



FLAGSHIP

Food Systems for
Healthier Diets



About A4NH

The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), is built on the notion that agriculture has the potential to do much more than reduce hunger and poverty. Our high-quality research and evidence from Phase I (2012–2016) confirmed that agricultural development has enormous potential to make significant contributions to improving the nutrition and health of people. In Phase II (2017–2022), our focus is expanding to address challenges related to food system transformation, the rising burden of foodborne disease, and emerging health risks, like antimicrobial resistance. Our work continues to recognize that addressing inequality related to gender or other social categories is a development objective in its own right and an important condition for achieving other development objectives, particularly improved nutrition and health.

As CGIAR’s only research program on nutrition and health, A4NH makes a unique contribution to three specific CGIAR targets related to reduced poverty and improved food and nutrition security for health.

Recognizing this is a major task, A4NH brings together 5 CGIAR Centers and 2 academic institutions plus the talents and resources of a wide range of partners. Together, we carry out research activities through five unique, yet complementary, flagship programs and three cross-cutting units in at least 30 countries.

Flagship 1 Rationale and Objectives

Governments, businesses, and civil society groups increasingly realize the important need of supporting food systems to produce and supply diverse, nutritious, and safe foods for healthy lives. Flagship 1 responds to concerns about global diet trends and demands from countries on how to transform sustainable and systemic food system transformations for healthier diets to address unabated problems of under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overnutrition.

FIGURE 1 A4NH Program Structure

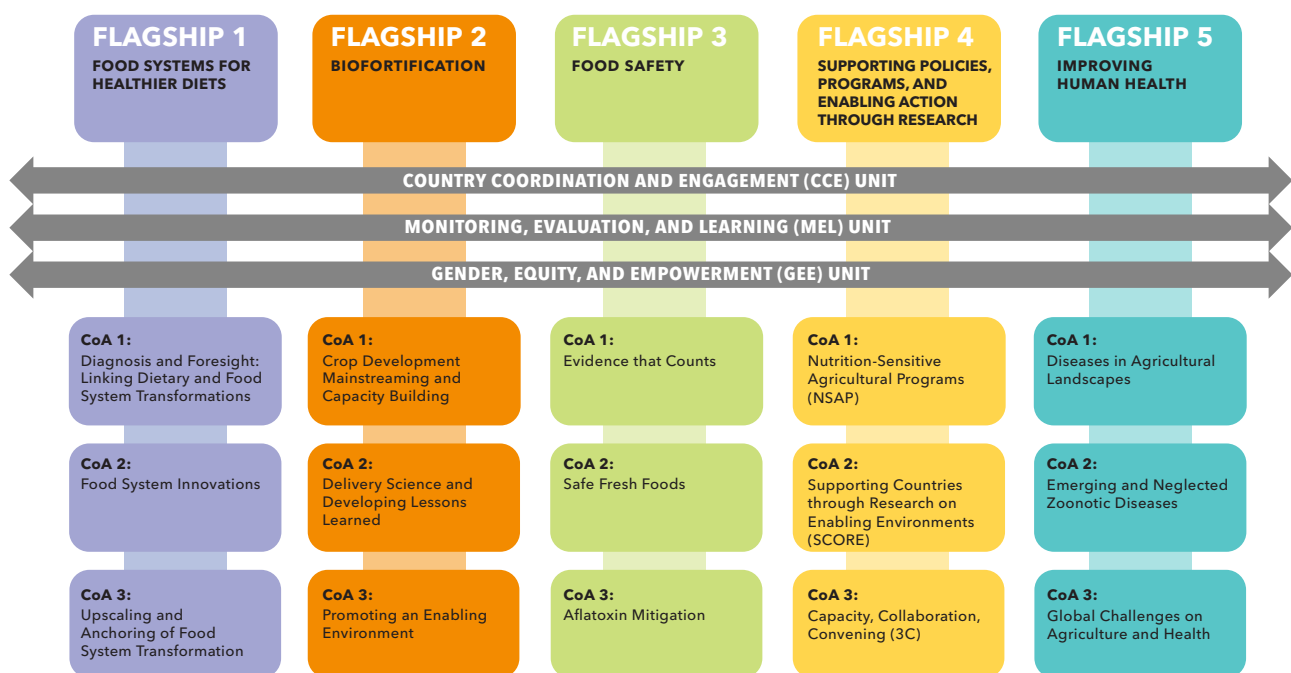
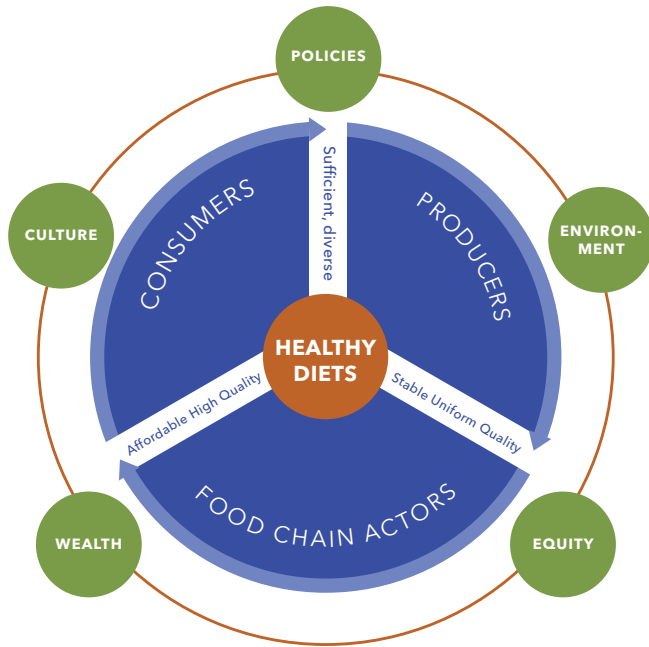


