



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health

Led by IFPRI

A4NH

**2017
Annual
Report**



End hunger. Achieve food security and improved nutrition. Promote sustainable agriculture. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) is dedicated to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3, laid out by the United Nations. In 2017, A4NH began its second phase of work, with five research flagships, seven managing partners, and activities in more than 30 countries all working toward realizing this vision.

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This report, online:
bit.ly/A4NHAR17

ON THE COVER, PHOTO: GEORGINA SMITH, CIAT
BACK COVER, PHOTO: GEORGINA SMITH, CIAT
BELOW, PHOTO: IFPRI



PHOTO: NEIL PALMER, CIAT

PHOTO: NEIL PALMER, CIAT



JOHN
MCDERMOTT

John Mc Dermott

A Message from A4NH’s Director

2017 ushered in the second phase of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, and the excitement and energy can be felt throughout the program. Our team dedicated

itself to conducting a thoughtful analysis of our very successful first phase as we looked for ways to strengthen the program and build upon that foundation. These efforts led to two important changes: First, our program structure now focuses on five targeted flagship research programs, as we bring value chains into food systems and work to partner more effectively with the public health sector. Second, a carefully considered reorganization of our partnership structure provides us with a team of seven highly motivated and committed managing partners. Led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), they include four other CGIAR centers—Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Two organizations from outside the CGIAR system further enhance A4NH’s reach and reputation in the fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health—the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which coordinates linkages with public health research and co-leads our flagship on Improving Human Health, and Wageningen University and Research, which leads our flagship on Food Systems for Healthier Diets. Our accomplishments this year, guided by this prominent group, are detailed in the pages that follow and online at a4nh.cgiar.org. Thank you for your continued support of and interest in our work.

A Message from IFPRI’s Director General

A4NH’s second six-year phase got off to a successful start in 2017. As the host of this CGIAR Research Program, IFPRI takes pride that the innovative, strategic research linking agriculture, nutrition, and health led by A4NH and its numerous partners is leading to significant results and outcomes. There were many accomplishments in 2017. A [trial of iron-biofortified beans in Rwanda](#), led by Cornell University and supported by HarvestPlus and highlighted in the *Journal of Nutrition*, demonstrated that not only did the iron status of the young women increase, so did their memory and attention capacity. Transform Nutrition’s five-year program in South Asia and East Africa produced a strengthened evidence base for nutrition—numerous publications include the *Stories of Change*, which assessed how six countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India (Odisha), Nepal, Senegal, and Zambia) have accelerated improvements in nutrition. A4NH joined partners and other stakeholders for the 2nd annual Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy Week in Kathmandu, Nepal, to share evidence and build capacity on how agriculture linkages can improve nutrition and health. These are just a few of many exciting results from 2017 highlighted in this report. IFPRI, alongside its partners, is pleased that A4NH’s research is contributing to the better integration of nutrition and health into agricultural systems to improve the lives of people throughout the world.



SHENGGEN FAN

Shenggen Fan



PHOTO: GWENDOLYN STANSBURY, IFPRI

A4NH Highlights

MILESTONES IN AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH, 2017

JANUARY

A4NH marks official launch of program's second phase.

FEBRUARY

A4NH director John McDermott and Food Systems for Healthier Diets (FSHD) Flagship leader Inge Brouwer present at World Bank Group–Netherlands Food For All talk. ▼

PHOTO: WORLD BANK GROUP



MARCH

FSHD holds food systems consultation in Nigeria.

A4NH launches Twitter feed. ▼



APRIL

East Africa Community leaders from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda endorse Aflasafe.

African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development releases special issue on biofortification.

Government of Viet Nam launches report on better managing food safety risks, with A4NH managing partner ILRI as lead technical partner. ►

MAY

Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh announces implementation of three-year ANGeL project to strengthen links between agriculture, nutrition, and gender.

A4NH convenes event in Brussels to consider how to target food safety investments.

