



LANSA
Leveraging Agriculture for
Nutrition in South Asia

LANSA Agriculture / Nutrition Workshop & Open Forum

Pakistan Summary Report

15 April 2014
Avari Hotel, Karachi



Overview

Agriculture is the main livelihood for nearly half the population in the region, yet its potential for reducing undernutrition has not been realised. The Collective for Social Science Research hosted a Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) Agriculture / Nutrition Workshop & Open Forum – Improving Nutrition through Agriculture, on 15th April at Avari Hotel, Karachi, to discuss this issue. The event brought together agriculture and nutrition representatives from provincial governments across Pakistan, international and local NGOs, and UN agencies and provided them with the unique opportunity to examine their roles in reducing malnutrition in the country.

The event focused on how agriculture and food-related policies and interventions can be better designed to improve nutrition outcomes, particularly for young women and children in Pakistan. The day was structured around knowledge sharing and engaging participants in the agriculture-nutrition debate. LANSA researchers outlined their research plans with the explicit goal of getting feedback and ensuring our research is responsive to the priorities of stakeholders.

Haris Gazdar, LANSA's lead researcher in Pakistan and Director of the Collective for Social Science Research, set out the aims of the workshop. He noted the provincial level of government had emerged as a key node for nutrition policy and hence the focus of the workshop on provincial stakeholders. Julia Powell from the Institute of Development Studies, UK introduced LANSA to the audience after which two Pakistan-LANSA research studies were presented by Mysbah Balagamwala and Rashid Mehmood. The first highlighted women's work in agriculture and the potential impact this could have on nutrition outcomes. The second examined food-based approaches to addressing undernutrition through studying agri-food value chains. Samar Zuberi presented initial findings of interviews with agriculture and nutrition influencers and decision makers. The findings summarized perceptions of the political context, knowledge and evidence, and capacity issues related to the development of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Pakistan. These findings highlighted that the policy landscape with respect to nutrition was beginning to advance, while agriculture's role in improving nutrition outcomes still needed to be cemented.

In an open forum session government officials from four of the provinces presented on their agricultural programmes and discussed with participants the potential of these programmes to incorporate specific nutrition objectives, exploring how evidence translates into action. Dr. Nihaluddin Marri, Deputy

Director Agricultural Research Institute Tando Jam, spoke about Agriculture Research in Sindh and said its main objective was to increase farm incomes to improve people's quality of life, which included their consumption of nutritious food. Two Additional Secretaries from the Agriculture Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Humayun Khan and Imran Khan, respectively, spoke about relevant agriculture programmes in their provinces. Ms. Durre Seemi, Deputy Director Women's Wing Agriculture Extension, Balochistan provided an overview of the work the Women's Wing did and how their focus on food preparation, and preservation affected food security and nutrition within households. Dr. Zahida Sarwar from the Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, Health Department, Punjab presented the province's Intersectoral Nutrition Strategy highlighting the relevant agriculture programmes the strategy incorporates.

The workshop finished on a lively note, with participants generating research priorities through spirited discussion. The numerous points raised by participants are reflected in the themes for the call for proposals that LANSA is funding. Some of these priorities such as the mapping of power in the agriculture and nutrition landscape and considering the role of climate change and its effect on the nutrition-agriculture link have been incorporated into the proposed themes for the LANSA responsive window.

This workshop is a first step towards fostering enduring conversations among and between researchers and practitioners working on the linkages between agriculture and nutrition.

Research Priorities

The responsive window research priorities that emerged throughout the day are as follows:

Pillar 1

- ❖ The impact of pesticides on women's nutrition, both through their agricultural work and ingestion of foods sprayed with toxins
- ❖ Mapping of power in the agriculture and nutrition landscape at a provincial level
- ❖ Provincial and district level focus on bridging the gaps between civil society and different government departments and their siloed knowledge, emphasizing knowledge transfers and brokers

- ❖ Land rights of marginalized people and the effect landholdings have on nutrition
- ❖ Link between agricultural wages and nutrition
- ❖ Role of climate change and its effect on the nutrition-agriculture link
- ❖ Markets and their effect on diet diversity and nutrition in rural communities

Pillar 2

- ❖ The effect of agricultural practice on soil fertility and its connection to nutrition
- ❖ Milk industry – packaging of milk might have reduced consumption
- ❖ Value Chain – quality assurance, food safety, labeling, compliance (with respect to fortification), and adoption of practices (with respect to biofortified seed), reducing costs by adopting localized processing and packaging methods

Pillar 3

- ❖ Technology and its link to micronutrient deficiencies – impact of use and diffusion of technology and channels of information and institutions that regulate it
- ❖ Research on saline water crops; rain-water harvesting; drip irrigation
- ❖ Focus on how horticulture can address nutrition

Evaluation

Evaluation forms were filled by 21 out of the 26 participants (81%). On a five point scale with the highest being very useful and the lowest being not at all useful, 11 (52%) participants that filled out the evaluation form thought LANSA's research plans were very useful, while the remainder found they were useful. Ten (48%) participants thought the open forum session was very useful, 9 (43%) found it was useful while the remainder thought it was OK. With regards to the

discussion about the future research priorities 9 (43%) stakeholders thought this session was very useful, 10 (48%) found it useful and the rest found it OK. There were numerous comments with regards to what aspects of the workshop participant's found useful. Many thought the discussion, open forum and presentations where LANSAs researchers shared findings were interesting. Others highlighted that hearing the perspectives of different stakeholders such as the government, researchers and civil society was helpful, while more than one stakeholder found learning about linkages between agriculture and nutrition useful.

