

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 has to include FE work (what is narrative)

Let markets work for diets narrative

What is the problem?

- Paucity of evidence on agri-food system system - food environments links to provide healthy diets for consumers
- Women have limited access to nutritious foods where movement is restricted
- Unused potential to reduce and re-use food waste and losses

What can be done?

- Identify interventions and policy instruments to support a diverse food environment and influence food environment dynamics and circularity to support healthy diets.
- Study whether providing information to market agents and entrepreneurs as well as consumers will lead to better access to healthy diets.
- Identify new and innovative ways to enhance women's access to nutritious foods (mobile
- Find ways to reduce food waste and loss, to stimulate circularity and reduce feed-food competition

What will be the outcome?

- These actions will leverage CGIAR's strong value chain work to better support sustainable food environments leading to healthy diets.

Next steps forward

Does CGIAR have to include FE focus?

- What common 'definition' and major aspects do we adopt?
- Why does CGIAR has 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'?
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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)



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