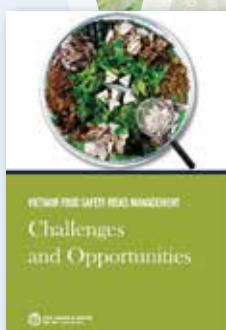


PHOTO: MELODY BRAUN, WORLD FISH

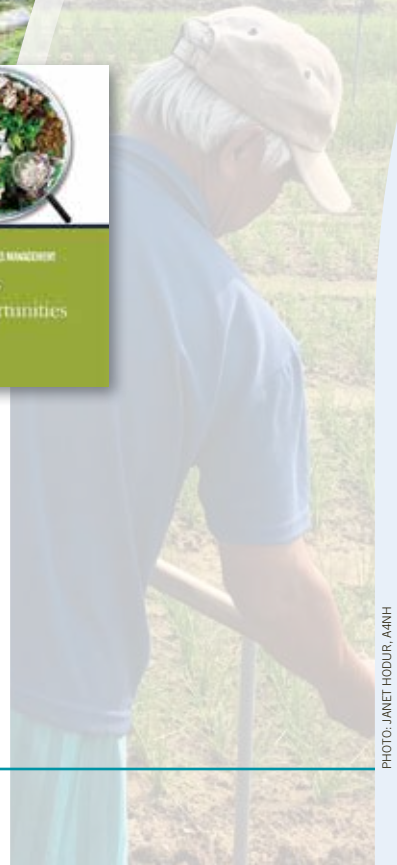


PHOTO: JANET HODUR, A4NH

JUNE

Global Food Security publishes special issue on Stories of Change in Nutrition.

JULY

A4NH expands collaboration with Viet Nam's National Institute of Nutrition.

FSHD holds food systems consultation in Bangladesh.

ANH Academy holds second annual Academy Week in Kathmandu, Nepal.

AUGUST

Transform Nutrition, led by IFPRI, marks end of its first phase following regional workshops.

SEPTEMBER

A4NH managing partner IITA signs technology transfer agreement with partners in Senegal and Gambia to begin local manufacturing, distribution, and sale of AflasafeSN01™.

HarvestPlus named finalist in MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition. ▼



PHOTO: LAETITIA UMULISA, CIAT RWANDA

OCTOBER

A4NH convenes discussion on public-private partnerships and food systems.

A4NH releases podcasts on food systems.

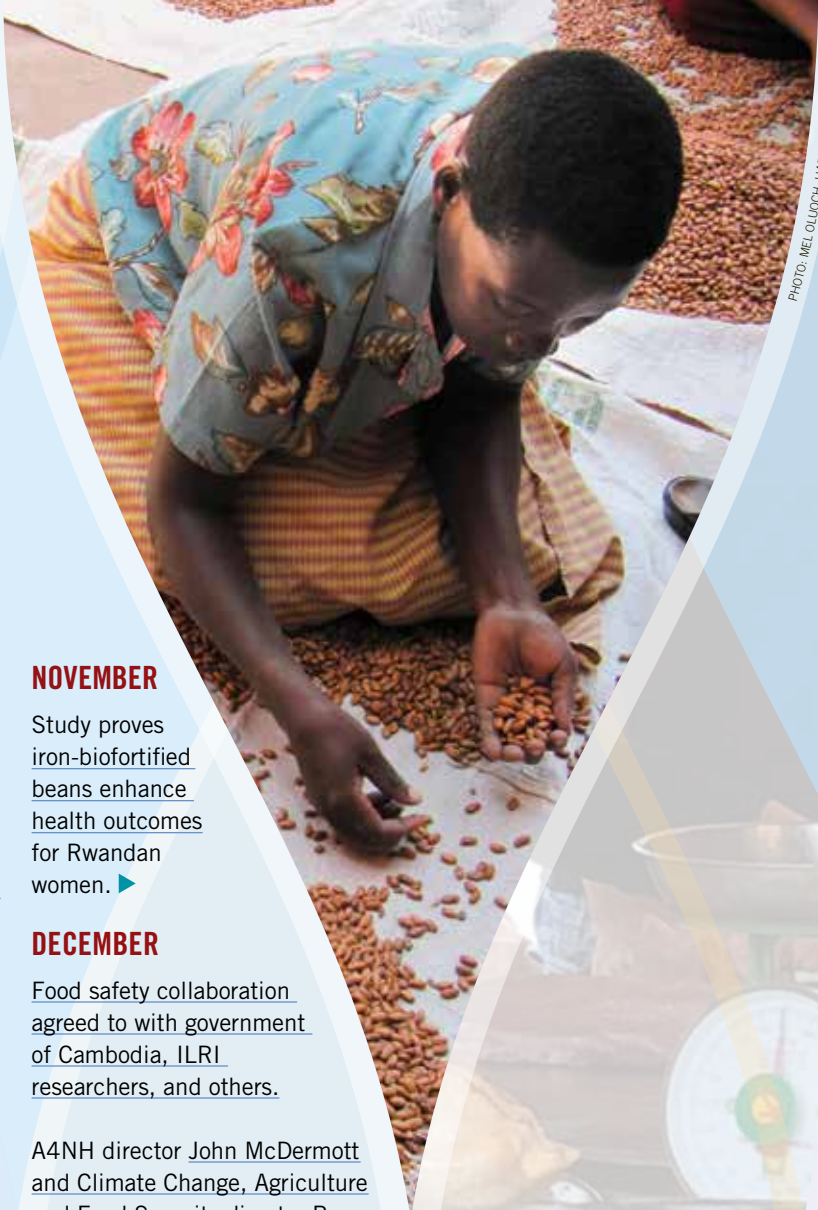


PHOTO: MEL OLUOCH, HARVESTPLUS

NOVEMBER

Study proves iron-biofortified beans enhance health outcomes for Rwandan women. ►

DECEMBER

Food safety collaboration agreed to with government of Cambodia, ILRI researchers, and others.

