. Nonetheless, the director of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), a National Advisory Council (NAC) member, and others launched an influence effort. The IFPRI office in Delhi supported this effort, but did not initiate it.

The leaders of this effort produced a short article in June 2011, in *IndiaHealthBeat*, titled "Pro-Nutrition Agriculture in India: Entry Points and Policy Options," neatly summarizing a number of 2020 Conference themes.⁶⁶ Then in August 2011, when the Planning Commission released a draft of an "approach paper" for the new Plan that did not go far enough in emphasizing agriculture and nutrition links, these same individuals helped organize a workshop in Delhi in September 2011, backed by DFID and FAO, to provide more direct input into the planning process. The participants in this workshop were policymakers as well as researchers, including at least 5 individuals who had participated in the Delhi Conference.⁶⁷ In November 2011, these individuals presented the thinking from this workshop to the Planning Commission, and later published the essence of their views in a short article in India's *Economic and Political Weekly*.⁶⁸

One of these individuals provided his own provisional assessment of the success of this effort in a Discussion Paper published through IFPRI in May 2012. He asserted at that time that the work of the Planning Commission was moving toward a stronger acknowledgement of the need for more rapid growth in India's output of fruits, vegetables, and protein-rich food items, not just cereals, to meet the rising demand for such items. He described this as "the first official recognition of the need to increase the supply of protein-rich foods."⁶⁹

Even if this effort fails in the end to generate improved language on ANH issues in the final version of India's 12th Five-Year Plan, participants have already seen it as successful in broadening official conversations around agriculture and nutrition issues. The Indian officials who attended the 2020 Conference included some who were committed to the ANH message but others who were more skeptical, yet all came away with a better idea of what was known and not known about these issues in India (thanks in part to the TANDI research), and since the Delhi Conference it has been more difficult in India to discuss agriculture without at least mentioning nutrition. Advocates for ANH thinking in India describe the 2020 Conference as a watershed event.

⁶⁶ S. Mahendra Dev and Suneetha Kadiyala, "Pro-Nutrition Agriculture in India: Entry Points and Policy Options," *IndiaHealthBeat* 5(8, June 2011).

⁶⁷ S. Mahendra Dev, Suneetha Kadiyala, Veena Rao, Sukhadeo Thorat, and Liz Drake. See "Report on Strengthening the Role of Agriculture for a Nutrition Secure India," <http://misplacedemphasis.blogspot.com/2011/09report-on-strengthening-role-of.html>.

⁶⁸ K. Suneetha, P.K. Joshi, S.M. Dev, T. Nandakumar, and V.S. Vyas. 2012. "A Nutrition Secure India, Role of Agriculture." *Economic and Political Weekly* 47(8): 21–25.

⁶⁹ S. Mahendra Dev, "Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India," IFPRI Discussion Paper 01184, May 2012. Washington, DC: IFPRI, p.16.

The 2020 Conference also had influence within India through the National Advisory Council (NAC), chaired by Sonia Gandhi. This is a body that provides impetus to the Government's programs in rural health, nutrition, education, infrastructure, and urban renewal. In July 2010, a Working Group of members of the NAC was constituted on the issue of India's National Food Security Bill. The Delhi Conference took place at the time this Bill was being drafted, and also at a time when the NAC was deliberating recommendations for reformed and strengthened Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in India. In June 2011, five months after the Delhi Conference, the NAC finalized the Draft National Food Security Bill and also promulgated ICDS reform recommendations, and in each case noted that a more integrated "life-cycle approach to food and nutrition security" had been emphasized.⁷⁰ Direct impacts from the 2020 Conference on these NAC outcomes are difficult to establish, but an individual who spoke at one of the side events in Delhi (a session on Strengthening Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages in India) was serving at the time as a member of the NAC, and at several side sessions members of the large Indian delegation to the Conference debated issues such as ICDS reform and the National Food Security Bill. Within India the opposing sides in such debates often find it difficult to speak to one another face to face, and the side sessions at the 2020 Conference provided an important venue to overcome that difficulty.

