

Annual Report
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
Year 1(2010/2011)
Nutrition CRSP – Asia

Principal Investigator: Keith P West

Team members: Rolf Klemm, James Tielsch, Steve LeClerq

Introduction/Overview of Work plan rationale/objectives

Background: Extensive meetings in Nepal in January and August 2011 identified the needs of “capacity building” and “operations research”, although specific needs in each area remain to be fully elucidated. CRSP partners are expected to support research needs and capabilities for USAID’s Integrated Nutrition Program (INP). This activity was awarded on 30 August 2011; thus further discussion is needed to clarify specifically how CRSP can support INP relevant research.

Section I: Research Activities

Proposed and Actual Activity as per Year 1 workplan :

| <u>Proposed Activity</u> | <u>Actual Activity</u> |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Participate in an in-country “Policy Workshop” and “Research Design Workshop” organized by Tuft to prioritize research & TA agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •K West accompanied P Webb in Nepal, January 2011 to assist early plans |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •R Klemm participated in August 17-19 2011 workshop |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Listed potential research ideas (not yet prioritized) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rapid technical responses, on request |
| Develop, in conjunction with project collaborators, a list of research, technical assistance and training priorities that need to be addressed to advance the nutritional goals of the country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Monograph drafted on maternal health and nutrition in Terai of Nepal, based on NNIPS findings. Currently updating and scripting text, to highlight effective interventions, quick wins, policy implications for candidate “white paper”. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preliminary planning for a possible Stakeholders Scientific Evidence Forum: Bridging Agriculture, Food Security, Diet & Nutrition Science in Nepal (2012) |
| Others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drafted proposal (with NTAG & NNIPS) in response to Tufts CRSP RFA and awarded subcontract to enhance research, capacity and nutrition. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Met with Tufts, USAID, NTAG, other partners to explore potential for setting up sentinel sites for monitoring/evaluating “integrated” nutrition and agriculture interventions |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JHU-based planning meetings to flesh-out sentinel site design ideas. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In process of hiring recent masters’ graduate to assist with (1) finalizing Maternal Health & Nutrition White Paper, (2) organizing proposed scientific forum, (3) surveying and collecting data instruments in Nepal nutrition & agriculture surveys/studies, (4) drafting sentinel site protocol |

Section II: Capacity Building Activities

| <u>Proposed Activity</u> | <u>Actual Activity</u> |
|---|---|
| Identify potential students for graduate level training | Met with several potential candidates. One candidate is planning to apply to the Masters of Public Health Science Program for FY12-13 academic year and is currently taking the required GRE. |

Outputs

Trip Report of August 2011 visit and participation in Research Priorities workshop.

Annual Report
Harvard School of Public Health
Year 1(2010/2011)
Nutrition CRSP - (Asia)

Principal Investigators:

Wafaie Fawzi, MBBS DrPH
Harvard School of Public Health
665 Huntington Ave
Boston MA 02115
Email:mina@hsph.harvard.edu

Christopher Duggan, MD MPH
Harvard School of Public Health
665 Huntington Ave
Boston MA 02115
email:Christopher.duggan@childrens.harvard.edu

Team members:

Nilupa Gunaratna, PhD
Research Associate

Andrew Thorne-Lyman
Teaching Fellow

Introduction/Overview of Work plan rationale/objectives

Section I: Research Activities

The research agenda of Harvard School of Public Health activities in Nepal through the CRSP focuses on improving the knowledge base related to dietary risk factors for malnutrition among children and women in Nepal. Our work aims to improve the ability to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition and agriculture-related programs by strengthening the tools used to capture dietary intake, enhancing knowledge of relationships between dietary consumption and nutritional status, and helping to develop applied skills and knowledge of nutritional epidemiology in a core group of researchers at the largest university in Nepal.

Our main collaborators are several Nepali researchers from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) at Tribhuvan University. Our collaboration builds on an existing relationship between University of Bergen, Norway and researchers at the IOM, which previously had focused primarily on the investigation of relationships between nutritional status during childhood and infectious disease in a population living in Bhaktapur District.

When we first developed our Year 1 workplan we had anticipated beginning the collaboration with a quick population-based survey of dietary intake and nutritional status in Bhaktapur District. However, as discussions with our new partners evolved, it became clear to us that it would be better to move our plans for such a survey to Year 2 and to concentrate our efforts on making use of existing data to inform CRSP objectives.

