

The International Food Policy Research Center (IFPRI) is pleased to submit the proposal for Phase II of the CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) on behalf of the six other Managing Partners: Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and Wageningen University and Research Center (Wageningen UR). This proposal covers research to be undertaken in the period of 2017-2022.

A4NH conducts innovative research on the relationships between agriculture, nutrition, and health, and has already made significant contributions to CGIAR's knowledge, technologies, and evidence for improving nutrition and health outcomes through agriculture. Building on strong existing partnerships and new partnership arrangements, A4NH will contribute to equitable outcomes for millions of poor smallholders and consumers. A4NH plays an important integrating role, serving as CGIAR's lens on nutrition and health, through the second System Level Outcome (SLO2) on improved food and nutrition security for health. A4NH's research activities are designed to directly contribute to all aspects of SLO2, in addition to contributing to the other SLOs on poverty and natural resource management, and all priority cross-cutting issues (climate change, gender and youth, policy and institutions, and capacity development). A4NH experienced considerable success in Phase I, yet there remains even more potential for CGIAR to improve nutrition and health for all people. Additional work is needed to identify and develop nutrition-enhancing production technologies, institutional innovations that support sustainable access to and/or application of these technologies, and program and policy options to increase the contribution of agri-food systems to nutrition and health. There is also an urgent need for new research on how proven approaches to improving nutrition and health through agriculture can be scaled and sustained in specific countries and contexts. While we maintain a strong focus on undernutrition—one of the greatest development challenges—research activities in Phase II will also embrace emerging challenges, such as the epidemic of obesity and overweight in low- and middle-income countries, the large and growing burden of foodborne disease, and antimicrobial resistance associated with animal agriculture.

The CRP-Commissioned [External Evaluation](#) recognized A4NH's leadership and comparative advantage on nutrition and health issues in CGIAR, as well as the relevance of the research agenda, the quality of researchers, and progress made in delivering high-quality outputs that add value to ongoing CGIAR work. Recommendations by the external evaluation panel provided very useful advice for CRP research and management, which we have incorporated in three main ways in this proposal.

- Distinguishing the core, collaborative research agenda of A4NH in the five flagship programs (FPs) and the role of A4NH in integrating and adding value to CGIAR research more broadly. For each FP, core research issues and questions are defined in each FP section, along with integration activities, which are also noted generally in Template 1 and in more detail in Template 2a of Annex 3.6.
- Strengthening management through close collaboration with managers in Centers and partners on human resource management, research quality, ethics, resource mobilization, and country engagement. This is reflected in the concept of Managing Partners, who will have greater roles and responsibilities to co-manage A4NH with IFPRI in Phase II. The objective is to gain synergies

by the management capacities of Centers/partners and the A4NH Program Management Unit (PMU).

- Strengthening cross-cutting research, particularly on equity, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning across A4NH. This is reflected in the three A4NH cross-cutting units for Gender, Equity, and Empowerment (GEE), Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) and Country Collaboration and Engagement (CCE). These units support research in all A4NH FPs as well as A4NH integrative activities.

Other activities proposed for Phase II take into consideration lessons learned in Phase I, including recommendations from external evaluations and input from the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC).

