



The Global  
Nutrition  
CRSP



**Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program**  
Nutrition CRSP – Asia

**Annual Report**  
**FY 2012 (Year 2)**



Submitted by the  
Friedman School of Nutrition  
Tufts University  
Boston

## **Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program – Asia Annual Report 2011/12 (FY 2012-Year 2)**

### **Foreword**

The mission of the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program - Asia (N/CRSP-Asia) is to discover how policy and program interventions can most effectively achieve large-scale improvements in maternal and child nutrition, particularly when leveraging food-based activities. N/CRSP-Asia emphasizes operationally relevant research that can support national governments across Asia in their attempts to improve nutrition, health, and agricultural productivity. The Management Entity (Tufts University) collaborates with a network of US University partners, including the Schools of Public Health at Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University, the College of Agriculture at Purdue University and the College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Natural Sciences at Tuskegee University. It also has formal partnerships with private sector entities (Development Alternatives, Inc.), and non-governmental agencies, including Nepal Technical Advisory Service and Helen Keller International.

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#### **Nutrition CRSP - Asia**

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## Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Governance and Management Entity Activities .....	4
3. Nepal-Based Research .....	7
4. Nepal-Based Capacity-Building .....	11
5. Financial and Administrative Issues.....	14
6. Overall Progress towards FTF Indicators.....	15
7. Y2 Project Performance Narrative - Summary.....	17
Appendix 1: Compiled Minutes of BOD and TAC for Year 2 .....	20
Appendix 2. Nutrition CRSP - Asia Leadership, 2011/12.....	30
Appendix 3. Letter from National Planning Commission confirming the establishment of a Nepal Technical Advisory Group to work with N/CRSP-Asia.....	32
Appendix 5: Report of N/CRSP Asia Stakeholder Forum .....	35
Appendix 6: Report of Scientific Symposium.....	39
Appendix 7: Grant writing workshop.....	44
Appendix 8 - Activities and Outputs, N/CRSP-Asia Year 2 (FY2012) .....	48
Appendix 9: Research Briefs and Working Papers.....	49
Appendix 10: Appended Partner Reports.....	50

## 1. Introduction

The Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (N/CRSP) for Asia represents a novel model for focusing US-supported research on food and nutrition in developing countries. This includes:

- i) a defined geographic focus ('deep-dive' research in *Feed the Future* priority countries),
- ii) an applied focus (operations research rather than bench science),
- iii) a focus on country-ownership (supporting research that informs nationally-defined priorities in food and nutrition),
- iv) resources allocated to fewer grants at large scale (rather than many small grants supporting studies of experimental or pilot activities), and
- v) building capacity for analysis and policy formulation through formal education activities as well as engagement of local partners at stages of the research agenda.

Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy has served as the Management Entity (ME) for the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (N/CRSP) for Asia since October 2010 (in addition to the N/CRSP for Africa). The Friedman School implements the N/CRSP in close partnership with several US university partners – Tuskegee, Purdue, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University – as well as Development Alternatives, Inc. Additional partnerships have been formed around the research and capacity-building agenda. These partnerships include governmental bodies, Nepalese Universities, and non-governmental actors.

This report outlines achievements against the approved implementation plan for Year 2 (Y2), covering October 4, 2011 to October 3, 2012. Specific goals laid out in the Y2 plan of work are highlighted in boxes, along with the status of such goals (achieved or not) and details relating to achievements (or reasons for lack of achievement) are elaborated in the subsequent text.

## 2. Governance and Management Entity Activities

This section focuses on the global activities led by Tufts as Management Entity of both Asia and Africa CRSPs. The synergies and cost-savings gained by having a single lead for both CRSP awards have proven to be substantial, allowing for effective cross-continent sharing of ideas among partners and the development of a central repository (website and workspace) for materials, papers, and reports relevant to N/CRSP activities globally.

