

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

IFPRI



# Letter from the **BOARD CHAIR** and **DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Despite the immense challenges of 2020, the year also brought great accomplishments and showcased the resilience and adaptiveness of our staff and partners. IFPRI weathered the COVID-19 storm by quickly adjusting to lockdowns around the world and rapidly ramping up its analysis of the impacts of the pandemic and releasing a multitude of high-quality publications. As the world shifted to an era of social distancing, IFPRI seamlessly moved its events to a virtual setting, managing to increase the total number of events and to attract new and bigger audiences around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic – combined with the social and economic impacts of measures to control the disease – had enormous adverse impacts on poverty and food and nutrition security, and IFPRI is committed to supporting the global efforts to “build back better.”

IFPRI's 545 staff members, 48 percent of whom are based “on the ground” in developing countries, collaborate across disciplines and conduct research in more than 70 countries. Working closely with hundreds of partners, IFPRI continues to address countries’ policy priorities, communicate evidence-based analysis to policymakers, and strengthen local capacity through its offices in Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, and Uganda. IFPRI further expanded its field presence in 2020 with the launch of a major program in Rwanda.

IFPRI's researchers published 410 peer-reviewed publications in 2020, a 9 percent increase from 2019. The Institute is and has been number one among agricultural economics departments in Research Papers in Economics (RePEc) rankings for many years and is also ranked number two in African economics research.

IFPRI remains financially sound. The Board of Trustees received another successful external audit of the Institute's finances and continues to provide strong governance oversight.

The move to One CGIAR gathered momentum in 2020, and IFPRI provided strategic input to the evolving research, financial, and operational vision. We deeply appreciate the service of departing Board members Dacian Cioloș, Ismahane Elouafi, Marcos Jank, and Mari Pangestu, who served as Board Chair for two years. In the coming year, we will work to ensure that IFPRI takes its cutting-edge, innovative work to new heights as part of the One CGIAR and continues to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition.

**Emorn Udomkesmalee**  
Board Chair

**Johan Swinnen**  
Director General

# **BOARD** of **TRUSTEES**

**Emorn Udomkesmalee**, IFPRI Board Chair, Thailand

**Djimé Adoum**, Chad

**Nancy Birdsall**, USA

**Derek Byerlee**, Australia

**Marco Ferroni\***, CGIAR System Board Chair, Switzerland

**Patrick Caron\***, France

**Shenggen Fan\***, China

**Neal Gutterson\***, USA

**Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl\***, Australia

**Alice Ruhweza\***, Uganda

**Johan Swinnen**, Director General, ex officio

**Hilary Wild\***, United Kingdom/Ireland

## **Additional Board Members who served in 2020**

**Phyllis Caldwell\*\***, United States

**Dacian Julien Cioloș**, Romania

**Ismahane Elouafi**, Morocco / Canada

**Marcos Sawaya Jank**, Brazil

**Pascal Lamy\*\***, France

**Mari Pangestu**, former Chairperson, Indonesia

**Anna Taylor\*\***, United Kingdom

*\*CGIAR System Board Members*

*\*\* Currently members of IFPRI's Strategy & Program Council, along with all Trustees.*

# IFPRI responds to COVID-19

IFPRI's timely research beginning in February 2020 provided evidence-based projections and analysis of the impact of COVID-19 and national policy responses to the pandemic, making valuable data and analysis available to researchers, policymakers, donors, and the public.

**Modeling.** Modeling work made clear the gravity of the crisis. Early [projections](#) warned of an economic slowdown likely to raise poverty levels in South Asia and Africa significantly, with a potential increase of 20 percent in extreme poverty possible in Africa south of the Sahara. [Estimates](#) of impacts on nutrition found that roughly 6.7 million more children under 5 would suffer from wasting in 2020 than would have without the pandemic, highlighting the crucial need for action on child nutrition. At the country level, IFPRI researchers and colleagues are [measuring policy impacts and prioritizing policies for recovery](#).

**Field research.** Phone surveys have proved a flexible tool for conducting research during the pandemic, providing useful data on how the crisis and related policies were affecting different populations and businesses in [China](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Nigeria](#), and other countries.