There were two major reasons for this decision: (1) We learned that in 2008-9, IOM and University of Bergen had already undertaken a population-based survey in which extensive data on dietary intake, nutritional status and health had been collected from

500 mother-infant pairs. The survey had also had collected blood samples which had not yet been analyzed due to lack of funds. In discussions with the partners involved, it became clear that there were opportunities to make use of data from this survey to address many of the same questions that we had hoped to address through our planned survey (2) Our partners were in the midst of running a large randomized trial and expressed concerns about availability of human resources to administer a rapid survey without proper planning. We decided that it would be better to use the Year 1 funds to work with our Nepali colleagues to make use of existing data and to analyze the blood samples while planning for a follow-up survey in the same women and infants for 2012 using Year 2 funds which would also open up a number of new possibilities to address questions through a cohort/panel data approach (*please see vignette below*). Further details are also outlined in our Year 2 workplan.

Section II: Capacity Building Activities

Our collaboration with colleagues at the Institute of Medicine involves both a formal and applied capacity building effort to strengthen the expertise of our Nepali colleagues on nutrition while at the same time utilizing data to answer questions of relevance to the CRSP.

In January, 2012, one researcher (Ram Chandyo) from the IOM will attend the short course in nutrition research methods offered by the Bangalore Boston Nutrition Collaborative (BBNC). In the spring of 2012 a researcher (Sudha Basnet) will visit HSPH for a six week period in the spring and work with us directly on an analysis exploring the linkages between dietary data and iron status of mothers and infants and attending courses in nutritional epidemiology and international nutrition.

We anticipate that this experience will be a useful way of developing applied knowledge on issues related to the analysis of dietary intake data and nutritional status that will also be used in subsequent analysis of the follow-up survey. We will also work directly with our Nepali colleagues from IOM and from NTAG to design the follow-up survey module as part of Year 2 activities, which also has a capacity-building component to it related to dietary assessment, which will benefit staff from both organizations.

Goals, outputs, and outcomes

In our original work plan we had listed several outcomes of relevance to the CRSP but had not listed specific goals or outputs for year 1. When compiling the workplan we had lacked sufficient details about what existing information was already available. For example we did not know that our partners would be interested in collaborating to make use of existing survey data or lab samples. Over the course of several months of discussions and relationship-building, it became clear that this was a viable option and that our partners (including those in Norway) were eager to collaborate on the project and to undertake a follow-up survey to answer the remaining questions in our original workplan (and more).

While our workplan had not explicitly outlined outputs or goals, we had described a number of outputs/goals in the narrative part of the workplan and have addressed the status of these goals at the close of year 1 as outlined below:

1. Establish collaboration with Nepali partners

This was achieved and we are now moving forward with plans to further strengthen the collaborative activities.

2. Build the capacity of our Nepali partners

We have earmarked funds for the participation of two of our Nepali colleagues in activities designed to strengthen their expertise related to nutritional epidemiology and data analysis in early 2012. It was not possible to do these activities earlier as the BBNC only is conducted once a year in January and we felt it was important for Sudha to specifically work on the analysis of data related to the lab samples, which are being analyzed.

3. Undertake a survey assessing dietary consumption, food security, and nutritional status including micronutrient status of vulnerable groups in Bhaktapur

As described above, after discussing this prospective survey with partners we felt it would be more prudent to maximize use of existing information and plan the survey for year 2. With year 1 funds we have moved forward with laboratory analysis of iron status of the 500 mother-infant pairs from the 2008-9 survey.

Vignette:

Informing the M&E of food and nutrition programs using data from Bhaktapur district

Based solely on its location within the Kathmandu valley, one might conclude that information on dietary intake or nutritional status of the people of Bhaktapur district might be of little use to understanding relationships in other parts of Nepal.

However, it is important to note that while Bhaktapur city is urban, much of the district is peri-urban, and much of population still engages in agricultural activities. Nutrient deficiencies and poor dietary intake are not uncommon, particularly among migrant groups from the hills who are often landless and dependent on wage earnings. Like much of Nepal, it is likely that malnutrition and dietary intake in the district exhibit seasonal patterns as a result of the seasonality of food production, food insecurity, and illness.

