



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT

# IFPRI food policy research for **USAID**



**2013**

**Reducing Poverty and Hunger  
through Food Policy Research**

# Foreword

In the wake of the food crises of the early 1970s and the resulting World Food Conference of 1974, a group of innovators realized that food security depends not only on crop production, but also on the policies that affect food systems, from farm to table. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) was founded in 1975 and for the past 38 years, IFPRI has worked to provide solid research for evidence-based policy options to partners in donor and recipient countries.

More than 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy created the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a means of advancing food security and agriculture, protecting human rights, and strengthening democracy and good governance around the world. In 2009, President Barack Obama and the US government renewed their commitment to tackling food security and hunger globally with the launch of the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative, transforming agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency in 20 countries. As President Obama stated at the May 2012 Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security, “The whole purpose of development is to create the conditions where assistance is no longer needed, where people have the dignity and the pride of being self-sufficient.” The US government was instrumental in the creation of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, announced at the 2012 G8 summit hosted by President Obama. With an aim of lifting more than 50 million people out of poverty over the next decade, the New Alliance has harnessed commitments of more than US\$3 billion in private-sector investment in Africa’s agricultural development.

To meet the needs of a growing global population that is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, agricultural production must increase significantly. As such, agriculture and rural development will continue to play a critical role in alleviating poverty and malnutrition.

Working with many longstanding partners, such as USAID, IFPRI’s food policy research has contributed to reducing poverty and improving food security for the world’s poor. Despite expanding urban populations, nearly 75 percent of the poor reside in rural areas in developing countries. Agricultural growth has been found to be three to six times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors. According to a landmark 2003 study on the impact of crop improvement research from 1965 to 1998, agricultural research is a good investment: every US\$1 invested in CGIAR research yields approximately US\$9 worth of additional food in the developing world. By serving as a trusted voice on food policy issues, IFPRI helps to change thinking and provide evidence about how to improve food and nutrition security. This brochure highlights some of the key collaborations between IFPRI and USAID that have contributed to reducing poverty and hunger.

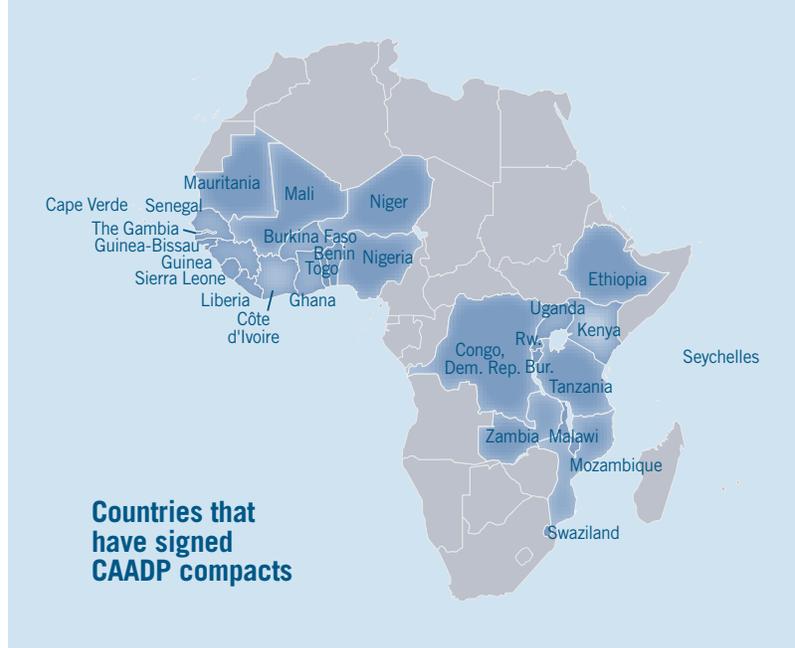
# Supporting Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme: Long-Term Strategic Analysis for Improved Growth and Poverty Reduction

## MOTIVATION

After years of declining investment in rural development and low agricultural productivity, the African Union launched the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003. Participating African governments committed to allocate 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture in order to help achieve a 6 percent annual agricultural growth rate. With USAID support, IFPRI has provided technical assistance to more than 20 countries for planning and implementing the program and carried out analysis of long-term growth and poverty reduction options to guide CAADP roundtables, technical reviews, and business meetings.

As countries move into the implementation phase of CAADP, IFPRI is ensuring that countries and regions have access to data, knowledge, and tools through the Regional



Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) and creating a critical mass of Africa-based economic modeling experts through the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium. IFPRI is also providing support to the US government's FTF initiative by monitoring and evaluating FTF efforts and providing empirical evidence on project outcomes.