A4NH director John McDermott and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security director Bruce Campbell make the case for dual nutrition and climate adaptation goals.

A4NH-supported book, *Pulses for Nutrition in India*, is published by IFPRI. ►

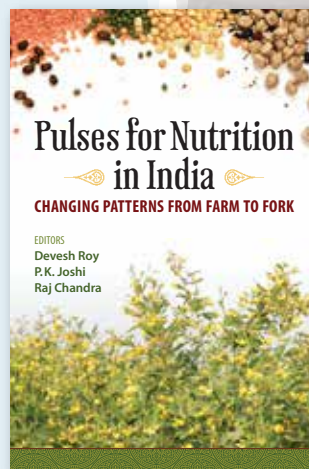


PHOTO: JANET HODUR, A4NH

FLAGSHIP 1 | Food Systems for Healthier Diets



PHOTO: JANET HODUR, A4NH

Complex and multidimensional, food systems are evolving rapidly in many parts of the world. Understanding these systems' impacts on diet transitions is key to addressing and overcoming the problems of malnutrition. A4NH researchers are looking at this matter systematically and from the unique perspective of the consumer to determine where opportunities for intervention lie. Engaging with national partners in four countries—Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Viet Nam—researchers are conducting deep studies of food systems and how they are transforming, using this knowledge to develop and test innovations and interventions to improve diet quality and diversity, and then working to support the scaling up of successful efforts. This process not only works to address situations in specific contexts, but also will provide lessons that can be applied elsewhere. This flagship is led by Wageningen University and Research (WUR), with support from Bioversity International, CIAT, IFPRI, IITA, and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

HIGHLIGHT ONE

Analysis, Collaboration Key to Food System Improvements

The first step toward identifying ways to improve something is to understand the situation as it currently exists. Guided by this premise, in 2017, FSHD researchers embarked on an in-depth analysis of food systems in four focus countries. Their goal is to develop a base of knowledge to operate from as the project moves forward throughout Phase II. The first to be completed, Ethiopia, served as a case study to refine methods of study and information sharing. In the process of completing this work, FSHD researchers are building strong partnerships with local stakeholders, laying the foundation for future collaboration in identifying strategies and opportunities that will lead to systemwide improvements that have real impacts for consumers throughout these countries.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F1H1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Exploring the Unique Challenges of Urban Food Systems

As urban populations continue to grow, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, so too does the complexity of the food systems that support them. Urban consumers face greater constraints on their time, which impacts how much they can devote to food preparation. These urban consumers also rely heavily on formal and informal markets to meet their dietary needs, rather than producing their own food. A4NH researchers from Bioversity International and WUR are working in Nigeria and Viet Nam to better understand how food systems can meet the needs of urban consumers for a healthy diet, in order to provide guidance on ways to better provide for this growing and changing segment of the global population.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F1H2

HIGHLIGHT THREE

Multistakeholder Platforms and Social Network Analysis

Understanding where and how to intervene in transforming food systems to ensure access to healthy diets is a goal of considerable size, and unlikely to be accomplished by one organization alone. Researchers from WUR, working as part of A4NH's FSHD flagship, set out in 2017 to study networks of multistakeholder collaboration on food systems in two of FSHD's priority countries, Bangladesh and Nigeria. Their goal in doing so was to better understand what collaborations, or platforms, may already exist; how they are organized and function; who are the key players, and what role these and future platforms might play in food system transformations.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F1H3

FLAGSHIP 2

Biofortification

More than two billion people worldwide suffer from some form of micronutrient deficiency, a crisis of “hidden hunger” that impedes growth and development, not only of countries or regions, but also of individuals. People who do not get enough vitamin A, zinc, iron, and other key vitamins and minerals suffer health effects throughout their lives. In 2017, HarvestPlus, which leads A4NH work on biofortification, took great strides toward solving this crisis. With efficacy of vitamin A–biofortified crops already established, researchers moved forward with building efficacy evidence for iron crops, completing several multiyear efficacy studies and synthesizing the results. Research on the bio-availability and efficacy of zinc crops also moved forward. With its vision to catalyze the scale-up of biofortification to benefit one billion people by 2030, HarvestPlus developed a new strategy and a monitoring and evaluation system for tracking progress toward this goal.



