

KATHMANDU, NEPAL & ONLINE

D4N 2023

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2023

Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia

Equity and Inclusion

#D4N2023



CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

Conference co-hosts

We acknowledge the exceptional contributions of the conference co-hosts to the success of this year's Delivering for Nutrition Conference. Their unwavering support, spanning financial contributions, intellectual engagement, programming, and promotion, has played a crucial role. The dynamic conference agenda and collaborative spirit were a result of their dedication and regular participation in co-host meetings and other planning efforts.

In alphabetical order:

- Aga Khan University (Pakistan)
- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Academy (Global)
- The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (Global)
- BRAC (Bangladesh)
- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (Bangladesh)
- CGIAR Impact Platform on Nutrition (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Asian Mega-Deltas (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Digital Innovation (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Foresight (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Harnessing gender and social equality for resilience in agrifood systems (HER+) (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Mixed Farming Systems (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (Global)
- CGIAR Initiative on Seed Equal (Global)
- CGIAR Regional Initiative on Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA) (South Asia)
- Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab (FSN-IL) (Global)
- Helen Keller International (Nepal)
- Institute of Policy Studies (Sri Lanka)
- Institute for Integrated Development Studies (Nepal)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (South Asia)
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) (Global)
- National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) (India)
- South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING) (South Asia)
- UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) (South Asia)
- University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)
- Wayamba University (Sri Lanka)
- World Bank (India)

Design credit

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Conference background and overview

Delivering for Nutrition (D4N) in South Asia: Equity and Inclusion was the sixth nutrition implementation research conference, third regional, and first hybrid conference. Previous conferences were held in **2016**, **2019**, **2020**, **2021**, and **2022**.

While equality refers to the principle of providing the same resources or opportunities to every individual or group, equity acknowledges that each person has unique circumstances and ensures that the precise resources and opportunities required to achieve an equal outcome are allocated accordingly. Inclusion refers to enhancing opportunities and improving participation in society, particularly for disadvantaged individuals. In the context of nutrition, inclusion involves addressing barriers that may prevent certain groups from achieving adequate nutrition.

Ensuring equity and inclusion in nutrition is crucial for promoting the health and wellbeing of all individuals, irrespective of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, caste, age, migrant status, education, beliefs, and other characteristics. Despite its importance, inequities in nutrition persist in South Asia.

Various dimensions of equity have significant implications for nutrition. Socioeconomically disadvantaged households are more likely to be undernourished due to resource constraints, lack of information, and limited access to services. Rural and urban households also face different challenges in accessing essential services. Gender inequities contribute to ongoing disparities in the health and nutrition outcomes of women and girls. These inequities manifest in gaps in income and assets between men and women, societal norms that favor the nutritional well-being of men and boys, and women's restricted decision-making power within their households.

As food systems and nutrition outcomes are interconnected, addressing food availability, accessibility, nutritional quality, food safety, and socioeconomic challenges is key for promoting equitable nutrition outcomes in the region. Understanding the intersectionality of these factors and that not everyone starts from the same point is crucial for promoting equity and inclusion in nutrition.

A growing body of evidence provides insights on delivering nutrition interventions across the life course, focused on equitable coverage with quality. Substantial gains in coverage have been made over the years in South Asia, providing a strong foundation upon which to continue to enhance coverage, accessibility, and inclusivity in systems delivering nutrition interventions effectively and equitably over the lifespan. Nevertheless, persistent gaps and a wide range of disparities warrant greater attention both from research and implementation innovations.

Improving equity and inclusion in nutrition entails identifying solutions to effectively address disparities in the reach and coverage of health and nutrition programs, social safety nets, and access to nutritious diets. A multidisciplinary approach is necessary for understanding and tackling this problem in a holistic way. On November 1-2, 2023, a consortium of 28 co-hosts jointly organized the Delivering for Nutrition Conference. The key objectives of the conference were to:

- Convene researchers, academics, program implementers, and policymakers working in and focusing on South Asia to deliberate innovative ways to improve nutrition outcomes for all
- Bring together relevant evidence and stimulate dialogue on improving equity and inclusion among various delivery platforms that affect nutrition, including health and nutrition programs, gender- and social safety net programs and policies, and more

Process

Through an open call, abstracts were invited for research studies and implementation experiences focused on equity and inclusion for improving nutrition for all. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations were selected through a double-blind review process.

Participants

More than 1200 academics, implementers, development partners, and policymakers from South Asia and beyond registered for this conference to share and discuss evidence on strengthening the implementation of maternal and child nutrition initiatives. Average participation in conference sessions varied between 100-250 people in person and online.

Presentations

During the two-day conference, a total of 59 abstract-based oral presentations and 98 poster presentations were programmed under 10 carefully selected themes, representing research and implementation experiences from across six countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The program featured four learning labs and opening and closing panels with donor and development partner representatives.

About this report

This conference summary report curates the agenda and a summary of the sessions. Recordings of oral and poster presentations and all conference sessions are available online. For more information on the speakers and abstracts, please see the [agenda booklet](#). Please visit the [event website](#) for more information.



AGENDA OVERVIEW

| Day 1 (Wednesday, November 1, 2023) |
|--|
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: LEARNING LABS Time: 08:00-09:30 |
| TEA BREAK Time: 09:30-10:00 |
| CONFERENCE OPENING Time: 10:00-10:45 (45m) |
| KEYNOTE PLENARY SESSION Time: 10:45-12:00 (1h15m) |
| GROUP PHOTO Time: 12:00-12:15 (15m) |
| LUNCH BREAK Time: 12:15-13:30 (1h15m) |
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: <i>Thematic Session 1a: Agriculture solutions for better nutrition</i> <i>Thematic Session 1b: Health Systems Strengthening</i> Time: 13:30-15:00 (1h30m) |
| TEA BREAK Time: 15:00-15:30 (30m) |
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: <i>Thematic Session 2a: Rethinking Food Environments</i> <i>Thematic Session 2b: Behavior Change Interventions for Better Diets</i> Time: 15:30-17:00 (1h30m) |
| PLENARY SESSION: Equity in Nutrition and Diets: Insights from Nepal Time: 17:00-18:00 (1h) |
| BREAK Time: 18:00-18:30 (30m) |
| NETWORKING & DINNER Time: 18:30-onward |

| Day 2 (Thursday, November 2, 2023) |
|---|
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: LEARNING LABS Time: 08:00-09:30 (1h30m) |
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: <i>Thematic Session 3a: Social Protection: Lessons for Nutrition</i> <i>Thematic Session 3b: Why We Eat What We Eat</i> Time: 09:30-11:00 (1h30m) |
| TEA BREAK Time: 11:00-11:30 (30m) |
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: <i>Thematic Session 4a: Food Systems and Food Security</i> <i>Thematic Session 4b: Social Determinants and Household Dynamics</i> Time: 11:30-13:00 (1h30m) |
| LUNCH BREAK Time: 13:00-14:00 (1h) |
| PARALLEL SESSIONS: <i>Thematic Session 5a: Where We Live and What We Eat</i> <i>Thematic Session 5b: Identifying and Reducing Inequities for Better Nutrition in Women and Children</i> Time: 14:00-15:30 (1h30m) |
| TEA BREAK Time: 15:30-16:00 (30m) |
| PLENARY SESSION: Looking ahead: how can we achieve better nutrition outcomes through equitable and inclusive research, programs, and policies? Time: 16:00-17:30 (1h30m) |
| CONFERENCE CLOSING & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION Time: 17:30-18:00 (30m) |



Learning labs aim to promote learning and capacity building around implementation research aimed at transforming diets.

LEARNING LABS

November 1, 2023

Learning Lab 1A: Use of 24-hour dietary recall to measure food and nutrient intakes, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Professor Renuka Silva facilitated this session for postgraduate students and researchers interested in dietary assessment. Covering the 24-hour dietary recall technique, portion size estimation, and interview skills. Following these sessions, participants engaged in a 40-minute activity where they practiced the recall process in pairs, followed by a question-and-answer session. This learning lab catered to basic and intermediate levels, emphasizing practical skills in recalling and analyzing dietary information.

Learning Lab 1B: Artificial intelligence for work and implementation research, Helen Keller International

Conducted by Indra Dhoj Kshetri, Ekendra Lamsal and Kristine Garn, from HKI, this workshop introduced participants to AI tools for work, emphasizing implementation research. The interactive session provided practical demonstrations and discussed ethical considerations in AI use. Program managers, communication practitioners, and researchers benefited, gaining insights into enhancing work productivity through AI. In total, 58 participants registered in-person for this learning lab.



November 2, 2023

Learning Lab 2A: Evaluating Nutrition Programs at Scale: What Works?

Helen Keller International

Led by Subir Kole, the workshop targeted mid-career M&E professionals, program managers, and early career researchers. It delved into evaluation methods, design principles, and the importance of effective evaluations in the development sector. Participants explored fundamental principles and engaged in discussions on pitfalls and significance. Takeaway messages included the importance of evaluations in assessing success or failure and contributing to evidence-based practices for expanding programs and replication. Another key message was the role of evaluations in holding stakeholders accountable for investing funds and promoting transparency and public trust. They also facilitate data-driven decisionmaking and risk management, ensuring investments yield value for money and are directed to the right areas.

