

Participant workbook
**Regional Public Health Consultation
with the CGIAR Research Program on
Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)**



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health
Led by IFPRI



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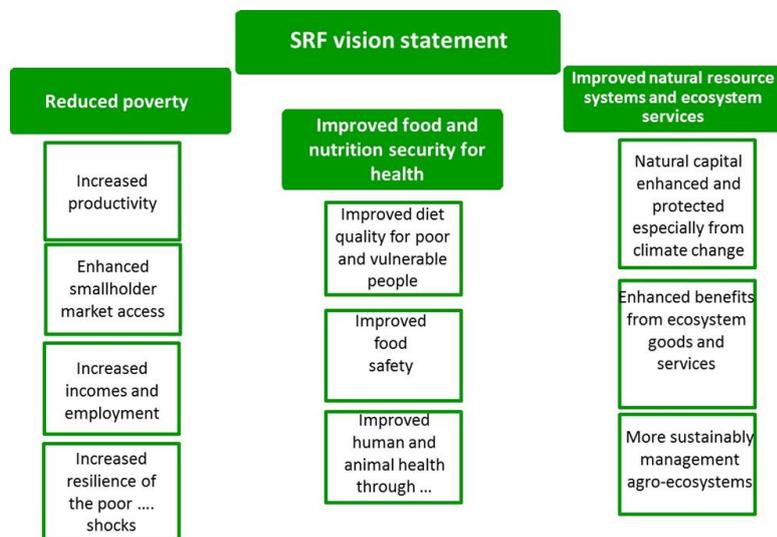


PUBLIC
HEALTH
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**April 21-23, 2015
Cotonou, Benin**

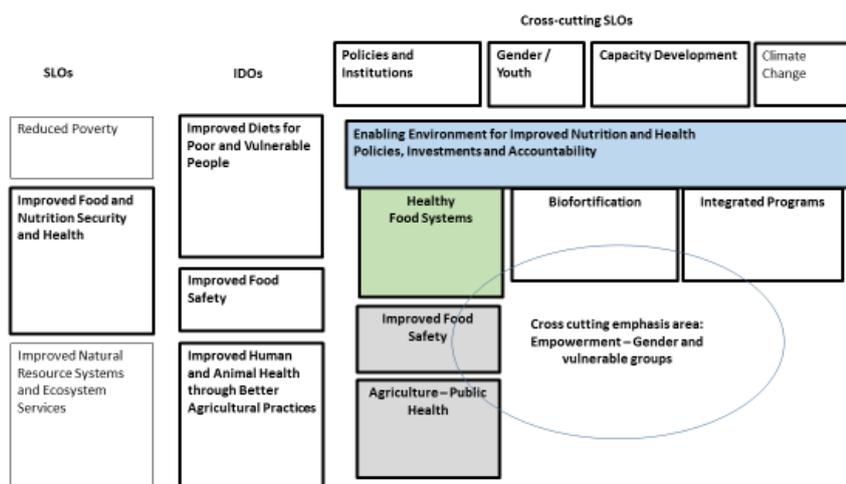
Background and context

CGIAR donors have proposed a new results framework that puts much greater emphasis on improved food safety and human health through good agricultural practices.



For several years, the CGIAR has had research looking at health risks associated with agriculture; however the funding for this research has been quite small. Since 2012, the CGIAR has reorganized its research into large cross-Centre research programs and research on the benefits and risks from agriculture on human and nutrition and health has been the focus of the CGIAR research program (CRP) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). CGIAR donors have placed even greater emphasis on agriculture – health issues looking forward and so A4NH is consulting with existing and potentially new health research and development partners in order to propose a more substantial A4NH research portfolio, expected to start in 2017.

This diagram illustrates what the overall A4NH research portfolio would look like in Phase 2 and how it fits within the broader framework of CGIAR goals.



Key: **Bold**=System Level Outcomes (SLOs) and Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs) of A4NH focus; For proposed Flagship Projects (FPs): clear=existing FPs with minor changes; light blue is new FP from the policies cluster of activities; light grey are 2 FPs by splitting current FP on Agriculture Associated Disease; and green is the FP on Food Systems from current FP on Value Chains for Enhanced Nutrition

To date, health research in A4NH has primarily focused on three topics:

- Food safety risks, particularly in informal and formalizing markets either for perishable products (animal source foods and fruits and vegetables) or aflatoxins in staple crops;
- Neglected diseases which are best controlled by agricultural actions; the diseases that disproportionately affect poor, marginalized populations in low-income settings; and
- Intensification of agriculture systems associated with emerging / changing infectious disease risk (e.g., through intensification of livestock systems, more intensive use of irrigation, and use of contaminated water).