## OUTCOMES

### *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme/Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System*

- ▶ IFPRI's analyses of agricultural growth and investment options for poverty reduction in 23 countries fed into their various CAADP implementation and dialogue processes, including roundtables, compacts, and national agriculture investment plans. To date, 30 countries and the Economic Community of West African States have held CAADP roundtables while about 26 countries have developed investment plans.
- ▶ The 30 national compacts signed during the CAADP roundtables contain specific commitments on agricultural policy, budgetary expenditures, development assistance, and policy dialogue to ensure that countries meet the CAADP growth and budget targets. ReSAKSS and IFPRI have led efforts to establish 15 country-level Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) to provide data, knowledge, and tools at the country level.

- ▶ ReSAKSS tracks 30 core indicators to facilitate policy dialogue, peer reviews, benchmarking, and mutual learning processes as part of the CAADP implementation agenda. Each year, it publishes an Africa Wide Annual Trends and Outlook Report, the official CAADP monitoring and evaluation report that is presented at the annual CAADP Partnership Platform meeting.
- ▶ The investment plans and technical review results from the compacts have allowed 11 African countries—Burundi, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Togo—to secure a total of US\$430.5 million from the multidonor Global Agriculture and Food Security Program to help finance their agricultural investment plans. The plans have also allowed several bilateral agencies, including USAID under the US government’s FTF initiative, to start scaling up agricultural sector and food security assistance to a number of African countries.

### ***African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium***

- ▶ The AGRODEP Consortium is an initiative aimed at positioning African experts to take a leadership role in the study of strategic development questions and the broader agricultural growth and policy debate facing African countries. AGRODEP now has 157 individual members from 27 African countries who are receiving capacity-strengthening support through training programs and access to research grants, data, and economic modeling tools from the Consortium. The specific objective of AGRODEP is to build upon an emerging critical mass of local modelers and a growing number of high-quality datasets to create a world-class modeling community in Africa. Specifically, AGRODEP will create a modeling infrastructure that provides access to state-of-the-art methodologies and tools and will also establish a database, making use of existing data sources and

setting up a clearinghouse mechanism to ensure the availability of high-quality data for strategic analysis.

### ***Feed the Future***

- ▶ As part of its support to the FTF initiative, IFPRI conducted a highly influential study that led to the lifting of the maize export ban in Tanzania. The prime minister of Tanzania, Mizengo P. Pinda, quoted the IFPRI study during his keynote speech at a conference on “Accelerating Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania through Multi Stakeholder Partnerships,” saying the research provided “clear and convincing evidence” on the export ban and that his government would take steps to deal with the findings. The prime minister went on to announce that the government had lifted the export ban.
- ▶ The FTF FEEDBACK project, led by Westat and involving IFPRI, the University of North Carolina, and Tango International as subcontractors, will conduct roughly 20 impact evaluations of FTF projects in Africa, Asia, and Central America. IFPRI leads the Impact Evaluation Working Group within FEEDBACK, which plays a coordinating role on the 20 impact evaluations. IFPRI is also taking the lead on impact evaluations in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda.

## **Country Development Strategies**

### **MOTIVATION**

Country development strategies link investment choices with development objectives supporting poverty reduction and economic growth. However, within many countries, linking investments with objectives is difficult because policymakers don’t have enough internal support to generate the information they need to make good decisions and prioritize investments. Within this context, IFPRI’s research aims to generate new knowledge, build

local capacity, and create policy dialogues that support agricultural and rural growth and reduce poverty. IFPRI and its partners, including USAID, have developed Country Strategy Support Programs in Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Uganda. Country Strategy Support Programs include the following five key outcomes:

## OUTCOMES

► Bangladesh: Through the Bangladesh Policy Research and Strategy Support Program for Food Security and Agricultural Development, IFPRI contributes to the implementation of Bangladesh's food security investment plan. In November 2012, IFPRI researchers worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to launch the Agricultural Policy Support Unit, which delivers real-time information such as the likely size of the next rice crop to inform the decisionmaking process. The support program also conducted an evaluation of the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest, Bangladesh's largest safety net program, and found that the program was highly successful. This finding encouraged the government's decision to renew the program for an additional term. The Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey, developed by IFPRI research staff in 2011, is the most comprehensive, nationally representative household survey conducted to date, providing useful data in an integrated format that allows users to answer a variety of research questions. Moreover, a part of the survey has been designed to provide the baseline data for identifying FTF's zones of influence: geographic areas that are strategically chosen based on need and strong potential for agriculture-led economic growth. FTF tracks reductions in extreme poverty and stunting in these zones through three population-based surveys (a baseline, midterm, and final survey) conducted in these areas.