PHOTO: CIMMYT

HIGHLIGHT ONE

Major Awards Highlight Biofortification’s Role in Development Efforts

In 2017, HarvestPlus received numerous high-profile awards, a testament to its tireless work fighting micronutrient deficiency through breeding and improving access to crops enriched with key vitamins and minerals for millions of people around the world. In February, HarvestPlus was named a LAUNCH Food Innovator for its groundbreaking work on this problem. During Global Innovation Week in October, HarvestPlus was inducted into USAID’s Million Lives Club, in recognition of its dedication to bringing biofortification to scale. In December, HarvestPlus was awarded US\$15 million as one of four finalists in the MacArthur Foundation’s 100&Change competition, selected from nearly 2,000 proposals addressing critical social problems of our time.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F2H1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Evidence Published on the Impact of Biofortification to End “Hidden Hunger”



2017 saw the publication of several seminal papers and two special issues on the role biofortification can play in helping end “hidden hunger.” The *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development* and the New York Academy of Sciences dedicated special issues to the topic, focusing on [biofortification research and operations across Africa](#) and the role of biofortification as part of a [public health strategy](#), respectively. Recent evidence of the positive impacts of biofortification not just on reversing micronutrient deficiencies but also on health outcomes, following a [trial of iron-biofortified beans in Rwanda](#), was published in the *Journal of Nutrition*.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F2H2

HIGHLIGHT THREE

Developing More Biofortified Crops, Reaching More Households

2017 saw the release of 29 biofortified crop varieties, including a new addition, zinc maize. This brought the total number of biofortified varieties released to 187 across almost 30 countries. By the end of the year, HarvestPlus and its partners in civil society organizations and the public and private sectors had reached 3.6 million farming households with biofortified planting materials, bringing the total net number of farming households growing and consuming biofortified crops to 6.7 million. HarvestPlus’ rigorous monitoring and evaluation data showed increased adoption and diffusion rates for biofortified crops, while adaptive learning experiments helped identify those delivery models and promotion strategies that would have the biggest impact at the lowest cost.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F2H3

FLAGSHIP 3 | Food Safety

As food systems grow increasingly complex, and as people in low- and middle-income countries have access to more food choices, the importance of identifying and mitigating food safety risks grows more urgent. A4NH's third flagship is devoted to examining this issue, identifying areas of particular focus, and bringing together various stakeholders to identify and enact policy solutions that can ensure food safety receives the careful attention it deserves as food policy evolves. Areas of focus range from informal markets and supply chains—where the risk of foodborne disease is rising along with the demand for perishable food—to controlling aflatoxins, protecting crops for the health of consumers and farmers' livelihoods. In 2017, A4NH researchers held high-level discussions, strengthened partnerships, and expanded research and technology as they worked to combat threats to food safety. This flagship is led by ILRI with support from IITA and IFPRI.

HIGHLIGHT ONE

Workshop Identifies Strategies, Opportunities for Expanding Food Safety

According to the World Health Organization, foodborne disease constitutes a health burden comparable to that of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria. To delve into the challenges impeding poor people's access to safe food throughout the world, A4NH and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, together with the European Commission in Brussels, convened a dialogue with policy makers, researchers, donors, and other key stakeholders. Discussions at the May workshop "Better Targeting Food Safety Investments in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" returned again and again to a central premise: that solving these critical challenges will require completely new approaches, such as coordinating messages between the agri-food and health sectors and using both quantitative and qualitative risk assessment methods to identify key control points, with tailored strategies and collaboration among all sectors involved in each country.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F3H1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Technology Moves Forward in Senegal and Gambia to Combat Aflatoxin in Food



In September, A4NH researchers with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and representatives of BAMAARE SA signed the first transfer license for Aflasafe to be granted to a private company in Africa. Under the agreement, construction will begin on a factory in Senegal to produce the regionally customized Aflasafe SNO1™ for distribution and sale in Senegal and Gambia. The product will help farmers to protect their maize and groundnut crops from deadly aflatoxin, keeping harvests safe for sale and consumption. "Our vision of success is that every maize and groundnut farmer has access to Aflasafe where and when needed," said Abdou Konlambigue, managing director of IITA's Aflasafe Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Project, at the transfer signing event.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F3H2

HIGHLIGHT THREE

Collaboration Expands between A4NH and Viet Nam's National Institute of Nutrition