Learning Lab 2b: Field Perspective on Semi-Quantitative Data Collection

Valley Research Group, Kathmandu & Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab

Focused on operationalizing semi-quantitative data collection, this workshop addressed research methodology and quality control. Aimed at graduate students, young researchers, and research managers, it provided insights into survey research methods. The session combined didactic elements with practical case studies, encouraging active participation and knowledge application.



Key Message: The opening plenary emphasized the pervasive nature of inequities in South Asia and highlighted the importance of collective efforts to address disparities. The speakers, including Nepal’s Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, stressed the need for political commitment, policy interventions, and changes in traditional systems to achieve equity, inclusion, and improved nutrition outcomes.

DAY 1: NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Opening Plenary

The opening plenary program is outlined below:

- Chief Guest remarks by Honorable Minister Beduram Bhusal, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal
- Chair Remarks by Purnima Menon, IFPRI/CGIAR
- Reflections by panelists:
 - Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 - Biswas Gauchan, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)
 - Zivai Murira, Regional Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA)
- Question & Answer
- Overview of conference, Esha Sarswat, IFPRI

In her opening remarks, Dr. Purnima Menon delved into the layers of inequity and emphasized that societal choices underlie manifestations of inequity. Whether regarding gender, caste, religion, geography, or education, inequity is portrayed as a choice made by individuals daily. She thanked the participants for choosing to

engage in programs addressing equity, inclusion, and nutrition challenges. Dr. Menon also expressed gratitude for the political commitment of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, highlighting the Minister's choice to engage in dialogue on issues related to equity and inclusion in nutrition.

The Honorable Minister Beduram Bhusal, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Nepal stressed that food and nutrition are the government's priorities, outlining provisions and policies, such as the Right to Food and Food Security Act. Acknowledging ongoing disparities in South Asia, he highlighted the stark reminder of persisting nutrition imbalances, especially in socio-economically disadvantaged households. The Minister addressed the crucial role of gender imbalances in health and nutrition outcomes, underscoring the undervalued contributions of women to food systems. He concluded with a call for united efforts to dismantle barriers perpetuating nutrition imbalances.

Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed questioned why a large portion of the population faces hunger and malnutrition despite the potential for food production. He emphasized the need for changes in traditional systems to ensure equity and inclusivity.

Zivai Murira, Regional Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF ROSA acknowledged the critical discussions during the conference and the progress made in South Asia, specifically in reducing child malnutrition over the past two decades. He also highlighted the slow and inequitable progress, focusing on intergenerational gaps and the lack of nutritious food intake in rural households. He called for broader action, accountability, and intent to address disparities, inequalities, and gender norms.

Next, Dr. Neha Kumar emphasized the importance of implementation research in understanding the effectiveness of different programs. She provided a brief background on the conference, which transitioned to a regional platform in 2020.

The session ended with closing remarks by Dr. Menon, expressing gratitude to the chief guest, partners, and participants for contributing to the conference's collaborative efforts in addressing nutrition challenges and delivering equity in South Asia.



KEY MESSAGE: The keynote session focused on key pillars of food security, advocating for a human rights approach, and addressing inequalities within the food system. The discussion emphasized the concentration of undernutrition in the poorest households across South Asia and explored interhousehold, intergenerational, interterritorial, and intersectional dimensions of inequalities. Panelists highlighted the need for a multi-sectoral approach, equal treatment, and social protection measures to combat malnutrition.

KEYNOTE PLENARY

Embedding Equity into Delivering for Nutrition: The Road to ‘Leaving No One Behind’

Chaired by Neha Kumar, IFPRI, this session included one keynote presentation by Dr. Bhavani Shankar, and feedback from four discussants: 1) Kiran Rupakhetta, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal; 2) Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy Dean and Director of Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University; 3) Jessica Owens, Regional Advisor, Social Policy, UNICEF ROSA; and 4) Renuka Silva, Professor of Nutrition, Wayamba University.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Bhavani Shankar from the University of Sheffield, presented a comprehensive exploration into food security during the session. His presentation served as a focal point for the two-day conference. The session underscored the importance of addressing inequalities within the food system and related dimensions as a pivotal step toward achieving comprehensive food security. Dr. Shankar advocated for a human rights approach, emphasizing the need not only for access to nutritious food but also for upholding the rights and dignity of individuals and households.

The presentation further delved into intrahousehold inequalities, examining specific examples from Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Dr. Shankar shed light on intergenerational pathways, illustrating how the socio-economic status of one generation directly impacts the well-being and nutrition of the next, contributing to persistent inequalities in South Asia.

Intersectional inequalities, particularly among more educated women, were discussed, emphasizing their impact on dietary intake. The link between nutrition and remoteness was explored in the context of interterritorial inequalities. Dr. Shankar concluded by emphasizing the need for intentional equity measures, transformative policies, and research to identify effective strategies. The significance of accurate statistics and information collection was highlighted as essential for informed decision making and targeted actions in the pursuit of comprehensive food security.

Throughout the session, participants engaged in a robust discussion on pressing issues, including the escalating inequalities within countries, with a specific focus on South Asia. The intricate nuances of interhousehold, intergenerational, interterritorial, and intersectional inequalities were explored. Notably, the concentration of undernutrition in the poorest households was highlighted, revealing disparities among Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The panelists provided insightful feedback on Dr. Bhavani Shankar's keynote presentation, focusing on the "4 I's" and the significance of the "3 R's" – recognition, representation, and redistribution. Kiran Rupakhetta from the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal commended the presentation for shedding light on disparities in Nepal, particularly in food and nutrition. He emphasized the need for a multi-sectoral approach to effectively combat malnutrition, addressing issues across health, education, gender equality, and resources.

Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy and Director of Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University stressed the importance of equal treatment for all and the need for extra support for certain populations. He highlighted disparities in Bangladesh's food access, particularly between urban and rural areas, and called for collaborative efforts involving INGOs, NGOs, government bodies, and researchers to address multifaceted food systems while prioritizing equality and equity.

Jessica Owens, Regional Advisor, Social Policy, UNICEF ROSA emphasized the impact of poverty and income inequality on malnutrition, highlighting that crossing the poverty line doesn't guarantee access to a healthy diet. She advocated for social protection, particularly through cash transfer programs, to support the provision of nutritious food, linking cash transfers to address drivers of nutrition and intergenerational poverty.

Renuka Silva, Professor of Nutrition at Wayamba University, discussed the "3 Rs" and introduced the concept of the "3 M's" – Missing municipality, Midow, and Men. He stressed the importance of including urban areas, addressing malnutrition in the middle and high-income classes, and focusing on men's nutrition needs. Silva called for a sensitivity approach, collaborative data and information sectors, and the promotion of a culture of collectivism in the South Asian region.

During the question and answer session, the panelists further discussed the interdependence of the "4 I's" and addressed concerns about the missing link of men in policy documents. They highlighted the importance of including men in discussions on nutrition and emphasized that nutrition is essential for all, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals' principle of leaving no one behind.

A participant from Pakistan raised concerns about household inequality, seeking insights into its connection with gender issues. Bhavani Shankar confirmed the close interconnection between household inequality and gender. Another participant brought up issues of inaccessibility, low mobility, and the emphasis on local food systems. Bhavani Shankar emphasized the importance of balancing local and international food systems. A participant from Nepal inquired about initiatives to ensure nutrition and health access for diverse populations, including the LGBTQ community. Kiran Rupakhette responded, noting a gradual shift towards implementing programs for diverse populations within the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan program in Nepal.

The keynote presentation laid the foundation for the two-day conference, shaping discussions around the principles of equity and inclusion.



Key Message: This session focused on agricultural solutions to enhance nutrition, featuring diverse models such as home food production, integrative aquaculture, and increased women's participation in pulse value chains to improve household diets. One compelling presentation highlighted the positive impacts of joining farmer producer organizations, showcasing improvements in both diets and income, alongside empowering women.

THEMATIC SESSION 1A: AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER NUTRITION

Chaired by Devendra Gauchan, National Project Manager, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, this session included seven oral presentations focused on Bangladesh and India and 12 posters.

