

## Agriculture-Nutrition Knowledge Sharing Workshop

*Reaching the grassroots and informing educational curricula*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

The South Asia Region (SAR) has the highest rates of hunger in the world. According to one estimate, 336 million people (nearly 23% of its population) are routinely hungry and new threats are emerging to intensify the situation. These figures, however, underestimate the true extent of food insecurity, which includes hidden hunger: micronutrient deficiencies that, beyond calories, limit potential for active and healthy lives. Even rising household incomes do not guarantee adequate nutrition; among the richest quintile in India, 64% of preschool children are iron deficient and 26% are underweight.

The challenge of hunger and malnutrition in South Asia is complex and multi-causal and must be met by a variety of cross-sectoral interventions. This will require a multi-pronged approach, including interventions for: greater availability of food through improved agricultural production; enhanced livelihoods for secure access; education for improved food utilization; clean water and sanitation for improving health and nutrient uptake; women's empowerment and social protection for an equitable distribution of food resources; and a focus on infant and child care, amongst other relevant interventions.

[The South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative \(SAFANSI\)](#), an initiative of World Bank and Department for International Development (UK Govt.) aims to foster the cross-cutting actions that will lead to measurable improvements in Food and Nutrition Security. Recognizing that an effective way to ensure food and nutrition security is to promote agricultural practices among the farming community with a focus on nutritional foods, SAFANSI partnered with [Digital Green](#), an international organization that specializes in empowering local communities to produce locally relevant videos and disseminate them to farmers for wider adoptions. A pilot project was carried out in 42 villages of three districts of Bihar in partnership with Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project.

In the same vein, SAFANSI partnered with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (<http://www.ifpri.org/>), to work with three agricultural universities: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Bihar Agricultural University, ANGR Agricultural University, Andhra Pradesh to explore and understand the agriculture-nutrition related curriculum designs.

A workshop is now being organised on the November 10, 2014 at the India International Centre, New Delhi; to bring together experts, policy makers and program implementers to reflect on the findings of these pilots and a few similar studies and recommend ways to enhance the quality of nutrition related curriculum in the university system. The workshop is being organized by Digital Green in collaboration with SAFANSI and IFPRI.

#### Key objectives:

- Synthesise learnings and develop appropriate tools and media for wider dissemination and adoption of agriculture-health/nutrition practices

- Define processes for identifying locally relevant content around agriculture and nutrition/health convergence
- Review and recommend suitable the content and curriculum of the agricultural universities and other higher learning institutions and farmers organizations reaching out to farming communities

**Dates:** November 10, 2014

**Venue:** India International Centre (Annexe), 40, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

### **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
9:00-9:30 AM	Registration	
9:30-10:00 AM	Welcome note and context setting	Ms. Eija Pehu- Senior Advisor, Agriculture and Rural Development Department, World Bank
10:00-10:30 AM	ICAR perspective: Integrating nutrition into agricultural education curriculum	Dr. K.L. Khurana- Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research
10:30-11:00 AM	Keynote address	Dr. M.K. Bhan Nutrition Expert & former Secretary, Govt. of India
<i>Tea Break (11:00-11:15 AM)</i>		
11:15-11:30 AM	Introduction to Digital Green and its experience in bringing together agriculture and nutrition	Mr. Rikin Gandhi - Chief Executive Officer, Digital Green
11:30-12:00 PM	SPRING/VARRAT findings from feasibility study on converging agriculture-nutrition in Odisha	Ms. Peggy Koniz-Booher - Senior Advisor, Nutrition/SBCC SPRING
12:00-12:30 PM	JEEViKA pilot learnings from applying video-enabled approach for nutrition program in Bihar	Ms. Anila Samuel - Consultant - Health & Nutrition, JEEViKA
12:30-1:00 PM	Strategy for enhancing nutrition capacities in agricultural education curricula	Dr. Suresh Babu - Senior Fellow & Program Leader – Capacity Strengthening, IFPRI
<i>Lunch (1:00-2:00 PM)</i>		
2:00-2:20 PM	Opportunities for Nutrition Extension through ATMA and MANAGE	Dr. K. Uma Rani - Director, Center for Nutrition Extension and Gender MANAGE National Institute for Agricultural Extension
2:20-2:40 PM	Presentation: P.J.T.S. Agricultural University, Hyderabad	Dr. T. V. Hymavathi Professor, Foods and Nutrition Department, P.J.T.S. Agricultural University, Hyderabad
2:40-3:00 PM	Presentation: Rajendra Agricultural University, Patna	Dr. Meera Singh Dean, Home Science and Nutrition Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar
3:00-3:30 PM	Presentation: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Chennai	Dr. G. G. Kavitha Shree Karthik, Assistant Professor - Home Science and Food Science, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
<i>Tea break (3:30-3:45 PM)</i>		
3:45- 4:45 PM	Roundtable discussion: Leveraging community-centric nutrition content to inform agricultural education curricula	Ms. Eija Pehu; Dr. Suresh Babu; Mr. Rikin Gandhi; Official from ICAR Moderator: Mr. G. Chandrashekhar, Associate Editor, The Hindu – Business Line
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Closing note and way forward	Ms. Eija Pehu, World Bank