### Summary of Y2 Outputs – Governance and Management

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 2.1 | At least one BOD and one TAC meeting held before October 2012   | - Achieved        |
| 2.2 | Inactive members of BOD/TAC replaced                            | - Partly Achieved |
| 2.3 | Nepal Technical Advisory Committee (N-TAC) set up/meeting held  | - Achieved        |
| 2.4 | Year 2 research funds awarded                                   | - Achieved        |
| 2.5 | Pre-“Lancet Series” workshop held in London before October 2012 | - Achieved        |
| 2.6 | Proceedings from Lancet workshop prepared for publication       | - Achieved        |
| 2.7 | N/CRSP website reviewed/updated                                 | - Partly Achieved |
| 2.8 | Nutrition highlighted by CRSP council/Knowledge Management      | - Achieved        |

### 2.1 At least one BOD and one TAC meeting held before October 2012 – Achieved

A formal meeting of the Nutrition CRSPs global Board of Directors (BoD) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) took place in London, in June 2012. Minutes of that very useful meeting were posted to the N/CRSP website and shared with partners. Several important resolutions were voted on and approved at those meetings, dealing with: i) engagement with the other CRSPs to ensure higher recognition of the importance of nutrition across all CRSP-related research activities, ii) the need to push forward thinking on appropriate metrics to measure value-added gained for nutrition by leveraging agriculture and other sectors of activity, iii) prioritization of N/CRSP capacity-building towards appropriately-qualified nationals from government service in N/CRSP focus countries, as well as local academia, think tank institutions, national research centers and appropriate non-governmental organizations, iv) procedures for selection of students supported by N/CRSP resources, and v) peer review and co-authorship principles relating to N/CRSP research outputs (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Inactive members of BoD/TAC replaced with appropriate new members - Partly Achieved

Given that several original members of the TAC (individuals who had agreed to serve as committee members for the N/CRSP) did not in fact attend any TAC meetings during Years 1 and 2, and did not contribute to the activities of the N/CRSP, it was decided to drop those (numbering 3 people), and replace them with high quality substitutes. So far only one new addition has been found (Mary Bassett). Additionally, the original USAID/Washington, D.C. AOR and alternate (Cheryl Jackson and Ellen Harris) both moved to other positions in the U.S. government during Y2 and were replaced on the BoD and TAC by Maura Mack and Pascasie Adedze (Appendix 2), following an interim period replacement by Vern Long.

For the record, the ME would like to express its thanks to Cheryl Jackson and Ellen Harris for the great effort they put in to helping the Nutrition CRSP get off the ground. The ME would also like to note that Maura and Pascasie have been wonderful successors, helping the N/CRSPs become established in Uganda and Nepal, and garnering high-level interest globally.

### 2.3 Nepal Technical Advisory Committee (N-TAC) established/meeting held - Achieved

In May 2012, the Joint Secretary (Social Development Division) of the National Planning Commission (NPC) secretariat of the government of Nepal established, at our request, a local advisory group comprising 17 individuals nominated from different academic and research institutions and ministries to advise and oversee the activities of the N/CRSP in Nepal (Appendix 3). The group is chaired by the Joint Secretary of the NPC and includes representatives from five separate lines ministries. The group's mandate has been defined in general terms as guiding the activities of the N/CRSP in Nepal, with the following specific goals included: a) help prioritize N/CRSP's research so that it contributes to country needs; b) guide policy-relevant analysis that is focused on implementation of Nepal's Multisector Nutrition Plan; and c) identify areas where N/CRSP can help strengthen human and institutional capacity supportive of improved nutrition. This move by the government represents high-level political recognition of the potential for the N/CRSP to conduct research and capacity-building activities of direct relevance to the government, while at the same time producing public goods of the rigor and stature to be relevant globally.

The first meeting of the Nepal TAC took place in June 2012, during which members were introduced to the N/CRSP agenda by the ME's country representative, and the goals and mandate of the group were discussed. A second Nepal TAC meeting took place in early September 2012, and was addressed by N/CRSP Associate Director Prof. Eileen Kennedy. The meeting focused on how N/CRSP research can build understanding of the roll-out of the Multisector Nutrition Plan in districts identified for field research as part of N/CRSP's agenda (more detail in section 3 below).

#### **2.4 Y2 research funds awarded - Achieved**

During Y2, the ME focused on timely reporting (from its awardees and other partners, and from the ME to USAID), and set in place mechanisms for quality oversight of financial systems and reporting among awardees in country. The Y2 funds were fully disbursed by USAID at the level originally anticipated. Most of those funds have been dedicated to supporting the field research agenda (through agreed Nepal-based activities undertaken by Johns Hopkins University, NTAG, Helen Keller International, Heifer International, and Tufts University itself). Financial and contractual management continued to be strengthened, to the extent that an internal Tufts University audit of the N/CRSP awards during the summer returned a clean bill of health.

The ME has continued to work with the AOR to engage additional missions in Asia in pursuing potential Associate Awards under the N/CRSP mechanism. Dialogue has been pursued with mission staff in a number of countries, including India, Cambodia, Laos and Bangladesh. As of September 2012, the most likely Associate Award for Asia appears to be from Bangladesh. The ME will work with the mission, the AOR, and with other relevant CRSPs to facilitate a successful collaboration during Y3, and seek to establish as many links with the Nepal work as possible.

