



Leveraging Agriculture For Improving Nutrition & Health



International Conference | February 10-12, 2011 | New Delhi, India

A Side Session on “**Innovations in Capacity Strengthening Approaches**”

Chairperson: Per Pinstrup-Andersen (Cornell University)

Location: Roshanara Room, Taj Palace Hotel

Date: February 10, 2011

Time: 8:30-10:00 am

Poverty, hunger, and malnutrition challenges continue to confront human and economic development. Agricultural policy and practice affects human health and nutrition by influencing the quantity and quality of foods farmers produce. On the other hand, health and nutrition policies affect agriculture by influencing the agricultural output and farmers’ productivity, which strongly depend on the farmers’ strength and their state of health. This inextricable linkage makes it essential to create an integrated multidisciplinary approach for problem-solving and policymaking in order to alleviate the agriculture-nutrition-health challenges that face developing countries. Yet, capacities to address these policies and program challenges at global, national, and sub-national levels have not been effectively developed or utilized. In many developing countries, the limited or inadequate capacities to develop and implement multidisciplinary policies and programs compromise their efforts to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. To develop effective policies and programs, experts and professionals in agriculture, health, and nutrition must work together instead of working as sectoral or single disciplinary capacities. These individual disciplines need to exchange ideas, knowledge and resources; coordinate programs and policy initiatives; and consider a system perspective over the single discipline viewpoint. An increased emphasis on utilizing, building, and strengthening multidisciplinary capacities at national, regional, and global level is needed.

Within this context, the side session on “**Innovation in Capacity Strengthening Approaches**” aims to bring together development practitioners, researchers, government and non-government agencies, academicians, policymakers, civil societies, and private sectors to discuss and identify the opportunities, approaches, and best practices for integrating and strengthening multidisciplinary capacities effectively, efficiently, and sustainably.

Presentations and Demonstration

1. “**Challenges and Approaches for Strengthening Capacities to Link Agriculture, Nutrition and Health**”, by *Purvi Mehta* (ILRI)

This presentation will focus on identifying the different stakeholders and crucial capacity development challenges. It will also discuss some key principles of capacity development and approaches, based on specific case studies from the field.

2. “**Building Capacity for Nutrition and Food Security Advocacy: Lessons from Uganda**”, by *Brenda Shenute Namugumya* (RCQHC)

This presentation will discuss building advocacy capacities to reduce malnutrition by drawing evidence from Uganda and show how to engage with government sectors and local communities to move from knowledge to commitment and action to reduce malnutrition.

3. “**Developing Policy Entrepreneurship through Higher Education**”, by *Suresh Babu* (IFPRI), *Emily J. Levitt* (FANTA-2/AED), & *Per Pinstrup-Andersen* (Cornell University)

This presentation will focus on increasing capacity for policy entrepreneurship for policies and program implementation through the higher education system.

4. “**Teaching Social Entrepreneurship to Address Agriculture and Nutrition Challenges**” by *Emily J. Levitt* (FANTA-2/AED), *Per Pinstrup-Andersen* (Cornell University), & *Suresh Babu* (IFPRI)

This session will demonstrate the entrepreneurial approach to building capacity for food and nutrition policy analysis using a case study: “Smallholder Farmer’s Access to Markets for High-Value Agricultural Commodities in India.” It will involve selected participants who will play different roles to discuss and develop the ideas and solutions for a specific policy problem.