**Tools.** IFPRI developed open-access tools to support decision-making and research. The [COVID-19 Policy Response Portal](#) and the [COVID-19 Food Trade Policy Tracker](#) provide frequent updates on policy responses and impacts. The CGIAR's [COVID-19 Hub](#), hosted by the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), supports national response and recovery work across CGIAR research themes, harnessing knowledge for emergency response, recovery, and resilience.

**Communications.** With key insights and analysis from the early months of the pandemic, IFPRI's COVID-19 blog drew a large readership. Posts in the series addressed an array of pandemic-related issues – including global poverty, food security, nutrition, food trade and supply chains, gender, and employment – and were compiled in the e-book [COVID-19 & Global Food Security](#). Numerous [online events](#) about the pandemic's impacts featuring IFPRI researchers and other experts also drew large audiences.

48

blog posts

313,209

views

23

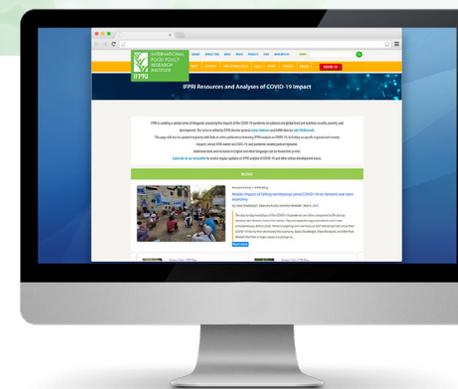
online events

20,142

live views

239

papers published  
(34 peer-reviewed)



To learn more, see IFPRI's [COVID-19 spotlight page](#).

# 2020 Highlights from IFPRI's Strategic Research Areas

IFPRI's work is built around [five strategic research areas](#), with cross-cutting attention to gender, which address the world's most critical food policy issues. To advance knowledge and practice across these strategic areas, IFPRI works in more than 70 countries and partners closely with public institutions, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, governments, farmers' organizations, donor agencies, and research and academic institutions, as well as other CGIAR centers. In 2020, IFPRI not only continued with ongoing work but also pivoted to meet new research needs related to the pandemic. The following are a few research highlights from 2020.



## Fostering Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food Supply

**Climate-smart practices.** Adoption of [four key climate-smart practices](#) could reduce climate-driven food insecurity worldwide – with up to 69 million fewer people at risk of hunger by 2050 – while also contributing to a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions. Most [land-related mitigation practices](#) can be applied without competing for available land and have potential to provide multiple co-benefits.

**Intensification trade-offs.** Increased investments in agricultural R&D for intensification could boost India’s crop production while creating a substantial carbon sink – pulling CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere. But [projections](#) also show these agricultural land management practices can entail trade-offs, such as reductions in biodiversity.

**Small-scale irrigation.** Investing in [small-scale irrigation](#) has significant potential to extend crop production into the dry season in Ethiopia, which could reduce food insecurity, according to a new modeling system that also maps the best small-scale irrigation opportunities.

**Review process for GM crops.** Nigeria authorized the first GM food crop for cultivation in sub-Saharan Africa outside of South Africa. An ex ante economic analysis of this new insect-protected cowpea variety estimated that [benefits for producers and consumers would amount to around US\\$350 million](#). This analysis contributed to IFPRI’s 10-year program of support and technical assistance on regulatory process, which enabled a harmonized, predictable, and efficient final review process.

## Promoting Healthy Diets and Nutrition for All

**Double-duty actions.** Nutrition-sensitive programs for tackling food insecurity and childhood undernutrition can unintentionally cause harm, such as increasing overweight in mothers, signaling the need for a more holistic approach to nutrition, especially use of [double-duty actions](#) that address both under- and overnutrition.

**Cell phones for monitoring interventions.** Cell phones can be used to monitor key health and nutrition interventions linked to the first 1,000 days of life, according to a [study](#) in rural Guatemala, where mobile phone calls proved a valuable instrument for collecting information even during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Catch-up growth.** Helping stunted children achieve “catch-up growth” has attracted attention – but a [careful examination](#) of the evidence reveals that even if catch-up growth is attained, prolonged undernourishment early in life leads to irreversible negative development and health outcomes. Nutrition programs should therefore focus on preventing undernutrition.