► Ethiopia: Since 2004, the Ethiopian government has relied heavily on IFPRI's analysis, which has helped in the design and implementation of its Agriculture Led Industrialization Strategy. In addition, IFPRI has worked with the Central Statistical Agency to create the Population and Housing Census Atlas of Ethiopia 2007, has provided analysis to the government's Agricultural Growth Program, and has contributed to the launch of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, which generates market information for farmers.

In 2013, an external evaluation of IFPRI's work on Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme concluded that "Many interlocutors pointed to two related outcomes stemming from IFPRI's contributions to the PSNP. First, IFPRI's M&E has contributed strongly to improvements in the performance of the PSNP's multiple sub-programs. These improvements have clearly conferred welfare gains on a large number of impoverished people by reducing food insecurity and increasing their accumulation of productive assets. IFPRI can justifiably claim a share of the credit for these results...Second, these successes have helped to secure continuing donor support for the PSNP, including the recent re-authorization of the program to which donors have committed a further US\$2.3 billion for the years 2012–17."

Currently, IFPRI is providing technical research, capacity building, and policy communications support to the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency.

- ▶ Ghana: IFPRI's research contributed to making agricultural data on Ghana more widely available, and its collaboration with the Ministry of Food & Agriculture and Ghana Statistical Service prompted the launch of a new round of the nationwide agricultural survey, which had not been conducted for more than three decades.
- ▶ Pakistan: IFPRI's poverty data contributed to the government of Pakistan setting up a task force to evaluate the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' methods of calculating official poverty numbers, using IFPRI's household surveys as a model. In 2011–2012, IFPRI's research on wheat policy led to a reduction in the cost of government wheat procurement. Currently IFPRI is providing technical support to reduce the government's subsidy costs, and the research is also extending to the provincial level. IFPRI's review of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council's (PARC) role in agricultural research and extension activities has contributed to the development of PARC's five-year business plan and a key roadmap on how to manage changes after the devolution of government responsibilities from the federal to the provincial level. In an effort to build local research capacity in Pakistan's academic community and policy-relevant social science research, IFPRI gave small grants to 37 projects involving 59 investigators and co-investigators, along with master's and doctoral students. These projects address a wide range of issues, such as building vibrant markets and good governance.
- ▶ Uganda: IFPRI was invited by Uganda's Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture Secretariat to provide policy relevant research for the design and implementation of the agricultural and rural development strategy.

## Improving Agricultural Data and Policy Analysis in Nigeria

### Nigeria Strategy Support Program

#### MOTIVATION

Agriculture is the single largest contributor to the well-being of the rural poor in Nigeria, sustaining approximately 86 percent of rural households in the country. Improved agricultural development and growth can provide a pathway out of poverty.

In an effort to assist Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) to meet CAADP goals and commitments, IFPRI and partners, including USAID, developed the Nigeria Strategy Support Program in 2007. Collaborating with local researchers and government officials, the program conducts research covering a wide range of topics such as fertilizer, seed, and technology policies; agricultural financing; governance; the rice sector; commodity value chains; social networks; nutrition and food security; and Nigeria's role in regional food security, capacity building, and data analysis. The program, with research staff based in Abuja, also builds upon national capacity to improve the policy research that feeds into Nigeria's rural development strategy.

#### OUTCOMES

- ▶ IFPRI's support to the FMARD led to rapid progress in Nigeria's CAADP process. For example, from 2009 to 2010, the Nigerian government sharply increased budget allocations in order to meet its CAADP commitments.
- ▶ IFPRI facilitated revisions to the national agricultural strategy, which was submitted to the agriculture ministry in 2010 as an input into the National Agricultural Investment Plan.



- ▶ IFPRI's Statistics of Public Expenditure for Economic Development database on agricultural public expenditures in Nigeria was included in the Nigerian government's 2011 "Agricultural Transformation Agenda," the linchpin strategy document of the minister of agriculture.
- ▶ In 2012, IFPRI completed a capacity assessment for FMARD on the implementation of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. The study identified several capacity gaps, including gaps in policy analysis within the Ministry. FMARD is in the process of establishing a policy analysis unit within the Planning, Research and Statistics Department of the Ministry.
- ▶ IFPRI's Nigeria Land Governance Monitoring and Assessment Partnership Program helped to reinvigorate the Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform. Upon request from the government, the research team completed an appraisal survey to examine wealth and gender disparities in land registration and titling. In 2009, findings from IFPRI's Nigeria Public Expenditure Review spurred national interest in the level of agricultural spending, and team members were invited to meet with members of the Nigerian Parliament.

