INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IFPRI

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT

IFPRI food policy research for CANADA

2014

Reducing Poverty and Hunger through Food Policy Research

Foreword

In the wake of the food crises of the early 1970s and the resulting World Food Conference of 1974, a group of innovators realized that food security depends not only on crop production, but also on the policies that affect food systems, from farm to table. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) was founded in 1975, seven years after the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), now known as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD), was established. IFPRI owes its creation to Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. IDRC provided the first grant to IFPRI in 1975 for US$2 million. For the past 39 years, IFPRI has worked to provide solid research for evidence-based policy options to partners in donor and recipient countries.

Canada has long championed food security, nutrition, and sustainable and productive agriculture. Canada was one of the first responders to spring into action in the wake of the 2008 food price crisis and in April 2011, Canada achieved another notable milestone as the first G8 country to meet its L'Aquila Summit commitment, disbursing more than $1 billion in funding for sustainable agricultural development. In 2008, the Canadian government made international headlines with its decision to "untie" 100 percent of its food assistance budget. Typically, Canada's food aid funds were required to be spent domestically on the purchase of food and then exported to recipient countries. Since 2008, Canada's aid monies can be spent on the purchase of food locally, in recipient countries, improving aid effectiveness and ensuring quicker and lower-cost delivery to those in need. As a theme of its Aid Effectiveness Agenda, food security plays an important role in DFATD's development priorities.

To meet the needs of a global population that is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, agricultural production must drastically increase. Moreover, investment in agriculture is fundamental to poverty alleviation: Growth in the agricultural sector has been found to be three to six times more effective at reducing poverty than growth in other sectors.

Agriculture and rural development will continue to play a critical role in alleviating poverty and malnutrition—but the solutions have changed over time. In the early years, they focused on food subsidies and commercialization of agriculture. More recently they have shifted to making nutrition interventions for women and children a priority, supporting agricultural growth and country-led agricultural growth strategies, focusing on measures to strengthen resilience, investing in agricultural research, and forging partnerships with stakeholders in initiatives such as HarvestPlus and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

Working with many longstanding partners, including Canada, IFPRI's food policy research has contributed to reducing poverty and improving food security for the world's poor. By serving as a trusted voice on food policy issues, IFPRI helps to shift conventional wisdom and provide evidence on how to improve food and nutrition security. This brochure highlights some of the key collaborations between IFPRI and Canada, often in partnership with other institutions.

Understanding the Links between Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health

The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Agriculture has traditionally played a key role in providing poor people with a steady supply of staple crops that meet calorie requirements and increase incomes. Recent advances in the agriculture sector, however, have not necessarily translated into improved nutrition and health for poor farmers and consumers in developing countries. The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), led by IFPRI in collaboration with partner CGIAR research centers, helps realize the potential of agricultural development to deliver gender-equitable health and nutritional benefits to the poor. With generous support from DFATD, IDRC, and other donors, A4NH conducts research in four major areas: (1) Value chains for enhanced nutrition; (2) biofortification; (3) agriculture-associated diseases; and (4) integrated programs and policies. Research has a cross-cutting emphasis on gender and capacity building. The A4NH evaluation team has been developing a specific results framework based on impact pathways and theories of change to guide and assess its research and have benefited greatly from discussions with DFATD staff members.

A4NH research evaluates opportunities along value chains for incorporating innovative nutrition interventions that can stimulate both the supply of and demand for nutritious foods. A4NH collaborates with a range of value-chain actors, such as private-sector companies (including food-processing industries), business schools, public-private initiatives, and other groups that focus on food quality and safety. The following are recent outcomes and activities of A4NH work:

- **Value Chains for Enhanced Nutrition:** A4NH facilitated five seed grants for research projects that examined value chains for nutrient-rich food; evaluated dietary quality, deficiencies, and outcomes; addressed key constraints to improving dietary diversity; or focused on dietary constraints for poor consumers (especially women and young children), and the constraints on their nutritional and dietary improvement. Results from these seed grants are being used to develop and grow more significant research projects on value chains for nutrition, the newest part of A4NH's portfolio.

- **Biofortification:** Through HarvestPlus, the program produced seven promising varieties of nutrient-rich staple crops in target areas of Africa and Asia in 2013, with nutritional testing underway. Nutrition efficacy trials for two crops—vitamin A maize and iron beans—have produced promising results. On the delivery side, HarvestPlus introduced biofortified crops to 632,000 farming households in 2013, and developed a prioritization index to identify the "highest opportunity" countries for scaling up biofortification. The 2nd Global Conference on Biofortification in Kigali, Rwanda in 2014 prompted stakeholders to take further action on biofortification. Specifically, CGIAR and the CGIAR Research Centers made a commitment to mainstream breeding for mineral and vitamin traits into conventional food crop development programs, with CGIAR Center-specific targets set for crop and micronutrient combinations.