Collaborating with researchers from Tribhuvan University and from Norway, we plan to complement information already collected several years ago through a series of dietary recalls on mother-infant pairs with a follow-up survey of the same mother-child pairs. This will enable a rare glimpse of longitudinal changes in dietary intake, nutritional status, food security and socioeconomic status and other variables. This rich dataset will enable us to answer a number of questions of direct relevance to M&E activities under

the CRSP such as (1) how well do measures of dietary intake collected using single vs. multiple dietary recalls reflect nutrient deficiencies (2) how well do different ways of analyzing dietary intake data (simple measures of food groups vs. more complex methods) capture the variance in intake or status? (3) How much change in dietary intake can be expected over the course of several years? (4) Do changes in dietary intake, either improvements or deterioration, correlate with changes in nutritional status? The follow-up survey may also be an opportunity to pre-test instruments that may be used in subsequent M&E activities through the CRSP.

Annual Report
Purdue University
Year 1 (2010/2011)
Nutrition CRSP - Asia

Principal Investigator

Gerald Shively, Ph.D.
Purdue University

Overall objective:

The primary year 1 objective is to initiate research planning and establish research partnerships. The goal of this work plan is to work closely with the ME and project partners to initiate new collaborations and strengthen existing collaborations with Nepalese partners around the topic of agriculture and nutrition. We will work to identify local needs and opportunities for research and capacity building.

Some progress achieved, as detailed below.

Specific objectives: Research

We will work closely with the ME and project partners to identify the current state of knowledge and research gaps, in anticipation of launching research on nutrition interventions.

Significant progress achieved, as detailed below.

Specific objectives: Capacity Building

We will work closely with the ME and project partners to (i) assess potential for recruiting students to a variety of appropriate academic programs (assisting in identification of potential student pools and recruitment), and (ii) help in assessing what curricula exist (and upgrades are needed) in-country and in the immediate region relating to agriculture and economics. We will collaborate with (and guide) in-country partners and consultants undertaking stocktaking of curriculum gaps and needed course-work and/or degree programs.

Progress, but impediments encountered, as detailed below.

Introduction/Overview of Work plan rationale/objectives

The primary year 1 objective was to initiate research planning and establish research partnerships. The overall goal of the effort was to work closely with the ME and project partners to identify topical areas for focus, collect background information and data, and establish new collaborations around the topic of agriculture and nutrition. The specific research objective was to identify the current state of knowledge and research gaps, in anticipation of launching research on nutrition interventions. The specific education objectives were to (i) assess potential for recruiting Nepalese students into a graduate degree training program in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University and (ii) help in assessing what curricula exist (and what upgrades might be needed) in Nepal.

Section I: Research Activities and progress on specific objectives

Focal area: *Identification of priority research areas*

Activity 1: We proposed to initiate a review of the literature on nutrition, agriculture and relevant topics for Nepal, including published (peer reviewed) literature and unpublished (gray cover) documents. A draft paper was prepared and shared with the ME. Based on feedback and comments on this draft document the paper was revised. The paper (Shively, G., Gars, J. and Sununtnasuk, C. 2011. "A Review of Food Security and Human Nutrition Issues in Nepal") is being submitted with this report and is also available at http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/staff/shively/Nepal_review.pdf. We anticipate that at some point it will be posted as a Global Nutrition CRSP project working paper, once that series has been established.

Focal area: *Synthesis of existing programs and projects*

Activity 2: We planned to review existing socioeconomic datasets for Nepal, including datasets with possible nutrition components for subsequent analysis or follow-on data collection. We also intended to examine the feasibility of using existing data to derive appropriate USAID indicators for Nepal. During the year we made substantial progress in cataloging two large country-wide datasets available for Nepal (the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the Nepal Living Standards Surveys (NLSS)). DHS survey data are available for 1987, 1996, 2001 and the most recent round, conducted in 2006. Several rounds are geo-referenced and are publicly available. A current round of the survey is being collected at the time of writing, and will likely be made public in the next 12-18 months (by early 2013). Characteristics of the sample include data covering abortion history, anemia and anemia testing, anthropometry, birth registration, cause of death, early childhood education, HIV knowledge and testing, malaria, micronutrient intakes, reproductive calendar, TB, tobacco use, vitamin A, and maternal mortality. The NLSS datasets were collected in 1996 and 2003/2004 (a third round collected in 2010/11 has not yet been released) and include a partial panel data component. The NLSS includes information on a range of household welfare indicators, including income,