- ▶ As part of its participation in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, IFPRI led a team that developed a policy matrix as an input related to the Cooperation Framework Nigeria. Approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria, the policy matrix is one of the principal documents in the Cooperation Framework packet.

## Strengthening Food Security in South Asia

Supporting Agricultural Markets in South Asia:  
Rural Business Hubs in India

### MOTIVATION

The Indian agrarian sector must involve the private sector in improving services that can increase the incomes of farmers, particularly women and smallholders. IFPRI's rural business hubs research, developed in 2011 under USAID's Partnerships for Innovation and Knowledge in Agriculture, provides detailed market information to retail partners to guide them in reducing the cost and improving the quality of inputs and services provided to small farmers.



Research was undertaken in three Indian states, across 2,400 farming households, 300 agro-input retailers, and 300 agro-output traders. The study found that farmers prefer to buy seeds and fertilizers from state-owned companies because of subsidized prices and quality assurance, and private companies are using the results of this research to better target their products and services to small farmers. Rural business hubs are emerging as preferred destinations for high-quality inputs, although distance to these hubs can be problematic.

## OUTCOMES

- ▶ This study provided input for the Indian government's decision in 2012 to liberalize foreign direct investment in the retail food sector.
- ▶ In the state of Uttar Pradesh, the study was instrumental in identifying opportunities and constraints in the dairy sector.
- ▶ In Madhya Pradesh, the company ITC made an additional investment of US\$855,620 to develop markets for herbicides and pesticides following the survey's evidence of high demand for these chemicals in the farming community.

## Policy Dimension of the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia

## MOTIVATION

The Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA), supported by USAID, is designed to raise agricultural productivity and enhance farmers' incomes by improving germplasm and crop management practices for rice, wheat, and maize and by improving livestock systems.



IFPRI's contribution to CSISA addresses the policies needed to promote adoption of new technologies and to enhance their productivity and income benefits. IFPRI research on intellectual property rights (IPR) and public-private partnerships helps clarify the steps needed to deliver improved cultivars to farmers by addressing the legal, regulatory, and policy framework. Similarly, IFPRI research on the role of national-level policies and institutions helps in setting the overall macroeconomic policy environment for the adoption of new technologies.

## OUTCOMES

- ▶ Research findings from this work provide robust evidence of the links among India's IPR regime, private investment in crop genetic improvement, and agricultural productivity.
- ▶ The research also provides new insights into India's cereal seed and agricultural biotechnology industries and their potential effects on innovation and social welfare. Recommended policies may improve both the industries' performance and the delivery of new technologies to smallholders in India's cereal production systems.

# Improving Nutrition in Vulnerable Countries

## Breeding Crops for Better Nutrition: HarvestPlus

### MOTIVATION

Staple foods, such as rice or maize, have few micronutrients, which leaves billions of poor people with micronutrient malnutrition—or “hidden hunger.” The results are devastating and include blindness, stunted growth, and even death.

Launched in 2004, the HarvestPlus program addresses these malnutrition concerns. IFPRI and its partners, including USAID, aim to increase the micronutrient content of food crops through biofortification—breeding higher levels of micronutrients directly into crops—and to ensure that low-income populations consume those crops to reduce micronutrient deficiencies. HarvestPlus also contributes to knowledge and technology transfers across research institutions and implementing agencies in both developed and developing countries. These innovative methods serve to fight hidden hunger.

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ **Sweet potato:** A study of the adoption of vitamin A-biofortified orange sweet potato supported by USAID, among others, found that project activities led to a 68 percentage point increase in adoption in Mozambique and a 61 percentage point increase in Uganda. Vitamin A intake for women and children doubled in Mozambique. In Uganda, vitamin A intake increased by two-thirds for children and nearly doubled for women. With USAID support through FTF, orange sweet potato was delivered to 21,500 farming households in Uganda in 2012 and is expected to reach 225,000 households by 2016.