Some of India's most important policy actions are taken at the state level, rather than in New Delhi, and state actions were also a target for influence following the Conference. For example, one of the Delhi conferees attended a private meeting with the Minister of Finance of Kashmir State immediately after the Conference, and used this occasion to persuade the Minister of the positive impacts on nutrition and health that come from agricultural development.

Progress can often be made more quickly at the state level in India, especially in states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka that have nutrition missions linked with agricultural departments.⁷¹

In Karnataka, one Conference attendee who was an adviser to the state's Nutrition Mission had post-Conference discussions with the Secretary of the Agriculture Department of Karnataka (who did not attend). Following these discussions, the Secretary decided to include "Nutrition Security" in the Objectives of the new Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) approach being introduced by his State Government, and also to integrate agriculture more deeply into the work of the Karnataka Nutrition Mission. The Additional Secretary then sent a letter to the Vice Chancellors of the three Indian Agricultural Universities in the state—Bangalore, Dharwar, and Raichur—instructing them to include a Nutrition Mission in the IFS scheme.

⁷⁰ Recommendations for a reformed and strengthened Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), by National Advisory Council. June, 2011. <http://nac.nic.in/meetings.htm>.

⁷¹ S. Mahendra Dev, "Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages and Policies in India," IFPRI Discussion Paper 01184, May 2012. Washington, DC: IFPRI, p.17.

This same Conference attendee from Karnataka more recently worked with the state Agriculture Department, with GAIN, and with the Indian Institute of Science, to develop techniques for reducing the 30 percent waste level in local fruit and vegetable production in rural areas lacking reliable electricity. She asserts that her attendance at the 2020 Conference, the materials that were presented at the Conference, and the Prime Minister's opening remarks at the Conference, have "definitely" strengthened her hand in continuing efforts such as these to add more of a nutrition dimension to state-level food and agricultural policies.

Finally, because of the large number of individual Indians attending, the Conference generated significant "retail" level impacts in India. An overview of these can be seen from responses to the June 2012 survey from those working in India. Of the 132 responses to this survey, 35 came from India. Of these 35, 12 (34 percent) said the Conference had a "large" impact on their own work, 14 (40 percent) said a "medium" impact, 6 (17 percent) a "small" impact, and only 3 (9 percent) said "no" impact. When asked to describe these impacts on their work, the 12 Indian responders who had said "large" mentioned the following:

The insights emerging at the Conference clarified many issues concerning nutrition and health, especially of child and woman population of India.

Developed a research project on agronomic biofortification of rice and wheat crops to reduce zinc malnutrition.

It stimulated my thinking on the relationship between performance of agriculture, distribution of gains from such performance and changes in nutritional levels, especially among women and children.

Exposed to new angles and facets of the same issue, so informative as hell.

The learnings from the Conference were shared as knowledge inputs with grassroots NGOs working on issues of malnutrition. The knowledge generated from the Conference has informed the strategies of these NGOs.

While proposing any change in cropping pattern we should also be mindful of the impact on nutrition, especially on self-provisioning by the small farmers.

We got in touch with a number of international players who wanted to replicate our work model in their respective countries.

It provided information on the work which is being carried out in the various fields of Agriculture and Food processing.

I was amazed how many colleagues I met from very many countries all over the world.

While presenting my paper in a Conference or seminar held after New Delhi conf., the literature, the contribution of research persons at the Conf. in advancing my knowledge, etc. were enormous.

Got information about the activities going on in other crops and countries, the

impact and the way to proceed further.

I acquired latest knowledge regarding role of nutrition in agriculture.

Of the 35 responders from India, 26 also answered the question about Conference impacts on “how your organization does its work.” Of these 26 responders, 6 (23 percent) said the impact had been large, 14 (54 percent) said the impact had been medium, 4 (15 percent) said the impact had been small, and 2 (8 percent) said there had been no impact. From some of those who reported large impacts, the following comments were provided:

Promoting nutrition-rich products for home consumption.

