



Rapporteur Note

Session: **Enhancing Nutrition Along the Value Chain**

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Chair: **Boitshupo “Bibi” Giyose**, Senior Food and Nutrition Security Advisor,
 The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, South Africa

Overview: **Corinna Hawkes**, Consultant, Food and Nutrition Policy (France), and Visiting Fellow,
 Centre for Food Policy, City University, UK

Panelists:

Perspectives from Academia: **Barbara Underwood**, Retired, Adjunct Professor of Nutrition,
 Columbia University, USA

Perspectives from Development Agency: **Ken Davies**, Coordinator, P4P,
 United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Italy

Perspectives from Policy: **Yoginder K. Alagh**, Chancellor, Nagaland University, and Chairman,
 Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), India

Perspectives from Regional Organization: **Marc van Ameringen**, Executive Director,
 Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Switzerland

Perspectives from Research: **Stephen Hall**, Director General,
 The WorldFish Center, Malaysia

Session Notes:

Bibi:

- Value Chains (VC) is more an agriculture terminology. VCs are “garbage in and garbage out”
- Whatever your system is, the end result must be examined
- People are consuming more refined diets leading to NCDs. VCs have so much “addition”, some good, some bad.
- From field to fork took a short space of time but now, it takes years. What happens in between?
- Simple philosophy: If your food has more than 10 ingredients or names you can’t pronounce, stay away from it.
- The VC for the poor person is very different than the VC for the person living in NYC. The poor person doesn’t have the luxury of experiencing and knowing, and benefitting from modern technologies. VCs from a knowledge perspective, is very different from poor to wealthy populations.
- Used the example of the cow in the developed world vs the developing world (Texas vs Mali).

- Point made in plenary: Agriculture should exist to provide food. Looking at VCs for enhancing nutrition, how do we support farmers with inputs, and how to improve postharvest storage, better preparation of food?
- Nutrition itself is not a sector. Agriculture is a sector. Industry processes the food. Trade and markets. And the endpoint is the consumer. How do you deal with nutrition? Requires a dialogue that all sectors across the VCs speak to each other.

Corinna:

- The concept: VCs—what happens in between agriculture production and consumption is critically important. How food passes through the supply chain.
- VCs have been in the business side for a long time, but the endpoint being increased economic value.
- Adding value in general means, increasing the price. Creating value for retailers, farmers etc. Has enough of that value gone to the producer?
- VCS for nutrition—they are a framework in which we can add value for nutrition for the consumer of that product. (combining with economic value)
- Why should we incorporate nutrition into VCs? (1) to improve supply – the availability and affordability and quality of foods. May find opportunities from local to global. (2) to improve demand—food acceptability of these foods among consumers. (3) to provide a framework for coordinated multisectoral solutions of many actors that interact along the VCs (producers, packers, millers, processed food manufacturerers, importers, exporters, retailers) and (4) to provide a framework to create economic value AND value for nutrition while addressing the trade-offs. You can think of nutrition as a solution to economic values.
- Examples are limited because it is a nascent field.
 - Example: OFSP in Mozambique, which created both economic and nutritional value. Started a market strategy. Created confidence and there was acceptability.
- Opportunity: the current focus on VC development for agriculture provides an opportunity to ensure nutrition is addressed.
- Needs a nutrition focus: needs a clear definition of the nutrition problem and have the VC cater to that right at the beginning.

Barbara:

- Need to start with training. Need problem solving interdisciplinary courses that fall outside of straight sector disciplines. There is not enough of that going on in universities. (Programs in Cornell, Tufts and in the UK)
- What is happening in the developing world? Hopes that these concepts will be taken back to their own academic programs, that are problem solving and interdisciplinary. VCs offer the opportunity to do that.
- Doing interdisciplinary teaching is difficult. Academic departments are structure around tenure and publications. This is critical. However, interdisciplinary courses are often risky for professors that cannot publish outside their field.
- Many journals don't publish interdisciplinary work. We need to breakdown those barriers.
- Nutrition has not taken advantage of VCs and creating VCs for nutrition.
- VC approach for nutrition leads to gender considerations. Smallholder farmers are women who also feed their families. Start problem solving VC problems from the farmer/mother. NGOs are often the ones who understand community level problems. Can we do training of VCs in women's farming alliances, and teach women about evaluating their own VCs.

Ken:

- WFP has changed greatly over the last few years and the food basket includes nutritious products
- Buy 1 billion worth of food from DCs. Bought 2.5 B worth of food locally.
- Purchase for Progress Initiative (P4P)—5-year RD experiment. Use demand for food to improve access to markets for smallholder farmers.
- Built on partnerships. Objective: link ½ million farmers to markets, not just WFP.
- Increasing quality and production and decrease postharvest loss.