#### **2.5 Pre-“Lancet Series” workshop held in London before October 2012 - Achieved**

As noted above, the BoD and TAC had promoted the idea that N/CRSP should play a wider role in, a) broadening collaboration on agriculture-nutrition linkages (beyond USAID-funded projects) to compare and draw lessons from empirical data collected in more than the two or three country case studies under the N/CRSP, b) establish broad demand for the kinds of research outputs to be expected from N/CRSP research, and c) initiate a process of consultations with non-CRSP researchers—all with a view to preparing a series of papers that could be bundled for publication in a high-visibility publication such as the Lancet (but not restricted to that one journal).

These aims were taken forward by establishing a collaboration with the University of London's Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). A two-day workshop was jointly organized in London (at the University of London) in June, bringing together N/CRSP's core partners and a range of potential collaborators, including representatives of DIFD, REACH, the Institute for Development Studies, and N/CRSP's TAC. Presentations were made on a variety of multisector interventions that have nutrition goals and extensive discussion was had on study designs and analytical methods. It was a high caliber meeting that generated important ideas. As a result, it was decided that the group would, a) meet again in 2013 to take the discussion forward, including updates on the programs presented, identification of new programs to add to the mix, and further elaboration on the issue of appropriate metrics for assessing the effectiveness of multisector programs and nutrition-sensitive interventions; and b) work collegially towards a

series of linked papers for publication as a special issue of a to-be-identified publication (potentially the Lancet).

#### **2.6 Proceedings from Lancet workshop prepared for publication - **Achieved****

Subsequent to the meeting, a two-page workshop summary was prepared, with collective input from those present, and published on the LCIRAH website (copy attached), as well as being reformulated using the N/CRSP template and posted to the N/CRSP website. A second meeting was agreed for 2013, for which a more formal proceedings report will be prepared and published in the Food and Nutrition Bulletin (ideally by the end of 2013).

#### **2.7 N/CRSP website reviewed/updated – **Partly Achieved****

The BOD and TAC agreed that while the existing N/CRSP website is functional, it needs to be updated more systematically and reviewed periodically to ensure that it meets partner needs and presents an appropriate ‘face’ to the public. As such, the ME has been collecting suggestions from partners and users for improvements and areas where corrections to current content need to be made. Some modifications have already been made, but others require more time. The ME will, in Y3, recruit part-time technical support to enhance the functionality and look of the site, as well as ensuring that the site becomes more user-friendly.

#### **2.8 Nutrition highlighted in CRSP Council/Knowledge Management outputs - **Achieved****

The N/CRSPs have become active members of the CRSP Council, engaging with the other directors through frequent conference calls, ongoing email dialogue, and face-to-face meetings. The N/CRSPs played an important role as part of the group of directors presenting to, and interviewed by, the six members of BIFAD’s external review of CRSP modalities—which led to a strongly pro-CRSP report for the Administrator of USAID. N/CRSP has also participated in periodic conference calls with senior USAID staff as part of the CRSP Council

There has been extensive interaction with several other CRSPs on substantive research agendas of common interest, such as on aflatoxins with the Peanut CRSP, on micronutrient issues with the Horticulture CRSP, on animal source protein issues with the Livestock and Climate Change CRSP, and on issues relating to fish production and consumption with the AquaFish CRSP.

Constructive engagement with the other CRSPs has led to a much higher profile for nutrition as part of the collective ‘knowledge management’ activity of the CRSP Council, which seeks a more coherent communication to the outside world of the goals and activities of CRSPs. As a result, a new all-CRSP website has been established, which clearly highlights nutrition as a core topic (relevant to each CRSP), as well as the N/CRSP as one of the 10 free-standing entities. The quarterly CRSP Digest publication also highlighted N/CRSP activities since it started in early 2012.