- **Agriculture-associated Diseases:** Research on aflatoxin control strategies, particularly in Africa, has made great strides. A4NH's research partner, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture piloted the Aflasafe project in Nigeria, a promising biocontrol method. Farmers who used Aflasafe, along with a package of other agriculture practices (such as hybrid seeds and fertilizers), sold approximately 550 tons of maize grain at a premium—ranging from 1.8 percent to about 13.0 percent over the market price. Food

safety innovations in informal milk markets in East Africa and India helped improve milk hygiene, providing affordable and safe milk to an estimated 7 million consumers. Through a five-year investment from IDRC, the Ecosystem Approaches to the Better Management of Zoonotic Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Southeast Asia Region (EcoZD) project leveraged other initiatives in the region to build momentum for the Ecohealth approach among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

- **Integrated Programs and Policies:** A4NH researchers disseminated early results from process and impact evaluation studies of nutrition-sensitive programs in a variety of contexts, generating much needed evidence and lessons learned for practitioners on how to design, implement, and evaluate nutrition-sensitive programs for maximum impact on nutrition and health outcomes. A4NH's influence on the global nutrition agenda has grown through several publications, including two papers in the 2013 Maternal and Child Undernutrition series of *The Lancet*, authored by A4NH researchers from IFPRI, and leadership in the preparation and dissemination of the *2014 Global Nutrition Report*. The results of Canada's investment in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive development are positively influencing the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and the global nutrition agenda. Two regional consortia—Transform Nutrition and Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia—benefitted from A4NH's leadership and technical inputs. They produced a number of key publications that add to the evidence base on nutrition-relevant policies and actions. With Canadian leadership, A4NH has also helped the International Fund for Agricultural Development develop its new nutrition strategy and mainstream nutrition in its investment portfolio. These efforts will complement A4NH's work to help African countries integrate nutrition into their agriculture investment plans.

- Together with Canadian public and private partners, including McGill's business school, Pulse Canada, and a number of companies, A4NH and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics are conducting new research in public-private partnerships for food innovation.

For more information, see www.a4nh.cgiar.org.

Global Nutrition Report

The *2014 Global Nutrition Report* is the first publication in a series designed to help guide action, build accountability, and spark increased commitment to reduce malnutrition. At its core, the report aims to empower nutrition champions at the national level to better inform policy decisions and to strengthen the case for increased resource allocation. The 2014 report is funded with the support of the Government of Canada, the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IFPRI, Irish Aid, and 1,000 Days.

The report was launched at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome in November 2014. Follow-up country roundtables will take place in New York City and Washington, DC, in early December 2014 and in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America in early 2015.

Innovative Approaches for the Prevention of Childhood Undernutrition in Africa South of the Sahara

MOTIVATION

Tackling the excessive burden of undernutrition in Africa south of the Sahara requires both prevention during the first 1,000 days (from conception to a child's second birthday) and treatment of severe acute malnutrition. Innovation in delivery systems and new ways of linking preventive and curative programs are needed.

CURRENT WORK

Innovative Approaches for the Prevention of Undernutrition is a three-year (2014–2016) project funded by Canada's DFATD in partnership with Helen Keller International. The project aims to prevent both acute and chronic undernutrition in children in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal. Research underway (1) identifies opportunities and assesses the feasibility of optimizing existing delivery platforms to improve screening for and achieve greater uptake and use of moderate and severe acute malnutrition (MAM/SAM) treatment services, by incorporating prevention services; (2) assesses the feasibility and impacts of such programs on improving the coverage, uptake, and completion of treatment for MAM/SAM and the prevention of chronic undernutrition; and (3) assesses the cost and cost-effectiveness of integrated programs that address undernutrition, from treatment to prevention. The project will provide critical information to guide global and national policies in scaling up nutrition programming.

Creating Homestead Agriculture for Nutrition and Gender Equity

MOTIVATION

Maternal and child undernutrition has long-lasting, irreversible effects on the development, health, and economic productivity of individuals, communities, and

entire nations. The underlying causes of child malnutrition are many, but can be grouped into three clusters: (1) insufficient availability and access to food; (2) suboptimal maternal and childcare and feeding practices; and (3) insufficient access to health, water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

CURRENT WORK

Creating Homestead Agriculture for Nutrition and Gender Equity (CHANGE) is a three-year (2013–2015) project funded by Canada's DFATD and led by Helen Keller International. This project is designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating an Enhanced Homestead Food Production model developed to prevent undernutrition in infants, young children, and their mothers through nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs that integrate nutrition, health, and hygiene behavior change communications.

