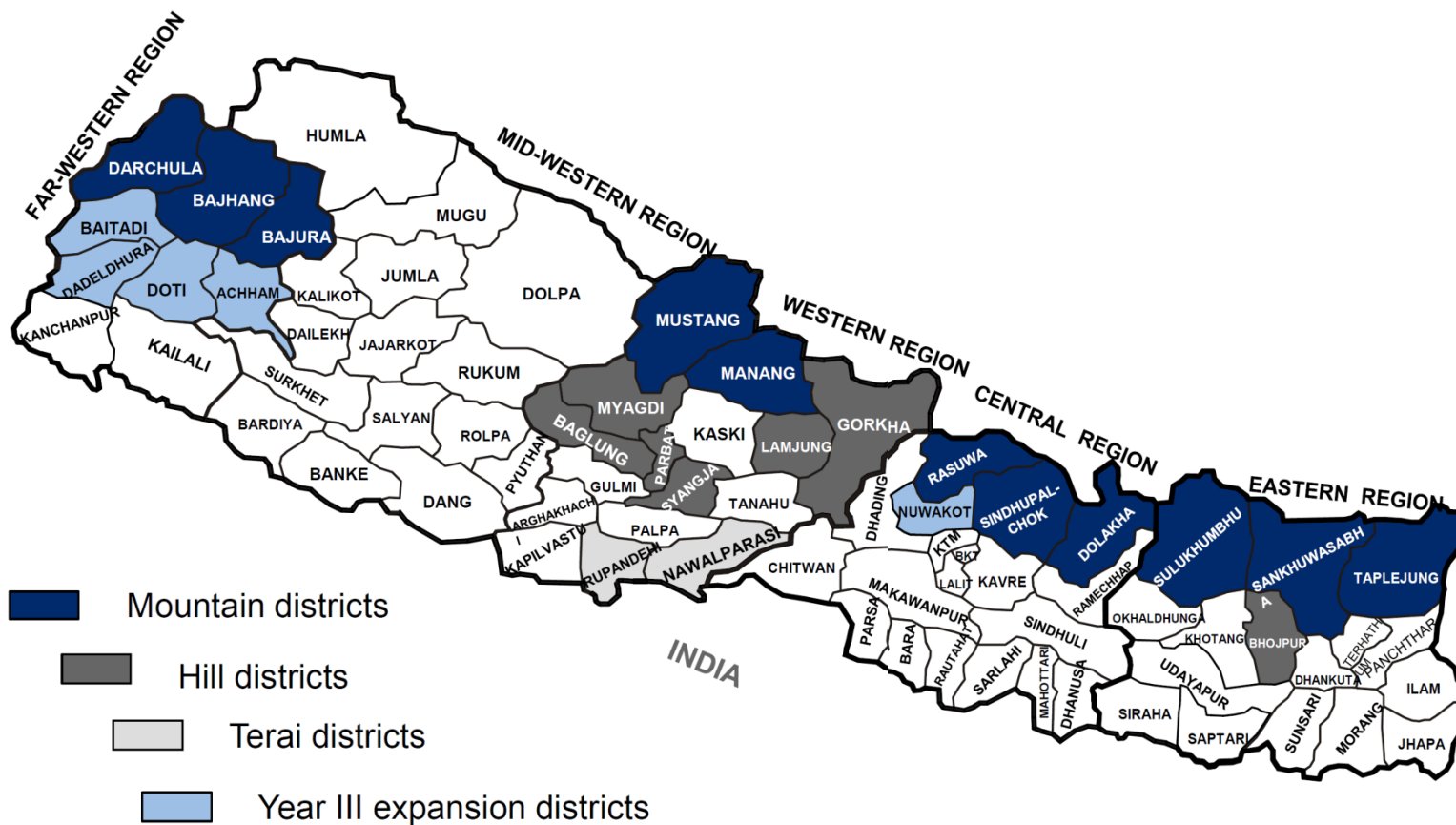


Incorporating Nutrition into Feed the Future Programming

Overview of, and Opportunities for Collaboration with,
the ***Nutrition Innovation Lab - Asia***

Patrick Webb
USAID Mission Presentation March 2014



Suaahara's intervention districts

Nutrition Innovation Lab - Asia

- Leader with Associates Award (cooperative agreement)
 - Paired with Nutrition Lab for Africa
 - Key academic partners: Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, Tuskegee, Virginia Tech, Tribhuvan University, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Bergen University, London School Tropical Medicine, Liverpool School Tropical Medicine, Columbia.
 - Current research partners: NASA, IFPRI, HKI, Save, NTAG, Worldfish, UNICEF

Starting with first principles

“Higher calorie intake has improved nutrition and health.”