consumption, housing, labor market participation, education and health. Second round data are similar in content and coverage to first round data. The NLSS survey follows the approach of the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS). The survey consists of an integrated household questionnaire supported by a community questionnaire to collect information on available facilities, service delivery, prices and general conditions facing households. The survey includes a module focused specifically on health, and includes a number of ancillary questions. These questions include distance to health facilities (mode of transport and time) and expenditures on health services (during the past month and year). The health module contains information on chronic illnesses and recent illnesses including length of affliction, amount of treatment time incapacitated, and current self-reported health status. Immunization information is collected for children under 5, along with maternity information and family planning information. Subjective questions include how the family rates the quality of their health services. Food consumption data are based on variable period recall. Questions cover whether a particular food was consumed over the past year, how much was grown and consumed, how much was typically consumed per month (by weight), food expenditures for typical month, and the amount of food received in-kind. The list of foods is typical of an LSMS survey and does not vary by quality. Additional information includes household production, wage employment, education, credit and savings, household business activity, remittances, and other sources of income. We anticipate analyzing these data in subsequent years of the project provided we receive a favorable response from our request to Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics. Despite repeated requests we have received no response from the relevant officers.

Focal area: *Discrete socio-economic analysis*

Activity 3: We also planned to review methodology and develop and test econometric models linking nutritional status, work effort and wage returns. Empirical analysis for this work was to be conducted using CHNS data as "proof of concept" for possible subsequent efforts focusing on Nepal. We made substantial progress on this during the project year, which resulted in a paper (Gars, J. and Shively, G. 2011. "The Role of Health and Education in Household Labor Allocation and Returns"). The primary focus of this research is an attempt to measure, at the level of the individual, economic impacts of changes in health status, while controlling for a range of household-, community- and individual-specific factors, including education. We judge this to be a meaningful, important and relevant strand of research. If it holds appeal among USAID and project partners in Nepal, we will continue to support this work with NCRSP resources. However, if it is judged to be peripheral to USAID's interests, it will be pursued without USAID support and USAID will not be acknowledged as a source of support in subsequent research papers and publications.

Focal area: *Identification of priority research areas*

Activity 4: Although we planned to participate in a project planning meeting in Nepal during year 1, a delay in the approval of the project and subsequent planning delays and scheduling conflicts prevented travel. This has made it more difficult to establish potential research partnerships with host country scientists and identify curriculum needs. Although some progress on this front has been made via email, many potential partners have been unresponsive.

Lessons learned and challenges in implementing proposed activities

Delays in initial approval and launch of the project created impediments to project start-up and recruiting of students from Nepal, but no further complications are anticipated. Scheduling travel during the academic calendar to coincide with availability of partners is likely to be an on-going challenge. Getting timely responses from potential partners in Nepal will continue to be a problem. Many email messages to Nepal, including messages to university partners and government offices, never receive responses.

Solutions/resolutions applied or to be applied

Travel and in-country meetings will be planned in advance and allow for contingencies.

Section II: Capacity Building Activities

Focal area: Degree training

Activities: Our specific education objectives were to (i) assess potential for recruiting Nepalese students into a graduate degree training program in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University and (ii) help in assessing what curricula exist (and what upgrades might be needed) in Nepal. To date, two M.S. students in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University have received partial degree training support from the project. Neither student is a citizen of Nepal. Their involvement in the project has been justified by the need to move forward with year 1 project activities in the absence of qualified graduate students from Nepal. Jared Gars completed his M.S. degree in the summer of 2011 and was partially supported by the NCRSP-Asia project while contributing to the two project-related research outputs listed below. He is now pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Celeste Sununtnasuk began her M.S. degree in the fall of 2012. She is highly qualified to contribute to the NCRSP project, having previously worked for organizations involved in delivering food aid prior to returning to graduate school. She is currently working with the Nepal DHS data and it is anticipated that she will continue to be supported on the NCRSP-Asia project through the completion of her M.S. degree in 2013. After considerable recruiting effort, one student from Nepal has been identified for graduate training at Purdue. He has been

admitted and provided all immigration and visa hurdles can be cleared, it is anticipated that he will begin his Ph.D. program under NCRSP support at Purdue in January 2012.

Lessons learned and challenges in implementing proposed activities

Identifying well-prepared host-country students for graduate degree training in the U.S. has been a significant challenge.

Solutions/resolutions applied or to be applied

One Nepalese student has been recruited to Purdue.

Outputs

Gars, J. and Shively, G. 2011. "The Role of Health and Education in Household Labor Allocation and Returns." West Lafayette, IN: Department of Agricultural Economics.

Shively, G., Gars, J. and Sununtnasuk, C. 2011. "Food Security and Human Nutrition in Nepal." West Lafayette, IN: Department of Agricultural Economics.