In formulating Agricultural Policy for the state of Rajasthan, we took note of the nutritional aspects, i.e. by pleading for more attention to the coarse cereals.

We got people from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to study our model and replicate the model.

The institution has taken up issues of child nutrition and health for research.

In the biofortification activities it becomes easy to make the policy decisions and proceed further.

Helped me in teaching Global Nutrition Problems course to PhD students effectively.

Finally, 25 of these Indian respondents answered the question, “...do you believe the separate fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health have become better integrated...?” Of the 25 answers, 20 were “yes,” and among these 20 “yes” answers, 19 provided a response when asked how much of this improvement could be traced to the Delhi Conference. Of these 19, 5 (26 percent) said a “large” part, and 14 (74 percent) said a “small” part.

E. *Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)*

Concern Worldwide

Founded in 1968, Concern Worldwide is a nongovernmental humanitarian organization based in Ireland that works in 25 countries to help people, living in absolute poverty, achieve sustainable improvements in their lives, particularly improvements in nutrition and food security. Concern Worldwide provided clear contributions to the 2020 Conference, but this by itself does not indicate that the Conference had a large impact on Concern.

Concern Worldwide has long concentrated on nutrition, and the CEO of Concern is a member of the United Nations’ SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Lead Group. Concern has also long promoted an integrated approach between nutrition and agriculture, through family/kitchen gardens, poultry and small animal husbandry, and urban agriculture and nutrition/health programs in both Asia and Africa south of the Sahara. Concern also had a

significant pre-Conference history of working with IFPRI. In September 2007, seeking to move from stand-alone projects to more of a learning process, Concern initiated work with IFPRI, plus a funding partner named the Kerry Group, to review the effectiveness of food assistance programs for populations in HIV-impacted regions in Uganda and Zambia. This work evolved into a five-year (2011–15) public-private partnership among Concern, IFPRI, and the Kerry Group named Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition (RAIN), a Euro 3.7 million project. Concern’s CEO attended the 2020 Conference with several staff, and used the Conference as an opportunity to deliver a preview of this new RAIN project.⁷²

The RAIN project was not shaped by the 2020 Conference, however, nor was funding for RAIN from the Kerry Group linked to the Conference, so the impacts from the Delhi on Concern’s work were limited primarily to messaging. For example, Concern’s CEO was prompted by his attendance at the 2020 Conference to amend a briefing paper he had earlier prepared on the SUN program, to include a section inspired by the Delhi meeting, and in May 2011, he presented this paper (together with a former IFPRI DG, and senior DFID officials) to a meeting of 60–70 experts at the House of Commons in London, chaired by a Member of Parliament. Later in 2011, Concern produced a 10-page brochure stressing that child and maternal malnutrition require not only direct health interventions but also investments in agriculture, with citations to the “leveraging” language used at the 2020 Conference.⁷³ This brochure was distributed at the May 2012 Chicago Council symposium where Concern’s CEO spoke, and where President Barack Obama was keynote speaker.

Leaders at Concern Worldwide look back to the 2020 Conference as an important event not so much as a source of new action, but as an assembly and distribution point for newly researched materials on an ANH nexus that all knew to be important. Most at the Conference were already trying to work across sector boundaries, and the Conference helped them do a better job by putting them in touch with each other, while providing all with newly published summaries of research findings.

Helen Keller International (HKI)

HKI is an international NGO dedicated to preventing blindness and reducing malnutrition, working in 13 countries in Africa and 8 countries in Asia-Pacific. HKI has a 20-year history of leveraging agriculture to improve nutrition, most recently through its Enhanced-Homestead Food Production (E-HFP) program providing seeds, seedlings, saplings, along with the necessary training, to help small household farmers (usually women) create year-round gardens with nutritious fruits and vegetables. This made HKI a natural partner with IFPRI at the 2020 Conference. HKI’s President and CEO served as a

⁷² “Zambia: Kerry Group and Concern Launch “Pioneering Initiative” to Prevent Undernutrition and High Child Mortality in the Developing World,” Concern Worldwide, 30 November 2011, http://www.concern.net/sites/concern.net/files/documents/kerry_press_release.pdf.

