



Achieving Sustainable Nutrition for All

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SNV



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Key messages

- Agriculture plays an undeniable role in supplying the diverse range of foods needed for a healthy diet.
- Nutrition sensitive agriculture (NSA) programmes help improve dietary diversity in women of reproductive age (WRA) and infants when they include nutrition behaviour change communication and are designed to empower women.
- To reach the most nutritionally vulnerable, communities need to be engaged in every stage from identifying their problems, aspirations and challenges to design and monitoring progress.
- Improved vertical and lateral governance is key: Nutrition Coordination Committees and platforms provide an opportunity for frontline workers to co-target and implement nutrition programmes.
- Evidence is needed on actions that are effective and scalable.

Recommendations

The SN4A team put forward the following set of recommendations to achieve sustainable nutrition for all.

To Governments:

- Ensure that the multi-sectoral platforms including Nutrition Coordination Committees are replicated and aligned from national to subnational level to ensure community reach, especially of the most vulnerable households; and support subnational nutrition coordination and implementation of strategies and plans.
- Strengthen capacity, including human and institutional capacity, in intersectoral as well as nutrition sensitive programming.
- Improve monitoring and evaluation at the sub-national level, including disaggregated nutrition data, and monitoring of nutrition activities embedded in district plans.
- Co-location of nutrition-specific and –sensitive programming is an effective way to achieve impact at scale. To achieve this we need information systems, aligned sector action plans and strong stakeholder coordination.

To Practitioners and Sub-national Government

- Support the scalability of community driven SBCC nutrition strategies in different contexts as part of nutrition programming, without compromising on the effectiveness of the approach.
- Involve the communities themselves in the planning, implementation and review of the nutrition programme and ensure involvement of all members, male, female, young people and the elderly.
- Target emotional drivers of improved nutrition behaviours in a sensitive manner, through triggering.
- Use existing resources at community level, e.g. schools, to implement nutrition interventions.
- Leverage and expand the existing programmes to break down gender barriers to practicing optimal nutrition behaviours over time.
- Ensure that gender analysis informs the scope of nutrition programming within a given context.
- Invest in testing and piloting of what SBCC messages and implementation modalities work best with different household members to motivate positive change around deep rooted social norms.
- Ensure routine M&E includes a component promoting regular learning and reflection on changing intra-household dynamics.
- Support capacity building of front-line staff on addressing intra household dynamics.
- Support sustainable and diverse food supply for adequate dietary intake year-round; including diversification and market systems.
- Apply the gender lens to NSA, and the quality of NSA services should be measured on how it engages, supports and empowers women and girls.

This should also include pro-poor interventions, where locally available food varieties are supported for remote smallholders. Innovations that could improve access, produce quality (nutritional value, and shelf-life), affordability, reduced labour and time burden should also be supported. Technical support is needed- for example, in good agricultural practices, use of labour saving technologies, promotion of local production, post-harvest processing and storage, awareness of nutrient content of locally available foods, dietary, safe food and hygiene practices. Resilience focused messages should be incorporated.