The CHANGE project promotes the production of diverse horticultural crops and select micronutrient-rich animal source foods and supports behavior change communications activities to improve infant and young child feeding, hygiene, and health practices through a

network of local agricultural and health partners. IFPRI is designing and implementing rigorous impact and process evaluations in Burkina Faso and Tanzania to generate urgently needed evidence on whether and how integrated agriculture and nutrition programs can contribute to accelerating progress in improving nutrition.

Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods, and Food Security

MOTIVATION

Nutrition and access to nutritious foods are vital in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Undernutrition heightens vulnerability to disease transmission, and pairing antiretroviral drug therapies with adequate nutrition increases their effectiveness. Income inequality and food insecurity have also been found to increase the likelihood of exposure to HIV, driving up rates of infection in food insecure regions.

Launched in 2001 with the support of Canada, the Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods, and Food Security (RENEWAL) operated in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia, through 2011, producing more than 150 publications. A "network of networks," RENEWAL linked food and nutrition organizations to AIDS and public health practitioners to form national networks. To help countries develop better policies to prevent HIV and mitigate the impact of AIDS, the program highlighted the relationship among HIV, food security, and nutrition in Africa south of the Sahara through capacity strengthening, policy communications, and action research.

OUTCOMES

A 2011 IFPRI-commissioned external evaluation concluded that RENEWAL "had a direct, positive influence on national capacity to address the critical gaps in understanding the links between HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and food security, in developing ways to respond to these challenges, and in national capacity to respond."

- RENEWAL led the charge to incorporate food and nutrition security into several countries' HIV and AIDS strategic plans, policies, and programs:
  - **Kenya:** Food and nutrition concerns were included in the National AIDS Strategic Plan (2009–2010 and 2012–2013).

- **Malawi:** The agricultural sector HIV/AIDS policy/strategy (2003–2008), the Fisheries HIV/AIDS Strategy (2007–2011), and the Forestry HIV/AIDS Strategy (2007–2011) include references to the importance of food and nutrition.
- **Mozambique:** The Agricultural HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2006–2010), received technical input from IFPRI.
- **Uganda:** The Ugandan AIDS Commission credited RENEWAL with introducing food and nutrition to the National Strategic Plan (2007-2012).
- **South Africa:** A sector strategy was developed on HIV and AIDS, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the government provided support to the RENEWAL land reform project.
- **Tanzania:** The agriculture sector strategy for HIV and AIDS and other chronic illnesses launched in 2006 and is still employed. RENEWAL also provided input for the National AIDS Control Council's National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for HIV/AIDS.
- **Zambia:** RENEWAL provided technical input for the HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2006–2010) and the Zambia National Response to AIDS under the National AIDS Control Council.

- **Zimbabwe:** The RENEWAL team provided input for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Sector Strategy Plan on HIV and AIDS (2006–2010).

- RENEWAL researchers served on advisory committees and provided guidance to regional institutions such as the Southern African Development Community HIV/AIDS Unit, the Health Economics and HIV and AIDS Research Division of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the Southern African AIDS Trust, and the Regional AIDS Initiative of Southern Africa.
- RENEWAL joined forces with international organizations such as the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and UNICEF on action research in the region and provided significant input to the United Nations and Partners' Alliance on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Social Protection and to the UK DFID–funded Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Program.
- RENEWAL elevated food security and nutrition to the global stage by encouraging the inclusion of these concerns in the comprehensive HIV and AIDS responses of several international programs and organizations:
  - Both the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria's food and nutrition guidelines and UNAIDS policy briefs were influenced by RENEWAL's work.
  - RENEWAL was also directly involved in drafting a nutrition strategy for the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The strategy was described in the Report on Food and Nutrition for People Living with HIV/AIDS produced in May 2006.
  - The World Health Organization Assembly resolution WHA57.14, passed in 2005, identifies IFPRI as

the source for their call to integrate "nutrition into a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS."

- **Article 28 of the June 2006 UN Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS recognized food and nutrition as an important part of the global AIDS response, such that "all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food…as part of a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS."**

Improving Nutrition in Vulnerable Countries

Breeding Crops for Better Nutrition: HarvestPlus

MOTIVATION

Can one seed change the world? We think so—an improved single seed variety can mean the difference between sight and blindness for millions of malnourished children. Since 2004, HarvestPlus has been working to combat micronutrient malnutrition, also known as "hidden hunger," which afflicts billions of people worldwide. This deficiency in essential minerals and vitamins can be devastating. In addition to causing blindness, it can stunt children's physical and mental development, increase vulnerability to infectious diseases, and even lead to premature death.