The A4NH portfolio will include five FPs in Phase II. **FP1: Food Systems for Healthier Diets** will contribute to the goal of healthier diets for poor and vulnerable populations through better understanding of food system-diet dynamics and through identifying and enabling innovations in value chains and policies. This FP focuses on catalyzing innovative partnerships between researchers, both within and outside of CGIAR, as well as private, public, and civil society actors in national and sub-national food systems in four target countries. **FP2: Biofortification** will contribute to reducing micronutrient malnutrition by reaching 100 million people in 20 million households with biofortified crops and by researching how delivery can be scaled and sustained, and how biofortification can be mainstreamed into public policy and crop breeding. **FP3: Food Safety** addresses the growing burden of foodborne disease through research on technological and institutional solutions, and by identifying appropriate policy and regulatory options that align public health goals with country priorities to ensure that food is both safe and equitable for the poor. This FP will focus on mitigating aflatoxin contamination in key staples, and on managing risks in informal markets for nutrient-rich perishables like meat, milk, fish, and vegetables. **FP4: Supporting Policies, Programs, and Enabling Action through Research (SPEAR)** will contribute to better nutrition outcomes for nutritionally-vulnerable populations, especially mothers and young children, by understanding, evaluating, and strengthening nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs and policies, analyzing the political economy of leveraging agriculture for nutrition and health, and cultivating enabling environments for nutrition in South/Southeast Asia and Africa. **FP5: Improving Human Health** is an innovative collaboration between public health and agriculture researchers to mitigate risks and optimize benefits for human health from agricultural systems. It will focus on managing diseases in intensifying agricultural landscapes, on emerging and neglected zoonotic diseases, and on emerging global challenges, such as antimicrobial resistance. The five FPs will work with all three cross-cutting units: GEE; CCE; and MEL.

In Phase II, we will prioritize greater country-orientation and support to country leadership, capacity, and performance for healthier food systems and more effective cross-sectoral policies and investments. These efforts will align with CGIAR coordination efforts (known as Site Integration). A4NH's initial focus will be in five countries – Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Vietnam – which share the greatest total nutritional deficiency and health burdens. All five of these countries are designated priority countries for CGIAR Site Integration. A4NH activities in each country will be supported by the capacity and networks of at least one A4NH Managing Partner, as well as specific financial and coordination support at the CRP level. In other countries, FP teams and Managing Partners will provide country leadership and coordination.

The A4NH research portfolio for 2017-2022 builds on the results framework and impact logic of Phase I. While the logical framework remains, there will be major changes to how we work, based on lessons

from Phase I. We have developed a strong core group of managing partner institutions, from within and beyond CGIAR, to implement our research agenda and research-for-development partnerships more effectively. These include two non-CGIAR Managing Partners: LSHTM, bringing in links with public health; and Wageningen UR, leading new research on food systems. Both will join four CGIAR Centers: Bioversity, CIAT, IITA, and ILRI, as Managing Partners of A4NH. IFPRI remains the Lead Center.

All Managing Partners commit to specific research and country engagement leadership roles, which include building and co-managing the human and financial resources of A4NH. Beyond the Managing Partners, there is an influential group of strategic partners that dedicate human and financial resources in important research areas, and actively engage in planning and implementing research with others in A4NH. Potential strategic partners come from CGIAR (Centers and CRPs) and from the broader research community (for example, the Institute of Development Studies, Public Health Foundation of India, and Hanoi School of Public Health), actors in value chains (such as seed companies, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and the Pulse Innovation Platform), development implementers (such as BRAC, Helen Keller International, and World Vision), and enablers (such as national governments, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and World Bank). Collaborative partners include hundreds more entities with which A4NH works on specific research, capacity building, or stakeholder engagement activities.

A4NH looks forward to strengthening links with other CRPs in Phase II. In our proposal, we describe our joint plans to engage others in CGIAR through existing mechanisms, such as HarvestPlus and the gender-nutrition community of practice, as well as new initiatives, such as learning platforms, convening events, and joint research.