Viet Nam's population is booming, climbing from 66 million in 1990 to 94 million today. People are flocking to the cities, with more money and more food choices than ever before. With such dramatic changes underway, the country's government has taken a keen interest in ensuring people's access to safe foods—a topic of mutual interest to A4NH, offering opportunities for unique partnerships. In July, A4NH researchers from ILRI signed a memorandum of understanding with Viet Nam's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), the leading institute under the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, to strengthen collaboration in food safety research. Key areas of collaboration include the characterizing of food systems, testing of select food safety innovations, and measurement of food system transitions. A4NH and NIN will also share data in relevant areas and work together to cross-promote research findings and policy recommendations.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F3H3

FLAGSHIP 4 | Supporting Policies, Programs, and Enabling Action through Research (SPEAR)

Solving the global problems of malnutrition, which includes undernutrition and the growing crisis of overweight and obesity, will require collaborative approaches to identify and enact appropriate policy measures relevant to local and national circumstances. Understanding the nutritional impact of the current policies, capacity, and programs is critical to addressing problems related to malnutrition and improving nutritional outcomes. A4NH's fourth flagship focuses on building the knowledge base and working with partners at all levels to identify appropriate policy changes and improvements, and to foster an environment where they can take hold. This flagship is led by IFPRI with support from Bioversity and the Institute of Development Studies.

HIGHLIGHT ONE

Transform Nutrition Marks End of First Phase

The groundbreaking research-based, evidence-driven program Transform Nutrition, led by IFPRI, wrapped up its work in South Asia and East Africa in 2017 with two research symposia to share results and discuss next steps and co-publishing (with the SUN Movement) the toolkit "Identifying, Engaging, and Sustaining Champions for Nutrition." Since 2012, the Transform Nutrition consortium of five international research and development partners has worked to strengthen the nutrition evidence base, focusing on the 1,000-day period from conception to a child's second birthday, when interventions to reduce undernutrition are most effective. The consortium has generated over 90 peer-reviewed journal articles; approximately 150 briefs, blogs, and newsletters targeting relevant audiences; and over 1,500 citations, influencing program and policy decisions in its focus countries and helping shape regional and global dialogue on this critical subject.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F4H1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Stories of Change in Nutrition: A *Global Food Security* Special Issue



The Stories of Change in Nutrition initiative is building a resource base of experiential

knowledge by exploring drivers of change in six countries that have had success in improving nutrition: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Odisha in India, Nepal, Senegal, and Zambia. The success of Stories of Change demonstrates the need for this type of information and has garnered attention from stakeholders around the world. *Global Food Security* devoted its June 2017 issue to Stories of Change. This innovative initiative—together with a growing number of policy briefs, consultations, and efforts to apply lessons learned in other countries—is shaping the global discussion on how to improve nutrition.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F4H2

HIGHLIGHT THREE

Homestead Food Production Evaluation Identifies Paths to Improved Child Nutrition



Addressing multiple causes of undernutrition simultaneously through a multisectoral

program increases the program's effectiveness in improving children's nutritional status. This was one key finding identified by A4NH researchers at IFPRI in their final evaluation of Helen Keller International's Homestead Food Production program in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, and Tanzania. The evaluation marked the culmination of a ten-year partnership between the two organizations on the project, which concluded in 2017.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F4H3

FLAGSHIP 5 | Improving Human Health

The potential effects of agricultural development on human health go well beyond food safety. Agriculture transforms landscapes and influences livelihoods, changing both the conditions in which human diseases emerge and spread and the capacity of communities to protect themselves. A4NH's fifth flagship, Improving Human Health, is a new addition to the program's second phase. Under it, agricultural and human health researchers are working together to identify evidence of positive and negative effects of agricultural development on disease, and to develop interventions to reduce disease risks and improve human health. This research focuses on the impacts of agricultural intensification on, for example, irrigation and livestock production, and addressing related concerns and challenges. Researchers are also working to ensure that agriculture- and health-sector efforts to reduce antimicrobial resistance or to manage insecticide resistance in crop pests and disease vectors are complementary. A4NH is committed to fostering interdisciplinary research to identify and address challenges shared by the agriculture and health sectors. This flagship is co-led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and ILRI with support from IITA.



PHOTO: WORLDIFISH

HIGHLIGHT ONE

Ensuring Food Security and Human Health Are Complementary Goals

With widespread distribution of antimalarial drugs and use of insecticide-treated bed nets, rates of malaria have declined globally in recent decades. Where humans alter landscapes in ways that offer new breeding grounds to the mosquito vectors of malaria, such as expanding irrigated rice production in Africa, there is potential for malaria transmission to increase. A4NH researchers from LSHTM are working with colleagues from Africa Rice and others to explore how rice intensification can be achieved without increasing the risk of disease.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F5H1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Zoonotic and Emerging Diseases: A Crossroads in Human Health

Increasing livestock production can bring considerable health benefits through greater availability and affordability of nutritious, animal-sourced foods. However, livestock production can also be the source of zoonotic diseases that move from animals to humans. Minimizing these risks often requires collaboration between veterinary and public health services. Rift Valley fever, for instance, is a viral disease of cattle that occurs under particular weather conditions and spreads to slaughterhouse workers. A4NH researchers at ILRI are developing methods to better predict outbreaks, and are documenting hygiene practices in slaughterhouses in Kenya to develop ways to reduce human exposure. Cysticercosis is a parasitic disease of pigs that can infect humans, causing epilepsy. A4NH researchers are developing ways to integrate separate interventions to reduce the parasite burden in pigs, treat infected humans, and improve hygiene to reduce transmission in farm environments.