**Accurate estimates.** Accurately calculating the annual burden of child acute malnutrition (AM) requires the use of expensive and rarely available incidence data. With newly estimated [incidence correction factors](#) from IFPRI researchers, less-expensive prevalence data can be used to quantify the AM burden.

## Building Inclusive and Efficient Markets, Trade Systems, and Food Industries

**Fertilizer markets.** Fertilizer prices vary considerably within African countries, according to the first major effort to [systematically describe](#) their spatial variability and to test the accuracy of a spatial price-prediction model. Price estimates from such models can inform policy and help target interventions.

**Stakeholder-designed scenarios.** The [FOODSECURE scenarios](#) – which explore global food security up to the year 2050 – were constructed with stakeholder participation to ensure relevance and credibility, and can be used as an input into global simulation models.

**Consumer demand for safe food.** Marketing or discounting of Kenyan maize flour labeled as tested for [aflatoxin](#) increases flour sales in the short term, but the effect disappears as soon as marketing or discounting ceases, suggesting for-profit firms in low- and middle-income countries cannot be expected to invest in marketing food-safety claims.

**Informal markets.** [Informal food vendors](#) are a crucial, integrated part of urban food systems in Africa south of the Sahara. Yet urban food traders have encountered some of the most [severe pandemic restrictions](#), as many governments have focused their pandemic responses on protecting consumer livelihoods.

## Strengthening Institutions and Governance

**Information and rural governance.** A [systematic review](#) of empirical studies found that information alone cannot improve rural governance and service delivery. Individuals must have the power and incentives to act on it, and interventions that just provide information may need to be rethought.

**Cost of ending hunger sustainably.** Donor countries must roughly [double assistance spending](#) for food security and nutrition – to reach an annual contribution of US\$14 billion – in order to end hunger by 2030, boost smallholders' incomes, and cut agricultural CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Informing advocacy.** Policy atlases, produced for [Burkina Faso](#), [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#), and [Rwanda](#) and shared with civil society organizations, take stock of advocacy efforts, analyze and map nutrition interventions, and offer insights for advancing resilience and food and nutrition security.

**Farmer organizations.** Farmer organizations that provide services to small-scale producers should focus on access to markets through provision of information, infrastructure, and logistical support, according to a [review](#) conducted in India and Africa. Marginalized farmers may require additional support systems in order to benefit from organization membership.

## Transforming Agricultural and Rural Economies

**Crop diversification.** Smallholder farmers in northern Ghana maintain high levels of crop diversity that boost both own-consumption and cash incomes. For such farmers, [interventions](#) that build on existing crop diversity may be preferable to crop specialization.

**Pathways to food system transformation.** A [review](#) of current food system analyses found four different pathways for system transformation, and highlighted the need for greater attention to food system drivers, determinants of food choices, political economy, and power relationships.

**Agricultural transformation.** New IFPRI books look at agricultural transformation in detail, covering agricultural [mechanization in Africa](#) and the lessons to be learned from Asia, [agricultural extension](#) in developing regions, and the evolution of [Ethiopia's agrifood sector](#). A comprehensive textbook explores the expanding range of [agricultural development](#) research. In addition, IFPRI's 2020 [Global Food Policy Report](#) provides a detailed look at building inclusive food systems.