Opening remarks by chair

Devendra Gauchan, National Project Manager, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Intervention for the promotion of nutrition gardens among food-insecure families of Madhya Pradesh: A community-based initiative to overcome the challenge of malnutrition

Ashwini Sopanrao Jadhav, Associate Coordinator of Vikas Samvad Samiti, Madhya Pradesh, India

Integrating aquatic and terrestrial food production enhances micronutrient and economic productivity for nutrition sensitive food systems

Hazrat Ali, Senior Research Analyst, WorldFish

Association of membership in a farmer producer organisation with crop diversity, household income, diet diversity, and women's empowerment: A mixed methods study in Uttar Pradesh, India

Nishmeet Singh, PhD Student, University of Edinburgh

Evaluating the Impact of Women’s Time in Pulses Value Chain on Household Food and Nutrition Security in Pakistan

Shahzad Kouser, Tenured Associate Professor

The Role of Urban Agriculture in Food Security: An Inclusive Approach for Sustainable Cities

Shivani Rawat, Project Officer, Ambuja Cement Foundation- Dadri

Promoting Village Model Farmer (VMF) Approach to Enhance Local Food Production Extension Services in Underserved Communities: Insights from USAID’s Suaahara II Program

Rojee Suwal, Director-Agriculture and Food Security, Helen Keller International

Rapid fire poster presentations

First year results from the diversified cropping pattern platform trial hosted by BWMRI in Dinajpur, Bangladesh

Mohammad Washiq Faisal, Research Associate, CIMMYT – CGIAR

Catalysing Scaling for Biofortified Crops in Asia

Suyashi Purwar, Program Manager, HarvestPlus/International Food Policy Research Institute

Biofortified Rice- Delivering Zinc Nutrition In Bangladesh

Md Mozibar Rahman, Coordinator- Seed Systems And Marketing, IFPRI

Improving dietary diversity among women of reproductive age group (15-49 Years) through promoting kitchen gardening and health education

Priyanshu Rastogi, Senior Program Manager, MAMTA

Effect of various processing techniques on nutritional, biological, techno functional, structural and molecular interactions of finger millet (Eleusine coracana)

Shelvina Fonseka, Student, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Promoting Nutrition Sensitive Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems through Farmer Managed Model Farms

Deependra Chaudhari, Partner Advisor, Welthungerhilfe

Process Evaluation of “Aquaculture: increasing income, diversifying diets, and empowering women in Bangladesh (IDEA)

Rohan Shah, Evaluation Specialist, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Technology and Circular Economy-Based Data-Driven Integrated Solution Platform for Agricultural Supply Chain and Commodity Trading

Sayed Zubaer Hasan, Founder & CEO, Krishi Shwapno

Effects of Dried Fish Powder on Nutritional Outcomes in Adolescent Females in Bangladesh: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Abdullah-Al Mamun, Professor, Noakhali Science and Technology University

Mainstreaming Native Crops and Varieties for Nutritional and Livelihood Security: Insights Through Nutrition Profiling

Jai Chand Rana, Country Representative, Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT

Inclusion Of Women In Biofortified Zinc Wheat Related Businesses Can Scale Up Production And Consumption: A Gender Lens Into Biofortification Programming

Annette M Nyangaresi, Technical Specialist, Knowledge Leadership Large Scale Food Fortification and Biofortification Research, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Relationship between Crop Production Diversity and Child Nutrition Status in India: A Panel Data Analysis 2016-2021

Sripriya Reddy Medipally, PhD Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Key Message: Research studies and implementation experiences during this health system strengthening session underscored the significance of supporting intervention providers with resources and training. Additionally, it emphasized the importance of considering not only the target beneficiaries but also the broader community, including men and families.

THEMATIC SESSION 1B: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Chaired by Barnali Chakraborty, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, this session included six oral presentations and seven poster presentations covering India and Nepal.

Opening remarks by Chair

Barnali Chakraborty, Associate Scientist, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH), BRAC University, Bangladesh

Engaging men in breaking the silence around Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Anwasha Chatterjee, Program Manager, SAHAYOG Society for Participatory Rural Development

4*4 matrix: A simple and innovative tool to identify the needs for behaviour change and capacity building and providing tailored solutions

Pawankumar Patil, Director – Technical & Research, Action Against Hunger India

Contextual Intersecting Factors Influencing Implementation of Evidence-Based Nutrition Interventions: A Case Study of Dhubri District, of Assam, India

Jith J R, Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati/The George Institute for Global Health

Leveraging Digital Platforms to enhance knowledge of livelihoods professionals to integrate Health and Nutrition agenda in livelihoods platform

Swati, State Program Manager-Capacity Building and Communications, Project Concern International, India

Mobile health interventions: A policymakers' note on the World's largest Nutrition Surveillance in India

Sumantra Pal, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, and Leeds University Business School, Leeds UK

Strengthening System Capacity to Achieve Nutrition Outcomes in India: Reaching the Last Mile

Deepali Hariprasad, World Bank

Rapid fire poster presentations

Combating Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) through community approach with focused nutrition agenda

Md. Ashraf Parwez, State Program Manager – Health & Nutrition, Project Concern International – India

Strengthening Nutrition Interventions in ANC: The Experience from West Bengal, India

Sreeparna Ghosh Mukherjee, Senior Programme Manager, Child In Need Institute

A study to assess the prevalence of gestational hypertension and determine the effect of calcium intake on blood pressure during pregnancy (>20 weeks of gestation) in Delhi

Megha Suresh, Scientist-B (non-medical), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Disparities in SAM case admission and annual case burden: Evidence from Nepal

Raj Mandal, Sr Project Manager, Helen Keller International

Community-based management for SAM children in MP: Insight/reflection from the field

Prerna Gopal, Chief of Staff to the CEO, The Antara Foundation

Digital Nutrition Solution

Shayoni Mazumdar, Director – Strategy & Operations, Dimagi Software Innovations Private Limited



Key Message: Implementation experiences and research studies from this session highlighted the systemic approach needed for nutrition improvement in the face of climate change and global challenges. Key takeaways emphasized addressing food system vulnerabilities, effective policy implementation, and recognizing indigenous knowledge for nutrition security.

THEMATIC SESSION 2A: RETHINKING FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

Chaired by Kenda Cunningham, this session focused on rethinking food environments – that is, the physical, economic, policy, and sociocultural surroundings that influence individuals' food choices, accessibility, and consumption patterns. These environments include factors such as food availability, affordability, marketing, and the cultural context, all of which play a crucial role in shaping people's diets and overall nutritional health. This thematic session featured eight oral presentations and 12 poster presentations covering Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal.

Opening remarks by Chair

Kenda Cunningham, Senior Technical Specialist, Helen Keller International

Sri Lanka's Traffic Light Labels: Steering Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Choices

Priyanka Jayawardena, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

Healthy Line Shops for Last-Mile Delivery: Improving the supply chain to deliver more nutritious food options for tea plantation workers of Assam

Aishwarya Choubey, Senior Associate, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Taxation of foods high in saturated fats, sodium, and sugars in India: A modelling study of health and distributional equity impacts

e, Postgraduate Researcher, Imperial College London

Ideas, Institutions, and Power: A study of the Political Economy of Fiscal Policies and Regulations to Improve Healthy Dietary Patterns in Sri Lanka

Sunimalee Madurawala, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

Contribution of Wild Edible Plants in Rural Food Systems: Implications for Policy, Research, and Development

Rita Gurung, Senior Programme Officer, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Foraging our way to nutrition security – Indigenous food system and forest ecology of the Bodo community from Bodoland, Assam, India

Sayan Deori, Programme Manager, Nutrition and Community Action Resource (NCARe) Centre, Tezpur University, Assam, India

Rapid fire poster presentations

Evaluating the Rural Food Environment to Promote Sustainable and Nutritious Diets in India: Methodological Insights

Shalander Kumar, Deputy Global Research Program Director: Enabling Systems Transformation, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

Design and Development of a Food Composition Database for use in an AI-based Mobile Phone App Prototype to Track Diets among Adolescents in Sri Lanka

Sitisekara Mudiyansele Hasara Dilrangi Sitisekara, Postgraduate student, Department of Applied Nutrition, Faculty of Livestock Fisheries & Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Strengthening Food Safety Practices in Street Food Culture of Punjab and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Training Initiatives

Rachana Srivastava, Scientist, PGIMER, Chandigarh

Assessment of Nutritional Status, Screen time and pattern of Junk food consumption from 6 months to 5 years in Urban slums of Mumbai

Lavina Fernandes, Consultant Nutrition, SNEHA NGO

Extent and Nature of Unhealthy Food Advertisements To Children on Indian Television

Naveen Kumar, Assistant Professor, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur – 303002, Rajasthan (India)

Nutritional Profiling of selected cereals, legumes, tubers, fruits, and vegetables for food-based intervention to address malnutrition in Nepal

Pravin Ojha, Scientist (S-2), National Food Research Centre, Nepal Agricultural Research Council

Urban Canteens, the Supply Ship of Food and Nutrition Security in Telangana and Karnataka: An Exploration

Gummadi Sridevi, Professor, University of Hyderabad

Development of a Photographic Food Atlas as a Portion Estimate Tool for Adolescents in Sri Lanka

Nilmini Karunarathna, Doctoral student, Department of Applied Nutrition, Faculty of Livestock Fisheries & Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Teachers' Perspectives in Establishing Sound School Food Literacy Education and School Food Environment: A Qualitative Study

Poornima Rathnayake, Research Assistant/PhD candidate, Department of Applied Nutrition, Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



KEY MESSAGE: Research and implementation experiences emphasized the challenges of changing behaviors for improving nutrition for all. Effective strategies often involve a focused approach with fewer messages, and combining behavior change with incentives, such as in-kind food or cash transfers.