⁷³ “The Time is Now: Improving Food Security and Nutrition for the Poorest,” Concern Worldwide, 2011. http://www.concernusa.org/media/pdf/2011/06/FINAL_Hunger_Broch.pdf.

member of IFPRI's 2020 Vision Advisory Council, and HKI's Senior Vice President made a presentation at the Conference, on homestead food production programs.

Because HKI was already deeply committed to cross-sector ANH thinking, there was little room for the Delhi Conference to impact the programmatic direction of the organization. The Conference did, however, provide HKI with a useful venue for presenting its work to senior representatives from the donor community in attendance. HKI believes it received new funding from at least one of those donors (for homestead food production in Tanzania and for work with orange flesh sweet potato in Mozambique) thanks to HKI's role and position on the program at the Conference.

The 2020 Conference also strengthened an important relationship HKI maintains with IFPRI. For a number of years IFPRI has conducted evaluations of HKI homestead food production programs, originally in Cambodia and more recently in Burkina Faso. The Delhi Conference brought IFPRI and HKI closer together at the senior leadership level, and each now assists the other in spreading the ANH message. One example is the participation of HKI's senior vice president on a panel at IFPRI in May 2012 to launch the *2011 Global Food Policy Report*. Following this meeting, she posted a blog on the HKI site celebrating the progress that had been made since the 2020 Conference in placing nutrition concerns onto the agenda of donors supporting agricultural development. She then repeated the central theme of the Conference: "The time for silos is past—those working in nutrition, food security, agriculture, water, and health must join together to conquer the cause of one-third of child deaths worldwide—undernutrition."⁷⁴

F. *Private Companies*

Private national and international food and agricultural companies are some of the most powerful and influential actors at the intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health, so informing and shaping the vision of such companies was an important objective of the Delhi Conference. Prior to Delhi, the venue most favored by private international companies for cooperative work in the area of ANH was the World Economic Forum (WEF) which every January hosts a high profile international meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Of rising importance is another group, Business-20 (B20), a forum of business leaders that has been meeting since 2010 in parallel session with G20 Summits.

World Economic Forum

In 2009, well prior to the 2020 Conference, World Economic Forum USA launched a New Vision for Agriculture initiative, led by 26 global Partner companies spanning the full food value chain and beyond. This New Vision initiative was advised by a Global Agenda Council on Food Security in which IFPRI participated. The New Vision has always focused primarily on agriculture, food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability, with a much less explicit connection to either nutrition or health. In 2010, partly at the urging of IFPRI, WEF merged its council on agriculture

⁷⁴ Kathy Spahn, "Nutrition's Time Has at Long Last Come," <http://www.hki.org/blog/2012/05/nutrition-time-has-at-long-last-come/>.

with a parallel council on nutrition, to provide more cross-sector thinking. All of this was before the 2020 Conference.

Then just prior to Delhi in January 2011, WEF organized an ANH brainstorming session in Davos, at the urging of several senior non-corporate WEF advisors, including IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan, and also the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition. This meeting served as a warm-up for Delhi for senior leaders from the private sector, some of whom intended to be at the 2020 Conference, but at this point it was still WEF influencing the 2020 Conference, rather than the other way around.

At the 2020 Conference itself, the private sector and WEF both played a visible role. Speakers at the Conference included Derek Yach, Senior Vice President, Global Health and Agriculture Policy, PepsiCo; Hans Jöhr, Corporate Head of Agriculture, Nestlé; Luc Maene, Director General, International Fertilizer Industry Association; and Lisa Dreier, Director, Food Security and Development Initiative, World Economic Forum.

Following the 2020 Conference, WEF's work took on an added cross-sector aspect, for example by linking with the private-sector task force of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, and by facilitating business input through the B20 into the heads of state G20 meeting later in 2011. Two companies that sent senior officials to the 2020 Conference—Nestle and PepsiCo—took the lead in this effort. Next, in January 2012, WEF scheduled a breakout session on ANH issues during its large plenary session on Agriculture and Food Security at its annual Davos conference. This session was strongly inspired by the success of the 2020 Conference, and one of the co-chairs of the session was IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan. Another co-chair of this productive session was the Trade Minister of Indonesia, who reported back to the plenary that his government wanted to take further ANH policy steps, in line with the concrete suggestions that had emerged.