Vignettes

One issue that appears to be potentially important and researchable in Nepal is mycotoxin exposure. Although this was not previously anticipated as a work plan topic, the feasibility of conducting research on aflatoxin exposure, impact and mitigation will be explored in year 2 of the project. Research in this area would clearly link agriculture, health and nutrition and might also facilitate cross-CRSP collaboration and attract other university partners and other sources of funding. This topic will be explored in greater depth at a partner meeting at Johns Hopkins University in December 2011.

Annual Report
Tuskegee University
Year 1 (2010/2011)
Nutrition CRSP - Asia

Principal Investigator

Eunice Bonsi, PhD

In the first year of the Tuskegee University Nutrition CRSP project, our main goal was to identify the best approach to improving maternal and child nutrition outcomes at scale in both countries. Therefore, Tuskegee University is focusing more on academic institutional capacity-building and exploring future possible applied research activities

Objective activities and accomplishments:

- **We will collaborate with (and guide) in-country partners and consultants to identify curriculum gaps needed for course-work and/or degree programs.**

Meeting with the various stakeholders was accomplished by attending the August workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Established partnerships and collaborations for institutional capacity building and research activities

Kalpana Tiwari NTAG

Raman Shrestha – Nutritionist

- **We will focus on academic capacity-building through contact with *Kalpana Tiwari* NTAG and Raman Shrestha – Nutritionist**

Student recruitment accomplished

Worked through 2 Nepalese faculty/Ministry of agriculture

Identified male veterinarians interested in working with goats

The two contacts identified

- **Review institutional capacity development for training relevant to nutrition and agriculture and to collaborate with (and guide) in-country partners to review existing Food Science and Nutrition curricula in the US with potential for update and training in Nepalese institution..**

Review revealed that graduate school in Food Science program is non-existent in Nepal and most of Nutrition workers are recruited from India. B.Sc. in Nutrition and Dietetics is only offered at the Central Campus of Technology at Hattisar in Dharan So it was advised that they will select potential graduate from those who work with NTAG and Winrock International to be trained to come back and work with them.

Students selected to apply for the graduate school at Tuskegee University did not meet the existing graduate school requirements for Food Science. They also needed TOEFL which is compulsory for any incoming international student. They have therefore

registered to take the TOEFL which may make them miss the deadline for graduate school application. In Nepal, they are now building up their capacity to train students in Food Science and Nutrition.

This could be an opportunity of a quick win to help in the curriculum design in particular, direct input into B. Sc. and Masters Level in Food Science programs being taught at the University and others. Review of capacity needs, curriculum content, and potential for offering institutional affiliation and some teaching will be explored.

- This was not accomplished because of the urgency for students' training that was overwhelmingly proposed by NTAG and Winrock International involved in the USAID/Nepal project. Tuskegee's role as planned thereafter is to work closely with the faculty through email and skype to perform initial review of several programs in the US and choose ones that can be adapted as culturally and ethnically acceptable. and
 - i) assess potential for recruiting students to a variety of appropriate academic programs

Applied Research

- **Review the proposed USAID/Nepal Community-Level integrated nutrition and agricultural interventions plan which addresses recently announced Feed the Future (FTF) (livelihoods) activities for possible research activities.**

This review was not carried out because the award to Johns Hopkins was late in the year. We hope to collaborate with PIs to embark on activities after we have obtained and reviewed their objectives for the project sites. We would like to engage collaboration with CRSP partners working in the same areas of research activities to leverage funds. In future, we plan to:

- Review, identify and document the specifics of nutrition activities and programs that can be enhanced through gender equity.
- Review cultural practices in dietary food choices and preparation in relation to gender equity
- Differentiate among and between: supplementary, complementary, fortified, and enriched existing foods for nutritional health.
- Exploring the possible research question of: the impact of gender, religion and cultural beliefs on maternal and child feeding behavior

Lastly, some stakeholders think that gender and inclusion-sensitive rules and regulations should be developed in collaboration with PSC for recruiting district/VDC-level health personnel. That the current practice of expecting voluntary services from FCHVs should end because it is both exploitative and ineffective in addressing gender inclusion issues.

Annual Report
DAI
Year 1 (2010/2011)
Nutrition CRSP Asia

Principal Investigator: Kathleen Kurz

Team members: Cheryl Doty
Barbara Seligman

Introduction/Overview of Workplan Rationale/Objectives

Moderate malnutrition in the first 1000 days of a child's life is a huge problem in the developing world affecting up to half of children under 2 years old, including Nepal, with long term consequences in educability, adult work productivity, and ultimately income and national capacity. While best programming methods have been identified for many of the essential nutrition actions – e.g., breastfeeding, micronutrient tablet provision – the way forward for improving complementary feeding practices is much less clear, as is agriculture's contribution. Behavior change for complementary feeding within households has been difficult to achieve at scale, as has been the development and production of commercial products affordable to resource-poor families who need it most.