THEMATIC SESSION 2B: BEHAVIOR CHANGE INTERVENTIONS FOR BETTER DIETS

Chaired by Indra Dhoj Kshetri, Helen Keller International, this session focused on the crucial role of behavior change interventions in improving diets by addressing and modifying individuals' habits, attitudes, and practices related to food choices. These interventions aim to promote healthier behaviors, leading to positive dietary changes and improved overall nutritional outcome. This thematic session included seven oral presentations and 12 poster presentations covering Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Opening remarks by Chair

Indra Dhoj Kshetri, Director – Communication and Learning, Helen Keller International

Impact of BCC Module rollout on SHG platform and its association with Child Dietary Diversity practices

Santosh Akhauri, Lead- Concurrent Measurement & Learning, Project Concern International (PCI) India

Improvement in Maternal and child diet diversity through women's collectives at scale in Bihar

Rakesh Jha, State lead- health & nutrition, Project Concern International India

Earn money by eating healthy

Tonima Sharmin, Program Policy Officer-Nutrition Advocacy, United Nation World Food Programme

Effectiveness of specialized nutritious foods and social and behavior change communication interventions to prevent stunting among children in Badakhshan, Afghanistan

Sajid Soofi, Professor, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, and CoEWCH, Aga Khan University, Karachi

Impact of specialized nutritious foods and social and behavior change communication interventions to improve Infant and young children's practices in Shuhada and Shari Buzurg districts

Cyprian Ouma, Nutrition officer, World Food Programme

Application of the Theoretical Domains Framework to identify behavioral determinants of key infant and young child feeding practices

Esther Choo, Affiliate, University of Washington

Rapid fire poster presentations

Elevating self-reflection and food choice intention toward SMART eating using a newly upgraded smartphone application

Parami Weerasinghe, Student, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Mother & Child Health and Nutrition: Nourishing Lives, Preventing Malnutrition

Uttam Acharya, Nutrition Officer, World Food Programme

Moving towards Nutrition Security: by adapting participatory learning method

Pratigya Kattel, Project Coordinator, WeltHungerHilfe

Mothers of Young Children in Nepal Prefer Poshan Nanglo (Nutrition Tray) for Nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication

Sophiya Uprety, Public Health Nutritionist, Independent

Effectiveness of a community-based intervention to improve anemia-related knowledge and practices among women and girls from an aspirational district of India

Priyanshu Rastogi, Senior Program Manager, MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child

Nutrition and care practice field school – A multidisciplinary approach to enhance nutrition and health security in targeted marginal communities

Bishnu Dhakal, Senior Programmer Officer, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Healthy Start: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Enhance Children's Health and Nutrition in Childcare Settings

Farha Syed, Aga Khan University

Mainstreaming Equity and Inclusion in Interventions Addressing Hunger and Malnutrition through Participatory Learning and Action: The Case of the Nourish North Initiative

Shribavan Kanamoorthy, Managing Director, SUVADI

Provision of fortified blended foods supplements combined with social, and behavior change interventions improves dietary diversity among pregnant and breast-feeding women in Shuhada and Shari Buzurg districts and

Improving uptake of Ante and Postnatal care in low resource settings through Provision of fortified blended foods supplements combined with social and behavior change communication interventions Shuhada and Shari Buzurg districts

Cyprian Ouma, Nutrition Officer, UN World Food Programme



Key Message: The session highlighted significant progress in addressing nutrition-related inequalities in Nepal, showcasing improvements in maternal dietary diversity and advancements in reducing wealth-related gaps. However, notable challenges were also identified, particularly concerning adolescents' lack of interest in agriculture, emphasizing the need for strategies to engage local stakeholders to navigating these and other challenges effectively.

PLENARY SESSION: EQUITY IN NUTRITION AND DIETS: INSIGHTS FROM NEPAL

This session was co-chaired by Tsering Lama, Nepal Nutrition Intervention Project (NNIPS) and Temina Lalani-Shariff, CGIAR, focusing on diets in Nepal from the perspective of two projects: 1) the USAID-funded Suahara project, and 2) CGIAR's Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA) initiative.

Suahaara, aimed at addressing nutrition-related inequalities, focuses on four key interventions: 1) improving household practices related to nutrition, WASH, and health; 2) increasing household use of quality nutrition and health services; 3) enhancing household access to diverse and nutrient-rich foods; and 4) accelerating the rollout of MSNP through strengthened local governance. The Suahaara data system is divided into monitoring, evaluation (utilizing both qualitative and quantitative approaches), and research (comprising formative and operative research).

The presentation highlighted that maternal dietary diversity improved by 10% in Suahaara intervention areas, with noteworthy progress seen regardless of wealth level. This suggests that financial constraints did not hinder the translation of exposure to positive outcomes. For preventing minimum dietary diversity in children,

an overall progress of 13% was observed, with most advancements seen in relatively poor households, nearly closing the 18% gap that existed between wealthy and poor households in 2017. Before closing, Kenda Cunningham introduced the IMMANA project, emphasizing a focus on equity and exploring pathways for both wealthier and poorer populations.

Next, Sumanta Neupane and Samuel Scott co-presented, "Assessing local agrifood systems: Insights from Nepal," which delved into a local agrifood system assessment conducted in Banke, Nepal under TAFSSA. The assessment addressed various aspects, including diet composition, food sources, shopping practices, preferences, and adolescents' aspirations in agriculture. The findings revealed gaps in healthy food consumption, a preference for purchased food, and disparities between adolescents' and parents' perceptions and expectations regarding future career choices.

The two presentations during the plenary session sparked a lively and engaging discussion among participants. Purnima Menon directed her question to the Suaahara team, seeking insights into equity efforts within communities and emphasizing the importance of combining modeling data with insights from programming teams.

A representative from the University of East London expressed concerns about adolescents' disinterest in farming, citing it as a significant challenge in the agricultural sector. She sought reflections from Neupane and Scott on this issue. Rakhis directed a question to the Suaahara team regarding the interpretation of wealth-related gaps, and a representative from the Nepal Agriculture Research Council inquired about the reasons behind young adolescents' lack of interest in agriculture, asking whether it was linked to migration.

In response, the Suaahara team addressed a slight misunderstanding in the results, highlighting a 25 percentage point increase in women meeting dietary diversity compared to a 16 percentage point increase in comparison areas. Samuel Scott from IFPRI shed light on adolescents' perception of farming, noting a preference for more modern and tech-related careers. Sumanta Neupane suggested addressing this challenge by involving local stakeholders.

Below is the outline of the plenary session agenda.

Opening remarks by co-chairs

Tsering Lama, Director, Nepal Nutrition Intervention Project Sarlahi (NNIPS) and Temina Lalani-Shariff, Regional Director, CGIAR

What gets measured gets done: opportunities for reducing inequities in agriculture, nutrition, and health

Aman Sen, Measurement and Learning Specialist, Asia, Helen Keller International and Kenda Cunningham, Senior Technical Advisor, Helen Keller International

Assessing local agrifood systems: Insights from Nepal

Sumanta Neupane, Program Manager, International Food Policy Research Institute and Samuel Scott, Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute



KEY MESSAGE: A recurring theme in this session highlighted the positive effects of social protection programs on various nutrition outcomes. The significance of combining cash with additional components such as behavior change communication for enhanced effectiveness was emphasized. It is also important to consider the cost-effectiveness of social protection programs, underscoring the importance of considering the cost implications for government-funded initiatives.

THEMATIC SESSION 3A: SOCIAL PROTECTION: LESSONS FROM NUTRITION

Chaired by Bhavani Shankar, University of Sheffield, this session explored the pivotal role of social protection in improving nutrition in South Asia by providing financial assistance, food support, and access to essential services to vulnerable populations. The session included a line-up of six oral and 12 poster presentations representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal.