The 2020 Conference also had impacts through WEF on agriculture and food security at the national level, where WEF engages senior officials in a dozen or so countries, and now routinely extending the 2020 Conference message of breaking down sector boundaries between ministries. Senior leaders at WEF claim that the message of the 2020 Conference has become a “mindset” within their organization, one they are now extending to others.

That said, the language and strategy of WEF's New Vision initiative, set in 2009 well before the 2020 Conference, have not been formally changed to incorporate explicit ANH thinking, and the “Action Agenda” that eventually emerged for WEF's New Vision in January 2012 had very little cross-sector content. This 25-page agenda paid considerable attention to food security, to economic growth and opportunity, and to environmental sustainability, but it invoked nutrition only in the traditional context of food security, or as a “complexity” that accompanies agricultural transformation. When addressing the

importance of cross-agency coordination beyond Ministries of Agriculture, this document mentions ministries of finance and infrastructure, but not nutrition or health.⁷⁵ WEF's approach is innovative, but much of its work still emphasizes breaking down barriers within the food and farming sector between public and private institutions (for example, in WEF's Tanzanian SAGCOT, and in the Grow Africa initiative), more than on bridging gaps between agriculture, nutrition, and health.

B20

The B20 is a forum of business leaders that gathers twice a year, parallel to G20 leaders' summits. The B20 generates recommendations at each G20 leaders' summit and discusses those recommendations at meetings with the Heads of State. In recent years, as noted above, food security has been a prominent agenda item at G20 leaders' summits, so the B20 has focused on this issue as well, forming a "task force" on food security to generate specific policy recommendations.⁷⁶

In its most recent recommendations on Food Security, the B20 has gone a significant distance toward embracing a message parallel to the 2020 Conference in Delhi. In June 2012, meeting with the G20 in Los Cabos, Mexico, the B20 recommended: "Nutrition, agriculture, and health programmes should be integrated to be mutually reinforcing. In particular, agricultural programmes should be designed to meet nutritional and health needs."⁷⁷ This task force statement does not mention the 2020 Conference, nor does it cite any IFPRI documents (it mentions the WEF and cites FAO documents), yet the inclusion of "health" in this B20 statement is a clear marker for indirect 2020 Conference influence, since neither WEF nor FAO tends to invoke all three components of the ANH nexus. There were multiple pathways for the 2020 Conference to have influenced the work of this B20 Food Security Task Force. For example, three members of the Task Force—David Nabarro (Special Representative to the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition), Shenggen Fan (DG of IFPRI), and Indra Nooyi (Chair and CEO of PepsiCo)—were all featured speakers at the 2020 Conference in Delhi.

PepsiCo

Several individual private companies assumed a high profile at the 2020 Conference. PepsiCo, the world's second-largest food and beverage company, was actually a sponsor

⁷⁵ "Putting the New Vision for Agriculture into Action: A Transformation is Happening," A report by the World Economic Forum's New Vision for Agriculture Initiative. Prepared in collaboration with McKinsey and Company. World Economic Forum, 2012.
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_FB_NewVisionAgriculture_HappeningTransformation_Report_2012.pdf.

⁷⁶ The B20 lists Food Security as the first of its 9 task forces. The others are Green Growth, Employment, Improving Transparency, Trade and Investment, Information and Communication, Technologies and Innovation, Financing for Growth and Development, and Advocacy and Impact.
[Http://www.b20.org/whatis.aspx](http://www.b20.org/whatis.aspx).