- ▶ **Cassava:** Cassava varieties with high vitamin A content have entered farm testing in Nigeria. Research found that although much vitamin A is lost in the processing of cassava, the vitamin A in that crop is two to three times more bioavailable to the body than originally assumed.
- ▶ **Maize:** Maize containing a high level of vitamin A is undergoing performance testing in Zambia. Three maize varieties with high vitamin A content were released in Zambia and two in Nigeria during 2012. Research showed that the vitamin A in maize is about twice as bioavailable as originally assumed. A study also found that the orange color of vitamin A maize does not prevent consumers from accepting the crop.
- ▶ **High-iron bean:** Five high-iron bean varieties have been released in Rwanda, where they are reaching 136,000 farming households in the country. They are reaching 40,000 households in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ▶ **Pearl millet:** One high-iron pearl millet variety was commercialized and released in India in 2012, in partnership with private-sector partner Nirmal Seeds. It reached 25,000 farming households.
- ▶ **High-zinc rice and wheat:** HarvestPlus submitted five promising high-zinc rice varieties to the official registration trial in Bangladesh and entered four promising high-zinc wheat varieties into the Participatory Variety Selection on-farm trials in India.





- ▶ The program influenced the creation of biofortification programs in Brazil, China, and India.

#### Addressing Child Undernutrition: Prevention or Cure?

##### MOTIVATION

Is it better to treat child undernutrition or prevent it? To answer this longstanding policy question, IFPRI and Cornell University compared two different models of food assistance provision and health and nutrition interventions and their impact on childhood nutrition in the context of a USAID-funded program implemented by World Vision in Haiti. The first program provided nine months of assistance to underweight children aged six months to five years, whereas the second program targeted all children between the ages of six months and two years. Both programs also targeted pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. The study, concluded in 2006, found that preventing infants and young children from becoming undernourished was more effective than treating children who were already moderately malnourished.

##### OUTCOMES

- ▶ Results of this study contributed to new thinking about how to address the problem of child undernutrition that extended well beyond the borders of

Haiti: prevention has become the accepted standard among aid agencies and NGOs. For example, several of the organizations that were part of the 2008 USAID Title II Program adopted the preventive model (blanket targeting of pregnant and lactating women and of all children under two years of age), as recommended in IFPRI's evaluation. World Vision has adopted this same model for its programs in Central American countries and in Ethiopia.

- ▶ The findings contributed evidence that the first 1,000 days from the start of pregnancy to a child's second birthday are a critical window for investing in that child's nutrition. This is the fundamental basis of the 1,000 Days initiative launched by the US and Irish governments in 2010.

## Supporting Responsible Development and Use of Biotechnology

#### The Program for Biosafety Systems

##### MOTIVATION

Today, smallholder farmers in more than 15 countries successfully grow crop varieties developed through biotechnology. Other countries, however, have not integrated biotechnology into their agricultural systems, often due to a lack of a biosafety framework that facilitates safe access to products and varieties. At a country's request, IFPRI, through its USAID-funded Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS), supports the development and implementation of national science-based, functional biosafety systems that ultimately expand producer choice, inspire consumer confidence, facilitate trade, and promote agricultural research and development.

## OUTCOMES

The following outcome highlights derive from some of the countries PBS supports and have been developed through strategic actions such as providing technical support and legal analysis, conducting outreach and education, coordinating legal reviews, implementing guidelines for biosafety bills, and hands-on training.

### *Africa Highlights*

PBS accomplished the following tasks in the countries listed below:

- ▶ Kenya – Contributed to the passage of a biosafety bill and associated implementing regulations
- ▶ Uganda – Supported the development of guidelines that resulted in eight field trials and provided strategic problem solving to enable passage of a national biosafety bill
- ▶ Nigeria – Provided strategic technical assistance for the passage of the national biosafety bill and associated implementing regulations
- ▶ Malawi – Contributed technical assistance to enable the first biotech field trial (for genetically engineered cotton) in 2013
- ▶ Tanzania – Provided technical assistance for the review and possible revision of current biosafety regulations

### *Asia Highlights*

PBS accomplished the following tasks in the countries listed below:

- ▶ Philippines – Conducted capacity building for biosafety regulators that resulted in the release of commercial products onto the market
- ▶ Indonesia – Conducted capacity building for the new Biosafety Commission and associated technical committees to enable multiple product approvals

and movement toward first commercial release of biotechnology varieties

- ▶ Vietnam – Provided technical support for the implementation of the first confined field trials and for the development of specific implementing regulations on food, feed, and environmental safety

## Understanding the Challenge of Hunger

HarvestChoice: Targeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation Support of the Feed the Future Initiative

### MOTIVATION

Breaking the cycles of poverty and hunger in the developing world depends largely on agricultural development and innovation. Answering the question of where to invest for the greatest impact requires reliable data and analysis. To that end HarvestChoice, supported by USAID, generates data, tools, and knowledge products to inform strategic investments that improve smallholder livelihoods, primarily in Africa south of the Sahara, through more productive, profitable, and sustainable farming.