With 70 partner organizations in more than 40 countries, HarvestPlus has sought to reduce micronutrient malnutrition through biofortification: breeding staple crops to achieve a higher content of crucial micronutrients. HarvestPlus, generously supported by Canada, along with other donors, targets crops widely consumed by the poor and malnourished in Africa and Asia to achieve a greater impact among the most afflicted populations. Specifically, HarvestPlus is biofortifying beans, cassava, maize, pearl millet, rice, sweet potato, and wheat with one of three nutrients—provitamin A, iron, or zinc—to help reduce micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries around the world.

OUTCOMES

HarvestPlus and partners have now reached more than one million farmers with nutritious varieties of staple food crops that include the crops noted here. During the next five years, HarvestPlus plans to disseminate nutritious staple food crops to people in target countries including Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia. The goal is to reach 50 million farmers by 2018. Accomplishments and plans related to these crops follow:

- **Sweet potato:** Vitamin A orange sweet potato was first disseminated in Mozambique and Uganda with positive results. Adoption of the new variety increased by over 60 percent in both countries, while vitamin A intake for women and children doubled in Mozambique, and nearly doubled for younger Ugandan children and women. More than 145,000 households—or 750,000 Ugandans—are now eating orange sweet potato. The International Potato Center and others are scaling up the program in many countries in Africa in order to reach millions more people in the coming years.
- **Cassava**: More than 100,000 Nigerian farmers in more than 2,000 villages planted vitamin A cassava for the first time in 2013. Some 650 extension agents and rural facilitators were also trained on best agronomic practices to assist farmers with this roll out. National dissemination of the varieties was formally launched in July 2013 as part of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria. HarvestPlus is also disseminating vitamin A cassava in the Democratic Republic of Congo, reaching more than 25,000 farming households to date in the western part of the country.
- **Maize**: Since 2012, three vitamin A maize varieties have been released in Zambia, reaching more than

10,000 farming households. Farmers in Nigeria started growing vitamin A maize in 2014 following the release of two open-pollinated varieties. An efficacy study published in October 2014 in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* established that vitamin A maize increases vitamin A stores in children. HarvestPlus trained more than 4,000 Zambian farmers on the nutritional benefits of vitamin A maize and the diverse ways in which it can be processed and cooked.

- **Beans:** Nineteen bean varieties that are richer in iron than usual have been released in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last three years. By the end of 2013, some 700,000 Rwandan farmers and more than 800,000 Congolese farmers were growing these iron beans. In Rwanda, the World Food Programme is now including iron beans in its Purchase for Progress program; in 2013 WFP purchased 50 metric tons of iron beans from farmers to distribute to populations affected by emergencies. WFP has also committed to increasing its purchase of iron beans to 500 metric tons per season.
- **Pearl millet:** An iron pearl millet variety was first commercialized in India in 2012, thanks to a partnership with a private-sector company, Nirmal Seeds. As of 2013 it has reached more than 70,000 households. A study published in 2013 in the *Journal of Nutrition* showed that iron pearl millet can provide young Indian children not only with their full daily iron needs but their full zinc requirement as well.
- **Rice:** The first zinc rice variety in Bangladesh was released in 2013 and is now available to farmers. HarvestPlus submitted five zinc rice varieties to the official registration trial in Bangladesh and four zinc wheat varieties to the Participatory Variety Selection on-farm trials in India.
- **HarvestPlus** has been instrumental in helping to establish nationally owned biofortification programs in Brazil, China, India, and Panama.

Developing Agricultural Strategies at the National Level

Improving Agricultural Data and Policy Analysis in Nigeria

MOTIVATION

Agriculture is the single largest contributor to the well-being of the rural poor in Nigeria, sustaining approximately 86 percent of rural households in the country. Improved agricultural development and growth can provide a pathway out of poverty. In an effort to help Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development meet the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals and commitments, IFPRI and partners including CIDA (now DFATD) and USAID developed the Nigeria Strategy Support Program in 2007. Collaborating with local researchers and government officials, the program conducts research covering a wide swath of topics such as agricultural inputs and technologies; agricultural financing; governance; the rice sector; commodity value chains; social networks; nutrition and food security; and Nigeria's role in regional food security, capacity building, and data analysis. This research provides a solid foundation for policy analysis. The program, with research staff based in Abuja, also builds upon national capacity

to improve the policy research that feeds into Nigeria's rural development strategy.