⁷⁷ B20 Task Force Recommendations: Concrete Actions for Los Cabos, June 2012,
<http://b20.org/documentos/B20-Task-Force-Recommendations.pdf>.

of the Conference. Food and beverage companies are usually on the defensive at meetings on global nutrition and health, so PepsiCo's decision to display a strong presence in Delhi was striking. It's Chairman and CEO, Indra Nooyi, delivered a video message at the Conference, and PepsiCo's Senior Vice President of Global Health and Agricultural Policy was a member of the Conference Advisory Committee.

PepsiCo came to the Conference with a clear corporate message already in place. A year and a half before Delhi, Nooyi had presented a widely noted paper at the 2009 World Food Prize meetings in Des Moines, Iowa, arguing that agricultural supply and development issues needed a closer link to nutrition. Private food companies such as PepsiCo are sometimes better suited to thinking across sectoral boundaries than governments or academic scholars; in order to remain competitive, they may have to find ways to improve the productivity of small vegetable farmers, or reduce value chain spoilage of fresh produce.

PepsiCo's high-level participation in the 2020 Conference nonetheless generated some modest new impacts within the company, mostly before the Conference took place when internal decisions were being made about support for the Conference and about participation of the CEO. Within large companies such as PepsiCo, there are always struggles among separate divisions to shape corporate strategy, and internal discussions prior to the 2020 Conference gave the Global Health and Agricultural Policy division an expanded opportunity to deliver its message regarding the business logic of positioning the company around wellness, plus the importance of bridging gaps between commodity supply and nutrition. This pre-Conference impact dynamic within PepsiCo was in some ways parallel to the dynamic earlier noticed within another sponsor organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

PepsiCo saw the Delhi Conference as just one of multiple settings in which it could present messages about using business opportunities to help leverage agriculture for nutrition and health. The World Economic Forum "New Vision" process was another, and the B20 process was the third. The 2020 Conference also provided PepsiCo's leadership with a larger opportunity to learn about the CGIAR, and about IFPRI in particular. Prior to the 2020 Conference PepsiCo had done work with national agricultural research systems such as EMBRAPA in Brazil, and with the CGIAR potato center, CIP, but after the 2020 Conference PepsiCo became interested in developing added links to the CGIAR. In part this reflected a conviction at the company that public research programs such as HarvestPlus would profit from developing distribution systems more closely linked to the private sector. After the 2020 Conference PepsiCo began working more closely with ICRISAT on chickpea, but it has not yet worked in the field with IFPRI.

Those within PepsiCo eager to pay more attention to health and wellness came away from the 2020 Conference feeling the exercise had been an important achievement, what they call a "critical stepping stone" along an admittedly difficult journey to break down sector barriers inside the company between agricultural, nutrition, and health.

Kraft Foods and DuPont

To keep the impact of the 2020 Conference in perspective, it is useful to consider that several private companies that did not send representatives to Delhi have also launched ANH initiatives. For example, in June 2011 Kraft Foods announced a \$3.8 million initiative to help eradicate child malnutrition in Indonesia and Bangladesh. Announced at a WEF meeting in Jakarta, the program will fund 180 farming “centers of excellence” over the next four years in the East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) region of Indonesia and the Satkhira district of Bangladesh. In partnership with Helen Keller International, the program will work to teach thousands of women across NTT and Satkhira sustainable farming practices and provide “start-your-own-farm” supplies, including fertilizers and other tools, nutrition education, and small business training. By teaching sustainable farming skills, creating microenterprises, and providing nutrition education, Kraft Foods hopes to empower women and thereby help reduce child malnutrition in some of the neediest areas of Indonesia and Bangladesh. This program is the company’s first major investment as part of Project Laser Beam, a five-year, \$50 million public-private partnership led by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) seeking to eradicate child malnutrition. Kraft Foods Foundation is a founding partner and one of the largest sponsors of Project Laser Beam, having committed \$10 million to the partnership. This initiative emerged in a WEF context, without any apparent impact from IFPRI or the 2020 Conference in Delhi.

