

LANSA RESEARCH UPTAKE REFLECTIVE PRACTICE STORY

Pakistan Research Uptake Story

Keeping up with stakeholders pays off

Persistent and consistent stakeholder engagement

Last year research uptake at CSSR learnt that persistence pays off, when trying to establish connections with agriculture stakeholders in the government.

This year, building on the theme of persistence, CSSR has learnt that consistent engagement and increased visibility in the agriculture-nutrition landscape in Pakistan places CSSR-LANSA in a better position to inform and influence agriculture-nutrition policy and practice.



Market vendor in rural Sindh, Pakistan

Engagement leads to opportunities to inform policy and practice

In February 2015, LANSA held a three-day online regional dialogue called Markets for Nutrition. The discussion focused on the potential of market-based approaches to increase the consumption of nutritious foods by low-income, undernourished populations.

The dialogue provided an opportunity to learn from our stakeholders, share LANSA's research and make connections with relevant actors.

Approximately 125 stakeholders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India participated and 40 of them were from Pakistan.

Following the session, an Agriculture Specialist from a multilateral organisation, who had been interviewed during our stakeholder landscaping exercise in 2013, informed research uptake that the materials shared during the session would provide useful guidance to a provincial multi-million dollar agriculture-nutrition project his organisation was engaged in with the government.

Further to this communication, the Senior Nutrition Specialist at the multilateral, also a stakeholder that CSSR has engaged with for a number of a years, shared the concept note asking if CSSR-LANSA would be able to provide comments to improve the design.

The project's objective is to support the provincial agriculture sector to reduce malnutrition while complementing existing nutrition policy.

CSSR provided feedback and subsequently met with the Senior Nutrition Specialist to discuss their work in agriculture and nutrition and CSSR's research.

Research is the backbone

In addition to consistent engagement and increased visibility, an essential element to this interaction is the research.

CSSR has been conducting LANSA research for three years and is beginning to build-up an evidence base that gives more credibility to its stakeholder engagement.

The nutrition-agriculture landscape in Pakistan is relatively new and as demand for the research increases CSSR-LANSA's work in this area is proving to be useful to both agriculture and nutrition actors, with many of whom CSSR has made and maintained contact for a number of years.

While this may seem like an obvious point - successful research uptake needs to be backed by strong research - at small organisations, such as at CSSR, where resources are valuable; remembering to maintain a balance between the two is important.

Key Contacts

For further information

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Web Links

<http://www.lansasouthasia.org/content/markets-nutrition>

<http://www.lansasouthasia.org/content/lansa%E2%80%99s-first-south-asia-region-e-dialogue>

<http://www.lansasouthasia.org/blog/making-value-chains-work-little-children>