



## News from A4NH

### FOCUS: Bangladesh

#### 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*

#### PAPER: A Research Agenda for Healthier Diets in Bangladesh

New research from A4NH analyzes food system in Bangladesh, offering a research agenda to help ensure system transformation moves toward healthier diets for all.

[Read the report here:](#)

<http://a4nh.cgiar.org/2020/01/26/a-research-agenda-for-healthier-diets-in-bangladesh/>

#### A4NH Convenes Food Systems Consultation for Stakeholders in Bangladesh

A4NH, through its Food Systems for Healthier Diets flagship, hosted a meeting with CGIAR partners in Dhaka in March 2019. The two-day meeting aimed to contribute to developing a common understanding on food systems and identifying greater linkages in addressing drivers and interventions of food systems across the CGIAR system. The meetings brought together approximately 30

participants, representing A4NH, the Food Systems for Healthier Diets research flagship, CGIAR centers, Agri-food systems CRPs and global integrating CRPs, and local partners. [Find the consolidated report here:](#)

[https://a4nh.cgiar.org/files/2019/05/Consolidated-report-A4NH-CGIAR-partner-Consultations\\_Feb\\_Mar-2019\\_final.pdf](https://a4nh.cgiar.org/files/2019/05/Consolidated-report-A4NH-CGIAR-partner-Consultations_Feb_Mar-2019_final.pdf)

#### Bangladesh Hosts A4NH Program Management Committee (PMC) Meeting

The meeting, held twice each year in different locations, came on the heels of the food systems partnership consultation and focused on identifying actions to make A4NH work more country-specific and goal-oriented.

#### A4NH Independent Steering Committee Meets with Local Food System Stakeholders

As part of the A4NH program meetings, members of the program's Independent Steering Committee (ISC) met with local stakeholders to discuss issues related to the A4NH portfolio and identify opportunities for future collaboration and capacity building. Attendees included development workers, academics, researchers, and government officials.



## **A4NH Collaborates on Food Safety Research in Bangladesh on Fish, Tomato, and Chicken**

In 2019, A4NH researchers at the International Livestock Research Institute collaborated with the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) to study food safety in Bangladesh. Their work focused on chemical and microbial hazards in different foods. The study identified foods in Bangladesh commonly contaminated with bacteria or associated with contamination, potentially indicating that the food was either not handled in the most optimal hygienic way, or contaminated water was used. While *E. coli* on food not usually are pathogenic, and *V. cholerae* require very high doses to produce disease, the study findings indicate hygiene can be improved, and the need for both vendors and consumers to improve their hygienic routines. Important measures include cooking food properly, changing or washing cutting boards and knives between uses for different products, and using clean water sources. The study found salmonella, which frequently causes gastroenteric disease, at low levels in Bangladesh compared to other studies in Asia.

The findings from the study were disseminated to a group of nearly 80 participants at a workshop in October. The workshop drew participants from government agencies, research, and food safety activists, and represented both local and international agencies who have been working on food safety and consumer awareness in the country.

## **A4NH Partnership and Collaboration in Bangladesh Grows in 2019**

A4NH continues to pursue intensive and collaborative work in Bangladesh, entering into several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in 2019. An agreement with BLRI was completed as part of the food safety study done during 2019, while another collaboration with BFSA continues. Another collaboration, with icddr,b, has been entered into by A4NH through Wageningen University & Research to work together on food systems and the food environment.

## **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>