### **3. Nepal-Based Research**

During Y2, extensive interaction with core partners, the USAID/Nepal Mission, and local collaborators led to important modifications to the proposed research design for fieldwork in Nepal. While the intent had been to mainly (although not exclusively) focus on the roll-out of the Suaahara program (formerly the Integrated Nutrition Program), it became clear in March 2012

that a different approach, uncoupled from Suaahara, would yield far more generalizable benefits to N/CRSP research while still allowing for lessons to be learned from the Suaahara activity itself. The main shift is not conceptual, but geographical. Rather than concentrate N/CRSP field resources mainly in those districts selected for early implementation of the program, which have become the focus of IFPRI data collection for the baseline survey, the N/CRSP ME and its local partners (mainly JHU but also Harvard and Purdue) decided that it would be preferable to undertake a stratified random sample across the country, and focus research on 21 districts so defined. Three of the 21 districts would subsequently serve as ‘sentinel sites’ for greater in-depth, intra-year, longitudinal data collection.

The 21 sites chosen (see map in Appendix 3) allow for N/CRSP to assess implementation of Suaahara in seven of the sites, the upcoming USAID Feed the Future program in four more of the sites, early roll-out of the government’s Multisector Nutrition Plan in four sites, the World Bank’s 1,000 Golden Days program in four sites, Winrock International’s DFID-funded aquaculture promotion program in four sites, the Poverty Action Fund’s nutrition-focused community challenge fund in one site, Heifer International’s integrated livestock and nutrition intervention in one site; in addition, there are four sites with no dedicated nutrition-specific interventions (several of these interventions overlap by district—see map in Appendix 8). The overall intent of the N/CRSP research remains the same: to conduct annual surveys at household/individual level in these sites, while complementing those with annual surveys/focus groups/or expert opinion interviews in the same sites but with service providers and policy makers/implementers as the unit of study. Please find more details in the sections below.

**Summary of Y2 Outputs – Nepal Research**

3.1	Operations Research workshop for core partners held	- Achieved
3.2	Study design for Nepal finalized and presented in Nepal	- Achieved
3.3	IRB review completed before end second quarter 2012	- Partly Achieved
3.4	Panel data collection initiated in at least 6 research sites	- Postponed
3.5	Stocktaking reviews and discrete studies defined and initiated	- Partly Achieved
3.6	Secondary data analyses undertaken/2 draft papers prepared	- Achieved
3.7	Desk reviews leading to at least 4 working papers/briefs drafted	- Partly Achieved
3.8	> 3 presentations made on N/CRSP-Asia at scientific meetings	- Achieved

**3.1 Operations research workshop for core partners held - **Achieved****

This workshop was held at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) on December 11, 2012. The ME team was joined there by representatives of nearly all core partners, along with a wider group of key researchers based at JHU as well as from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The N/CRSP has close ties with IFPRI both in Uganda, where local field research is overseen by a joint postdoctoral fellow (funded equally by N/CRSP and IFPRI), and in Nepal, where IFPRI has been contracted to undertake the baseline data collection for Suaahara. Methodological and technical details of N/CRSP research both in Asia and Africa were discussed in depth and considerable progress was made on approaches, design, sampling frames and instruments.



### 3.2 Study design for Nepal finalized (and presented in Nepal) - Achieved

Intensive discussions during the early part of 2012 with IFPRI, Suaahara leadership, and the USAID mission led to a substantive change in the N/CRSP research plan. It had been originally intended that N/CRSP would focus quite narrowly on the impact, effective roll-out at scale, and management of USAID's Integrated Nutrition Program (INP). That would have required N/CRSP to collaborate closely on data collection in the same locations chosen by IFPRI and USAID for the (sampled) baseline data collection to take place. After considerable discussion, it was decided that N/CRSP should be uncoupled from the IFPRI baseline sites because, a) those were non-randomly selected among the program's initial roll-out districts, b) counter-factual sites were selected through statistical matching, rather than randomized non-intervention sites, and c) a focus on early roll-out districts of a single program would restrict the kinds of information to be garnered about implementation of complex multisector programs in a variety of settings. In other words, the sampling approach pursued by IFPRI will allow it to measure impact in purposively selected sites, but it would not have been optimal to restrict N/CRSP research to those locations.

Instead, N/CRSP has pursued a research design that has many strengths: a) a degree of randomization, b) much more diversity of settings, c) an ability to capture lessons from the implementation of a much wider range of programming approaches, d) the possibility to explore the experience of roll out of the government's multisector nutrition plan through its line ministries and local partners (thus offering empirical information and real-time insights of value to the government), and e) an ability to track whatever secular changes and dynamics occur in several districts that are currently not targeted by any particular intervention.