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ HarvestChoice collaborated with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) to estimate the potential suitability and profitability of expanding wheat production in Africa, providing a basis for a high-level policy discussion at the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture and Trade in 2012. The discussion resulted in the declaration that wheat was one of the future strategic food security crops for Africa.
- ▶ The program produced prototypes of agricultural research, development data, and knowledge-sharing platforms for the G8's New Alliance for Food Security



and Nutrition and for CAADP's agricultural research investment planning.

- ▶ HarvestChoice tools that support spatially explicit analysis of market access, profitability, and crop distribution are gaining increasing recognition. Widely used datasets include the Spatial Production Allocation Model, which disaggregates crop production statistics, and sub-national poverty mapping, which provides internationally comparable poverty measures, computed using national household surveys for 24 countries.

## Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

### MOTIVATION

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) was developed in 2011 by IFPRI, USAID, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative to measure the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector. The tool tracks women's empowerment in five areas of agriculture: production, resources, income, leadership, and time use. Unlike any other tool, it also measures women's empowerment relative to men within their households, providing a more robust understanding of gender dynamics within

households and communities. The WEAI, a significant innovation in its field, aims to increase understanding of the connections among women's empowerment, food security, and agricultural growth.

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ The WEAI is being used for monitoring and evaluation in all 19 FTF countries to understand baseline conditions and track the changes in women's empowerment that occur as a direct or indirect result of interventions.
- ▶ Bangladesh was the first country to implement the WEAI on a nationwide scale. The WEAI survey conducted in Bangladesh was representative of the entire country, including the area of focus for USAID's FTF initiative. A WEAI report was then produced based on the survey data.
- ▶ A resource center has been set up with all publications, webinars, and training materials available and with a resource person working with FTF monitoring and evaluation teams and others interested in using the WEAI.
- ▶ The WEAI has received widespread support from donor and developing governments alike. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton recognized it as a tool created to integrate gender equality into the agricultural sector, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah



explained that the WEAI can serve as a means to help women farmers in poor countries produce more crops and gain greater influence over the agricultural economies of their countries. At the 2012 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Bangladesh State Minister of Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury described how the WEAI will be useful in defining the obstacles rural women face in their work as farmers and caretakers.



## Responding to Food Price Spikes

The 2007–2008 Global Food Price Crisis

### MOTIVATION

The precipitous escalation of food prices during 2007–2008 had devastating consequences for the food and nutrition security of poor people. IFPRI was among the first institutions to draw attention to the problem early on and address the crisis. The Institute was also well-positioned to respond to stakeholders' requests for information. Throughout the crisis, IFPRI—with USAID support—used solid research to define what was happening, identify the causes and consequences, and determine what could be done to mitigate the effects.

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ By serving as a source of reliable, evidence-based information on the food price crisis for both decision-makers and the general public, IFPRI contributed to a broader understanding of events and possible policy responses. IFPRI produced 30 publications and disseminated findings through high-level presentations and briefings, resulting in more than 700 media citations.

- ▶ Seven of the eight urgent actions IFPRI proposed in a 2008 policy brief were adopted as policy recommendations in the Comprehensive Framework for Action published by the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.
- ▶ The 2008 G8 Summit report, *Double Jeopardy: Responding to High Food and Fuel Prices*, drew on IFPRI's research in its justification for revising biofuel policies.

## Global Policy Consultations

2020 Vision Conference: Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

### MOTIVATION

Agriculture, nutrition, and health are inseparably linked: agriculture provides food to nourish people so they can lead healthy lives, and productive agriculture requires healthy, well-nourished people. But can agriculture do more to improve human health and nutrition? In February 2011, IFPRI's 2020 Vision Initiative brought together the agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors at an international conference on "Leveraging Agriculture for



Improving Nutrition and Health,” in New Delhi, India, to examine what changes are necessary to maximize agriculture’s contributions to human health and nutrition and how human health and nutrition could contribute to an agricultural system that is both productive and sustainable. USAID, together with a consortium of other sponsors, supported this international conference, attended by more than 1,000 participants from 65 countries.