Opening remarks by Chair

Effectiveness of unconditional cash transfers combined with lipid-based nutrient supplement and/or behavior change communication to prevent stunting among children in Pakistan: a cluster randomized controlled trial

Sajid Soofi, Professor, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, and CoEWCH

Nutrition benefits of the world's largest perinatal cash transfer program: India's Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

Soumyajit Ray, Research Analyst, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi

Unveiling the Impact of Wage Compensation Scheme on Healthcare Utilization among Pregnant Women in the Tea Garden Areas of Assam

Pallabi Gogoi, Ph.D. research scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Khaddo Bandhob Karmasuchi (Food Friendly Program) in Bangladesh

Mohammad Monirul Hasan, Country Advisor: Social Protection, Environment and Foresight for Food Systems, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

An index to select beneficiary households for interventions to alleviate food insecurity

Niluka Kurupparachchi, MPhil Candidate, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

Social Protection for Catalising Maternal and Child Nutrition – Learnings from Rajasthan, India

Divya Santhanam, Deputy Team Leader – RajPusht, IPE Global

Rapid fire poster presentations

Reducing malnutrition prevalence in children through mixed modalities of Specialized nutritious foods and behavior change interventions in Shuhada and Shari Buzurg districts of Badakhshan Province

Cyprian Ouma, Nutrition Officer, World Food Programme

Improving social protection programmes to support mothers and young children's diets in Bangladesh

Manaam Mumma, Head of Nutrition, United Nation World Food Programme

Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices among Mothers in selected BRAC intervention areas of Bangladesh: An exploratory qualitative study

Atiya Rahman, Assistant Scientist, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Overcoming a pandemic: putting adolescent anaemia management back on track in urban slums in the Mumbai Metropolitan region in Maharashtra, India

Rama Shyam, Director, Society for Nutrition Education and Health Action

Interventions targeting to reduce inequities: Gaps in breastfeeding and complementary feeding by sub-population closed in Suaahara II areas in Nepal

Ramesh Adhikari, Sr. Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Manager, Suaahara II, Helen Keller International

Capturing the perceived outcomes of a competency training program of ICDS staff working in informal settlements of Mumbai: A qualitative study

Rama Sridhar, Research Consultant, SNEHA, Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action

Policy Analysis of Irrigation Subsidies in Nepal for identifying its accessibility, equitability, and scalability

Menuka Karki, Research Consultant, International Water Management Institute

Prioritizing the Nutrition Security of the Vulnerable Population: Social & Behaviour Change Communication Campaign on Fortified Rice in India

Manisha Kaushik, Programme Policy Officer (Social & Behaviour Change Communication), United Nations World Food Programme

Media Monitoring on Coverage of Health and Nutrition Issues by Nepali Media from Magh to Chaitra 2079

Nabaraj Khanal, President, Community Innovation Organization

SNEH (Skilling, Nutrition, Education, and Health): An Integrated Post-COVID Program for Eliminating Nutritional Deficits and Enhancing Learning Opportunities for Children

Komal Rathi, Public Health Nutritionist, American India Foundation

Impact Evaluation of the Nepal FbF (Forecast Based Financing)

Odbayar Batmunkh IE Field Coordinator, World Bank



KEY MESSAGE: This session focused on the factors influencing food choices and delved into understanding the dynamics of dietary decision-making. A notable takeaway was the challenge that nutritious foods may not always be affordable. Presentations from Sri Lanka highlighted that half of the population cannot afford a nutritious diet, and a presentation from Bangladesh on minimum wage workers revealed their struggles to afford even a basic diet without meat or fish. This emphasizes the need for further consideration regarding the affordability of diets.

THEMATIC SESSION 3B: WHY WE EAT WHAT WE EAT

Chaired by Naomi Saville, University College London, this session delved deeper into how food choices in South Asia are influenced by cultural, economic, and social factors, impacting nutrition. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for designing effective interventions that address diverse dietary practices and promote improved nutrition outcomes in the region. This session showcased six oral presentations and 12 poster presentations covering Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Opening remarks by Chair

Naomi Saville, Principal Research Associate, University College London Institute for Global Health

A qualitative study exploring healthy eating among adolescents in Bangladesh

Nandeeta Samad, PhD Candidate, King's College London, United Kingdom

The Impact of Food Inflation on the Affordability of a Nutritious Diet in Sri Lanka – Cost of Diet Analysis

Samantha NPG, Senior Researcher, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian research and Training Institute

Ensuring Economic Access to Nutritious Diets During the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka: A CoTD Simulation

Dilini Perera, Research Officer, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Food Price Inflation in Bangladesh: Can Minimum Wage Workers Survive?

Syed Yusuf Saadat, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

Using Digital Solutions to Monitor Iodized Salt Coverage to Ensure its Availability in Andhra Pradesh, India

Ranjan Kumar Jha, Senior Program Officer – USI and Fortification, Nutrition International

Is social and behaviour change communication sufficient? Reasons for low intake of recommended foods among pregnant and lactating women in rural Bangladesh: an anthropological exploration

Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Rapid fire poster presentations

Are healthy foods expensive – Perception of women living in different areas of Delhi

Barkha Sachdeva, PhD Scholar, Institute of Home Economics

Understanding positive and negative deviants and its determinants in relation to nutrition care practices in Dhading, Nepal

Chetan Bhattarai, Nutrition & WASH Officer, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Understanding drivers of millet consumption among urban populations in Delhi, India

Charvi Kapoor, PhD Scholar, TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS)

Analysis enabling environment in addressing factors influencing diet quality of adolescent girls to break intergenerational cycle of malnutrition in Tamil Nadu, India

Jeya Rani A., Research Assistant, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Supporting Cost Effective Implementation of Large-Scale Wheat Flour Fortification Program in Pakistan

Irfan Ullah, Deputy Country Director, Nutrition International

Inadequacy of dietary intake among mothers and children aged 6-23 months in Estate sector, Sri Lanka

Thakshila Adikari, Senior Lecturer (Grade I), Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Parental nutrition literacy, perceptions, and dietary practices as predictors of children's food consumption patterns in low and high-income households

Panchali Moitra, Assistant Professor, Department of Postgraduate Programs & Research, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science (Autonomous), SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

Culture and Nutrition: A Qualitative Exploration of Food Intake Behavior among Lactating Women in a Tea Garden Community, Bangladesh

Pranto Paul, Project Communication Officer, Light to Life

Ethnography study to understand secondary level barriers in improving dietary practices among young children aged 6-23 months

Putul Thakur, State Manager-MLE, Project Concern International, India

Traditional crops are vital in ensuring food and nutritional security

Suraj Das, Assistant Professor, Amity University, Noida, India

To Identify the Effect of Nutrition Education Program (NEP) on the Knowledge of college-going Adolescent girls residing in Mumbai City

Sonu Mishra, Assistant Professor, Dr. BMN College Home Science

Digitization of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Processes Through iCheck Chroma 3 and iCheck Connect for Edible Oil Fortification in Pakistan

Mueen Qureshi, Provincial Program Manager – Edible Oil Fortification, Nutrition International-Pakistan



Key Message: Research and implementation experiences uncovered changing demand patterns influencing food quantity, diversity, and nutritional quality, the evolution of dietary patterns, and the increasing consumption of processed foods in Bangladesh. Insights from studies in India highlighted the impact of government safety net programs on food and nutrition security, emphasizing the need for awareness on healthy eating habits.

THEMATIC SESSION 4A: FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD SECURITY

Co-chaired by Ram Shrestha from the Department of Agriculture, Nepal, and Avinash Kishore from IFPRI, this session delved into the impact of food systems on the availability, access, and diversity of food options. Addressing crucial aspects of production, distribution, and retail practices, it highlighted how these systems influence individuals' capacity to maintain a diverse and nutritious diet, ultimately shaping nutritional outcomes. The session featured six oral presentations and 10 poster presentations covering Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka.

Opening remarks by co-chairs

Ram Shrestha, Chief (Joint Secretary), Centre for Crop Development and Agro-biodiversity Conservation, Department of Agriculture, Nepal and Avinash Kishore, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute

Time-space compression, drives rural-urban diet convergence in Bangladesh

Liz Ignowski, Postdoctoral Fellow, WorldFish

The Potential of Food-Based Safety Net Programs for Achieving Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security: Insights from India

SK Md. Abul Basar, Assistant Professor in Economics, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University

Augmenting dietary diversity through Nutrition Sensitive Integrated Farming Systems (NSIFS) in Bihar

Priyanka Saha, Programme and knowledge management consultant, ROSHNI-Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action

Water insecurity potentially undermines dietary diversity of children aged 6–23 months: Evidence from India

Neetu Choudhary, Adjunct Faculty, Arizona State University

Does market access override the effect of farm categories on nutritional composition of farmer diets? Insights from a Bangladesh dataset

Sreejith Aravindakshan, Scientist – Adoption, Scaling, and Innovation Systems, CIMMYT

Determinants of household food insecurity and its implications on equitable nutrition in rural Bangladesh: Findings from a nationally representative survey

Mir Raihanul Islam, Research Analyst II, International Food Policy Research Institute

Rapid fire poster presentations

Improving Food Security For The Marginalized In South Asia

Muhammad Darjat, Chief Executive Officer, Arcasia Services

Impact of diversity nutrition gardening in lease land combined with community sessions on positive nutrition behavior on nutritional outcome among landless Musahar communities in eastern Terai

Jib Nath Sharma, Senior Manager: Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Resilient livelihoods, CARE Nepal

Building of Community-based, Resilient, and Sustainable Food Security Model: An Experiment from Madhya Pradesh, India

Ashwini Sopanrao Jadhav, Associate Coordinator Vikas Samvad Samiti, Madhya Pradesh, India

Nutrition Smart CommUNITY – A Multisector Approach to Address Malnutrition in Maharashtra

Sweta Banerjee, Nutrition Specialist, Welthungerhilfe

Mapping South Asian regional functional agrobiodiversity to sustainably improve production, food, and nutrition outcomes

Mustafa Kamal, GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)

Navigating the Triple Burden: Bridging Agricultural Gaps for Enhanced Nutrition in Sri Lanka

Roshan Delabandara, Nutritionist, Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka

Exploring Food Insecurity in Sri Lanka: A Quantitative Analysis

Imesha Waidyarathne, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Empirical Assessment on HH Electricity Expenditure as a Proxy for Poverty Measurement in Sri Lanka

Nulakshi Dissanayake, Research Assistant, Centre for Poverty Analysis

Socio-demographic correlates of moderate to severe food insecurity in rural, non-slum urban and slum areas of Bangladesh: evidence from a nationally representative survey

Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Contrasting Nutritional Landscapes: An Analysis of Divergent Malnutrition Metrics Between NFHS Data and Localized Studies in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India

Namita Das, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Nutrition, Natural Science Research Center at Belda College, Vidyasagar University, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal 721424



Key Message: The presentations brought to the fore the growing significance of gender dynamics in public health nutrition and the need to explore and understand the potential benefits of increased male involvement in nutrition interventions in South Asia. The presentations and discussions also reiterated the importance of targeting key populations across the lifecourse.