A4NH presents a proposal with a six-year base-budget of \$618 million, of which \$134 million (22%) is sourced through Windows 1 (W1) and 2 (W2) of the CGIAR Fund, and the remainder through Window 3 (W3) and bilateral contracts. We also provide additional outcomes that could be accomplished depending on the availability of additional (uplift) funding (50% of base budget). Actual levels of funding and the indicative allocation among FPs may vary in the course of implementation in response to realized funds and priorities of partners. The indicative budget presented in this proposal shows 96% for research, and 4% for management and cross-cutting functions performed by the A4NH PMU. An additional table in the CRP Budget Narrative Section describes in more detail the proposed PMU budget, including both defined management functions (W1/W2) and cross-cutting research support (W1/W2 and bilateral grants). Among the contributing CGIAR Centers, approximately 63% of research funds are budgeted to the Lead Center (46% of W1/W2 and 67% of W3/bilateral), and 37% to Participating Centers and Managing Partners (54% of W1/W2 and 33% of W3/bilateral). Of the funds allocated to all Centers, approximately 34% of total costs flow through to external partners on a contractual basis for research, capacity development, and monitoring of outputs and outcomes. Cross-cutting theme budget shares of total budget are gender (11%), youth (2%), capacity development (10%), impact assessment (5%), and communications (4%). Furthermore, if additional funding can be secured, A4NH proposes new research areas and additional activities for speeding up and scaling A4NH research to contribute to impact.

The budgets take into account recommendations from the ISPC's review of the A4NH pre-proposal. Relative allocations of W1/W2 are more evenly spread across FPs. The limited W1/W2 funds for FP2: Biofortification are focused purely on research on efficacy, evaluation and scaling out and on new

varietal development; W3/bilateral funds support delivery activities with country partners. The overall A4NH resource mobilization strategy has been and will be to develop a strong and coherent portfolio of W3/bilateral research grants for all the FPs. This will be even more necessary given the availability and volatility of W1/W2 funding in Phase II. We have prepared a summary of W3/bilateral research grants (secured and unsecured) in A4NH for Phase II along with how the A4NH research agenda aligns with important bilateral donors' agendas in agriculture, nutrition and health. The "Funding the A4NH Agenda" summary can be found in Other Annexes in the full proposal.

The IFPRI Director General (DG) and IFPRI Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and performance of A4NH. The Program Director manages a small PMU within IFPRI, chairs the Planning and Management Committee (PMC), and is accountable to the DG of the Lead Center and the Lead Center Board. The current Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) will be replaced by an Independent Steering Committee (ISC). As per CGIAR guidance, the ISC will be delegated a stronger governance role by the IFPRI Board of Trustees in Phase II. ISC will meet more frequently, both face-to-face and virtually, to decide on annual work plans and budgets, to commission external evaluations, and to review the annual performance of the Program Director. The PMC consists of the Program Director, FP leaders, a representative from both the GEE and MEL units, and a senior leader from each of the Managing Partners. A4NH will report to and be guided by relevant consortium entities, per guidelines to be established for Phase II implementation.

IFPRI is the Lead Center for two CRPs – A4NH and Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM). This allows for close coordination between A4NH and PIM, especially around value chains, social protection, foresight, and policy processes. More details are provided in the proposal, which also responds to questions from the ISPC on how A4NH aligns with IFPRI's operational structure through its coordination, for example, with HarvestPlus and the Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division, leaders of two A4NH FPs.

IFPRI expresses thanks to all who have contributed to the extensive preparation. The A4NH PMU has led development of this proposal with significant input from the current and future FP leaders, the wider A4NH team of researchers, IFPRI's Director General office, A4NH's IAC, the IFPRI Board of Trustees, CGIAR Science Leaders, invited external experts, and representatives of external partners too numerous to name (both individually and through regional and country consultations). Comments on the pre-proposal from ISPC are acknowledged with gratitude and have been addressed. The specific actions taken to address comments from the ISPC can be found in "Actions Taken to Address Reviewers' Comments" in Other Annexes of the full proposal.

We look forward to receiving comments on the full proposal. We recently received draft review criteria developed by the Fund Effectiveness Working Group. An additional annex has been provided to help reviewers find the relevant information in the proposal narrative, annexes, and PIM tables. We express our appreciation in advance to all supporters and partners who will join with us in implementing this important and exciting program over the next six years. If you have any questions about the A4NH Phase II submission, please contact Shenggen Fan, Director General of IFPRI, and John McDermott, Director of A4NH.