## Cross-Cutting Theme on Gender

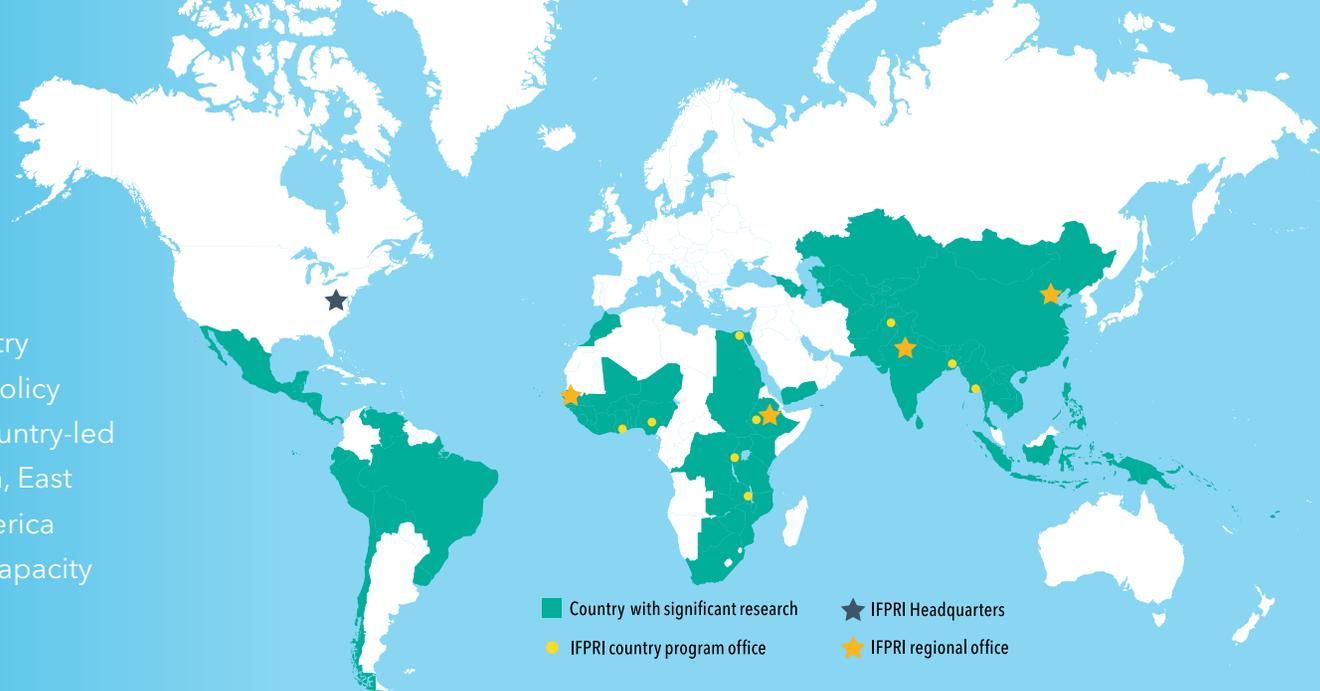
**Women's empowerment.** Increases in women's participation in production decisions and in their social relationships outside the home lead to more diversification in farm production and a transition from cereals to production of other crops like fruits and vegetables in Bangladesh, according to a [study](#) using the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI).

**Intrahousehold decision-making.** In rural Senegal, a [study](#) found that although decision-making is often used as a proxy for women's empowerment, reasons beyond the gender of the decision-maker – such as whether the person is the most informed household member – influenced outcomes in dairy farming households.

**Bargaining power.** An [exploration](#) of the role gender plays in household decision-making related to the adoption and diffusion of the orange sweet potato in Uganda found that women use greater bargaining power to facilitate diffusion of the health-promoting technology, as seen in their likelihood to share sweet potato vines.

# IFPRI Around the World

IFPRI maintains a strong regional and country presence to respond to demand for food policy research and deliver holistic support for country-led development. Regional programs for Africa, East and Central Asia, South Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean provide evidence and capacity building for broader development efforts.