Similarly in May 2012, DuPont announced two key efforts that will support collaborative, world hunger initiatives in Africa. At the Chicago Council’s G8 Summit event in Washington, DC, DuPont said it will invest more than \$3 million over the next three years to help smallholder farmers in Ethiopia to achieve food security. DuPont Chair and CEO Ellen Kullman said the company will forge a strategic alliance with the government of Ethiopia and the Agriculture Transformation Agency to benefit the productivity of smallholder farmers in the nation, thereby improving their ability to produce nutritious food for their families and communities. This is another example of a corporate initiative that emerged without any apparent input from the 2020 Conference in Delhi.

PART FOUR: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The task of impact assessment is always difficult, even when reviewing discrete policy interventions or highly focused research projects. Assessing the impact of an international conference raises multiple coverage and attribution problems, deeply complicating the task.

There is also an expectations problem. How much impact should we expect—or even desire—from any single international conference? The lives of senior scientists and decisionmakers are spent going from one such conference to the next, and if each had large impact life would become chaotic. For this reason, most international conferences in the world of agricultural research are scripted not to produce dramatic change, but instead to advance traditional agendas within already dominant professional paradigms.

IFPRI's 2020 Conference in New Delhi was not designed to advance an already dominant paradigm. It was designed to challenge agriculturalists in particular, with a Conference program that featured nutrition and public health speakers repeating a message that farming could and should become more “nutrition sensitive.” At the same time, it was designed to instruct nutrition and public health officials on the importance of “leveraging agriculture.” Measuring the success of the Conference in promulgating these non-traditional messages has been the intent of this impact assessment.

This assessment has been built around a diverse set of indicators, including surveys of conferees, Internet searches, website and literature searches, and extensive personal interviews. Distinctions have been drawn between short-term and medium-term impacts, and also between impacts on individuals, on institutions, and on professional discourse. The final judgment cannot be reduced to a single number, a single sentence, or even a single paragraph; the whole remains the sum of its many separate parts. Yet several summarizing paragraphs are in order.

Impacts on Individual Conferees

Impacts on individual conferees were measured through pre- and post-Conference surveys plus telephone interviews. These impacts proved to be small on the substantive views of those who attended the Conference, because most (75 percent) came to Delhi already convinced that an integrated approach to ANH was appropriate. The impact of the Conference at this individual level was less on belief than on motivation and empowerment. The Conference gave new information to those who attended, plus new networking opportunities and various “positioning advantages” that made them more effective back home within their own institutions. These advantages were more short term than long term, but post-Conference surveys and interviews indicate they were nonetheless greatly appreciated.

Impacts on Institutions

The most important measure of durable impact will always be institutional change, not individual change. Here, the Delhi Conference produced mixed results, as impacts at the

institutional level varied case by case. Direct impacts on national governments—including within India itself—were small, in part because ministerial structures and bureaucratic routines within governments are traditionally segregated by sector, and inherently resistant to change. Direct impacts from the 2020 Conference on private companies and NGOs were also modest, but for quite a different reason. These institutions, in direct contrast to national governments, are inherently comfortable working across sectors, so most of the private companies and NGOs that participated in the 2020 Conference felt little imperative to change. They were already moving to integrate ANH operations across sectors.

The strongest institutional impacts from the Delhi Conference came within a category of organizations that wanted to integrate nutrition into agriculture, but were unsure of how, or how quickly, to move forward. These institutions included the CGIAR itself, as it moved to create A4NH; the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as it responded to an internal evaluation of its own work in the nutrition area; and a number of donor institutions, including most prominently DFID, which used the materials and energy generated by the 2020 Conference to help push and guide a major expansion of bilateral funding into the ANH arena. The effective use DFID made of the 2020 Conference was a large enough payoff, as detailed in this report, to mark the Conference a success.

With DFID and with most others in the donor community, the door to expanded ANH work was already unlocked and ajar, but it was not yet pushed fully open. When senior leaders from DFID, USAID, CIDA, GIZ, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation all came to the 2020 Conference in Delhi, they recognized collectively that a new cross-sector agenda was finally being set. Delhi served as something of a “coming out party” for the ANH nexus, putting ANH connections durably into the thinking of senior leaders in the donor community.

