



Designing Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy for Improved Nutrition: Results from the “Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages” (ANGeL) Project

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Symposium on Agriculture to Nutrition Pathways
Dhaka, Bangladesh | December 3, 2019



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ANGeL Project: Background

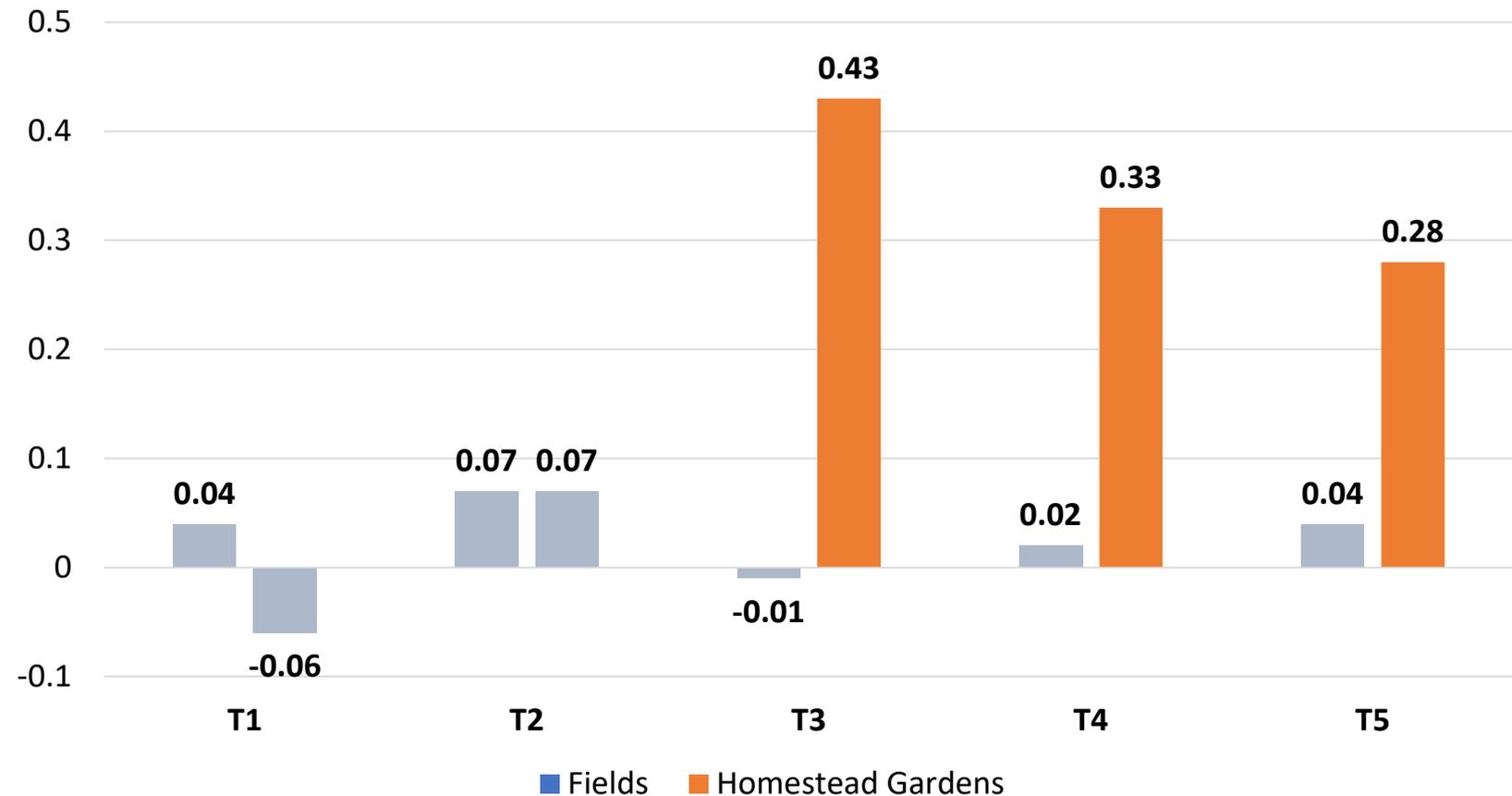
- IFPRI research in Bangladesh shows:
 - Agricultural diversity increases household and child dietary diversity
 - Women's empowerment improves household, child, and maternal dietary diversity
 - Women's empowerment increases agricultural diversity
- **June 2014:** Motivated by research findings, IFPRI developed a concept note for Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the agriculture-nutrition-gender nexus, and presented at MOA.
- **October 2015:** Government approved Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages (ANGeL). Ministry of Agriculture launched project on 29 October 2015.
- ANGeL was implemented in 16 out of 64 districts in all 8 divisions of Bangladesh.