OUTCOMES

- IFPRI's support for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) led to rapid progress in Nigeria's CAADP process. For example, from 2009 to 2010, the Nigerian government sharply increased budget allocations in order to meet its CAADP commitments.
- IFPRI facilitated revisions to the national agricultural strategy, which was submitted to FMARD in 2010 as an input for the National Agricultural Investment Plan.
- IFPRI and FMARD held a policy dialogue on the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA). IFPRI completed several activities for ATA, including hosting a conference, "Informing Nigeria's Agricultural Transformation Agenda with Policy Analysis and Research Evidence," in November 2012. Additionally, IFPRI's Statistics of Public Expenditure for Economic Development (SPEED) database on agricultural public expenditures in Nigeria was included in the Nigerian government's *2011 Agricultural Transformation Agenda*, the linchpin strategy document of the minister of agriculture.

- In 2012, IFPRI completed a capacity assessment for FMARD on the ATA implementation. The study identified several capacity gaps, including gaps in policy analysis within the ministry. FMARD is currently in the process of sourcing funding to establish a policy analysis unit within the Planning, Research, and Statistics (PRS) Department of the ministry.
- IFPRI's Land Governance Monitoring and Assessment Partnership Program helped to reinvigorate the Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform. At the government's request, the research team completed a survey to examine wealth and gender disparities in land registration and titling.
- In 2009, findings from IFPRI's Nigeria Agriculture Public Expenditure Review spurred increased national interest in the level of agricultural spending, and team members were invited to meet with members of the Nigerian Parliament.
- In 2012, IFPRI completed a study of the Nigerian rice economy that is currently under review for implementation.
- IFPRI led a team to develop a policy matrix as an input into Nigeria's New Alliance Cooperation Framework. Approved by the Government of Nigeria, the policy matrix is one of the principal documents in the Cooperative Framework packet.

Ethiopia Strategy Support Program

MOTIVATION

Development strategies in Ethiopia aimed at helping the poor in rural areas often face design, implementation, and monitoring challenges. For instance, donors and policymakers have struggled with how to target investments by region to increase food production, economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction. To help provide context-specific answers, at the request of the Ethiopian government, IFPRI launched

the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP) in 2004 with support from Canada and other donors. Since that time, a team of IFPRI researchers has worked in Addis Ababa, alongside government and national institutions, to develop agricultural strategies and build capacity for policy analysis. The ESSP promotes sustainable development and poverty reduction through policy-oriented research, capacity building, strengthening of institutions, and an open dialogue on economic and agricultural policy issues.

OUTCOMES

Highlights of the outcomes identified from the 2013 IFPRI-commissioned external impact assessment of the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program include:

- ESSP has strengthened the capacity of five core national institutions: (1) the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), (2) the Ministry of Agriculture, (3) the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, (4) the Central Statistical Agency, and (5) the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR).
- Within Ethiopia's donor community, IFPRI's research is widely recognized for its substantial contribution to establishing donor priorities and efforts to support government policies consistent with those priorities.

By early 2014, ESSP had published over 60 working papers on important food and agricultural issues in Ethiopia. The large number of downloads from the ESSP webpage suggests the papers were widely read in the country. Together with local partners, IFPRI also published several Ethiopia-wide atlases: *Atlas of the Ethiopian Rural Economy* (2006), *Population and Housing Census Atlas of Ethiopia 2007* (2011), and *Atlas of Agricultural Statistics 2006/07–2010/11* (2011). These atlases are in high demand to inform decisionmaking and spur policy dialogue.

- Since 2004, the government has relied heavily on IFPRI's analysis to formulate and implement the Agricultural Development-led Industrialization Strategy. In addition, IFPRI worked with the Central Statistical Agency to provide analysis to the Agricultural Growth Program as well as the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP).
- ESSP has trained more than 1,200 national researchers in computer economic modeling and mapping. These tools have been applied in a variety of research contexts, from the CAADP goals to climate change scenarios in Ethiopia.
- ESSP's capacity-building activities have included short- and long-term training courses (primarily for students in Addis Ababa and regional capitals); training for advanced degrees (namely, MScs and PhDs);

support to Ethiopian research institutions; collaborative research (primarily with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute but also with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research and the Ethiopian Economics Association); and enumerator and survey training for Central Statistical Agency staff.

- IFPRI has collaborated with EDRI in research and analysis that has provided timely inputs for exchange rate and wheat price stabilization policy formulation in the country.