There were fewer comments with respect to what aspects of the workshop stakeholders found least useful. Some of the stakeholders thought at times discussion went off topic, while one stakeholder thought there was limited time and technical aspects of the presentations were not useful. Another comment in this section highlighted that the perspective of farmers was missing from the workshop.

Some agriculture stakeholders noted that they would take nutrition into consideration in their work as a result of what they learnt at the workshop, while a nutrition stakeholder said they would focus more on cross cutting themes relating to malnutrition. Other comments included stakeholders stating that they had learnt the difference between nutrition and food security and said they would apply this to their work, while another stakeholder noted that they learnt the importance of women's empowerment and realised the need to establish a women's division.

Stakeholders said the workshop could be improved by inviting more policy makers and individuals from the livestock, fisheries and forest sectors. Other comments suggested changes to the timing of the workshop; some thought the content should have been spread over two days, while others expressed that the workshop should have been a half day event. There were comments that said there should have been more focus on discussion and less presentation time. One stakeholder thought that there should have been representation from poor communities at the event, while another felt that research should take into consideration other factors aside from agriculture when studying malnutrition.

List of Participants

Name	Organisation	Designation
Shehla Zaidi	Aga Khan University	Associate Professor
Imran Khan	Agriculture Department, Balochistan	Additional Secretary
Humayun Khan	Agriculture Department, KP	Additional Secretary
Nihaluddin Mari	Agriculture Department, Sindh	Deputy Director, Agriculture Research Institute, Tando Jam
Durre Seemi	Agriculture Extension, Women's Division, Balochistan	Deputy Director
Hasan Mansoor	DAWN	Reporter
Ashraf Ali	FAO	Programme Cluster Manager
Shahnawaz Shaikh	FAO	
Zahida Sarwar	Health Department, Punjab	Policy and Planning Additional Programme Director Policy and Strategic Planning Unit
Amara Shakeel	HELP	Programme Manager
Sono Khangharani	Hisaar Foundation	CEO
Fatima Saad	Micronutrient Initiative	Provincial Manager, Sindh & Balochistan
Tahir hasnain	NPCP	Coordinator
Dure Shehwar	Nutrition Cell-Health Department, Sindh	Provincial Nutrition Focal Person
Zeenia Shaukat	PILER	Manager Programme
Qazi Shams Baloch	Planning and Development Department, Balochistan	Chief of Section Health
Hina Nazli	PSSP, IFPRI	Research Fellow, IFPRI, Pakistan Strategy Support Program
Suleman Abro	SAFWCO	President
Zulfiqar	SAFWCO	Advisor
Iqbal Detho	Save the Children	Provincial Manager, Advocacy and Campaigns
Adam Malik	Save the Children, Advisory & Liason unit, EU WINS project	Senior Manager
Masroor Shahwani	SIDA	Acting Manager Social Mobilisation and Gender
Shahid Husain	The News	Special Correspondent
Sameer Mandhro	Tribune	Reporter
Mohammed Kamran	WFP	Programme Assistant
Nisar Memon	WHO	Nutrition Program Officer, Sindh

Agenda

- 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.30 Welcome and Introductions (round table) – *Haris Gazdar*
- 10.00 **LANSA programme and research**
Overview of LANSAs programme objectives and research – *Julia Powell*
- 10.15 Presentation of LANSAs research study
Leveraging social protection to optimise nutrition impact of women’s work
in agriculture – *Mysbah Balagamwala*
- 11.00 Coffee / tea break
- Punjab Intersectoral Strategy – Dr. Zahida Sarwar, Health Department Punjab*
- 11.15 Presentation of LANSAs research studies
Pakistan Value Chain Review – *Rashid Mehmood*
- 12.00 Findings from stakeholder interviews – *Samar Zuberi*
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 **Open Forum participant presentations**
Participants present their work allowing opportunities for others to identify
areas for collaboration
Nihaluddin Mari, Deputy Director Agricultural Research Institute Tando Jam;
Humayun Khan, Additional Secretary Agriculture Department KP;
Imran Khan, Additional Secretary Agriculture Department Balochistan; Durre
Seemi, Deputy Director Women’s Wing Agriculture Extension, Balochistan
- 3.00 Coffee/ tea break
- 3.15 Going forward – research priorities, policy influence and networks – *Haris Gazdar*
- 4.00 Evaluation
- 4.15 Wrap-up – *Haris Gazdar*
- 5.00 Ends

Evaluation

1. Today we shared LANSA's research plans. How relevant do you think this planned research is to your country/ regional context? (please tick)

5 - Very useful	4 - Useful	3 - OK	2 - Not very useful	1 - Not at all useful

2. How useful did you find (a) participants presentations (open forum)

5 - Very useful	4 - Useful	3 - OK	2 - Not very useful	1 - Not at all useful

(b) discussion about future research priorities

5 - Very useful	4 - Useful	3 - OK	2 - Not very useful	1 - Not at all useful

3. What were the most useful aspects of the workshop for you:

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4. What were the least useful aspects of the workshop for you:

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Workshop content

5. What, if anything might you do differently in your work as a result of what you have learned today?

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6. Please provide any other comments or feedback on how the workshop might be improved:

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Optional: Name / Job title: _____

Email address: _____

Organisation: _____