



Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia
M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

LANSA India Newsletter

Welcome to LANSAs India e-newsletter! This is our first issue for stakeholders in India, and highlights work done under our research pillars, stakeholder engagement activities and LANSAs paper / poster presentations at various fora. You may follow us on social media!



a BIG thank you!

LANSA’s first South Asia region e–dialogue and participation from India was tremendous!

60 and more from India shared knowledge, expertise and thought–provoking ideas on ‘[Markets for Nutrition](#)’ – a three–day e–dialogue in February examining the potential of market–based approaches to increase consumption of nutritious foods by low–income, undernourished population. Catch our full report soon!



Stakeholders engaged with LANSAs from the outset

Periodic engagement with multiple stakeholders to leverage feedback and partnerships is nascent to the FSN study

From the very inception of [Farming System for Nutrition](#) (FSN) Study, continuous effort has been made to engage with stakeholders. At both Koraput and Wardha, Technology Platforms and Stakeholder Engagement Consultations are

Delhi meet: Dr V P Singh presents LANSAs

The LANSAs team received excellent feedback and suggestions

A National Consultation on food security and nutrition in India was held on February 21 at India International Centre, New Delhi, to discuss a paper presented by [MSSRF](#) on recommendations to meet the food security and nutrition challenge in India.

World Food Programme (WFP) entrusted M S Swaminathan Research Foundation with the task following the Zero Hunger framework enunciated by the Secretary General, United Nations and accepted by India.

In the afternoon session, [Dr](#)



Balaji & Santosh shine at IYSCC!

Jeypore LANSAs–MSSRF team walk away with 2nd prize for poster–presentation

Balaji Mohanty and Santosh Raj Benia presented the poster – ‘[Effect of Urea Super Granule](#) (USG) on the Performance of Rice under Rainfed Agriculture in Koraput’ grabbing second place at the 6th Indian Youth Science Congress Conference (IYSCC) and Zero Hunger Challenge held recently at Guntur, AP.

organised at State, District and community levels to encourage understanding of the study as well as leverage valuable inputs from participants. Events have been held at Bhubaneswar, Nagpur, and Jeypore.

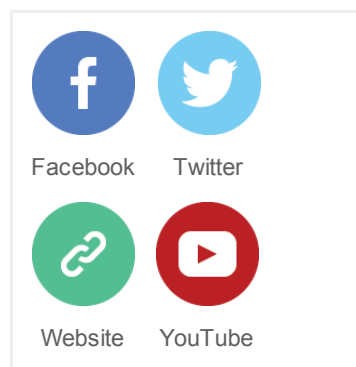
Technology Platform discussions involve research institutions, universities and private sector, while Stakeholder Consultations enjoy interaction with government, donors, NGOs and farmers' groups.

The [FSN short documentary film](#), was screened to introduce or refresh the concept to the audience, and then study progress is presented and suggestions / recommendations are sought. Stakeholders came forward pledging support to the FSN study under LANSA and this has resulted in many partnerships.

In the Nagpur meeting, Dr M S Ladaniya, Director – National Research Centre for Citrus suggested incorporation of nutritious vegetables in the nutrition gardens and confirmed support in sourcing appropriate planting materials. All the consultations resulted in inputs being elicited, identifying gaps and adding value to future activities of the project.

Dr R S Gopalan, Director Agriculture, Govt of Odisha offered full support for the intervention in Odisha at the Bhubaneswar meeting.

Dr Archana Mukherjee, Head Regional Station – CTCRI, Bhubaneswar highlighted the importance of tuber crops and has provided planting materials for multiplication at both sites. Such periodic engagement meetings have resulted positively creating conducive atmosphere to receive LANSA research evidence under FSN in India.



Look forward to our next issue!

Updates on LANSA's research work, research uptake activity and stakeholder engagement events in India

[Prakash Shetty](#) presented on LANSA overall, and [Dr V P Singh](#), co-Research Director LANSA made an introductory presentation of research work underway in India.

The [FSN short documentary film](#) was also screened for the gathering, and the LANSA team received excellent feedback and suggestions.

The WFP-MSSRF meet proved at excellent platform to speak about LANSA's work in India as there were government department representation, donor agencies, NGOs, agriculture and nutrition research organisations participating and contributing.



LANSA Pillar 1 study presented

[Dr Swarna S Vepa](#), presented a paper on – Child Under-weight and Agricultural Productivity in India: Implications to Public Provisioning and Women's Agency at the Annual Conference of the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) – 2015, Boston, USA.

The study attempts to explain association of social provisioning of public health services, women's agency (women's health, education and work participation) and agricultural productivity with prevalence of under-weight in children in districts of India.

A shorter version of the paper based on the study is scheduled to be published in Journal of Radical Political Economy this year.

LANSA's Pillar 1 research question is on [Enabling Environment and Nutrition](#), looking to answer how enabling is the wider context in linking agriculture and food systems to other determinants of nutritional status.

This study paper for India is under the broad research theme '[Bridging Disconnects](#)' that looks in to identifying the relative roles of the agriculture sector and other variables in determining child nutrition outcomes in India.

About 750 delegates from across the country participating in the IYSCC organised from January 19 – 21. There were 86 abstracts were for Physical and Chemical Sciences and 142 abstracts for Biological and Medical Sciences during the three days. Some 147 abstracts presented on Food Security and Zero Hunger Challenge, and it was under this topic that a team from LANSA MSSRF (Wardha & Jeypore) presented four posters:

- Incidence of Malnutrition in Children below 2 years in Koraput District, Odisha by [Nithya D J](#)
- Prevalence of Malnutrition in Children under 5 Years in Wardha District, Maharashtra by [Raju S](#)
- Does Farm Production Diversity Impact Household Dietary Diversity? by [Getsie David](#)
- Effect of Urea Super Granule (USG) on the Performance of Rice under Rainfed Agriculture in Koraput,

Odisha was by Balaji Mohanty, [Akshaya Kumar](#) & Santosh Raj Benia. Eminent Scientist and Directors from various research institutes made lecture– presentations on sustainable agriculture and food security. Research papers on physical, chemical, biological and medical science as well as oral presentations also formed the programme.



Engaging with farmers at Wardha

A plant clinic session was conducted to create awareness among farmers about plant disease, pest identification, on farm diagnosis and control. The session was organised in February with technical support from Mr. Nilesh Patkar of MSSRF. Farmers from FSN villages in Wardha district brought affected crops and Nilesh suggested control measures.

375 village people including women and children from the five FSN villages underwent health check-up at a camp organized in collaboration with Acharya Vinoba Bhave Rural Hospital, Wardha