CGIAR (1996) *Annual Report 1995-96*

- “Merely producing more food does not ensure food security or improved nutrition.” (Herforth (2012) World Bank)
- “Agriculture interventions do not always contribute to positive nutritional outcomes.” (Thompson (2012) FAO)

(Ruel and Alderman (2013) IFPRI)

1

Agriculture-nutrition pathways

2

Neglected biological mechanisms

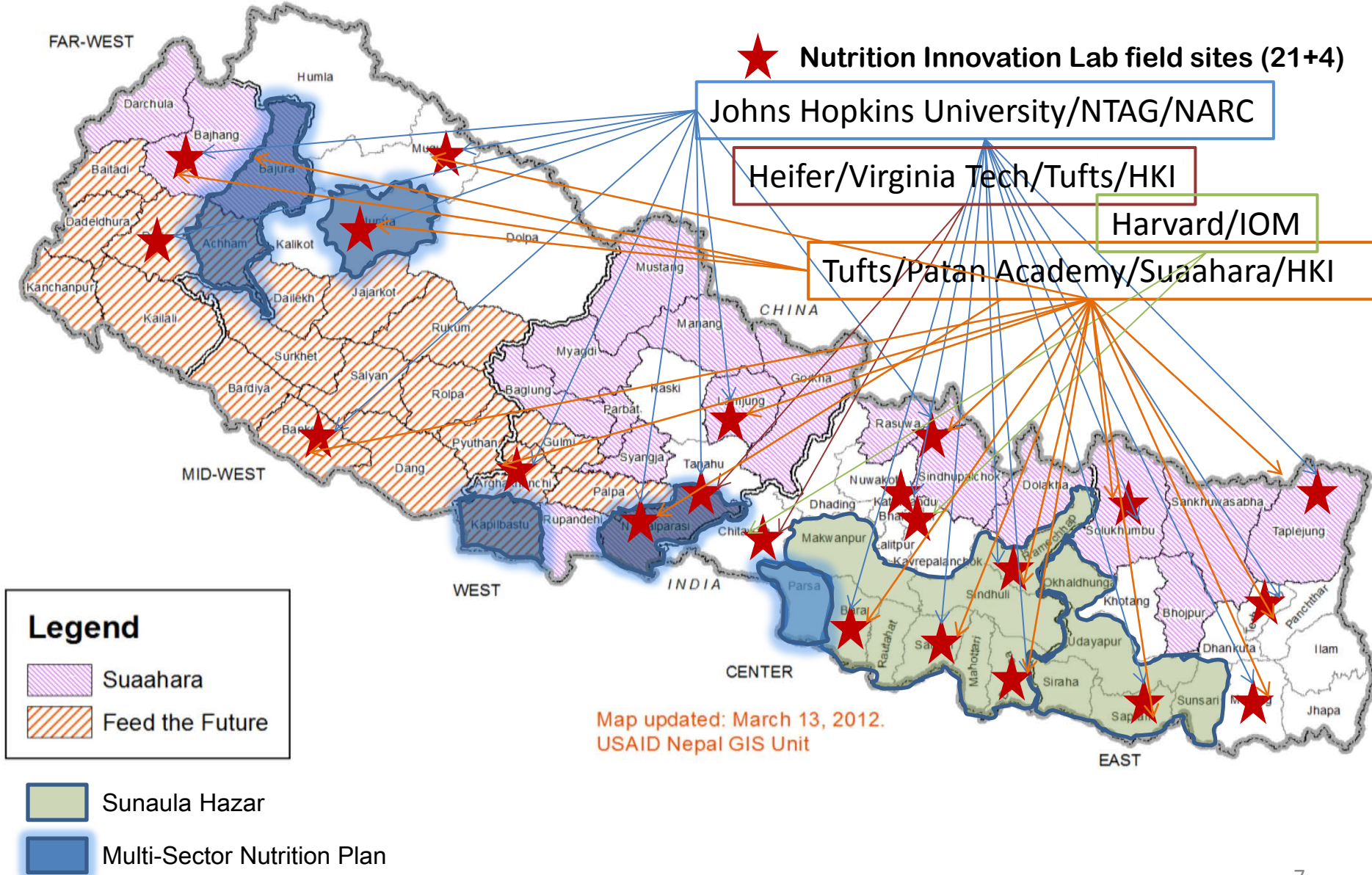
3

Policy & program mechanisms



Examples of ongoing or planned studies

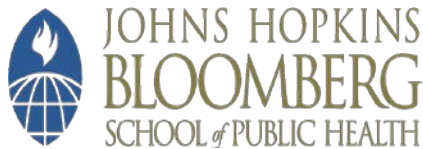
1. USAID *integrated programming for nutrition*
 - Explaining fidelity, impact, cost-effectiveness
2. *Aflatoxin exposure* – birth outcomes – stunting
 - Prospective birth cohort; national cross-sectional analysis
 - Post-harvest processing/storage practices
3. *Governance quality* (fidelity of policy/implementation)
 - New metrics of effectiveness
 - Fidelity of cascade training approaches
4. Randomized *controlled trials*
 - Livestock + BCC+control
 - Multi-arm intervention packages (ag+WASH+BCC+control)
5. Diet – *anemia* – *child cognitive* development
6. Climate – agricultural productivity – nutrition outcomes
7. Gut *microbiome* – *nutrition* (characterization study)



Conclusions

- Many ways for USAID partners to impact nutrition. Value-added potential of linking and combining activities is huge.
- Agriculture's contribution to nutrition outcomes yet to be convincingly documented. Rigorous evidence innovative programming needed. Anecdotes and coverage data not enough.
- Many innovations, successes out there. But, scaling requires documentation of best practices, data on cost-effectiveness.

Many collaborators (Asia and Africa):



Feed the Future Innovation Lab

For Collaborative Research on Global Nutrition

