



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health

LED BY **IFPRI**

A4NH Consultation on Equity Research Priorities

CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)

November 30, 2018

Centara Grand, Bangkok, Thailand

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	3
Objectives	3
Proceedings.....	3
Equity work at A4NH partner organizations	3
Priority areas for equity research	4
Resources, knowledge, and tools needed to address equity issues.....	4
Approaches for understanding and addressing inequities	5
Action items for A4NH's equity strategy	5
Appendices.....	6
Appendix 1: Agenda	6
Appendix 2: List of participants	6

Abbreviations and acronyms

A4NH	CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
ANGeL	Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEE	Gender, Equity, and Empowerment unit
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IPSARD	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
NPAN2	Second Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Objectives

1. Learn about equity work at partner organizations.
2. Inform partner organizations about A4NH's equity work.
3. Identify priorities for equity research, resource and information needs related to equity, and recommendations for A4NH's equity strategy.

Proceedings

The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) held a one-hour consultation to learn about equity work at partner organizations, inform partners about A4NH's equity work, and identify priorities for equity research to guide creation of an equity strategy for the research program. This session was a side event to the Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition conference, led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand, on November 30, 2018.

Before the consultations, attendees and A4NH representatives were sent three questions to guide the discussion:

1. In the near term, what equity areas and research questions are your organization or research group addressing?
2. How does your organization or research group integrate equity into its work?
3. What resources, knowledge, and tools does your organization or research group need to effectively address these priorities?

John McDermott, director of A4NH, opened each session with a short introduction to A4NH. **Hazel Malapit**, coordinator of A4NH's Gender, Equity, and Empowerment (GEE) unit, then introduced the GEE unit and A4NH's work on equity. After these introductions, John and Hazel facilitated an open discussion about equity research, focusing on the guide questions.

Equity work at A4NH partner organizations

The conversations highlighted partner organizations that are already carrying out considerable equity research and programming. For example, the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) in Vietnam is focusing on how smallholder farmers are integrated into the value

chain and making the distribution of profit and purchasing power more equitable. In particular, they focus on policies to benefit women and ethnic minorities. The government of Bangladesh, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and IFPRI, is running the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages (ANGeL) project, which focuses on agriculture, nutrition, and women's empowerment. In addition, the second Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2, 2016-25) emphasizes improving nutrition of vulnerable populations through social safety net programs. The Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health targets most of its programs to women and focuses on women's empowerment. The National Team on Acceleration of Poverty in Indonesia designs and targets their programs by geographical region, rural/urban, gender, and other criteria.

Priority areas for equity research

The sessions also identified several areas of equity that are important for agriculture, nutrition, and health research:

- *Gender*: E.g., participation in value chains and cooperatives and access to resources can vary between female and male farmers.
- *Ethnic group*
- *Geography/region*: Health needs and outcomes often vary between regions within a country, and policies and programming should consider these differences. For example, IPSARD focuses on development, labor transformation, and climate change in the Mekong Delta.
- *Rural/urban*
- *Youth*: E.g., participation in farmer cooperatives can vary by age group.
- *Farm size*: E.g., farm size may dictate how farmers engage in the value chain.
- *Caste*: This area is particularly important in Bangladesh and India.

Resources, knowledge, and tools needed to address equity issues

Attendees suggested a variety of resources, knowledge, and tools that would be useful in addressing these equity issues:

- Resources
 - A framework to help people understand what each area of equity means and how to address it
 - Improved data to help target programs and interventions, especially at the district or sub-district level
 - Maps of outcomes by group to help with targeting
 - Funding and personnel for research and programming
- Knowledge
 - Research on how equity and equality issues shift as economies change and countries industrialize
- Tools
 - Tools for analyzing gender equity in agriculture
 - Improved techniques for collecting survey data

Approaches for understanding and addressing inequities

Attendees also discussed various approaches for understanding and addressing inequities through research. For example, researchers can use a whole household approach to addressing equity and equality. Targeting just one group in any household or community can cause misunderstandings or resentment. Effective interventions should involve the whole household, including men and children, to address decision-making dynamics or empowerment. Researchers should also consider how farmers' resources – like farm size, land ownership, and access to mechanization and technology – are related to equity issues and how these resources influence health and nutrition outcomes.

Action items for A4NH's equity strategy

1. Focus on integrating equity and equality issues into agriculture, nutrition, and health policy by supporting policy and policymakers engaged in national agri-food transformation efforts.
2. Provide tools, approaches, lessons, and practical examples from A4NH's equity research to support national policy makers and implementers. This could include tools to measure and improve women's empowerment, as well as frameworks to understand how programs reach, benefit, and/or empower women or other vulnerable groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Agenda

7:30-7:50 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and introduction to A4NH: John McDermott, Director, A4NH (5 min)

Gender and equity in A4NH: Hazel Malapit, Coordinator, Gender, Equity and Empowerment (GEE) Unit, A4NH (7 min)

Introductions of attendees (8 min)

7:50-8:25 AM PRIORITIES FOR EQUITY RESEARCH

Attendees and A4NH representatives discuss the following questions:

- In the near term, what equity areas and research questions is your organization or research group addressing?
- How does your organization or research group integrate equity into its work?
- What resources, knowledge, and tools does your organization or research group need to effectively address these priorities?

8:25-8:30 AM CLOSING

Appendix 2: List of participants

Name	Affiliation
Baye Sylvester Bungwon	Federal Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Nigeria
Darlana David	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Stef de Haan	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Janet Hodur	CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
Chris Isokpunwu	Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria
Marian Kjellevoid	Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Joyce Kinabo	Federation of African Nutrition Societies, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
Susan Macmillan	International Livestock Research Institute
Hazel Malapit	CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
John McDermott	CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
Ruerd Ruben	Wageningen University and Research
Elan Satriawan	National Team on Acceleration of Poverty, Indonesia
Md Ruhul Amin Talukder	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Tran Cong Thang	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
Iain Wright	International Livestock Research Institute