- Different systems in different experiences in 21 countries. Warehouse receipts systems, cooperative unions, farmers organizations, and forward contracting.
- Crop choice—adoption of research findings is slow. Improved rice with enhanced iron, and harvest plus linkages.
- Farmers do not like risk when they are poor, thus vouchers are an option.
- Gender opportunities. In Africa, 70% of farming labor comes from women. Empowering women economically and socially. Pulses and cowpeas crops by women and postharvest processing such as partially cooked pulses and packaged in sale in local shops.
- Use farmer org meetings, to do nutrition education.
- Reducing mycotoxins. Aflatoxin has been linked to stunting. Need more concerted effort on testing facilities in countries. Working across many countries to ensure aflatoxin is tested.
- Medium scale processing opportunities—linking farmers. Doing in Afghan.
- Small scale processing, at the district level.
- WFP targets women and young children and RUSF are part of these operations. In Pakistan, they are meeting their demands by locally producing chickpea based RUSF to reach children (recent floods).
- In addition to in-kind food, working on cash and vouchers which provide health and nutrition and can include purchase of perishable crops.
- WFP is trying to focus on nutritional outcomes, not just feeding people. We all need to act as advisors to governments so they can take ownership. Coordination should rest with governments and we can help build capacity.

Marc

- Focusing on food fortification and improved foods for children ages 6 to 24 months.
- From an impact side, the VC approach makes sense. There are real tradeoffs though with interventions.
- GAIN has rolled out large scale fortification or powders, should we invest in new crop varieties that have additional costs?
- VCs presents an opportunity to leverage the private sector across the entire supply chain.
- Consolidating efforts and taking advantage of comparative strengths in ag and nutrition sectors. From GAIN standpoint a few ideas: (1) procurement facility to procure micronutrients for food processing. (getting micronutrients in fertilizer presents the same challenges of fortifying food. (2) supporting production of fortified complementary foods through integrated financing facilities. These facilities cannot often get to scale. So combining them, makes sense. (3) demand creation and harmonize efforts along the VCs.
- Bringing together stakeholders often realize that the agriculture groups are not there—the platforms need to be broader.
- Supporting national policies has emphasized integrated food and nutrition policies/strategies. VCs provide an opportunity for this integration.
- Challenges exist in a practical sense. Ag and nutrition sit in different silos. Training will be one important way to address this. NEPAD and CAADP nutrition support was always a lower priority. It is difficult within regional groupings and translates at national level and with donor agencies. Global health and agriculture donors rarely engage.
- Common impact measurements (livelihoods improved/lives saved) are complicated.
- Operationalize, at the national level, integrated agriculture and nutrition policies is complex. Many ministries and stakeholders are involved.

Stephen

- There are not quick fixes and it is not easy. The role of research will help us understand what the issues are and what the blind alleys are.
- Gender is so central. 46% of women in small-scale fisheries and interact in the VCs.
- Huge research agenda – don't know much about fish VCs. Research efforts are women in particular will be key to fill the gaps. Working in Bangla, women are fish farmers, of small indigenous fish that are nutritious, and have value at the HH.

- Postharvest handling. Postharvest methodologies such as dried fish—when insecticides are used to prevent spoilage (devaluing the value chain). Processing of fish—adding value and smoothen the supply so there is greater purchasing power.
- Consumers. Understanding the constraints and what drives demand for the purchasing of nutritious foods?
- Mothers decide what food is served but allocation becomes a driver on what foods get consumed by who. Understanding the dynamics and the interventions that impact this are huge areas for research.
- Sustaining the adoption will be key.
- VCs add an important dimension—being clear about the goals.

1st set of Questions:

1. Waste and losses of up to 50%.
2. Interdisciplinary research should involve strong sector experts that can bring value to the table and the new CGIAR can provide a forum for this.
3. On fisheries, in dev economies, access to water bodies has been adversely affected (not sure...). Private sector wants to improve nutrition?

1st set of Answers:

1. Ken—Postharvest handling needs a great deal of attention and investment. Regional community standards (Comesa, ECOWAS) and forums could be used to bring groups together.
2. Marc—Private sectors are interested in improving nutrition and can you find ways to engage private sector effectively.
3. Stephen—cannot answer waste on fruits and vegetables.

2nd set of questions:

1. Social psychological aspects were not brought up.
2. How do heirlooms fit into this?

2nd set of Answers:

1. OFSP is one example of examining the social aspects of this and how the community demanded this.

Bibi:

Concluding: Concept of value chains is still new in theory and in practice. There is an opportunity from research perspectives, and partners across sectors. However, partners and dialogue are key. Monitoring will be critically important, along the VC.