



Going the Last Mile: Accelerating Progress in Food Security and Nutrition

14 June 2016 Brussels, Belgium

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) joined hands with the European Commission (EC), the Joint Research Centre of the EC (JRC), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and HarvestPlus to hold an all-day workshop on [Going the Last Mile: Accelerating Progress in Food Security and Nutrition](#). The event took place on the eve of the European Development Days and brought together a wide range of food security and nutrition stakeholders to focus on translating investments into action.

Leading experts and practitioners shared implementation experiences and lessons learned, research findings and innovations, and perspectives on priorities for accelerating the achievement of food security and nutrition goals. The workshop program included thematic sessions and moderated discussions on Translating Analysis into Action, Scaling up Technologies, Delivering from Data, Enhancing Policy Performance, and Going the Last Mile. [Compact2025](#), a new initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025, was also discussed, with particular attention given to the initiative's first successful round of high-level, multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions held in each focal country: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda.

The event opened with a collective call to seize opportunities to work together to overcome the complex and multi-layered challenges to accelerating progress in food security and nutrition. This call was echoed throughout the day as presentations and discussions delved into the challenges and opportunities for actions to accelerate progress. Summarized below are some of the key messages that emerged from the workshop.

- Agriculture must be seen as a profitable business and farmers as part of the private sector.
- Innovations and practices that use less to produce more must be part of a broader investment to improve existing food systems and reduce post-harvest losses and food waste.
- Political risks to food security and nutrition should be taken just as seriously as environmental, economic, and health risks.
- Political maneuvering and policy and institutional volatility, particularly in areas where executive powers are strong and legislatures are weak, pose distinct threats to getting and keeping food security and nutrition high on policy agendas.
- Enhanced institutional coordination across sectors, a necessary condition for accelerating progress in food security and nutrition, requires high-level political commitment and effective coordination mechanisms that address, among other things, inconsistent modes of operations, diverse bureaucratic cultures, and conflicting donor demands.
- Building trust is fundamental for getting relevant players to work together to achieve the same food security and nutrition goals.
- Learning from both successes and failures, and effectively managing and sharing knowledge, is critical for supporting and scaling up proven country-led food security and nutrition-driven strategies and programs.
- Empowering women and providing opportunities for youth, particularly in rural areas, remain priorities for inclusive growth and development, enhanced food security and nutrition, and migration mitigation.
- Rigorous research and high-quality data are necessary but not sufficient for enhancing food security and nutrition. There must be a common understanding of what knowledge is needed and how to make that knowledge available to the relevant people in a timely fashion to support key policies and processes.