Food Environment Consultative Workshop
- Priorities -

A4NH-Food Systems for Healthier Diets
ILRI Campus, 5-7 November 2019
Objectives of this Consultative Workshop

• Further a common understanding of food environment (FE) research, in particular methods, metrics and tools used to measure FE in low- and middle-income countries (Day 1).

• Practice using FE methods, and determine priorities for FE research in CGIAR centers and highlight areas of synergy (Day 2).

• Sensitize stakeholders on the importance of understanding the FE and determine priorities for FE assessment and improvement in Ethiopia (Day 3).
Common understanding of food environment

- Definition of food environments (FAO, HLPE), recognizing that
  - The wide range of foods (fresh/processed, single/dishes/meals) in all venues where people produce and eat food
  - Context dependent
  - Both constraint and prompt food choices

- Comprise both wild and cultivated environments (natural), as well as informal and formal markets (built)

- Policy and sociocultural aspects are considered as important drivers

- Coupled with individual factors determines food access and diets

- Sustainability
Towards common metrics and tools?

- **Components of the Food Environment**
  - Food availability and physical access
  - Food prices and affordability
  - Convenience and time savings
  - Promotion, advertising and information
  - Food Quality and safety

- **Metrics and tools to be divided in**
  - Objective measurements (observed food environment)
  - Subjective measurements (perceived food environment)

- **Take into account:**
  - Context (stage of development, food system type, etc)
  - Changes/trends over time
CGIAR inventory

• All components are addressed, but never as a complete set (but is this needed)?
• Mainly characterisation/assessment, few food environment innovations, no monitoring and hardly evaluation
• Wide range of (useful) Indicators, metrics and tools available, but in exploration phase, hardly validated (so what), and not harmonized
• Often focussed on one food/food group of interest; seems to be driven by diet quality

Challenges:
• How to come from single food focus to whole diet?
• How to use assessment of FE to inform FE interventions?
• How to monitor and especially evaluate FE interventions (if not diet)?
Next steps forward

Does CGIAR have to include FE focus?

- What common ‘definition’ and major aspects do we adopt?
- Why does CGIAR have to include FE work (what is narrative)
Let markets work for diets narrative

<table>
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<th>What is the problem?</th>
<th>- Paucity of evidence on agri-food system - food environments links to provide healthy diets for consumers</th>
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<td>- Women have limited access to nutritious foods where movement is restricted</td>
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<td>- Unused potential to reduce and re-use food waste and losses</td>
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<td>What can be done?</td>
<td>- Identify interventions and policy instruments to support a diverse food environment and influence food environment dynamics and circularity to support healthy diets.</td>
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<td>- Study whether providing information to market agents and entrepreneurs as well as consumers will lead to better access to healthy diets.</td>
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<td>- Identify new and innovative ways to enhance women’s access to nutritious foods (mobile</td>
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<td>- Find ways to reduce food waste and loss, to stimulate circularity and reduce feed-food competition</td>
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<td>What will be the outcome?</td>
<td>- These actions will leverage CGIAR’s strong value chain work to better support sustainable food environments leading to healthy diets.</td>
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Next steps forward

**Does CGIAR have to include FE focus?**
- What common ‘definition’ and major aspects do we adopt?
- Why does CGIAR have to include FE work (what is narrative)

**Methods and Tools**
- Can we prioritize certain FE indicators or metrics/tools?
- Can we agree with the list mentioned in the Compendium or change/expand?
- Do we need to ‘harmonize’?
- ....

**Priorities**
- Research priorities?
- What do ‘you’ need from ‘us’ to improve FE work?
- What do others need from us to be aware, to be prepared, to implement and to have impact on FE?
- For example:
  - Be involved in FSRC on FE
  - Ag2nut activity?
  - ANH Academy?
Group discussions

• 3 groups (blue, green and yellow)
• Rapporteur: written notes, will be used in the workshop report
• Answer the questions in slide 8 (and go beyond as these are suggestions)