Global Policy Communications

The 2020 Vision Conferences

2020 Vision Conference: Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

MOTIVATION

Agriculture, nutrition, and health are inseparably linked—agriculture provides food to nourish people so they can lead healthy lives, and productive agriculture requires healthy, well-nourished people. But can agriculture do more to improve human health and nutrition? In February 2011, IFPRI's 2020 Vision Initiative brought together the agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors at an international conference on "Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health," in New Delhi, India, to examine changes needed to maximize agriculture's contributions to human health and nutrition, and how human health and nutrition could contribute to an agricultural system that is both productive and sustainable. CIDA and a consortium of other sponsors supported this international conference, which attracted more than 1,000 participants from 65 countries.

OUTCOMES

The 2020 Conference informed, influenced, and mobilized action by key actors to better employ investments in agriculture to sustainably reduce undernutrition and ill-health for the world's most vulnerable people.

According to an independent external assessment, the 2020 New Delhi Conference had important impacts on individuals, institutions, and professional discourse.

- Individuals: The conference gave attendees new information, tools to make them more effective within their own institutions, and new networking opportunities.
- Institutions: The strongest institutional impacts came within organizations that wanted to integrate nutrition into agriculture but were unsure of how, or how quickly, to move forward. These institutions included CGIAR, of which IFPRI is a member, as it moved to create a major new research program on agriculture for nutrition and health; the FAO, as it responded to an internal evaluation of its own work in the nutrition arena; and a number of donor institutions, most notably CIDA, which used the momentum generated by the 2020 Conference to help push and guide a major expansion of its funding in the agriculture-nutrition-health arena.

- Professional discourse: The 2020 conference helped to change the conversation about agriculture and food security, incorporating more frequent reference to cross-sector impacts on nutrition and health.

Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People

MOTIVATION

With the 2015 deadline for the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) looming, IFPRI facilitated an international policy consultation to identify actions needed to ensure the world's poorest and hungry people would not be left behind. The cornerstone of this consultation, which was supported by Canada along with other partners, was an international conference in October 2007 in Beijing, co-organized with China's State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

OUTCOMES

- This conference, which focused on society's most vulnerable and marginalized groups, was held at a unique moment, coinciding with the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which had similar poverty reduction goals. Hui Liangyu, vice premier of China's State Council, used the conference as a forum to announce China's plans to strengthen both inclusive anti-poverty partnerships and collaboration with partner countries and international organizations on poverty reduction strategies. Many Congress members attended the event, which drew significant media attention both within China and globally. The conference undoubtedly fed into the State Council's own meetings, which took place soon after the Congress and conference.
- The background report, *The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, was the first study to comprehensively assess who and where the world's poorest and hungry people are located, and how their welfare is changing over time. The report was ahead of its time in indicating that poverty reduction has been slowest among those living in ultra-poverty and consequently that the poorest are, in fact, being left behind. The issue of exclusion and marginalization resonates even more in the context of today's post–MDG discourse and will continue to demand urgent attention as that agenda unfolds.
- More than 90 percent of respondents in a post-conference survey of participants agreed that the conference provided them with a good opportunity to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce hunger and poverty, as well as to learn from the experiences of others.

Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020

MOTIVATION

In 2004, IFPRI facilitated an all-Africa conference, bringing together more than 500 actors and stakeholders from 50 countries to deliberate on how to bring about change and action to assure food and nutrition security. The conference, held in Kampala, was cohosted by the Government of Uganda and cosponsored by the former Canada Fund for Africa together with more than a dozen other organizations.

OUTCOMES

- The three African presidents who attended the conference—President Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal—briefed other heads of state on the outcomes of the conference. They participated in the G8 Sea Island Summit, where the G8 members commended the 2020 Africa Conference and welcomed the high priority that Africans were placing on raising agricultural productivity and promoting broad-based rural development. President

Obasanjo facilitated a meeting with the ECOWAS secretary general to further mainstream conference outcomes into West African processes. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia drew attention to the 2020 Africa Conference at a presidential seminar, "Innovative Approaches to Meeting the Hunger Millennium Development Goal in Africa," in Addis Ababa.

- Following the 2020 Africa Conference, the advisory committee chair prepared a concept note and actively lobbied for an African food and nutrition day to keep food and nutrition issues high on the African policy agenda. In July 2010, the African Union decided to commemorate African Day for Food and Nutrition Security on October 30 every year.
- The conference also had an appreciable impact on IFPRI itself, enabling the Institute to develop a more strategic and holistic approach to its Africa work, and laying the foundation for the Institute to scale up its engagement in the region, which has been significant since 2004. The conference raised IFPRI's profile across Africa and deepened IFPRI's understanding of Africa. This is exemplified by the Institute's support for CAADP processes; by its interactions with regional, subregional, and national organizations; and by the development and expansion of initiatives like the Country Strategy Support Programs.
- A survey of conference participants revealed that 97 percent of respondents agreed that the conference addressed important food and nutrition security issues in Africa, 86 percent believed the conference contributed to raising awareness about the need for building effective partnerships and pursuing appropriate policy actions to achieve food and nutrition security in Africa; and 78 percent thought the conference had enhanced dialogue among actors on their roles and responsibilities in achieving sustainable food and nutrition security in Africa.