PHOTO: JO CADILLON, ILRI



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17F5H2

FOCUS: Gender and Equity

Nutrition and health outcomes can vary widely between men and women, rich and poor, young and old, urban and rural. Successful nutrition and health interventions must be targeted to the right people within households and communities. The Gender, Equity, and Empowerment (GEE) Unit supports A4NH researchers to ensure that A4NH research shines light on how gender and equity influence the relationships between agriculture, nutrition, and health.



PHOTO: STEVE MANN, WORLDFISH

HIGHLIGHT ONE

A Portfolio of Gender-Focused Work

A4NH continues to build its portfolio of gender-focused projects. Two projects in Bangladesh, TRAIN and ANGeL, aim to improve nutrition through improved production diversity, behavior change, and women's empowerment. In Burkina Faso, SE LEVER evaluates whether developing poultry value chains, empowering women, and changing behavior can improve women's and children's nutrition. In Nairobi, MoreMilk assesses whether enhancing training and empowering female milk traders can improve nutrition outcomes. In Nepal, the Suaahara II project seeks to improve the diets and nutrition of women and children by helping them access health services, healthy food, and sanitation. In India, JEEViKA-MC and WINGS examine the role of women's self-help groups in improving maternal and child nutrition. Other projects in Viet Nam and Kenya look at food retail, intake, and choices through a gender lens. In 2017, A4NH researchers also produced a report for FAO on gender, empowerment, and nutrition.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17GH1

HIGHLIGHT TWO

Measuring Women's Empowerment in Agriculture



The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2 (GAAP2), aims to develop quantitative and qualitative tools to measure women's empowerment in agricultural development projects. GAAP2 is adapting the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)—the first comprehensive, standardized tool for measuring women's empowerment in agriculture, developed in 2012—for use at the project level and is piloting a set of qualitative research tools to help projects understand empowerment in context. In March 2017, representatives from GAAP2's portfolio of 13 agricultural development projects, the GAAP2 team, and external advisors met to share their progress and challenges. By the end of 2017, nine projects had piloted the project-level WEAI (known as pro-WEAI) quantitative survey modules, and six projects had piloted the qualitative protocols.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17GH2

HIGHLIGHT THREE

Incorporating Equity into A4NH's Research Agenda

A 2017 external review found that A4NH research investigates several areas of equity, including gender, income, poverty, life stage, youth, and geography, but only focuses systematically on gender equity. During Phase II, A4NH will work to strengthen several priority areas of equity research in each A4NH flagship. A4NH will develop strategic research on equity, including flagship- and country-specific investigations, as well as cross-cutting research to address gaps in knowledge and tools for equity research across A4NH's portfolio. A4NH will create equity research hubs, focusing on South Asia and Africa, the regions where A4NH works, and engaging local researchers to build a network of experts who can contribute to and advise on equity research. A4NH's flagships and focus countries will lead and guide priorities of equity work in the research program.



Read more bit.ly/A4NH17GH3

A4NH in Action

A hallmark of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health has been the unique and thoughtful way in which the program has brought together nontraditional partners to discuss how to harness the potential of agriculture to improve nutrition and health, to identify the gaps that remain, and to work together to identify paths forward. Over the course of 2017, A4NH convened numerous conversations to examine and collaborate on solutions to the nutrition and health challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries.

A4NH's convening efforts in these areas focus particularly on issues related to the program's five research flagships, with emphasis on its five focus countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Viet Nam. Mindful that lessons learned in one place can inform developments in another, A4NH also looks for opportunities to share learning and continue conversations in collaborative ways that benefit people well beyond those parameters.

Of interest to A4NH focus countries and others throughout the developing world are the growing problems of food safety and food hygiene. As incomes rise, populations urbanize, and food systems become more complex, the challenges of ensuring access to safe food only grow. A4NH's unique focus, which considers food systems from the consumer perspective and expands the lens to also include issues of human health, combined with the depth of experience of its managing partners, positions the program to be a leader in this field. In May 2017, A4NH and the LSHTM, one of the program's managing partners, joined the European Commission to bring together stakeholders to delve into food safety challenges in informal and formalizing markets, identify what information will be of most use to consumers, and consider how to create a collaborative environment for finding solutions. A4NH's reputation in food safety work, led by ILRI, can bring top experts to the table at gatherings like this one and also lead to one-on-one partnerships, as it did with Viet Nam's National Institute of Nutrition in 2017. With food safety high on the minds of the Vietnamese government and people alike, there is keen interest in working together to address circumstances unique to the country's situation.

