



## News from A4NH

### FOCUS: Vietnam

#### A Note from the Director

2019 has gotten off to a busy start for the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health. Many new developments have taken place with work in Vietnam and elsewhere. We are excited to share these updates with you and look forward to bringing you more developments as the year progresses. We invite you to visit our website at [www.a4nh.org](http://www.a4nh.org) or follow us on Twitter at @a4nh\_cgiar for updates in the interim.

With best wishes,

*John McDermott, Director, A4NH*

#### Symposium Offers Opportunities to Share Lessons on Pork Production, Safety

Pork has great nutritional and economic impacts in Southeast Asia. Smallholder pig production plays a critical role in this sector, and research into health, safety, and development is in great demand from policymakers, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Bringing together nearly 100 researchers working on this issue from a variety of disciplines, representing 16 countries, the [International Livestock Research Institute \(ILRI\)](#), an A4NH [Managing Partner](#), co-convened the recent Regional Symposium on Research into Smallholder Pig Production, Health, and Pork Safety. *Read more and view a video of highlights from the event:* <http://bit.ly/2w4wkbH>

#### Ask the Researchers: The Retail Diversity for Dietary Diversity Project

A4NH researchers at [Managing Partners Bioversity International](#) and [Wageningen University & Research \(WUR\)](#), along with partners Fresh Studio and Food Syntetics,

recently released findings and recommendations on the [Retail Diversity for Dietary Diversity \(RD4DD\)](#) project.

The project implemented a mixed-methods approach with a multi-disciplinary team of social and nutritional scientists, and aimed to understand how market access, shopping practices, diet transitions, and food safety concerns facing the urban poor in Hanoi have changed as the city's food environment undergoes rapid retail modernization. Jessica Raneri, Nutrition Research Specialist at Bioversity International and a co-PI of the RD4DD project, answered questions about the initiative and results obtained. *Read more:* <http://bit.ly/2PZD7MM>

#### New Research Partnership to Tackle the Global Problem of Antimicrobial Resistance

To tackle a growing problem of rising antimicrobial resistance in low- and middle-income countries, A4NH has joined with other CGIAR centers and programs to form an international hub to help integrate and channel research and development efforts.

The new [CGIAR Antimicrobial Resistance Hub](#), launched in [February 2019](#), will work to foster learning from past experiences, support research excellence in the global south and ensure a critical mass of coordinated research to find suitable and sustainable solutions. A4NH is joined in this effort by the CGIAR research programs on [Fish](#) and [Livestock](#), as well as the [International Livestock Research Institute](#), which hosts the hub at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and the [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#), [International Water Management Institute](#), and [WorldFish](#). Together, these seven research programs and institutions with their national partners and partner research organizations outside CGIAR, will support global research efforts among experts the world over—from low- to middle- to high-income countries. *Read more:* <http://bit.ly/2YppDwO>

## Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Intake of Low-Income Populations in Vietnam Through Food Systems Innovations

WUR, in collaboration with the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Bioversity International, IFPRI, and national partners the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hanoi Medical University (HMU) and Rikolto, has launched [a four-year project](#) to improve fruit and vegetable intakes of urban, low-income consumers. Data collection was conducted in December 2018, and interventions design is expected in early 2019.

## Update from “Partial Food Systems Baseline Assessment” at the Vietnam Benchmark Sites

CIAT, in collaboration with WUR, Bioversity International, and NIN, have developed a [partial food systems baseline assessment](#) for a systematic comparison between urban, peri-urban and urban spaces. Data collection and entering have been completed and preliminary results will be published in 2019. This work follows [research published in 2018](#). Additional information can be found on A4NH’s website <http://a4nh.cgiar.org/>.

## Update from the Field: Stories of Change

The [Stories of Change Project](#) began in Vietnam in September 2017. Since that time, a set of interviews with government officials, NGO workers and private sector companies has been undertaken and partially analyzed. In 2019, two papers on nutrition transition and stories of change focused on ethnic minorities are expected to be submitted and published.

## Hands-On Meat Inspection Training to Improve Pork Safety in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia

Fifty researchers from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia benefited from meat inspection training workshops by ILRI and German partners from the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment and the Free University of Berlin in November and December 2018. [Read the full story](#) on ILRI Asia’s website at <http://asia.ilri.org>.

## More News from A4NH

- **Food Systems Innovations for Healthier Diets:** Present food systems are not equipped to provide all consumers with the ability to choose nutritious and healthy diets. A new paper by researchers working under A4NH’s Food Systems for Healthier Diets flagship outlines a conceptual framework to understand the types of innovations that can lead to healthier diets. Read the paper at [bit.ly/2vjndTV](http://bit.ly/2vjndTV)
- **Ask the Researchers: The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) Project:** Since 2012, the BFN Project has worked with four countries — Brazil, Kenya, Turkey, and Sri Lanka — to identify, conserve, and promote local food species for improved nutrition and livelihoods. Country partners built on a three-part overall approach, *Providing Evidence, Influencing Policy, and Raising Awareness*, around local foods to improve nutrition and food security. Teresa Borelli and Eliot Gee, researchers with Bioversity International, recently shared information on the project, conducted as part of A4NH’s Food Systems for Healthier Diets flagship. Learn more at [bit.ly/2Vxhvg6](http://bit.ly/2Vxhvg6)
- **FROM GNIE: Gendered Time and Energy Expenditure in Rural Livelihoods: Different Sides of the Same Coin?** Understanding how women and men allocate their time and energy is crucial for creating gender-sensitive agricultural interventions. However, data on time use alone does not tell us how much energy people expend on different activities. Giacomo Zanello and Fiorella Picchioni of the University of Reading describe two case studies in India and Nepal in which they combined time use and energy expenditure data to better understand rural people’s activities and livelihoods. Read more on <http://bit.ly/GNIEblog>
- **A Different Focus on Stunting:** Is stunting the problem we need to solve, or the indicator of the problems we should be looking at? Jef Leroy, Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), recently explained in a new paper and accompanying video what stunting means and how the focus on it could cause confusion that can prevent us from solving global nutrition challenges. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2Q43nW9>