ANGeL Design

- IFPRI evaluated impacts of 3 interventions and their 5 combinations using a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) method.
- ANGeL had 5 treatment arms and 1 control arm:
 - **T1: Nutrition BCC** (training by mostly male government ag extension officials)
 - **T2: Nutrition BCC-2** (training by local community women)
 - **T3: Ag. Production** (training by government ag extension)
 - **T4: Ag. Production + Nutrition BCC** (training by government ag extension)
 - **T5: Ag. Production + Nutrition BCC + Gender Sensitization** (trained by HKI)
 - **C: Control**
- Men and women were trained together.
- Conducted 2 rounds of household surveys for impact evaluation: baseline survey before start of project activities (Jan 2016); and endline survey after the end of project activities (Dec 2018).

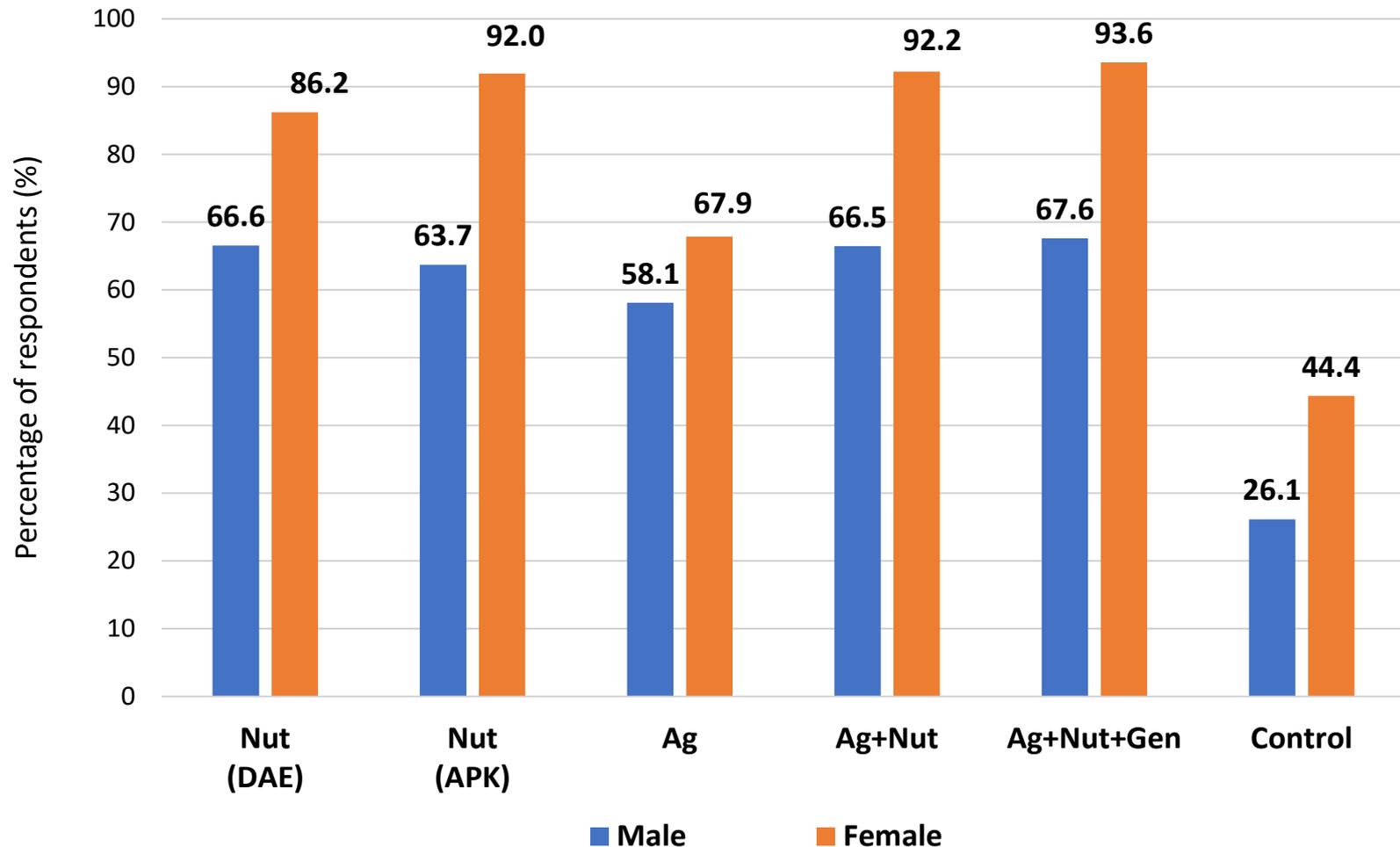
Number of non-rice crops grown in homestead gardens increased