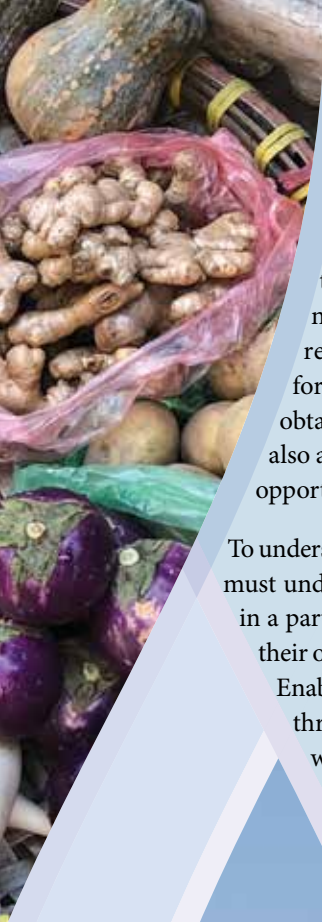
Food safety is an issue often explored in the larger context of food systems, another area in which A4NH has a unique perspective and convening ability. Throughout 2017, A4NH's Flagship Food Systems for Healthier Diets, led by managing partner WUR, held consultations in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Viet Nam, in an effort to better understand the unique challenges facing each focus country as its food systems grow and change.

HarvestPlus, which leads A4NH's Biofortification Flagship, works with a variety of partners to share information about the burdens of, and possible solutions to, micronutrient deficiencies which plague two billion people around the world. In Nigeria, for example, in 2017 HarvestPlus

PHOTO: JANET HODUR, A4NH




PHOTO: YUSUF AHMAD, WORLD AGROFORESTRY CENTRE



organized the third Nutritious Food Fair (NFF) in collaboration with various partners such as the Enugu State SME center and “Nollywood,” Nigeria’s movie industry. Attended by more than 7000 participants, including members of the Nigerian government and ministries, as well as national and international private- and public-sector representatives, donors, and the media, NFF 2017 forged new partnerships, strengthened existing ones, and obtained high-level commitments to biofortification, while also acting as a one stop shop for employment and innovation opportunities in the biofortified food sector.

To understand and make progress against disease and malnutrition, one must understand the policy environment and opportunities for action in a particular country, and share lessons learned for others to apply in their own contexts. A4NH’s Flagship Supporting Policies, Programs, and Enabling Action through Research (SPEAR), led by IFPRI, does just this, through its Transform Nutrition consortia in South Asia and East Africa, which concluded this year with stakeholder symposia in each region to share lessons learned; its Stories of Change initiative, which looks to expand the foundation of experiential knowledge in addressing problems of malnutrition and share lessons learned more broadly; and partnerships at all levels, fostering collaboration in looking at how programs, interventions, and policies can improve nutritional outcomes.



A4NH’s role as convener expands beyond particular research flagships to activities taken on by the program as a whole. As a founding partner of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Academy, A4NH played a key role in the second ANH Academy Week, held in July in Kathmandu, Nepal, bringing a large portfolio of research project experience, networks, and partnerships in many countries in the region and throughout the world. This annual conference is a unique opportunity for early-career and experienced researchers, donors, NGO partners, and others to come together to learn and discuss local, regional, and global issues pertaining to nutrition and health. Recognizing that all partners must be at the table to devise a strategy for improving nutrition and health globally, A4NH convened a policy seminar at IFPRI in October that brought private-sector representatives and public-sector partners together to discuss mutual areas of interest, their work, strategies, and ways of working together toward global nutritional gains. This conversation is expected to be the first in a series that A4NH will carry forward in the coming years.

These examples highlight one of the program’s great strengths: the ability to convene essential stakeholders to identify key challenges, share knowledge, develop new approaches, and forge collaborations to work toward common goals. With its broad portfolio of work organized thematically into five targeted and timely research flagships, and the well-regarded reputations of its seven managing partners in these fields, A4NH is well positioned to continue bringing stakeholders and ideas together in pursuit of improving nutrition and health for people around the world.