- **Ethiopia.** Households in [Ethiopia](#) exposed to unpredictable weather are more likely to engage in [livestock production](#) as a savings and insurance strategy than to sell livestock at market.
- **Egypt.** IFPRI staff published [a joint note with Egypt's government](#) estimating the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy, jobs, and households in [Egypt](#). It highlighted the role of large-scale stimulus packages during times of economic crisis and the opportunities to foster more private sector-driven and sustainable economic transformation.
- **Ghana.** A [field experiment](#) in [Ghana](#) showed that paying farmers subsidies for use of conservation agriculture practices during the initial years of the intervention could boost adoption rates not only during the subsidy period, but also after subsidies are withdrawn.
- **Malawi.** [Evaluation](#) of an agriculture and nutrition behavior change communication intervention delivered through preschools in [Malawi](#) showed that it was effective in improving the micronutrient intake of preschool children in food-insecure settings.
- **Nigeria.** Agricultural productivity growth in [Nigeria](#) has a [positive effect](#) on child nutritional outcomes, primarily by increasing food production for own household consumption, suggesting that productivity-enhancing investments improve nutrition for children in smallholder households.
- **Rwanda.** IFPRI's newly opened office in [Rwanda](#) co-organized a [one-day national policy dialogue](#) on the country's productive capacities to inform Rwanda's Fourth Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation.
- **Uganda.** Research in [Uganda](#) found that [providing extension information](#) directly to women could boost yields on plots they manage themselves; providing information to men and women together increased women's involvement in joint decision-making; and featuring women as role models could stimulate women's individual decision-making and action.
- **Bangladesh.** A nutrition behavior change communication [intervention](#) in [Bangladesh](#) that provided no additional material inputs, such as cash or food, motivated households to earn extra income for spending on food.
- **India.** Compared with the EAT-Lancet recommended diet, the average household in [India eats excess cereals and not enough proteins, fruits, and vegetables](#). In rural areas 63 to 76 percent of the population could not

afford the [recommended diet](#) even based on the cheapest options – with fruits and dairy being the most expensive food group.

- **Pakistan.** Research in [Pakistan](#), where adoption of drip irrigation has been slow, found that increasing the [subsidy for these irrigation systems](#) could encourage more high-value crop production.
- **China.** Modeling of the impact of COVID-19 in [China](#) estimated an initial 7 percent decline

in agrifood system GDP, putting more than 6 million food system workers out of work. A phone [survey](#) confirmed the heavy blow to small and medium businesses, with 80 percent of firms still at a standstill as of mid-February; follow-up surveys reported a business rebound, but continuing problems with demand.

- **Myanmar.** [Evidence](#) from a combination of surveys and simulations on the evolving COVID-19 situation in [Myanmar](#) was used to

assess different social protection scenarios to help address sharp spikes in poverty arising from the pandemic.

- **Tajikistan.** Despite relatively strong agricultural infrastructure and educational systems, the population of Tajikistan suffers from high rates of undernutrition, according to an [investigation](#) of agriculture–nutrition links in the country.

## IFPRI and the CGIAR Research Programs

IFPRI leads two CGIAR Research Programs: [Policies, Institutions, and Markets](#) (PIM) and [Agriculture for Nutrition and Health](#) (A4NH). PIM focuses on addressing the policy, institutional, and market constraints to sustainable and equitable economic development and rural transformation through four main channels: global agenda setting, national policy support, program and market innovations, and capacity development. PIM brings together all CGIAR Centers. A4NH helps realize the potential of agricultural development to deliver gender-equitable health and nutritional benefits to the poor and build more resilient [food systems](#). With its research on One Health and national food systems, A4NH hosts the [CGIAR COVID-19 Hub](#). As part of the ongoing transition to One CGIAR, all current Research Programs will end in 2021 and feed into the future research initiatives and platforms. IFPRI applauds the accomplishments of PIM and A4NH in advancing research and promoting cooperation and synergies across the CGIAR network and with external partners since 2012 and looks forward to building on these successes in the future.



# IFPRI *in* 2020

## MEDIA

 **108,619** Twitter followers

 **181,097** Facebook followers

 **580,526** blog views

 **71** op-eds published in external news outlets

 **68** podcast releases

## PROFESSIONAL RANKINGS

**#1** in Agricultural Economics Departments

**#1** in the field of Agricultural Economics

**#2** in the field of Africa

**#5** in the field of Development

## PUBLICATIONS

**410**

peer-reviewed publications

**3,755,380**

publication views (Google Books)

**15,401**

publication citations (Web of Science)