Informing Policymakers for Better Allocation of Research and Development Resources

The Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators Initiative

MOTIVATION

Policymakers are beginning to recognize that greater investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) is vital for increasing agricultural productivity. Data on the size and scope of R&D capacity and investments allow performance, inputs, and outcomes to be measured, monitored, and benchmarked. IFPRI's Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative, with support from Canada, provides comprehensive quantitative and qualitative information on and analyses of trends in agricultural R&D investment, human capacity, and institutions in low- and middle-income countries. ASTI allows countries to track their progress over time and compare it to other countries. The initiative also raises awareness of ongoing challenges and guides informed decisions on funding, capacities, and the organizational structures of research institutions.

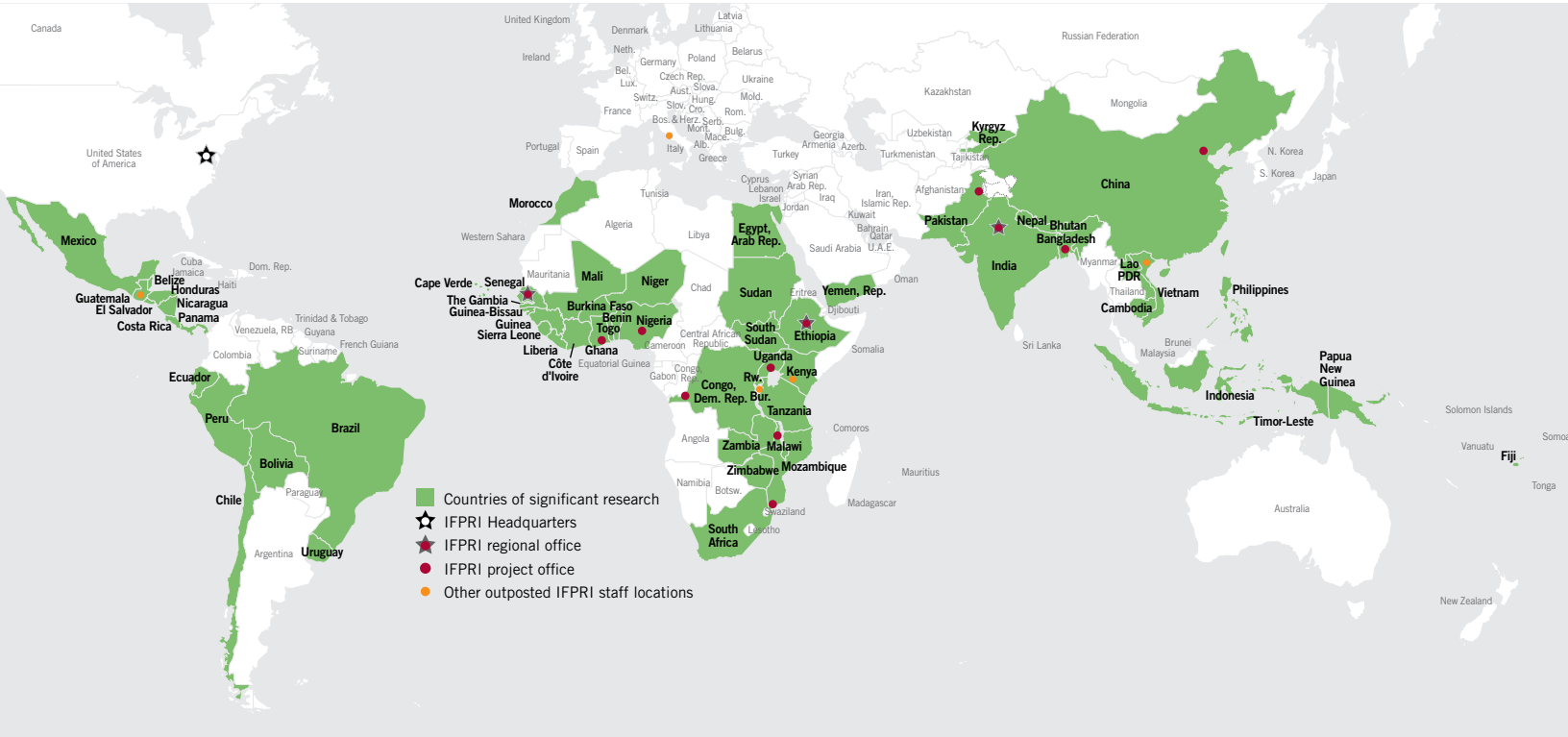
As part of its Operational Plan 2012–2015, DFATD has allocated funding to ASTI to establish a data collection

and analysis system for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Financial support for the institutionalization and decentralization of ASTI in LAC would permit more frequent updates of datasets for these countries as well as an expansion to other key countries in the region.