The objective of the proposed work is to build the capacity of individuals currently or potentially working in agribusiness as employees, managers or entrepreneurs to produce and market nutrient-rich complementary foods with a focus on promoting foods that rely on local agriculturally-based products. As a first step in Year 1, we began exploring our possibilities under the broader mandate of actions to improve complementary feeding and foods in Nepal, trying to identify gaps and challenges that would fit under the Nutrition CRSP mandate.

John Bowman led the DAI portion of the Nutrition CRSP project at its inception. When he left DAI in February 2011, Barbara Seligman picked up the reins until Kathleen Kurz joined DAI as nutritionist in April. DAI sought to staff the project with a nutrition-agriculture duo, and so in June Cheryl Doty joined the project as the agriculturist with a specialty in agribusiness and public-private partnerships. Seligman continued to support the project.

Section I: Research Activities

Learning from our experience in Uganda, and knowing that specialists and programmers in Nepal had opinions and approaches about complementary feeding, Kathleen Kurz and Cheryl Doty went to Nepal in August 2011 seeking to identify a focus for DAI within the broad category of complementary feeding and foods, including both demand and supply factors. As in our Uganda visit, we had meetings with industry, university, NGOs,

government, and UN players. We attended the Nutrition CRSP Asia research methods workshop in Kathmandu organized by Tufts University on August 18. We also visited the Aquaculture Department of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences in Chitwan District and HKI's sites of homestead food production in Kailali District.

Within the broader focus, stakeholders made a number of suggestions for DAI complementary feeding activities under the Nutrition CRSP Asia:

- Capacity needs for nutrition-- conduct needs assessment, from national to community level
- Commercial complementary foods -- assess potential of cottage industries and local cooperatives
- Aquaculture – assess improvement in dietary diversity and nutritional status among children <2 among households with new ponds
- Other rapid assessment questions:
 - Does perception exist that special foods needed <2 yrs
 - In households, who decides what and how often a child <2 is fed?
 - Why is nutrition counseling such a challenge?

As FY2011 closes, we continue to learn more about these options – what has already been accomplished, and what is the nature of the gaps and the challenges for filling them.

We would like to ensure that our eventual focus complements that of the new USAID/Nepal-funded Integrated Nutrition Programme (INP). When we visited Nepal in August, the INP had not been awarded, and so we could not make those plans. The award was made in September, however, so we can have those discussions.

The USAID/Nepal mission suggested that we not start work before the Nutrition CRSP stakeholders meeting, so we will plan further, narrow our options, and be ready to gather input then.

Section II. Capacity Building Activities

DAI did not conduct capacity building activities in Year 1. We anticipate capacity building activities in the subsequent years as our complementary feeding work develops under the Nutrition CRSP in Nepal.

Year 1 Objectives per Year 1 Workplan

As indicated below, most objectives were begun, but not completed.

| Objectives | Activities begun in Yr 1 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Develop an inventory of commercially available nutrient dense products/complementary foods in the marketplace that are | X |

| | |
|---|---|
| attractive to rural households | |
| Analyze existing sources of data regarding affordability of nutrient dense/complementary foods | X |
| Identify educational institutions and private-sector based trade associations interested in partnering to develop or upgrade agribusiness curricula and knowledge/skill base. | X |
| Promote ownership of program concept and process by holding workshop with partners to review results and recommendations | |
| Plan cases studies intended to augment and enhance instructional materials used by key agribusiness training institutions | |
| Identify key relevant constraints to increasing competitiveness, marketability, and scale in the production of nutrient-dense foods. | X |

Outputs

Our first output will be a workplan for Year 2, including a narrowed list of possible activities to be presented at the Nutrition CRSP stakeholders meeting in Nepal.

Vignette

Our impression is that Nepal is poised to improve nutritional status among the poorest groups, including improvements in complementary feeding. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has a vision and strategic plan to extend their services and donors and agencies are coordinated. Behavior change interventions will soon be scaled up in 25 districts through the INP and a nascent commercial capacity to make affordable complementary foods is beginning to emerge. Gaps and challenges remain, and the Nutrition CRSP is well-placed to contribute strategically.