



FLAGSHIP

Supporting Policies, Programs, and
Enabling Action through Research



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.

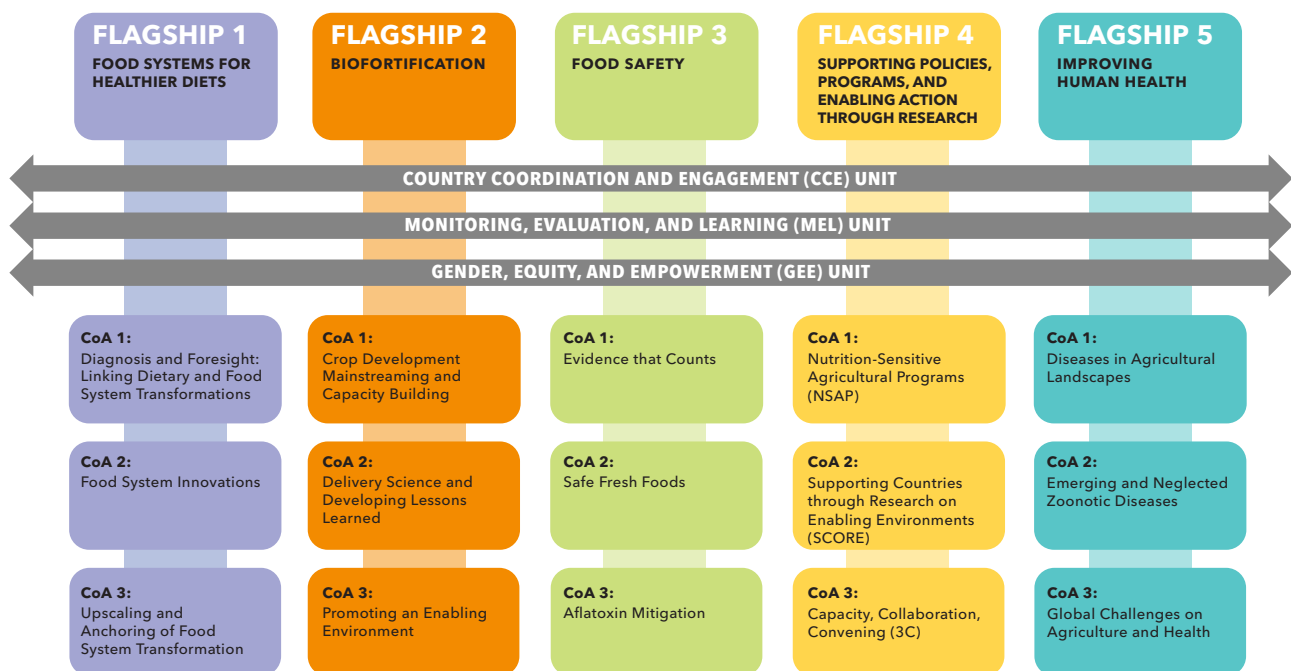
As CGIAR’s only research program on nutrition and health, A4NH makes a unique contribution to three specific CGIAR targets related to reduced poverty and improved food and nutrition security for health.

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 4 Rationale and Objectives

Agriculture is closely linked to both the direct causes of undernutrition (e.g. diets, feeding practices, and health) and the underlying factors (e.g. income, education, access to water, sanitation, hygiene and health services, and equity). However, in many low- and middle-income countries, where a high dependence on agriculture-based livelihoods coexists with a high burden of undernutrition, large changes in agricultural policy and practice have generated relatively small changes in nutrition.

FIGURE 1 A4NH Program Structure





WorldFish

In short, there is a disconnect between agriculture and nutrition. The many links between agriculture and nutrition suggest that agricultural policies, interventions, and programs can be better designed to enhance nutrition and health benefits.

We see this disconnect not only as a challenge—but also an opportunity. Research under this flagship, Supporting Policies, Programs and Enabling Action through Research, or SPEAR, explores why the disconnect persists, and more importantly, how we can turn agriculture into a powerful lever for raising people’s health and nutritional status, while at the same time contributing to addressing other development challenges, such as food security, poverty, equity, and sustainability. Our intention is for SPEAR research to leverage agriculture for nutrition, which implies: (a) making agricultural programs more nutrition-sensitive and more effective in improving nutrition and health, (b) creating and strengthening policy environments that enable agriculture to support nutrition and health goals, and (c) developing capacity and leadership to use evidence-informed decision making to enhance the impact of agriculture on nutrition and health. SPEAR is led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and combines resources from Bioversity International along with other strategic partners.

Clusters of Activities

1. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Programs focuses on understanding and documenting the contribution of integrated agriculture and nutrition programs to improvements in maternal and child

nutrition. As a result, we strengthen the evidence base. Our findings meet the strong demand from development program implementers and investors for evidence, tools, and methods to design and implement cost-effective nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs at scale. In addition, our efforts build capacity among researchers and evaluators to use evidence, tools, and methods to design high-quality evaluations of multisectoral programs, including nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs.

- 2. Supporting Countries through Research on Enabling Environments** conducts research on how enabling environments for nutrition can be created and sustained, and tests approaches for cultivating such environments. We translate and disseminate the evidence, tools, and methods in ways that inform decisionmaking processes and investment strategies surrounding regional, international, and UN agency nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs and policies. At the national level, we share our evidence with policymakers and stakeholders from different sectors, civil society, and industry so it can be used to design and implement effective, high-quality nutrition-sensitive policies.
- 3. Capacity, Collaboration, Convening** focuses on strengthening capacity and leadership to demand, use, and act upon A4NH evidence in decisionmaking; fostering collaboration; and presenting knowledge and evidence generated by the other clusters of activities in SPEAR in ways that are useful to policymakers and decisionmakers. These efforts combined improve capacity within and outside CGIAR across different sectors, governments, UN institutions, civil society, and industry to generate and use evidence to improve nutrition-sensitive agricultural programming, nutrition-sensitive policymaking and implementation.

CONNECT WITH FLAGSHIP 4

To engage with A4NH directly on Supporting Policies, Programs, and Enabling Action through Research, please contact the Flagship 4 leader:

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