Impacts on Professional Discourse

A third significant impact from the 2020 Conference was on professional discourse. Delhi helped “change the conversation” about agriculture and food security, bringing in more frequent reference to cross-sector impacts on nutrition and health. Impact measurement is difficult here, because the 2020 Conference was not the only initiative underway seeking to emphasize cross-sector linkages. FAO, SUN, WEF, and others were also promoting visions that linked either agriculture to nutrition, or nutrition to agriculture. So how much of the changing conversation can be attributed to Delhi?

One key to solving this attribution problem was the discrete timing of the 2020 Conference in February 2011, and the inferences that could be drawn when Internet references to ANH issues increased immediately following that date. The second key was Delhi’s unique inclusion of the word “health” in the official title of the Conference. This provided a useful marker for tracing impacts back to Delhi rather than to FAO, SUN, or WEF. Following this method, we could show that the average number of Google hits (Ghits) per search for the phrase “linking agriculture, nutrition, and health” increased

from 9,288 in the pre-Conference period to 13,508 in the immediate post-Conference period in March–May 2011.

At the same time, searches of organization websites revealed that 18 of 21 organizations had more links on their site to agriculture, nutrition, and health issues immediately following the Conference compared to just before, and 20 of 21 had an even higher number of links in July 2012, one year later. Of course, some part of this impact on professional discussion came not from the Conference itself, but from IFPRI's subsequent effort to promote and disseminate Conference materials from its own 2020 website, and through briefing and subsequent conferencing activities by senior IFPRI staff.

Impact Limitations

The Delhi Conference had visible impacts on individual conferees, on discourse, and on at least some institutions. When considering impact limitations, it is important to acknowledge that the most important institutions—national governments in the developing world—were among the institutions least changed by the Conference.

Getting governments to pay attention is always the first problem. Only 19 percent of those who attended the 2020 Conference were government officials, compared to 41 percent who came from research institutes or universities. Those who did attend the Conference knew the importance of engaging national governments; in fact, 63 percent of all responding Conferees later asserted that national governments should “take the lead” in handling the ANH nexus. Yet government officials—other than those from donor agencies—were not deeply engaged, and within the developing world there was little post-Conference evidence of significant governmental change.

The handful of national governments covered in this assessment were among those where impacts were considered most probable, yet even here the results were modest. The Government of Malawi co-hosted its own version of the 2020 Conference in Lilongwe in September 2011, but this conference was donor suggested and donor funded, and senior officials from the ministry of health in the end were unable to attend. In Uganda, the 2020 Conference helped sustain an effort to mainstream nutrition within the ministry of agriculture, but this was an effort already underway before Delhi, and it was sustained in part by parallel efforts from USAID, WFP, and FAO. In China, 2020 Conference materials were briefed to the leadership of the State Food and Nutrition Consultation Committee, and may have helped in the process of establishing a new (but already approved) food safety and nutrition development institute at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), but impacts in China depended heavily on a separate outreach effort by IFPRI leadership, since Chinese leaders had been unable to attend the Conference itself. In India, concerted efforts were made by national officials and researchers—and IFPRI—to use the Conference to shape language in the new 12th Five-Year Plan (2012–2016), and progress in that direction was claimed by some engaged in this effort, but at this writing nothing definitive has emerged, and the traditional separation in India between the agriculture ministry and the nutrition and health sectors appears to be little changed. The largest impacts of the Conference within India were felt

at the individual level, or at the level of discourse, or within some state administrations, rather than within the institutions of national government in New Delhi.

With these limitations in mind, we return to the question asked earlier: What should be an appropriate expectation when assessing an international conference for impact? In the case of the 2020 Conference, where the goal was to change the way ANH issues were being considered—by individuals, institutions, and in professional discourse—we have seen that measurable and in some cases significant progress was made toward each of these goals, in both the short term and the medium term. Because the Delhi Conference was designed to challenge traditional paradigms, it was a risky undertaking for IFPRI. This assessment shows that, in both the short term and medium term, this was a gamble that paid off.

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