THEMATIC SESSION 4B: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS

Chaired by Kristine Garn, Helen Keller International, this thematic session examined various dimensions of household dynamics on nutrition, featuring six oral presentations on male engagement in improving dietary practices among young children, the effects of an alcohol ban on health indicators in India, the impact of teenage marriage on adolescent girls, the role of mothers-in-law in task allocation within households, the puzzle of women's empowerment in addressing undernutrition, and the relationship between mother's labor force participation and child nutritional outcomes. The session was complemented by 9 poster presentations. The research studies and implementation experiences covered India and Nepal.

Opening remarks by Chair

Kristine Garn, Deputy Chief of Party, Suaahara Good Nutrition Program, Helen Keller International

Improving Dietary Practices among Young Children Through Male Engagement: Lessons from Bihar

Neelmani Singh, Nutrition Specialist, Project Concern International, India

Effects of an alcohol ban on frequent alcohol intake, weight, blood pressure, diabetes, and domestic violence in India: a difference-in-difference approach

Anita Christopher, Research Analyst, International Food Policy Research Institute

Teenage marriage and birth predict anemia, learning skills, and depression among adolescent girls in India

Anjali Pant, Senior Research Analyst, International Food Policy Research Institute

Dynamics of living with your in-laws: Exploring the influence of mothers-in-law on task allocation within household food environments in South Asia

Sharvari Patwardhan, Research Analyst, International Food Policy Research Institute

The Empowerment Puzzle: Unmasking the Role of Women's Empowerment in Addressing Undernutrition in India

Saif Nihal, Ph.D. Scholar, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

Mother's Labor Force Participation and Child Nutritional Outcome

Supriya Joshi, Ph.D. Candidate, Pennsylvania State University

Rapid fire poster presentations

Designing Nutrition Education Intervention for Strengthening the Components of Home Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) Program in Districts of Delhi

Vishal Mishra, PhD Research Scholar, Indira Gandhi National Open University; Discipline of Nutritional Sciences

Taking action to close the gender nutrition gap: program experience launch a global action agenda for women's and girls' nutrition and its contextualization in India

Sebanti Ghosh, Senior Regional Advisor, Alive & Thrive

Food and nutrition disparity among ethnic minorities: A case of Nepal

Binod Khanal, Postdoctoral Researcher, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Complementary Feeding in India: Evidence from NFHS-5 & 4

Muskan Aggarwal, Student, London School of Economics and Political Science

Addressing Behavioral Barriers Towards IYCF Through Usage of Food Journal

Sayan Kundu, Behavioral Economist, World Bank

Dietary Diversity and Associated Risk Factors among Children Aged 6-24 Months in India

Jyoti Vijay, Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Management Research (IHM), Bangalore

Assessing the Prevalence of Overweight and Obese Adolescents in Tarkeshwor Municipality: An In-Depth Examination of Dietary, Behavioral, and Psychological Patterns – A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study

Anjila Pandey, Research Assistant, Consultant (Master Facilitator), Social Changemakers and Innovators

Male Partner Involvement in Antenatal Care: A Crucial Step towards Improved Maternal Health in India

Amit Banerjee, Ph.D. Research Scholar, The University of Burdwan

Socio-Behavioural and Normative Factors Contributing to the Prevalence of Undernutrition, Among Children Under Two Years and Women of Childbearing Age: A Formative Research in Nepal

Garima Uprety, Programme Associate (SBCC), World Food Programme



Key Message: The presentations addressed diverse challenges and factors influencing nutrition, from the impact of rising temperatures on children's diets to the complex patterns of double burden of malnutrition in rural and urban India. Insights into urban slum health programs, experiences of acute food shortage, and the contribution of insect-pollinated foods in Nepal further emphasized the need for context-specific interventions and a comprehensive understanding of socio-environmental factors affecting nutrition.

THEMATIC SESSION 5A: WHERE WE LIVE AND WHAT WE EAT

Chaired by Bendula Wismen, WorldFish/CGIAR Nutrition Platform, this session focused on how the local environment, accessibility to diverse foods, and dietary choices are interconnected factors influencing nutritional outcomes and health. The thematic session included five oral and 11 poster presentations.

Opening remarks by Chair

Bendula Wismen, Project Manager, WorldFish/CGIAR Nutrition Platform

Temperature and children's dietary diversity: Evidence from India

Pallavi Rajkhowa, Associate Research Fellow, Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition

Spatial dynamics of the double burden of malnutrition in the Indian rural-urban interface

Anjali Purushotham, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Sustainable Food, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, UK

Convenience in accepting inconveniences: Analysing performance stagnation of an Urban slum based Nutrition and Health Programme

Pawankumar Patil, Director – Technical & Research, Action Against Hunger India

Experience of acute food shortage in a slum community of Delhi: action areas and way forward

Monica Sharma, Scientist-B (Non-Medical), ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata

What is the contribution of insect-pollinated foods to diets in the Karnali province mountains of Nepal and how might diets be affected if climate change reduces pollination?

Naomi Saville, Principal Research Associate, University College London Institute for Global Health

Rapid fire poster presentations

Nutritional status in Mountain Villages of Gilgit-Balistan (GB), Pakistan

Razia Latif, Lecturer, Scholar, Karakorum International University, Gilgit Baltistan-Pakistan

Food and nutrition security of forest-proximate communities: A case study from Odisha, India

Amrutha Jose Pampackal, PhD Candidate, Cornell University

Acceptability and Use of Locally Available Food (LAF) and/or Microbiota Directed Supplementary Food (MDSF) Complementary Feeding Among Children Aged 6-24 Months in Low-Income Communities of Karachi, Pakistan

Sabeen Siddiqui, research coordinator, The Aga Khan University Hospital

Assessment of Dietary Sustainability and its Relation with the Knowledge and Nutritional Status of College-Going Students in Urban Delhi

Naina Gandhi, Completed MSc. in Food and Nutrition, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi

Complementary feeding practices among children aged 6-23 months in different socioeconomic settings of Delhi, India, using updated WHO 2021 IYCF indicators

Komal Rathi, Ph.D Scholar, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi

Food Habits and Non-Communicable Disease Patterns in the Northeastern Population of India

Mrinmoy Pratim Bharadwaz, Senior Associate, Axtria Pvt Ltd. India

Infant and young child feeding practices and factors associated with early initiation of breastfeeding in ultra-poor slum population of Bangladesh

Munia Afroz, Research Associate, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Development and Validation of a Food Frequency Questionnaire to assess the dietary intake of Vitamin D among the University Students of Karachi, Pakistan

Zainab Bohra, former postgraduate student, School of Public Health, Dow University of Health Sciences

Impacts of Climate Change on Food Habits in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh

Md. Bakebillah, Master (fellow) at Climate Change and Sustainable Development Program and Assistant Professor of Folklore, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Bangladesh

Understanding the Infant and Young Child feeding practices (IYCF) among mothers with children under 2 years in an urban informal settlement in Mumbai

Sanika Ratnakar Kulkarni, M&E Program Coordinator, Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action

Dietary diversity among pregnant and lactating women living in an urban informal settlement of Mumbai: a cross sectional study

Sanika Ratnakar Kulkarni, M&E program coordinator, Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action



Key Message: The presentations from this session highlighted concerns of escalating wasting and severe stunting in under-5 children; district-level support's impact on child growth; hurdles in nutrition and health education programs in India; significance of asset-based wealth indices in health interventions; and the nuanced nature of child growth in challenging environments.

THEMATIC SESSION 5B: IDENTIFYING AND REDUCING INEQUITIES FOR BETTER NUTRITION IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Chaired by Vani Sethi, UNICEF ROSA, this session included six oral presentations and 10 poster presentations to frame a dialogue on the disparities that need to be addressed to enhance nutrition among women and children.