## OUTCOMES

The 2020 Conference informed, influenced, and mobilized action by key actors to invest in agriculture to promote nutrition and good health among the world’s most vulnerable people. According to an independent impact assessment report:

- ▶ The conference provided the USAID Administrator and top leaders with a fresh opportunity for encouraging separate bureaus within the agency to think cooperatively and to develop programs that include agriculture, health, and nutrition concerns. USAID leadership began promoting nutrition and agriculture more clearly as a joint concern. In March 2011, Administrator Shah drafted a message to his field staff that included a strong endorsement of the 2020 Conference:

In February, many of USAID’s food security and nutrition staff participated in the “Leveraging

Agriculture to Improve Nutrition and Health” conference hosted by IFPRI in New Delhi, India. This important conference provided an opportunity to bring agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors together to unleash the potential of agriculture—as a supplier of food, as a source of income, and as an engine of growth—to sustainably reduce under nutrition and ill health for the world’s most vulnerable people. Secretary Clinton provided opening remarks through video and continues to lend her strong support to the global nutrition agenda.

- ▶ Writing in a USAID Blog entry created during the Conference, an official commented about the Conference’s landmark status:

Sometimes bringing together nearly a thousand development leaders and experts from around the world around an issue can spark a global movement. Last week, I participated in a conference hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in New Delhi, India, that was designed to leverage agriculture for nutrition and health. It was more than just a series of workshops and side meetings that merged experts from seemingly disparate fields. I believe it brought life to an already growing momentum. This energy change comes at a crucial time when food security couldn’t be more critical in an increasingly interconnected world.

- ▶ One of the strongest impacts of the 2020 Conference on USAID is just now emerging in the area of best practices for monitoring and evaluation. The event fostered a focus on discovering and scaling up the most effective practices to bridge the agriculture-nutrition divide.
- ▶ Numerous USAID agriculture and nutrition initiatives were programmed with greater ease and wider support inside the Agency following the 2020 Conference.

## Current Work

### Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally

- ▶ Ending undernutrition requires more than just producing sufficient nutritious foods; it demands, among other things, that those foods are uncontaminated, widely accessible, and purchased and consumed by those who need them. To combat undernutrition on a global scale, the Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally project (SPRING), supported by USAID, works across sectors to incorporate health, agriculture, social protection, and economic growth into country-led nutrition strategies. In partnership with the JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., Helen Keller International, Save the Children, and the Manoff Group, SPRING provides technical support so that high-quality programs are enlarged or adapted to other areas within the country and ultimately are led by the country. IFPRI's role is to generate evidence-based learning, monitoring, and evaluation techniques in target countries.

### Mitigating Weather Risks: Developing Innovations in Index Insurance

- ▶ The lack of efficient risk management mechanisms, including functioning insurance markets, exacerbates common poverty trap situations in the developing world. Weather-indexed insurance products have the potential to help mitigate the impact of uncertain rainfall on the incomes of the rural poor. Demand for these products, however, has been limited, and expectations about these products' performance have not yet been met. IFPRI, with support from USAID, has been working to develop index insurance to better meet the needs of smallholder farmers. As part of this work, IFPRI focuses