There are a number of areas in which A4NH would like to work more closely with public health partners in the second phase of the program. The first is in a joint research program on better health through good agricultural practices that focuses on the issues of infectious diseases, both emerging diseases and/or diseases associated with intensification *and* diseases of neglected populations. This would tie into the area called Agriculture-Public Health in the diagram. This will be the main focus of the discussions. The second, related to the first, is on collaboration in food safety. In the diagram, food safety will include research activities related to aflatoxin control and management and food safety of perishable products, like meat, milk, eggs and fish and fruits and vegetables. The third topic is on the role of agriculture in non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly in how changing diets affect obesity and NCDs. This topic will likely fit into the proposed area currently called Healthy Food Systems in the diagram. The primary focus of the A4NH regional consultations with public health partners will be on the first area. The other two areas do have relevance to other research themes that we can discuss.

For developing a joint research program on better health through good agricultural practices, we would like to identify some concrete actions aimed at improving our ability to reduce human health risks associated with agricultural intensification, and specifically to develop:

1. **Common Shared Vision and Collaboration** – to discuss the assumptions driving the health research agenda in A4NH and get feedback on how to design an integrated, holistic and interdisciplinary research approach that is consistent with public health priorities and meets public health standards and rigor. In the consultations, it will be good to clarify the areas which remain in the domain of public health research, areas which remain in the domain of agricultural research, and what areas we can work on together.
2. **Collaborative Project Opportunities** – to identify and develop opportunities for collaborative projects and initiatives that in particular can apply and leverage multi-interdisciplinary expertise, knowledge, tools and resources.

Three regional consultations will be held in West/Central Africa, East Africa, and South Asia, over two days. The first day will be spent on identifying priority areas where agriculture and public health research can work together. The second day will be focused on planning how A4NH can work with partners to pursue the development of these ideas in the next phase of the research program. Two regional consultations will be held in April 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, with ILRI; and in Cotonou, Benin, with IITA. A third regional consultation will be held in May 2015 in New Delhi, India with the Public Health Foundation of India. A cumulative, high-level meeting will be convened in London in June 2015 to share the perspectives from the regional consultations and discuss further with leaders from key institutions working in global health.

Each consultation will be facilitated through a structured process. The output will be a report with a road map of sorts on how we – A4NH and partners – propose to develop a collaborative research program on improving human health through agriculture. This would first be included in a relatively short pre-proposal to be submitted in August 2015, and then if this was accepted developed in more detail in a proposal to be submitted in April 2016.

Participants

Target participants for this event will be representatives from research institutes, NGOs, government ministries and departments, and investors working on human health issues associated with agricultural intensification. Effort will be made to include public health specialists with strong field/research backgrounds in the control of tropical diseases; experienced agriculture extensionists with knowledge of agronomy; and key NGOs specializing in agricultural irrigation systems. Participants will be identified from countries representing the target regions and agro-ecologies.

Purpose of this workbook

- To serve as a guide for the consultation participants to promote sharing of information and move to collaborative action in a number of potential areas.
- To provide take away reference material for participants to use in follow-up discussions with their colleagues, including those that were unable to attend this workshop. Please feel free to share it. An electronic version has been provided to you all and is available at www.a4nh.cgiar.org.

Agenda for West and Central Africa Consultation

DAY 1 – April 21, 2015

9:00 – 9:30	Session 1.	Welcome and purpose
9:30 – 11:00	Session 2a.	Issues facing global health and agriculture - introduction Scene-setting panel presentations from representatives of the agriculture and public health sectors, followed by discussion
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Session 2b.	Issues facing global health and agriculture - discussion Participants form small issue-based or place-based groups to discuss key research issues in health-agriculture
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:00	Session 2c.	Review proposed issues Facilitated plenary where groups give brief summaries of discussions
2:00 – 3:30	Session 3a.	Identifying areas of focus – introduction Facilitated plenary introduction followed by discussion
3:30 – 3:45	Coffee break	
3:45 – 4:45	Session 3b.	Identifying areas of focus – part 1 Participants form small issue-based or place-based groups to discuss key areas of focus for a joint agriculture-health research agenda
4:45 – 5:00		Summary of day 1