Financial Summary

The 2017 A4NH financial summary reflects the first year of a new six-year funding cycle, with important new research, partnerships, and cross-cutting research support activities. Overall, funding and expenditures from the CGIAR Fund increased. Expenditures were 50 percent higher in 2017 than 2016, and reflected new research and partnerships in food systems and One Health (agriculture–public health) research. Greater investment was also made in reviewing equity and equality dimensions of A4NH research and in strengthening country partnerships and engagement in the five A4NH focus countries. Overall expenditures from bilateral grants decreased by 14 percent in 2017, but are expected to return to past levels in 2018.

Program Components	Actual Expenditure 2017		
	CGIAR Fund	Grants	Total
Flagship 1: Food Systems for Healthier Diets	\$3.06M	\$5.75M	\$8.81M
Flagship 2: Biofortification	\$3.15M	\$32.91M	\$36.06M
Flagship 3: Food Safety	\$2.86M	\$9.62M	\$12.47M
Flagship 4: Supporting Policies, Programs and Enabling Action through Research	\$3.05M	\$15.06M	\$18.11M
Flagship 5: Improving Human Health	\$1.43M	\$0.95M	\$2.38M
CRP management & support costs	\$1.40M		\$1.40M
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning; gender and equity; and country coordination and engagement units	\$0.50M	\$0.11M	\$0.60M
CRP TOTAL	\$15.45M	\$64.39M	\$79.84M

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* This section encompasses A4NH's work with a range of partners. Resources from these partners may also include shared funding and/or expertise.

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These governing and managing bodies and individuals help ensure that the program succeeds by providing invaluable strategic input and guidance, planning and monitoring oversight, and day-to-day management support.



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S. Mahendra Dev, director and vice chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research; board member, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

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Emmy Simmons, former assistant administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

A4NH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ekin Birol, senior research fellow and director, Impact and Strategy, HarvestPlus; flagship leader for Biofortification

Inge Brouwer, associate professor, Food and Nutrition Security, Wageningen University and Research (WUR), flagship leader for Food Systems for Healthier Diets

Eric Fèvre, professor, Veterinary Infectious Diseases, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool, joint appointee at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); flagship leader for Improving Human Health

Stuart Gillespie, senior research fellow, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division (PHND), IFPRI; flagship leader for Supporting Policies, Programs, and Enabling Action through Research

Delia Grace, manager, Agriculture-Associated Diseases, ILRI; flagship leader for Food Safety

Jo Lines, reader of Malaria Control and Vector Biology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), managing partner representative

Hazel Malapit, research coordinator, PHND, IFPRI; A4NH Gender Research coordinator

Victor Manyong, agricultural economist, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

John McDermott, director, A4NH, IFPRI

Maya Rajasekharan, director, program management, International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Devesh Roy, senior research fellow, A4NH, IFPRI

Ruerd Ruben, research coordinator of Food Security, Value Chains and Impact Analysis, WUR

Marie Ruel, director, PHND, IFPRI; managing partner representative

Jeff Waage, former director (retired), London International Development Centre; consultant, LSHTM; managing partner representative

Stephen Weise, deputy director general for research, Bioversity International; managing partner representative

Iain Wright, deputy director general for research, ILRI; managing partner representative

A4NH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT

Tigist Defabachew, budget, contract, and grants manager

Janet Hodur, communications specialist

Nancy Johnson†, senior research fellow

Kimberly Keeton†, communications specialist

Hazel Malapit, gender research coordinator

Elena Martinez, senior research assistant

John McDermott, director

Christi Ometu†, program assistant

Devesh Roy, senior research fellow

Amanda Wyatt, program manager

† Departed A4NH in 2017.

About the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

With an innovative perspective that focuses on consumption and demand, the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health ([A4NH](#)) seeks to realize the enormous potential of agricultural development to make significant contributions to improving the nutrition and health of people worldwide.

As CGIAR's only research program on nutrition and health, A4NH focuses on the system-level outcome of improving food and nutrition security for health. The program is led by the International Food Policy Research Institute and managed by a group that includes four other CGIAR Research Centers: Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, and the International Livestock Research Institute; and two academic institutions: the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Wageningen University and Research.

CREDITS

COORDINATOR AND LEAD WRITER

Janet Hodur

CONTRIBUTORS

Ekin Birol, Inge Brouwer,
Tigist Defabachew, Stuart Gillespie,
Delia Grace, John McDermott,
Elena Martinez, Devesh Roy,
Jeff Waage, Amanda Wyatt

DESIGNER

Anne C. Kerns, Anne Likes Red, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

1201 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA

Tel: 1-202-862-5600 | Fax: 1-202-862-5606 | Email: ifpri@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org

For more information please contact:

John McDermott, director, CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
j.mcdermott@cgiar.org

www.a4nh.cgiar.org | [@A4NH_CGIAR](https://twitter.com/A4NH_CGIAR)