OUTCOMES AND CURRENT WORK

- A 2014 external assessment of the relevance, quality, and utility of ASTI, commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, revealed several findings:
  - Evidence suggests that 206 countries accessed the ASTI website between 2011 to the end of April 2014 with most visitors coming from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Bangladesh. Internationally, ASTI data were used in external publications, online reports, academic journals focused on examining national capacity in R&D, and in analyzing food systems and indicators for agricultural growth. Nationally, ASTI data have been used in policy analysis (India), public sector strategic plans (Mozambique), and explicitly, in G8 and G20 fora in 2012. Many believe that ASTI provides unbiased robust data, quality analyses, indexed publications, and syntheses in an effective way.
  - Since 2013, ASTI data have also been hosted on FAOSTAT, a platform that enables more users and partners to utilize the data.
  - An in-country partner/stakeholder assessment showed that, among 34 high level stakeholders interviewed, 97 percent deemed the data satisfactory in content and value; and 55 percent said the ASTI documents were a major source for their policy documents.
- In 2014, with Canadian funding, survey tools were distributed in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, and 10 countries in the Caribbean region. ASTI has developed a data management portal for the Central American and Caribbean survey rounds. The portal allows countries to manage the survey process and, in the future, will allow them to produce graphs, tables, and download data.
- In 2012, ASTI produced a new global assessment describing worldwide trends in agricultural R&D spending. The report revealed that following a decade of slowing investment in the 1990s, global public spending on agricultural R&D increased steadily between 2000–2008.
- ASTI's outputs are frequently referenced in high-level meetings and reports:
  - ASTI data was featured prominently in *A Discussion Paper on the Development of a Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa: A Long Term Strategic Framework*, a background report that was prepared for the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A). The report is currently being finalized and will be discussed at the African heads of state meeting later in 2014.
  - Two reports, the 2012 *G8 Camp David Accountability Report: Actions, Approach and Results* and *Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Growth and Bridging the Gap for Small-Family Farms: Interagency Report to the Mexican G20 Presidency* have been very important in raising stakeholder awareness of the value of ASTI data and have called for sustainable support for ASTI.
- ASTI data and analyses have been instrumental in helping policymakers understand levels of agricultural research and development (R&D) investment and human capacity and where to increase them, if necessary. ASTI has improved the relevance of its outputs for policymakers, R&D managers, and other stakeholders and has significantly increased its communication and outreach efforts since 2011.

IFPRI OFFICES AND COUNTRIES OF SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH



Looking Forward

As the world faces swelling populations, escalating pressures on scarce natural resources, and a rapidly changing climate, IFPRI's rigorous and pragmatic approach to food policy research will continue to support public investments, country-led policy development, and the design and implementation of on-the-ground programs.

Hunger and malnutrition are persistent challenges that demand innovative solutions. IFPRI looks forward to continuing its longstanding partnership with Canada to build upon successes achieved in improving food security, supporting economic transformation in developing countries, and reducing poverty and hunger around the world. IFPRI and Canada will continue their shared commitment to ongoing improvements in food and nutrition security and to producing global public goods, sharing information, building on lessons learned, connecting stakeholders, and harmonizing development efforts.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

IFPRI Headquarters
2033 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA
Phone: +1-202-862-5600
Fax: +1-202-467-4439
Email: ifpri@cgiar.org
Web: www.ifpri.org

IFPRI Dakar
Titre 3396, Lot #2
BP 24063
Dakar - Almadies, Senegal
Phone: +221-33-869-9800
Email: ifpri-dakar@cgiar.org

IFPRI Addis Ababa
P.O. Box 5689
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone: +251-11-617-2500
Fax: +251-11-646-2927
Email: ifpri-addisababa@cgiar.org

IFPRI New Delhi
NASC, DPS Road
Opp Todapur, Pusa, New Delhi 110012
India
Phone: +91-11-2584-6566/67/68
Fax: +91-11-2584-8008/2584-6572
Email: ifpri-newdelhi@cgiar.org

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