It should be noted that collaboration with IFPRI and Suaahara partners is not negatively affected by that decision. An MOU was signed with Suaahara in August 2012 to formalize collaborative intent, while a data-sharing and co-authorship agreement is being explored with IFPRI to allow for sharing and partnership on analysis and presentation of results. Household and individual survey instruments to be used by N/CRSP build on (and largely replicate) those used by IFPRI for the baseline, so comparability and overlap in terms of approach will be maximized. There is also value to the fact that IFPRI's 8 districts for the baseline survey have little overlap with N/CRSP's 21 sites, meaning that there will be greater geographic coverage of collected data relevant to questions on integrated multisectoral programming than had all surveys been co-located.

### 3.3 IRB review completed before end second quarter 2012 - Partly Achieved

Based on the new plan and timeline for primary data collection, the ME submitted a first survey instrument for IRB approval at Tufts University in early September 2012. The request for exemption was approved and initial interviews with key informants in Kathmandu went ahead that month. Additional instruments will likely be submitted to the Tufts board in early October. The intent is to submit the Tufts-cleared instruments to a Nepal IRB process during October, at roughly the same time as JHU submit their (related) instruments that will have been approved by the Johns Hopkins IRB. While the timing of these various submissions is later than anticipated, it reflects the changes that had to be made to the orientation of the N/CRSP field research. That said, the process of IRB approvals is now well underway.

### 3.4 Panel data collection initiated in at least six research sites - Postponed

Data collection could not start as early as planned, in part because the roll-out of Suaahara was delayed for some months, which had a knock-on effect on discussions relating to the data collection approach and instruments for baseline surveys with IFPRI; and partly because discussions with IFPRI during February and March 2012 led to the significant shift in study design noted above. IFPRI's own baseline data collection was delayed until the summer of 2012, while the N/CRSP's household data collection is now planned to start during November/December 2012. That said, the N/CRSP's policy-relevant data collection (with key informants at the central government level) did start in September 2012 once IRB approval had been granted for that set of instruments.

### 3.5 Stocktaking reviews and discrete studies defined and initiated - Partly Achieved

A series of five desk reviews (supplemented by key informant interviews) were planned for Y2. The first relating to identified strengths and gaps in education/training curricula in Nepal was completed and summarized as a research brief. That served as a basis for discussion with academic and other institutions in Nepal on training needs, educational content, and the potential for collaboration on degree-granting initiatives. A second review on curricula relevant to nutrition, health and food security embedded in teaching and training on agriculture has been completed. A third completed study (prepared as an N/CRSP research brief) focused on what is known about Nepal's Open Defecation Free villages—further analysis on this during Y3 will lead to a more formal publication.

Two other reviews (of training needs at service provider level, and district-level opinions on, and approaches to, integrated programming) could not be completed due to postponement of the field data collection activity. Those reviews will entail interaction at field level with practitioners and at district level with ministry staff. Since field surveys could not be initiated in the original time-frame, such reviews will be pursued in Y3 once N/CRSP has presence on the ground.

### 3.6 Secondary data analyses undertaken/two draft papers prepared- Achieved

While new (primary) data collection will be at the core of N/CRSP research in Nepal, an important corollary will be complex analyses of secondary data relevant to answering questions core to the CRSP mandate. For example, discussions with the Livestock and Climate Change CRSP are opening up potential for linking data on agriculture, health and nutrition with layers of data on rainfall and climate dynamics—discussions are ongoing with this, and other, CRSPs on the potential to link nutrition data with other agriculture and resource economics data in novel ways.

One such approach was to explore whether any impact of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) interventions in Nepal could be identified through DHS survey findings. That preliminary analysis supported the research brief on open defecation free villages and nutrition. A second activity along these lines is the analysis of data collected by an NGO (Heifer International) allowed exploration of potential nutrition impacts of small ruminant production in Nepal's Terai. The latter analysis was presented at Experimental Biology as an oral presentation. The aims of the study are to examine child diet quality by age, gender, season, and location and assess the early stage impacts of the intervention on child diet quality, indicated by dietary diversity scores (DDS)

and animal source food (ASF) consumption. A full draft of the paper is planned by end 2012. This latter analysis relates to the initial rounds of data collection conducted by Heifer International in Nepal (Nawalparasi district, which is one of N/CRSPs 21 survey sites), on which subsequent rounds of data collection will build as part of N/CRSP-supported research.

### 3.7 Desk reviews leading to at least four working papers/briefs drafted – **Partly Achieved**

It was planned to undertake four studies focused on the substantive issues that frame N/CRSP research; namely, a) analysis of transmission mechanisms of agriculture impact on nutrition, b) research methods applied to integrated multisector programming, c) an updated review of evidence of impact of food-based programming, and d) a review of constraints to young child feeding in South Asia, focused on complementary foods. Two of these were achieved, leading to drafts of research briefs or working papers (attached); the third on constraints to young child feeding in South Asia and the fourth, on analysis of transmission mechanisms of agriculture impact on nutrition are still underway, to be completed in Y3.