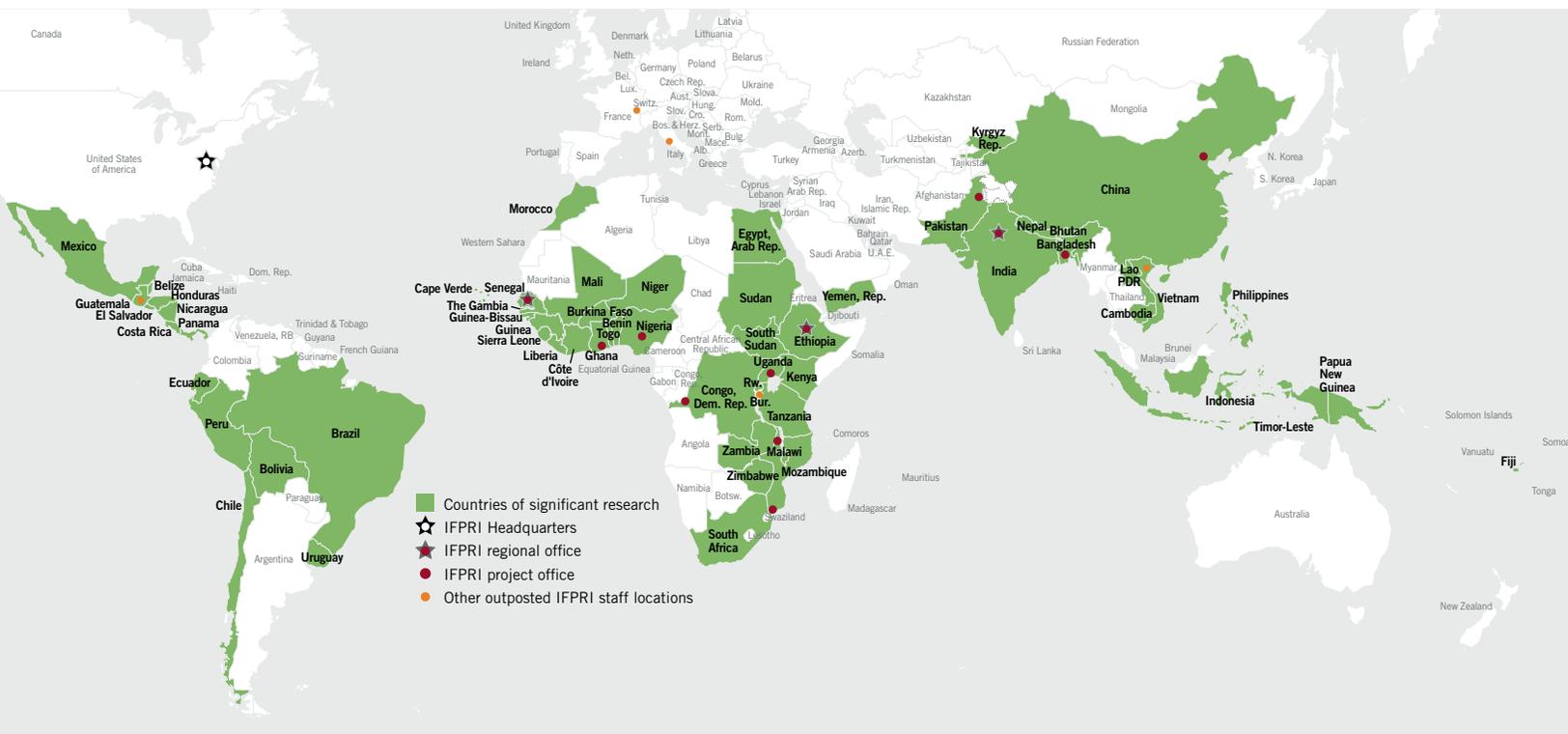
on simple and flexible products that are easy for smallholder farmers to understand and use. Work is underway in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, and Uruguay.

### Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System in Asia

The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System in Asia (ReSAKSS-Asia), facilitated by IFPRI with the financial support of USAID, is a multicountry regional network designed to inform food and nutrition security strategies in the Asia region. Built on the research and capacity building efforts of IFPRI's ReSAKSS-Africa, the overall goal of ReSAKSS-Asia is to help fill key knowledge gaps, promote policy dialogue and sharing of experiences across countries in the region, and establish a website portal to provide easy access to information and knowledge on issues related to agricultural growth, improved food security, and nutritional outcomes in the Asia region.

The ReSAKSS-Asia website (<http://www.resakss-asia.org/>) was formally launched in early 2013 and includes open data sources, tools, and other research products. The website provides links to a wide variety of Asian datasets and research products to foster greater access to Asia-related information and to give other researchers an incentive to share their research products through ReSAKSS-Asia. Data.gov, the open data site of the US government, lists the ReSAKSS-Asia website as a resource on global food security issues. ReSAKSS-Asia is also consolidating and expanding existing networks among national researchers in the region. Guided by regional policy demand, particularly from the four Asian FTF countries, three research themes for joint activities have been identified: 1) input policy, with a particular emphasis on fertilizer and seed policy; 2) market and trade policy, with an emphasis on regional and country policy solutions to deal with increased world food price volatility; and 3) agriculture-nutrition linkages and their policy implications.

# IFPRI OFFICES AND COUNTRIES OF SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH



## Looking Forward

Hunger and malnutrition are persistent problems that demand multifaceted solutions. By serving as a trusted voice on food policy issues, IFPRI, in collaboration with USAID and other partners, has helped to transform the prevailing wisdom around food and nutrition security, from national-level policy decisions to locally sourced implementation choices.

As the world looks ahead to a future of increasing population and intensifying pressures on natural resources, IFPRI's rigorous and pragmatic approach to food policy research will prove more valuable than ever in supporting country-led policy development, donor investments, and development practitioner approaches.

### INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A member of the CGIAR Consortium | A world free of hunger and malnutrition

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ISBN 978-0-89629-834-7