**420,000**

publication downloads

**262,414**

dataset downloads

**93**

datasets published

## IFPRI STAFF



**292**  
outposted staff,  
local hires, and  
telecommuters

IFPRI staff  
are from  
**59** countries  
around the world



# 2020 and 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in US\$ thousands)

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	28,852	12,653
Investments	10,802	20,258
Advances, prepaids, and other assets, net	9,200	6,848
Accounts receivable, net	16,153	24,257
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>65,007</b>	<b>64,016</b>
Investments	75,906	72,448
Property and equipment, net	6,961	8,090
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>147,874</b>	<b>144,554</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	5,272	8,942
Accrued vacation	3,941	4,118
Advance payment of CGIAR grant funds	11,061	11,067
Unexpended project funds	44,719	49,585
Amount held for HarvestPlus program	30,506	18,099
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>95,499</b>	<b>91,811</b>
Deferred rent	13,350	14,147
Accrued post-retirement benefits	5,918	5,966
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>114,767</b>	<b>111,924</b>
<b>NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>		
Board-designated	449	545
Undesignated	25,563	27,512
Other net assets	7,095	4,573
<b>Total net assets without donor restrictions</b>	<b>33,107</b>	<b>32,630</b>
Commitments and contingencies		
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>147,874</b>	<b>144,554</b>

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES (in US\$ thousands)

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES AND GAINS</b>		
Windows 1 & 2	35,927	39,653
Window 3	38,073	45,347
Bilateral	39,358	55,082
<b>Total revenues and gains</b>	<b>113,358</b>	<b>140,082</b>
Other revenue and gains	0	0
<b>Total revenues and gains</b>	<b>113,358</b>	<b>140,082</b>
<b>EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>		
Research expenses	55,875	58,157
CGIAR collaborator expenses	19,790	29,513
Non-CGIAR collaborator expenses	25,310	37,305
General and administration expenses	14,030	15,433
Other expenses and losses	1,118	229
<b>Total expenses and losses</b>	<b>116,123</b>	<b>140,637</b>
<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(2,765)</b>	<b>(555)</b>
<b>FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>		
Financial income	1,202	1,601
Financial expenses	(482)	(311)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(2,045)</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrealized gain (loss) on investment	2,251	2,906
Post-retirement related changes	271	177
<b>Other changes in net assets</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>3,083</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>3,818</b>

Note: The above is a summary of the financial information for the 2020 and 2019 calendar years. The full statements are available on the IFPRI website (IFPRI.org)



# 2020 *Financial* CONTRIBUTORS *and* PARTNERS

IFPRI greatly appreciates the donors who supported IFPRI's research through their contributions to the CGIAR Fund, <https://cgiar.org/funders/>, without which our work would not be possible. Other donors supporting IFPRI's work are listed below.

ACRE, Kenya

African Development Bank

AKADEMIYA2063 (A2063)

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

American Seed Trade Association

Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, Netherlands

Anonymous

Asian Development Bank

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), United States

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Bangladesh

Belgium

Benckiser Stiftung Zukunft, Germany

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United States

Botswana

Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy, South Africa

Canada

CARE, Malawi

Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), United Kingdom

Centre for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), United Kingdom

CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), led by IFPRI

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), led by CIAT

CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM), led by IFPRI





INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

**IFPRI**

## INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*A world free of hunger and malnutrition*

IFPRI is a CGIAR Research Center

### **IFPRI Headquarters**

1201 Eye Street NW, 12th floor  
Washington, DC 20005 USA  
Phone: +1-202-862-5600  
Fax: +1-202-862-5606  
Email: [ifpri@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri@cgiar.org)

### **IFPRI Africa**

Almadies, Parcelles 22  
Zone 10, Lot 227  
Dakar, Senegal  
Phone: +221-33-869-98-00  
Email: [ifpri-dakar@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-dakar@cgiar.org)

### **IFPRI South Asia**

Block C, NASC Complex, DPS Marg  
Opposite Todapur, Pusa  
New Delhi 110012  
India  
Phone: +91-11-66166565  
Fax: +91-11-66781699  
Email: [ifpri-newdelhi@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-newdelhi@cgiar.org)

Copyright 2021 International Food Policy Research Institute. All rights reserved. Contact [ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org) for permission to republish.

**[www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org) | [www.ifpri.info](http://www.ifpri.info)**

**Photo credits:** Jennifer A. Patterson / ILO | Jordi Ruiz Cirera / Panos Pictures

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896294127>