Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

Presented by
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Nutrition sensitive agriculture

• Making food more available and accessible.
• Making food more diverse and production more sustainable.
• Making food itself more nutritious.
## Food security status in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Food secure</th>
<th>Vulnerable to food insecurity</th>
<th>Food insecure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Kurdistan</td>
<td>38.50%</td>
<td>59.40%</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>53.10%</td>
<td>45.80%</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other governorates</td>
<td>41.40%</td>
<td>55.10%</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td><strong>44.30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>53.20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td><strong>87.40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.10%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) 2016**
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture** is an approach that seeks to maximize agriculture’s contribution to nutrition. This strategy stresses:
  - the multiple benefits derived from **enjoying a variety of foods**;
  - recognizing the nutritional value of food for good nutrition, health and productivity;
  - the social significance of the food and agricultural sector for supporting rural livelihoods;
  - targeting poor households, promoting gender equity, and providing **nutrition education** so that household resources are used to improve household members’ nutrition, especially that of women and young children;
  - linking agriculture to sectors that address other causes of **malnutrition**, namely education, health and social protection.
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

• Policies, investments and programmes related to agriculture and food systems can play a strong role in preventing and reducing malnutrition, provided that they are conceived in a nutrition-sensitive way.

• Being nutrition-sensitive means incorporating nutrition objectives, concerns and considerations to enable communities to achieve food and nutrition security - avoiding negative impacts on nutrition.
• **Food systems** include both the activities (production, storage, processing, trade and marketing, preparation, consumption, ...) and the **context** in which these activities take place.
Improved food system for improved nutrition

Nutrition must be incorporated into all aspects of the value chain – starting with **nutrient-rich soils** that will improve the quality of the crops, and extending across the food system to other elements like **food safety, food processing, food fortification, proper food preparation and consumption in households**.
Improving diets through nutrition-sensitive agriculture

- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture** puts nutritionally rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification at the heart of overcoming malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. The overall objective is to **make the global food system better equipped to produce good nutritional outcomes**.

- Agriculture and food systems impact nutrition by influencing the quantity, quality and diversity of food produced, prices and purchasing power of producers, as well as food preferences and consumption choices.

- linking nutrition and the food system through:
  - **assess the functions of the food system**: food production; food processing and storage; food trade and marketing; consumer demand, food preparation and preferences.
  - **assess the food system from the consumer’s nutritional needs**.
Food systems for improved nutrition

Should ensure:

Consumer demand, food preparation and preferences
- Nutrition education and behaviour change communication
- Income generation for nutrition
- Nutrition-sensitive social protection
- School Food and Nutrition
- Nutrition-sensitive humanitarian food assistance

Food production
- Nutrition-sensitive value chains
- Women's empowerment and gender equality
- Diversification and sustainable intensification of agricultural production
- Biodiversity for food and nutrition
- Biofortification
- Urban and periurban agriculture

Food trade and marketing
- Trade for nutrition
- Food marketing and advertising practices
- Food price policies for promoting healthy diets
- Food labelling

Food handling, storage and processing
- Nutrition sensitive post-harvest handling, storage and processing
- Food fortification

Food loss and waste: prevention, reduction, and management
- Food quality, safety and hygiene
Consumer demand, food preparation and preferences

Consumer demand shapes decisions on what foods to produce, process and trade. The main drivers of demand at household level are:

- **Purchasing power** determined by level of incomes, prices, productivity, wage rates, taxes and cash transfers and remittances.

- **Preferences** linked to food-related knowledge, attitude and practices at individual and societal level.

Individual food consumption is influenced by household food preservation, preparation and cooking practices, and intra-household food distribution.

Social protection schemes including subsidies, school feeding programmes, consumer education can be crucial for supporting consumer demand and consumption.
2. Food Trade & Marketing

- Food marketing refers to all activities, actors and related infrastructures and regulations around the physical sale of food (wholesaling, retailing, catering) and its promotion (labeling, pricing, branding and advertising).
3. Food production

- Food production encompasses a range of activities - and relevant actors - including rural and urban crop production; livestock rearing at small, medium and large scale; fisheries; and forestry.

- Food production also requires managing the underpinning natural resource base (land, water, soil, plants seeds, animal breeds etc.) and supporting infrastructures (e.g. water supply network).

- Beyond making food available, food production is critical for sustaining rural livelihoods and shaping - positively or negatively - natural environments and landscapes.
4. Food handling, storage and processing

Handling, storage and processing are essential to preserve food, help increase shelf life and limit food losses, which in turn stabilizes food supply and prices throughout the year. Proper food handling, storage and processing also help make food safe, digestible and tasty and broaden the range of food products that can be consumed.
Improving nutrition through agriculture programs/investments

During planning
1. Incorporate nutrition objectives, actions and indicators in the design of agricultural projects, programmes and policies.
2. Assess the local context to understand how best to address nutrition problems.
3. Identify and mitigate potential harms to nutrition of agricultural investments.
4. Collaborate and coordinate with other sectors (e.g. MoP, MoT, etc).
5. Increase equity through ensuring participation, access to resources and decent employment for the most vulnerable.
Improving nutrition through agriculture programs/investments

Taking action

6. Empower women and ensure equal access to resources and technologies, services and information for farming and other agricultural businesses.

7. Incorporate nutrition promotion, education and behavior change communications in project activities.

8. Maintain or improve natural resources, including biodiversity, to reduce illness and ensure safe household water sources.