(T3, T4 and T5 statistically significant for homestead gardens)

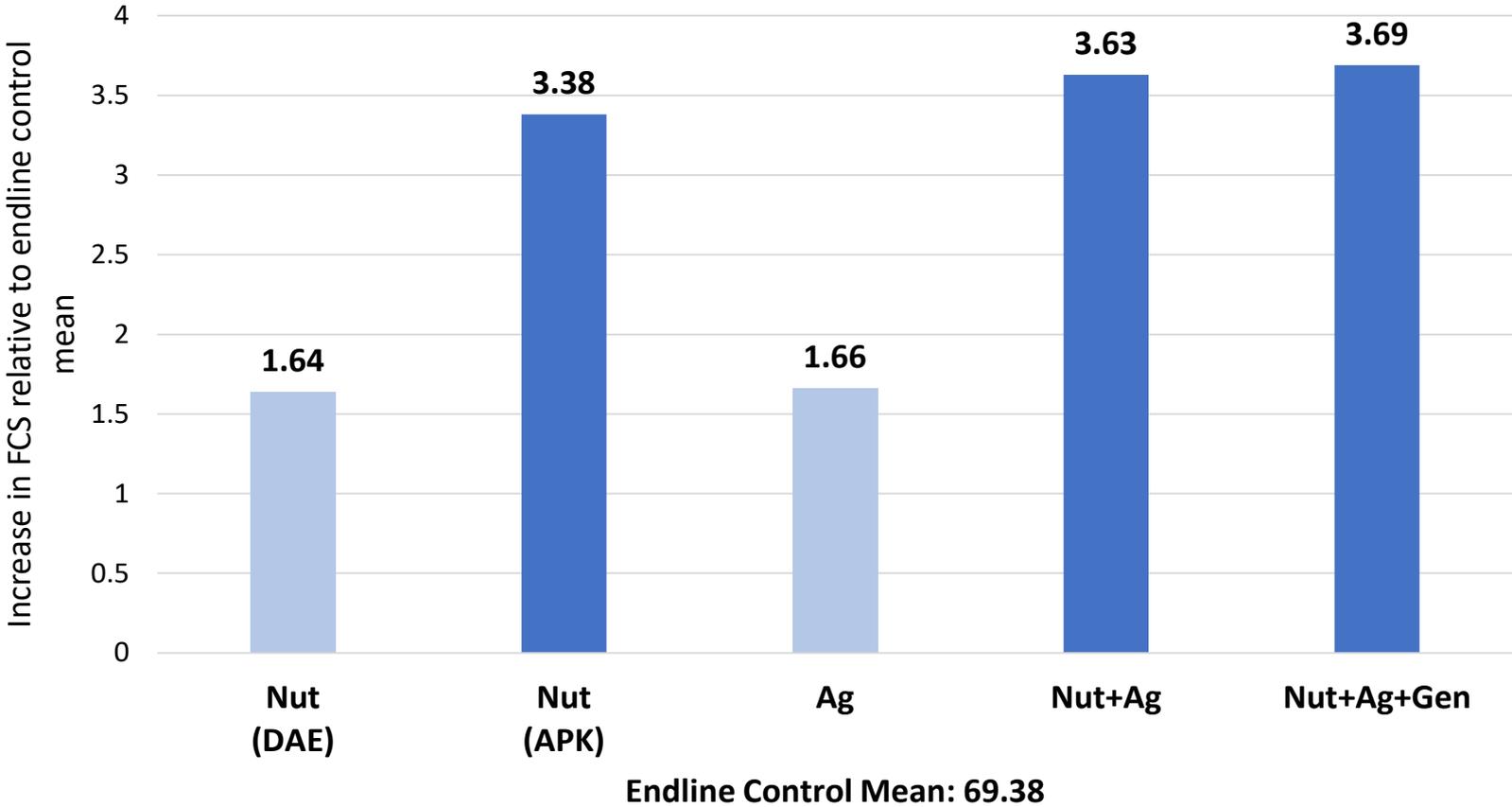


All interventions statistically significantly improved nutrition knowledge, with women outperforming men

