About IFPRI and the 2020 Vision Initiative

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) was established in 1975 as one of 15 centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an alliance of governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations engaged in research for sustainable development. To contribute to a world free of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, IFPRI conducts research on a wide range of topics, including agricultural productivity, global trade and local markets, maternal and early childhood nutrition, climate change, and individual country development strategies, among others. Based in Washington, DC, IFPRI has 12 offices worldwide including regional offices in Ethiopia, India, and Senegal.

The 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment is an IFPRI initiative to develop a shared vision and consensus for action for meeting future world food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. Through the 2020 Vision Initiative, IFPRI brings together divergent schools of thought on these issues, generates research, and develops policy recommendations.

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Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

An IFPRI 2020 Book

Edited by Shenggen Fan and Rajul Pandya-Lorch

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Persistent hunger, malnutrition, and ill health threaten the ability of many countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. What happens in the agriculture sector—a supplier of food and essential nutrients, a source of income and employment, and an engine of growth—has important implications for nutrition and health. With the recent food crises, agriculture, for the first time in two decades, is high on the global agenda. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and its 2020 Vision Initiative decided to leverage this momentum to inform, influence, and catalyze key actors to better use agricultural investments to sustainably reduce malnutrition and improve health for the world’s most vulnerable people.

This book is intended to identify knowledge gaps, foster new thinking, and stimulate concrete actions on leveraging agriculture for improving nutrition and health. It is meant to serve a variety of audiences, from scholars, academics, students, and researchers, to practitioners working on the ground, to decisionmakers devising policies that successfully connect agriculture, nutrition, and health at the local, regional, and global levels. Readers interested in probing these topics more fully can follow the references to the discussion papers, journal articles, and books that underlie many of the chapters.

This book is a compilation of peer-reviewed background papers and briefs commissioned by IFPRI for the international conference “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” which took place in New Delhi in February 2011. We hope this book will inspire dialogue within and between sectors, as a first step toward shaping agricultural investments that improve human nutrition and health around the world.

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The chapters in this book were originally commissioned as background papers and briefs for “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” a global conference facilitated by the IFPRI 2020 Vision Initiative and hosted in New Delhi in February 2011. Authors include IFPRI senior staff and other leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world. All of the conference papers and briefs were peer reviewed (or based on peer-reviewed materials) before they were made available to conference participants. Subsequently, in preparation for this book, all of the briefs were converted into book chapters and underwent further peer review by IFPRI’s independent Publications Review Committee. We thank the Committee and its chair, Gershon Feder, for these careful and timely reviews.

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