Opening remarks by Chair

Vani Sethi, Regional Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA)

Evaluation of feeding practices and nutritional well-being among under-five children within the BRAC Health program region

Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC University

Impact of district-level support on child growth: Evidence from a large-scale government-development agency collaboration

Soyra Gune, Research Analyst, International Food Policy Research Institute

The Power and Pitfalls of Asset-Based Wealth Indices: Applications for Health and Social Sciences

Rati Kapoor, Data Manager, International Food Policy Research Institute

Trend in micronutrient adequacy among adolescent girls and women of reproductive age in Bangladesh: findings from a nationally representative rural household survey – 2011 and 2018

Masum Ali, Research Analyst II, Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Child growth capabilities are multidimensional: A participatory approach in Haor areas of Bangladesh

Barnali Chakraborty, Associate Scientist, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Exploring the barriers and facilitators to the effectiveness of nutrition and health education (NHE) in reducing malnutrition among children below 5-years in India

Saroj LNU, MSc Candidate (Global Public Health and Policy), Queen Mary University of London

Rapid fire poster presentations

Validation of MUAC cut-offs of WHO for diagnosis of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years in Karachi, Pakistan

Mehreen Amer, Lecturer-Nutritional Sciences, Dow University of Health Sciences

Association between Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices and Undernutrition of Under-Two Children: Evidence from Nationally Representative Data of Five South Asian Countries

Md. Tariqujjaman, Research Investigator, icddr,b

Evaluation of Nutrition Education in School Curriculum of Nepal: A Descriptive Content Analysis Study.

Aashma Dahal, Lecturer, Madan Bhandari Academy of Health Sciences

Micronutrient deficiencies and its determinants among adolescent girls living in rural northern region of Bangladesh

Rafid Hassan, Senior Research Assistant, icddr, b

The effects of socioeconomic status on women's double burden of malnutrition in Nepal

Angela K C, PhD candidate, Johns Hopkins University

Determinants of childhood wasting among children 0-23 months in India-Analysis of National Family Health Survey- 5

Jyoti Sharma, Additional Professor, Indian Institute of Public Health Delhi, Public Health Foundation of India

Undernutrition and anaemia among Indian adolescents: role of dietary diversity and hygiene practices

Mukesh Kumar, PhD Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee Uttarakhand India

Exploring nutritional challenges: Double burden of malnutrition among adults, evidence from a nationwide survey

Sakib Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health

Relationships between the Dietary Patterns and the Nutritional Status of School Children of “Galkadapathana” Village in Sri Lanka

Channa Siriwardhane, Student, Department of Food Science & Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya



Key Message: The plenary session highlighted the importance of inclusive programs for overall development in maternal and child nutrition. Key points included addressing regional disparities, recognizing emerging high-risk groups like urban populations, and focusing on evidence-based interventions. Recommendations emphasized the need for inclusivity, data disaggregation, and empowering communities to achieve sustainable nutrition goals by 2030.

PLENARY SESSION: LOOKING AHEAD, HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE BETTER NUTRITION OUTCOMES THROUGH EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE RESEARCH, PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES?

Session moderator Esha Sarswat introduced Chair Ramesh Adhikari and the five panelists to the dias, including Saiqa Siraj, Country Representative, Nutrition International-Bangladesh; Swarnim Wagle, Nepal Planning Commission; Nafisa Shah, Parliamentarian, Government of Pakistan; Deepika Chaudhery, Senior Health, Nutrition and Population Specialist, World Bank; and Raj Kumar Gope, Team Lead, Ekjut-India.

Introducing the session, Dr. Adhikari highlighted the importance of inclusive programs during the closing session, expressing gratitude for the diverse panelists in the field of maternal and child nutrition health. He underscored the necessity for ensuring that everyone benefits for overall development. Despite observed improvements in nutrition indicators, Dr. Adhikari pointed out the potential disparities hidden within sub-national averages. He emphasized the crucial role of evidence-based interventions that cover all segments of the population and are effectively implemented. Dr. Adhikari also warned against programs that might exacerbate inequity, stressing the need for both a well-designed program and its successful implementation to achieve positive outcomes.

Dr. Adhikari, as the chair of the session, asked the panelists why they consider it important in their field of work to discuss equity and inclusiveness. Dr. Wagle, National Planning Commission, Nepal emphasized the historical context of Nepal as an extractive and exclusionary state, undergoing efforts to become more inclusive and representative. He highlighted the significant regional disparities in economic contributions, with one province contributing only 4% of the national GDP compared to another contributing 40%. Dr. Wagle emphasized the need to address issues of equity and inclusion urgently, especially considering the vast differences in health and nutritional outcomes across provinces. He discussed the impact of undernutrition as a life sentence of underachievement and a national shame, linking it to irreversible cognitive deficiencies. Dr. Wagle argued that addressing nourishment is key to breaking the intergenerational persistence of poverty and inequality in Nepal, providing a solution to both immediate humanitarian crises and long-term economic challenges.

Following on these remarks, Saiqa Siraj, Country Director of Nutrition International, responded to the question, agreeing with the importance of equity and inclusiveness in nutrition. She emphasized that nutrition is the driver of productivity and economy, underscoring the need for an equitable and inclusive approach that evolves with changing definitions over time. Siraj highlighted the shift from the focus on reaching pregnant and lactating women in communities to the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and the emergence of overnutrition.

She stressed the importance of recognizing and reaching out to emerging high-risk groups, such as the urban population and males, not only for supporting females but also for their own nutrition and well-being. Siraj advocated for policy and program shifts to address both undernutrition and overnutrition, particularly in urban areas. She pointed out that the definition of "hard to reach" should be inclusive, acknowledging the challenges faced by urban populations living in buildings and concrete walls, where targeted programs are lacking. Siraj concluded by thanking for highlighting new dimensions of inclusiveness beyond the traditional focus on rural poverty and undernutrition.

Nafisa Shah, a politician from Pakistan, provided her perspective on inclusiveness and equity in nutrition and development. As a three-time lawmaker, she emphasized her commitment to nutrition, rooted in her political party's historical focus on the three-word slogan: food, shelter, clothing. Shah highlighted the constitutional framework of Pakistan, emphasizing its strong stance on equity through various chapters and articles.

She opened by asserting that addressing equity requires examining the root causes of inequalities in society, which can emerge rapidly. Shah used the example of Pakistan's agricultural abundance, contrasting it with alarming hunger statistics, pointing to issues like governance, natural disasters, historical factors, and political instability as contributors to the disparity. She emphasized that agriculture is now more about commodities and trading than nutrition, and conflicts in the region further exacerbate the challenges.

Shah concluded by cautioning that despite resource investments and supply-side programs, dynamic inequalities persist, susceptible to disasters, election delays, and political instability. She urged researchers and policymakers to consider these factors when addressing equity and inclusion in nutrition.

Deepika Chaudhery emphasized the World Bank's focus on three key aspects in nutrition and development: research, policies, and programs. She stressed the importance of ensuring that the design of research programs and policies is equitable and inclusive. Research is crucial for identifying barriers preventing certain groups from accessing nutritious foods and services. This understanding is essential for designing effective programs that promote equity and inclusion.

Chaudhery highlighted the significance of evidence-based policies, emphasizing their role in providing a framework for sound implementation. They noted the need for policies that consider important dimensions to reach the last mile and address the challenges discussed in the conference. The real impact, according to the representative, lies in program implementation, particularly in delivering nutrition services and promoting behaviors that lead to positive outcomes. Equitable and inclusive service delivery is seen as essential to ensure that the poorest and most disadvantaged, in both urban and rural contexts, receive the necessary support, ultimately leading to improved nutrition outcomes.

Raj Kumar Gope, Ekjut highlighted three key points. Firstly, he emphasized the presence of deprivation even in well-performing regions, underscoring the importance of recognizing these pockets of need. Second, he addressed geographical inequities, particularly in remote areas where distance is measured by time, not just kilometers. Thirdly, within seemingly homogenous villages, there are disparities, with some geographic areas facing greater deprivation.

Several additional insights were drawn from the closing session. For instance, Dr. Wagle highlighted the importance of incorporating behavioral change strategies, suggesting the use of unconventional approaches, including celebrities and entertainers, to motivate individuals towards healthier behaviors. The emphasis was placed on the need for continued engagement with communities, ensuring they are active partners in interventions rather than mere recipients of messages. The discussion underscored the significance of data disaggregation to better understand the impact on the most vulnerable populations. Moreover, there was a consensus on the necessity to focus on adolescents, both girls and boys, and the inclusion of youth in the design and implementation of programs. The speakers also stressed the importance of rights-based approaches, specifically the right to food, and empowerment in addressing equity and inclusion. Additionally, the call for streamlining and strengthening existing programs was reinforced, with an emphasis on incentivizing local units to drive positive outcomes.

Overall, the closing session provided a comprehensive set of recommendations for a broad set of stakeholders to consider as they work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to nutrition by 2030.

Below is an outline of this plenary session.

Moderator

Ramesh Adhikari, Chair, Ethical Review Board, Nepal Health Research Council

Discussants:

- *Saiqa Siraj, Country Representative, Nutrition International, Bangladesh*
- *Swarnim Wagle, Member, Parliament of Nepal*
- *Nafisa Shah, Parliamentarian, Government of Pakistan*
- *Deepika Chaudhery, Senior Health, Nutrition and Population Specialist, World Bank*
- *Raj Kumar Gope, Team Lead, Ekjut*



Key Message: The conference underscored the necessity for collaborative actions, data-driven insights, and concerted efforts to enhance nutrition and combat disparities. It emphasized that shared challenges demand shared solutions, urging continued cooperation and knowledge exchange among participants.