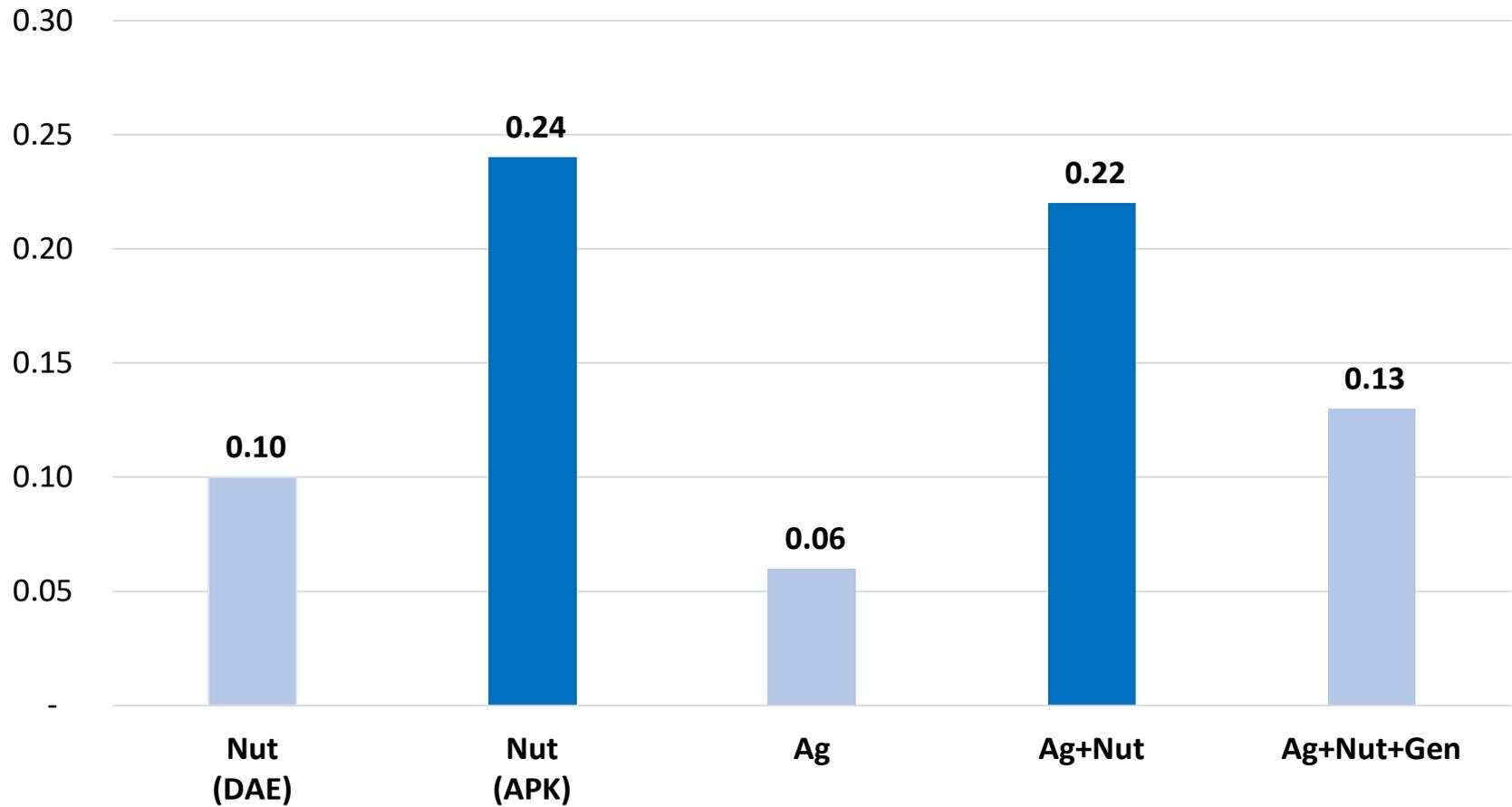
(Respondents correctly answered 75% of nutrition questions obtained from training)



Household diet quality improved (measured by Food Consumption Score) (T2, T4 and T5 results are statistically significant)



Improved dietary diversity among children who were 6-24 months old at baseline (T2 and T4 results are statistically significant)



ANGeL Empowered Men and Women

Using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), the study found:

- Combining agriculture, nutrition, and gender sensitization trainings produced the greatest improvements in empowerment.
- ANGeL's household approach empowered women and men in unique ways: while women became more empowered in asset ownership and income decisions, men became more empowered in production and income decisions in select interventions.
- Both men and women's attitudes related to gender improved, with more women recognizing that they make important contributions to their communities.

Key Takeaways

- **Integrating interventions is key...**
 - While we see impacts on knowledge and practices on trainings for only nutrition and only agriculture...
 - ...Combining trainings had much greater impacts
- **Training husbands and wives in farm households is key...**
- **Empowering women and reaching women with agriculture extension is key...**
 - Women are typically not reached by agriculture extension. Women who received agriculture training learned *and* applied improved agriculture practices.
- **The Government has decided to scale up ANGeL nationally.**