Day 2 – April 22, 2015

9:00 – 9:30		Welcome and introduction to day 2
9:30 – 11:00	Session 3c.	Identifying areas of focus – part 2 Participants form small issue-based or place-based groups to discuss key areas of focus for a joint agriculture-health research agenda
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Session 3d.	Report back on areas of focus Facilitated plenary to share what groups discussed
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30	Session 4a.	Theory of change: How does our research lead to impact? Plenary introduction of how we expect agriculture-public health research could lead to development impact
2:30 – 3:30	Session 4b.	Theory of change: How does our research lead to impact? Table group discussion of how we expect agriculture-public health research could lead to development impact
3:30 – 3:45	Coffee break	
3:45 – 4:30	Session 4c.	Report back on discussions Facilitated plenary to share what groups discussed
4:30 – 5:00		Summary of day 2

Day 3 – April 23, 2015

9:00 – 9:30		Welcome and introduction to day 3
9:30 – 11:00	Session 4d.	Theory of change: Implications for research questions Participants form small groups to discuss potential research questions
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Session 4e.	Theory of change: Implications for partnerships Participants form small groups to identify partners
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30	Session 5	Action items Facilitated plenary to discuss next steps and action items from the morning's discussions
2:30 – 3:30	Session 6a.	Introduction to the Agriculture, Nutrition and Healthy Academy Facilitated plenary introduction to a new capacity building initiative called the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy
3:30 – 3:45		Coffee break
3:45 – 5:00	Session 6b.	Discussion on the Academy Participants form small groups to provide feedback that will shape the concept of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy
5:00 – 5:30		Conclusion

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Session 2. Issues in global health and agriculture

2.1 Purpose

- To share views on priority areas for collaboration between the public health and agriculture sectors.
- To narrow down this list to a set of research priorities that could be collaboratively developed and explored

2.2 Working Proposition

Agriculture and health are both essential for reducing poverty, malnutrition, and food insecurity. Climate change, globalization, transboundary epidemics, and food and fuel crises are big challenges facing both sectors. We acknowledge the challenges are many and complex, but we assert that we can prioritize a few key issues, where research can focus on either enhancing the positive or mitigating the negative human health effects of agricultural activities.

We recognize there are a number of benefits that can come when agriculture and health cooperate in research, practice, and policy making. The CGIAR has a history of research on nutrition and health issues related to agriculture, such as malaria, food safety, zoonotic diseases, occupational health, and water-related health. There is ongoing work on the specific links between agroforestry, agro-biodiverse farming, and aquaculture, and nutrition and health. Furthermore, there is interest in reviving or building upon work on the impact of pesticide use on farmers' health and on the options of incorporating health-enhancing environmental management in cropping, irrigation, and other agricultural practices.

Our goal is to facilitate partnerships between CGIAR and other institutions in order to build on common ground between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers representing concerns of the agriculture and public health communities and promote and coordinate impact-oriented scientific research on issues linked to agriculture and public health.

Session 3. Identifying focus areas

3.1 Purpose

- To identify issues that could be explored collaboratively and form the basis for a collaborative research agenda between agriculture and public health

3.2 Key criteria for identifying focus areas

We propose a set of key criteria for narrowing down the issues into a set of focus areas. You can also think about categorizing issues by their regional or sub regional (e.g., distinct agro-ecological zones) importance.

- **Strategic relevance.** The issues mentioned by the groups will differ in regards to urgency, importance, or perceived need for solutions. What metrics could be used to rank issues in regards to the need for solutions (e.g., DALYs)? How can our priorities be guided by global burden of disease estimates, particularly on issues that are clearly related to agriculture.
- **Regional or sub regional issues.** What is happening at regional or sub regional levels or agro-ecological zone that might guide our selection of focus areas?
- **Risk mapping (risk assessment and risk quantification)** of identified diseases associated with agricultural practices
- **Scale, extent of problem, targets.** What is the scale of the development challenge? What are the potential target populations that can benefit from research on this focus area? What are the assumptions/evidence for which of these might be reached over time (e.g., in 5 and 10 years and by 2030-35) in different target countries and/or regions?
- **Expertise, capability, and track record.** Which of the issues mentioned by the groups provides the best opportunities for joint research? Consider things like capacity, commitment, incentives, feasibility, and funding. Are there some issues best handled by individual sectors (e.g., agriculture alone or health alone)?

Session 4. Theory of Change

4.1 Purpose

- To introduce a general theory of change for how we think collaborative research between agriculture and public health can address development changes
- To use this theory of change to shape a research agenda (goals and research questions) and what stakeholders need to be engaged and how we should work together

4.2 Theory of change and impact pathways

A theory of change (ToC) is an approach that can help researchers and development organizations describe the expected outcomes and the logical links between research outputs and development impact. A good ToC identifies the underlying assumptions and risks associated with each link in the impact pathway. The results can be used to identify partners, refine delivery strategies, prioritize further research, and design monitoring, learning, and evaluation systems to better support learning about how research or interventions are working or need to be improved. A4NH has developed some examples of what a ToC is, how it can be developed, and what can be learned from it. There is a lot of generic guidance available from other sources, but very few practical examples for research in particular. This is a gap that A4NH hopes to fill with our work on ToC.