FIGURE 2 Food Systems, Actors and Drivers



This flagship takes a holistic perspective of food systems, including production, distribution, waste disposal, and food consumption. The systems approach aims to understand the interactions between different parts and act upon how together they are effecting change, rather than improving specific components in isolation. This is necessary because a food system is multidimensional. It includes sociocultural, economic, environmental, and political aspects, with many actors (food producers, food-chain actors, and consumers) managing multiple, linked agri-food value chains within dynamic food environments.

Clusters of Activities

Research in Flagship 1 focuses on analysis of the food system transformation and dietary transitions occurring in several countries, but with special attention on Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Vietnam. Our research is designed to improve understanding of not only the dietary impacts and effectiveness of specific types of policy interventions, consumer and business innovations in relation to food systems for different target populations, but also their possible environmental and economic trade-offs. Flagship 1 is led by Wageningen University and Research

Centre (WUR) and combines resources from Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and collaborates with the Amsterdam Initiative against Malnutrition (AIM/GAIN) and other strategic partners. Research is organized into three main clusters of activities:

- 1. Diagnosis and Foresight** assesses regional and sub-regional drivers of food system transformation, and options and constraints for dietary change. The evidence, along with development and testing of methods, metrics, and tools, helps identify leverage points in food systems that can improve diets and enables partners to incorporate nutrition, health and gender in their own evaluation and design of agri-food value chains and other food system programs.
- 2. Food System Innovations** tests concrete food system innovations and interventions at supply and demand-site to sustainably improve diet quality. Results from these effectiveness and impact evaluations are translated and disseminated so that stakeholders – investors, civil society, policymakers, and other CGIAR programs – consider healthier diets in processes related to food systems.
- 3. Scaling up and Anchoring** supports the scaling up of successful actions through effective engagement of multi-stakeholder platforms and multi-sectoral mechanisms so that partners can implement A4NH strategies for agri-food value chain and/or food system innovations at scale.

CONNECT WITH FLAGSHIP 1

To engage directly with A4NH on Food Systems for Healthier Diets, please contact the Flagship 1 leader:

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