Who we are

We are a partnership of six research and development organisations. Led by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in India, other partners include BRAC in Bangladesh, Collective for Social Science Research in Pakistan, Institute of Development Studies (UK), International Food Policy Research Institute (USA) and Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (UK).

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LANSA
Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia

ADB Photo Rakesh Sahai

Improving nutrition through agriculture

A new research programme seeking solutions to malnutrition: in South Asia 2012 - 2018

Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) is a research programme that is exploring the ways in which agriculture and agri-food systems, policies and strategies can be better designed to reduce malnutrition.

We aim to find solutions that will improve nutrition outcomes for young women and children in South Asia.

Three research themes:

1

Enabling environments for nutrition

How can agriculture and food systems be better linked to other drivers of nutrition?

2

Agri-food policies and markets

How can nutrition be improved by agricultural policies, strategies and market-based approaches?

3

Nutrition sensitive agriculture

How can interventions in agriculture be designed to improve nutritional status?

Four focus countries:

1

Afghanistan

With more than 3 in 5 pre-school children stunted, in some provinces, Afghanistan is among countries with the highest prevalence globally.

2

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has sustained a rapid reduction in stunting, but still around 2 in 5 pre-school children are chronically malnourished.

3

India

India has seen unprecedented economic growth, yet it is home to one-third of the world's undernourished children.

4

Pakistan

Over 40 per cent of children under five are stunted in Pakistan, and prevalence is increasing.

Three cross-cutting themes:

1

Gender and nutrition

Addressing multiple disadvantages shaped by gender relations is central to improving nutrition outcomes.

2

Innovation systems

Networks that embed new ideas in agriculture and nutrition.

3

Fragility

Willingness and ability of governments to respond to stresses and shocks, in order to meet their responsibilities.

South Asia has experienced extraordinary economic growth, yet it has the highest rate of child malnutrition in the world. Agriculture is the main livelihood for the majority of rural families in South Asia, but its potential to reduce undernutrition is not being realised.

LANSA aims to generate evidence that, with practical application, can improve nutrition outcomes for those most vulnerable to undernutrition.

We don't just do research.

To make sure the evidence we produce is relevant to decision makers and other stakeholders, we engage them in our research plans from the outset. We also facilitate knowledge sharing and learning between partners.