



News from A4NH

FOCUS: Vietnam

A Note from the Director

As 2019 draws to a close, we reflect on another year of partnership, research, and dialogues in the fields of agriculture, nutrition, and health -- and, importantly, in the areas where those issues intersect. Whether the research is on food systems transformation; biofortification and efforts to end hidden hunger; ensuring food safety; supporting policy efforts to address the multiple burdens of malnutrition; antimicrobial resistance and other issues of human health; or overarching areas of gender and equity, the more we work together, the more we see the many ways in which our work is made stronger through collaboration. The year has certainly been full, with much to celebrate, and much to build on in the future. We look forward to working with you in 2020.

John McDermott, Director, A4NH

A4NH's Vietnam Country Coordination and Engagement Unit (CCE) attends CFS Regional Consultation on Food Systems and Nutrition for Asia and the Pacific

Joining other stakeholders from countries across Asia, A4NH's Vietnam CCE represented the program at the Committee on World Food Security's consultation in Bangkok in July, providing feedback and input on the four chapters of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines, which offer a roadmap to policy entry points within food systems with the goal to improve diets and nutrition outcomes. *Read more about these contributions:* <https://a4nh.cgiar.org/2019/08/15/a4nh-participates-in-cfs-voluntary-guidelines-on-food-systems-and-nutrition-asia-consultation/>

PAPER: Researchers Identify Research and Action Priorities for Food Systems for Healthier Diets in Vietnam

A4NH researchers worked with national partners to describe and contextualize the current food system in

Vietnam and identified research and action priorities for food systems research. The team shared their findings in a recent report. *Read the report:*

<https://www.ifpri.org/publication/determining-key-research-areas-healthier-diets-and-sustainable-food-systems-viet-nam>

Food Systems Profiles at A4NH Benchmark Sites Along Rural-Urban Transect in Vietnam

Following the successful implementation of the [Partial Food Systems Baseline Assessment at the Vietnam Benchmark Sites](#) in 2018, three validation workshops were held in Fall 2019 to share preliminary results and get feedback from different sectors. The final versions of the profiles of the three benchmark sites are expected to be completed in Spring 2020. *Learn about the workshops:* <http://bit.ly/2TaDt6T>

PHOTOSTORY: A Healthy Change: Food Systems Research Puts Safety First for Transitioning Markets in Vietnam

A new photostory from CGIAR shares a personal look at how an interdisciplinary research team is looking at transitions in Vietnam's food systems at different scales and aiming to identify entry points for improvement – and what impact that has on people working and shopping in Vietnam's informal markets. The joint research effort is coordinated by A4NH and a wide range of local stakeholders – including Vietnam's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD). *View the photostory:* a4nh.cgiar.org/2019/12/16/photo-story-a-healthy-change/

PAPER: New Statistical Modeling Study Helps Forecast Dengue Fever Risks in Vietnam

In a study published on [PLOS One](#), A4NH researchers at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and partners have developed a statistical model for forecasting

dengue fever incidence in Vietnam that could enhance prediction and control of the disease in the country. *Learn more:* <http://bit.ly/2umG5Ef>

POLICY SEMINAR: Food Systems Transformations: National Actions in a Globalized World

On November 14, A4NH and IFPRI held a policy seminar to introduce this approach, with representatives from Nigeria and Vietnam discussing the challenges, opportunities, and trade-offs they encounter in enabling food system actors in their countries. A panel then shared insights into how food systems can develop in a healthy, sustainable, and equitable way. *Read a summary of the event, view the presentations, and watch a video recording:* <http://bit.ly/2uwtyOP>

COMMENTARY: Choosing Between Supermarkets and Wet Markets

In a [recent commentary](#) that appeared in SciDevNet's Asia Pacific Edition, A4NH researchers working on Retail Diversity for Diet Diversity in Hanoi explain how to we can go from "either-or" to "win-win" in efforts to improve food safety and diet diversity. *Read the column:* <http://a4nh.cgiar.org/2020/01/08/choosing-between-supermarkets-and-wet-markets/>

Bilateral Project on Efforts to Contribute to the Zero Hunger National Program for SDG 2 in Vietnam

Under A4NH, *Entry points to Advance Transitions towards Sustainable diets* (EATS), implemented in collaboration between the University of Michigan and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) have started to gather, synthesize, and make accessible existing food systems data on these poorest communes to the Zero Hunger agency. The result is a story map where users can see key food systems indicators in the provinces of the poorest communes. *View the story map:* <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=f6776456bc4048d79068114043da5da4>

One Health Experts in South and Southeast Asia Join Efforts to Tackle AMR in People and Animals

Policymakers, human and animal health researchers, investors, and other stakeholders from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam met in October in Hanoi to coordinate One Health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research. Attendees discussed challenges impeding efforts

to combat AMR and identified ways to better coordinate AMR interventions in the region. *Learn more:* <https://www.ilri.org/news/one-health-experts-south-and-southeast-asia-join-efforts-tackle-antibiotic-resistance-people>

More News from A4NH

- **ANIMATION: Explaining Food Systems for Healthier Diets**
Food systems are made up of all the people, processes, and activities involved in getting food from where it is grown to where it is eaten. These systems are changing fast, especially in low- and middle-income countries. How can we be sure this transformation provides people with healthy and sustainable access to foods? This new animated video from A4NH explains the challenges, opportunities, and issues involved in food systems transformation. *Watch the video:* <http://bit.ly/2VZgWJu>
- **PAPER: Food Systems Transformations: Uneven Data, Gaps Hinder Cross-Country Learning and Comparison**
A common set of food system indicators used across countries and over time would allow for comparison and shared learning, yet availability is uneven. New analysis of four countries, including Vietnam, shows where food system data exists, and where it is missing. *Read the paper and see the interactive graphic:* <http://bit.ly/31YHVqh>
- **PAPER: New World Food Map Rates Food Sustainability for Countries Across the Globe**
A4NH researchers at CIAT and colleagues scoured almost two decades of scientific literature related to food systems, settling on 20 indicators available to 97 countries from low-, middle- and high-income regions, and built a global map to rate the sustainability of food systems. The work can be used to track changes in sustainability over time and has the potential to guide policy and action as climate change, rising populations and increased demand for food place unprecedented pressure on global food systems. *Learn more:* <http://bit.ly/2DgU9Ra>