CONFERENCE CLOSING & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

During the closing session, the technical leads of the conference, Samuel Scott, Research Fellow, IFPRI and Neha Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI reflected on the diverse content of the two-day conference, which featured learning labs, plenary sessions, and thematic sessions addressing key areas like agriculture, food environments, health systems, diets, and social protection. The conference, adopting a hybrid format for increased inclusivity, centered around improving equity and inclusion for enhanced nutrition. Discussions covered disparities by gender, age, ethnicity, religion, and more, emphasizing the need for collective action.

This session concluded with a prize distribution. There were three award categories: for highest-scoring research and implementation oral presentation and highest-scoring poster presentation. Awards were given based on unbiased double-blinded abstract review scores, ensuring fairness. Recognition was extended to both virtual and in-person participants, and efforts were made to include representation from various countries, emphasizing a commitment to global excellence. The list of awards and winners are below.

Highest scoring research oral presentation

- Sajid Soofi (Aga Khan University, Pakistan)
 - Effectiveness of unconditional cash transfers combined with lipid-based nutrient supplement and/or behavior change communication to prevent

stunting among children in Pakistan: a cluster randomized controlled trial

- Priyanka Jayawardena (Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka)
 - Sri Lanka's Traffic Light Labels: Steering Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Choices”
- Hazrat Ali (WorldFish)
 - Integrating aquatic and terrestrial food production enhances micronutrient and economic productivity for nutrition sensitive food systems”
- Pallavi Rajkhowa (Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition)
 - Temperature and children’s dietary diversity: Evidence from India

Highest scoring implementation oral presentation

- Anwasha Chaterjee (Sahayog, India)
 - Engaging men in breaking the silence around Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- Ashwini Sopanrao Jadhav (Vikas Samvad Samiti)
 - Intervention for the promotion of nutrition gardens among food-insecure families of Madhya Pradesh: A community-based initiative to overcome the challenge of malnutrition
- Saira Parveen Jolly (BRAC University, Bangladesh)
 - Evaluation of feeding practices and nutritional well-being among unde

Highest scoring poster presentation

- Sweta Banerjee (Welthungerhilfe, India)
 - Nutrition Smart CommUNITY – A Multisector Approach to Address Malnutrition in Maharashtra
- Rojee Suwal (HKI, Nepal)
 - Promoting Village Model Farmer (VMF) Approach to Enhance Local Food Production Extension Services in Underserved Communities: Insights from USAID’s Suaahara II Program
- Shalander Kumar (ICRISAT, India)
 - Evaluating the Rural Food Environment to Promote Sustainable and Nutritious Diets in India: Methodological Insights
- Fahmida Akter (BRAC, Bangladesh)
 - Socio-demographic correlates of moderate to severe food insecurity in rural, non-slum urban and slum areas of Bangladesh: evidence from a nationally representative survey

The conference closed by announcing the location of the next annual D4N conference, which will be held in Sri Lanka.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

We are deeply grateful to the funders whose generous contributions made Delivering for Nutrition 2023 possible.

As a regional hybrid conference targeting early- and mid-career professionals from across South Asia, cost constraints can limit participation. Aligned with this year's conference theme of equity and inclusion, travel bursaries that provided support for travel and accommodation-related expenses played a crucial role in enabling broader attendance. These bursaries not only supported individuals in presenting their research to a wider audience but also offered valuable opportunities for mentorship and networking—making the event uniquely beneficial for convening researchers, implementers, development partners, and policymakers in the region.

The D4N2023 organizing team allocated funding based on various criteria. We considered funders' preferences, which varied, with some prioritizing travel bursaries for low- and middle-income country participants, while others focused on specific thematic areas. For travel bursaries given to presenters from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), priority went to accepted oral presenters determined through the conference's double-blinded abstract review. Poster presenters were considered based on available funding and if insufficient oral presenters met funders' criteria. The organizing team ensured equity and inclusion by considering representation across geography, gender, and presenter type (researchers vs. implementers). Demonstrated need was also taken into account. Travel support for program speakers from LMIC contexts were also supported by funders.

Financial contributions were also instrumental in covering various aspects of the event, including venue rental, logistic support, and hybrid participation. Thanks to their support, we were able to provide a memorable experience for all attendees and achieve our event goals.

| Funder (in alphabetical order) | Support |
|--|---|
| Alliance for Biodiversity-CIAT | Travel and accommodation for Jai Chand Rana, Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT (Poster presenter) |
| CGIAR Initiative on Asian Mega Deltas | Travel and accommodation of Cyprian Ouma, World Food Programme, Afghanistan (Oral & poster presenter)* |
| CGIAR Initiative on Digital Innovation | Travel and accommodation for 5 oral presenters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divya Santhanam, IPE Global, India • Pawankumar Patil, Action Against Hunger India • Rakesh Kumar Jha, Project Concern International, India |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranjan Kumar Jha, Nutrition International, India • Swati, Project Concern International, India |
| CGIAR Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy | <p>Travel and accommodation for 3 oral presenters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Anne Ignowski, WorldFish* • Cyprian Ouma, World Food Programme, Afghanistan* • Shahzad Kouser, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan* |
| CGIAR Initiative on Foresight | <p>Travel and accommodation for 2 speakers and 3 oral presenters.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nafisa Shah, Former Parliamentarian, Pakistan • Raj Kumar Gope, Ekjut, India <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jith J R, The George Institute for Global Health, India • Shahzad Kouser, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan* • Nandeeta Samad, King's College, London |
| CGIAR Initiative on Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) | <p>Travel and accommodation of 5 learning lab organizers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidel Arachchige Thushanthi Perera, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka • Hitihami Mudiyanseelage Nilmini Jayalath Karunarathna, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka • Kalambaarachchige Don Renuka Ruchira Silva, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka • Ranathunga Mudiyanseelage Thilanka Kumari Ranathunga, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka • Sitisekara Mudiyanseelage Hasara Dilrangi Sitisekara, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka |
| CGIAR Initiative on Gender Equality | <p>Travel and accommodation of Anwasha Chatterjee, SAHAYOG, India (Oral presenter)</p> |
| CGIAR Initiative on Mixed Farming Systems | <p>Travel and accommodation for 5 oral presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K.A.N.L. Kurupparachchi, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka • Mallawathanthrige Dilini Dayashani Perera, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Sri Lanka • Nambukara Palliya Guruge Samantha, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Sri Lanka |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sayan Jyoti Deori, NCARe Centre, Tezpur University, India • Sumantra Pal, Ministry of Women and Child Development, India |
| CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies | <p>Travel and accommodation for 4 oral presenters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anjali Purushotham, University of Sheffield • Neelmani Singh, Project Concern International, India • Sk Md Abul Basar, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, India • Neetu Choudhary, Arizona State University |
| CGIAR Initiative on Seed Equal | <p>Travel and accommodation Ashwini Sopanrao Jadha, Vikas Samvad Samiti, India (Oral presenter)</p> |
| CGIAR Initiative on Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia | <p>Travel and accommodation for 9 organizing team members.</p> |
| CGIAR Platform for Nutrition | <p>Travel and accommodation for 5 oral presenters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxime Roche, Imperial College, London • Pallabi Gogoi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India • Priyanka Saha, ROSHNI- Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action, Lady Irwin College, India • Saif Nihal, International Institute for Population Sciences, India • Saroj, Queen Mary University, London |
| CIMMYT | <p>Sound system, screens, hybrid setup and photography</p> |
| Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India (POSHAN) | <p>Travel and accommodation for 4 oral presenters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anita Christopher, International Food Policy Research Institute, India • Rati Kapoor, International Food Policy Research Institute, India • Soumyajit Ray, International Food Policy Research Institute, India • Soyra Gune, International Food Policy Research Institute, India |
| Tufts University/Feed the Future Innovation Lab | <p>Travel and accommodation of 15 LMIC presenters and speakers.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnali Chakraborty BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh • Malay Kanti Mridha BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh • Saiqa Siraj, Nutrition International, Bangladesh • Subir Kole, Hellen Keller International, Nepal |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fahmida Akter, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh • Md Masum Ali, International Food Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh • Mir Raihanul Islam, International Food Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh • Mohammad Monirul Hasan, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Bangladesh • Saira Parveen Jolly, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh • Sharvari Patwardhan, International Food Policy Research Institute, India (Presented work on Bangladesh) • Sreejith Aravindakshan, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Bangladesh • Syed Yusuf Saadat, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh • Tonima Sharmin, UN World Food Program, Bangladesh • Elizabeth Anne Ignowski, WorldFish* • Nandeeta Samad, King's College, London* |
| UNICEF-ROSA | Conference package including venue rental, food and snacks, and WiFi |

*Travel bursary was co-funded by one or more donors.