9. Facilitate diversification of production and livelihoods to improve availability and resilience e.g. increase production of nutrient-dense crops and small-scale livestock and fish.
Taking action

10. Increase incomes through production and development of value chains for a variety of nutritious foods.
11. Improve processing, storage and preservation to retain nutritional value, address food safety and reduce post-harvest losses (with positive effects for income and prices).
12. Expand markets and market access for nutritious foods.
Create a supportive environment

13. Ensure policy and programme coherence to support nutrition throughout the supply chain.

14. Improve governance for nutrition by drawing up a national nutrition strategy and action plan, allocating adequate budgetary resources, implementing nutritional surveillance activities and supporting multisectoral collaboration.

15. Promote gender equality and environmental sustainability.

16. Strengthen technical, strategic and managerial capacities at national, subnational and local levels.
Improving nutrition through agriculture programs/investments

Create a supportive environment

17. Develop information systems to support analysis, monitoring, management and evaluation of consumption, production, processing and marketing aspects of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems.

18. Advocate for improving nutrition through agriculture at global, national, subnational and local levels.
Examples of interventions involving nutrition surveillance programmes

- **Targeted direct feeding programmes**: These include school meals; feeding of expectant and nursing mothers as well as children under five through primary health centres; soup kitchens; and special canteens.

- **Food-for-work programmes**: Significant number of rural people are farmers, producing only enough food to feed their families for part of the year. Food-for-work programmes provide support to such households while developing useful infrastructure such as small-scale irrigation, rural roads, buildings rural health centres and schools.

- **Income-transfer programmes**: These can be in cash or in kind, including food stamps, subsidized rations and other targeted measures for poor households, and are also good means of increasing food-purchasing power and improving dietary intake.
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

*operational examples of agricultural development

Layers and poultry feed project in 2015: 50,000 hens and 750 MT of poultry feed distributed to 2800 families (17,000 people) - 20 hens & 265kg/Family in Erbil, Duhok, Salah AlDin and Nineveh in more than 400 villages.

– 40% of hens produce one egg per day = 8/day or 240/month

– providing an excellent source of protein for the diet of the beneficiaries and additional income for the sale of the surplus of eggs daily produced (approx. 35 USD/month).

– after 9 months, will provide a source of meat.

– Targeting women-headed households.
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

*operational examples of agricultural development

**Vegetable seed and agricultural tools project in 2015:** 15,000 packs of Vegetable seeds (tomato, cucumber and onion) and 30,000 pieces of agricultural tools (shovels, gloves, boots, etc.) have been distributed to small scale farmers for backyard farming in Erbil, Duhok, Salah AlDin, Nineveh and Diyala. 5,000 families (30,000 beneficiaries) have received assistance in 450 villages.

- approximate production is 52,000 MT of vegetables for an approximate value of 30 million USD.
- Provide source of fresh vegetables
- Targeting poor and women-headed HHs.
FAO Iraq calls for urgent funding to assist 1.6 million people through the Iraq Recovery and Resilience Programme 2018-2019

• About 12 million Iraqis – almost a third of the country’s population - reside in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Restoring the crucial agriculture sector that has been severely damaged by ISIL’s takeover of vast areas of Iraq is critical to the country’s recovery from years of conflict and to its long-term prosperity. To achieve that, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has put forward a wide-ranging programme of assistance that ranges from rehabilitating irrigation systems to veterinary services, and is seeking urgent funding to assist 1.6 million rural inhabitants in 2018-2019.

• It is estimated that Iraq has lost 40 percent of agricultural production over the past four years that ISIL controlled vast areas of northern and northwestern Iraq. The violence forced people to abandon farms, destroying or damaging harvests. Infrastructure such as water supply for drinking and agricultural production was damaged or destroyed. Agricultural equipment, seeds, crops, stored harvests and livestock were looted. Farmers were unable to plant for the next agricultural season due to conflict and contamination of land with unexploded ordnance. Food production and supply was disrupted, and food prices at markets increased.

• The first component of the programme includes three lines of efforts, rehabilitating the irrigation systems, water treatment plants and pumping stations, rehabilitating the storage and processing facilities, and preventing the spread of crop and livestock diseases. While the second component focuses on revitalizing communities through providing multi-purpose cash assistance, agricultural inputs and cash for work for returnee farmers, rehabilitating the agricultural infrastructure, veterinary facilities and water resource assets, and providing veterinary services
Japan to support livelihoods, food production and resilience of conflict-affected farmers in Iraq

$1.5 million will fund FAO project assisting families to grow food to eat and sell

- Japan’s support of $1.5 million will benefit 3 000 people in conflict-affected Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. The families, who either remained during conflict or recently returned to their homes, will receive inputs, equipment and training for backyard gardening and greenhouse production to quickly improve food availability, dietary diversity and income, and increase self-reliance.

- Some 1 260 people from vulnerable farming families, including households headed by women, will receive backyard gardening kits (planting containers, vegetable seeds, fertilizers and gardening hand tools) and training. Another 1 740 people will be supported through greenhouses vegetable growing kits (seeds, tools and fertilizer) and training by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture in vegetable production, including harvesting, storage, processing and marketing. The greenhouses will remain with communities at the end of the project.
Thank You!
Sources:

• Scaling up note on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development, report of IFAD.
• Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and food systems. Training course at FAO.
• Iraq: Comprehensive Vulnerability and Food Security Analysis 2016, report of WFP.org