With our consultation participants, we would like to present a generic ToC as a way to stimulate thinking about relevant research questions that could guide an agriculture-health research program and identify where partners are needed and what role they would have in generating research outputs and contributing to outcomes, like improved human health.

4.3 Resources

- Overview and status of A4NH work on theories of change

4.4 Tasks for Participants – part 1

- As a group, think about the general theory of change presented and discussed in the previous session and the key areas of focus that were proposed. What type of research questions need to be answered?
- Record your conclusions on the flip chart paper.

Notes

Session 5. Action items for medium-term and longer-term

5.1 Purpose

- To review the timing for development of the second phase proposal for A4NH and immediate tasks and to review the probable outcomes and next steps for engagement if the proposal is successful and allow participants to ask questions.
- Identify members of working groups to contribute to the development of the pre-proposal for Phase 2
- Develop timelines for the working groups

5.2 Working proposition

An important output of this meeting is collective determination and commitment to pursue a collaborative agriculture and health research agenda. Part of this will be identifying persons willing to take concrete next steps to help prepare a pre-proposal for Phase 2 of A4NH for submission in August 2015. Some issues that will need to be addressed in our closing session will be:

- **Ownership.** In the short-term, A4NH will coordinate this initiative, but in the longer-term, in order to be successful, it will require commitments from CGIAR and partners to contribute time and resources. It may be important to clarify the level of commitment expected in the short- and long-term.
- **Structure and function.** In the short-term, we will need volunteers to form working groups to drive the development of the pre-proposal. These groups will be quite active from now until the pre-proposal is submitted in August 2015, in describing the development challenges, the research objectives, and how the proposed research agenda can meet these challenges. In the longer-term, we anticipate working groups could be formed around developing concept notes and proposals.
- **Research orientation.** Will it be mainly scientific (interactions between agriculture and health) or will it be operational (programmatic solutions, including evaluations, with key agriculture and health issues)? What scale of research will be pursued and at what level – local, regional, national, or global? How narrow or broad will research programs (or clusters or sub-clusters) be defined?
- **Credibility.**
- **Sustainability.**

Notes

5.3 Key dates for A4NH in developing the proposal for Phase 2

April to mid-June:	Engage working group members and key partners
June 30:	Draft circulated to stakeholders and to A4NH PMU for review and comment
July 20:	Revised draft sent to PMU for inclusion in the overall proposal
July 24:	PMU circulates full draft of pre-proposal to stakeholders for comment
August 7:	Stakeholders return comments to PMU
August 14:	PMU submits the pre-proposal to the CO

5.4 Resources

- Pre-proposal template for A4NH

Session 6. Opportunities with the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy

6.1 Purpose

- To introduce participants to the concept and proposal for a capacity building initiative being launched by the IMMANA project and A4NH called the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy (the “Academy”)
- To get feedback from the participants on the concept and activities of the Academy and how it could work in this region

6.2 Ideas for shaping the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy

Discussion will focus on participants’ perspectives on the following aspects of the Academy.

Priorities

- What should be the main priorities of the Academy in 2015 and beyond?
- What are the big topics in your discipline and/ or your region that the Academy should focus on?

Working groups

- What areas should the Academy working groups be focusing on? (A list of common methods and metrics will be shared with the group.)
- Would you be interested in joining a working group?

Training

- What training topics in methods and metrics would you find most relevant? (we will present a list of common methods and metrics)
- What training formats would be most appropriate (short webinars, face-to-face workshops, short courses, summer school...)?
- Are you aware of other courses in similar topical areas?

Annual conference

- What would attract you to attend the annual Academy conference?
- What should be the key elements of the conference?

Online engagement

- What would encourage you to use the Academy’s online portal (contacting other members, accessing and sharing resources, accessing training, collaborating on a project...)?
- Do you use any online portals (communities) as part of your professional activity? If yes, for what purpose and how? If not, why not?

Membership and outreach

- Would you be interested in joining the Academy?
- Who (from your region) should be involved? (relevant groups) Who should be providing training for the Academy? (groups or individuals)
- How can the Academy best reach potential members in your country or region?
- What similar organizations or initiatives should the Academy be linked to?