### 3.8 At least three presentations made on N/CRSP-Asia work at scientific meetings - **Achieved**

The Program Director (Webb) talked about N/CRSP Asia work at the Scientific Symposium organized under N/CRSP auspices in Kathmandu, March 21/22 (2012); at a seminar for the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, May 1, 2012; at a seminar for USAID staff in Washington, D.C., May 3, 2012; during opening remarks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) and European Association of Agricultural Economics (EAAE) symposium on Food Environments, Boston, May 30/31, 2012; and to the multi-stakeholder Nepal Nutrition Group (NNG) at the August 2012 meeting in Kathmandu. In addition, Eileen Kennedy, Co-Program Director, has made presentations that raise awareness of N/CRSP-Asia’s research agenda at several Scaling Up Nutrition meetings (including in the context of the General Assembly meeting in NYC during September 2012), as well as making a formal presentation to the Nepal Technical Advisory Group in early September 2012.

## 4. Nepal-Based Capacity-Building

The capacity-building role of N/CRSP is widely recognized in Nepal and much appreciated. Year 2 activities focused in two areas: on the one hand, arranging two large meetings of professionals in Kathmandu to facilitate and catalyze discussion in the country across many stakeholder groups on the major challenges faced in tackling the country’s diverse nutrition problems; and on the other hand, increasing the number of students receiving trainings (formal degree as well as non-degree) relevant to filling identified skills gaps across sectors in Nepal.

### Summary of Y2 Outputs – Capacity Building

4.1 Recommendations made on curriculum enhancements in Nepal	- Achieved
4.2 One Nepalese enrolled in doctoral study at Tufts (N/CRSP-funded)	- Achieved
4.3 Four Nepalese identified for BBNC training in India (January 2012)	- Achieved
4.4 Two Nepalese enrolled in Tufts’ Master’s degree in 2012	- Not achieved
4.5 Government officials attended workshop on Evidence-Based Policymaking	- Achieved
4.6 Forty professionals attended a meeting on issues in public health nutrition	- Achieved
4.7 Forty professionals attended training on grant writing and research	- Achieved

#### 4.1 Recommendations made on curriculum enhancements in Nepal – Achieved

The ME has interacted closely with several of its academic partners in country, including the Institute of Medicine (with which an MOU framing collaboration around capacity building and research is close to being finalized), Tribhuvan University, the Nepal Public Health Foundation, Patan Academy, the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), and more. Concretely, the ME was asked by Patan Academy of Medical Sciences to review a draft curriculum for its proposed Master's in Public Health with a specialization in nutrition. Extensive comments were provided, leading to ongoing discussion about content and delivery modalities. IIDS continues to explore the potential for a new masters' degree affiliated with Tribhuvan on resource economics (and possibly with the ME), to include components dealing with health and nutrition. There has been much discussion at national level on the needs for degree and non-degree trainings, and the ME continues to interact directly with IOM and the Ministry of Health's Child Health Division in exploring needs, models and modes of training. The ME and several of its partners have shared details of US-based degree programs relevant to Nepal's identified skills gaps, and will explore a facilitation role in Y3 in bringing together local institutions for one or more meetings focused on a coordinated Nepal-owned approach to curriculum enhancement relevant to nutrition.

#### 4.2 One Nepalese enrolled in doctoral study at Tufts (N/CRSP-funded) - Achieved

Prajula Mulmi was recruited to start a Ph.D. program at the Friedman School under N/CRSP auspices starting in September 2012. She received her MPH degree from Brown University, and has a strong interest in multisector approaches to development that link agriculture and nutrition.

#### 4.3 Four Nepalese identified for BBNC training in India (January 2012) – Achieved

The goal of sending four Nepalese to India for the annual intensive trainings in research methods for nutrition was exceeded since seven attended. Two of the seven were women. One was a researcher from Tribhuvan University and another from the child health research project of the Institute of Medicine. Two were professionals from the National Planning Commission, while one was from the Nepal Public Health Foundation, and one was a government officer from a district health office.

#### 4.4 Two Nepalese enrolled in Tufts' Masters degree in 2012 - Not achieved

This goal was not achieved because new hires into the hybrid distance learning degree program were suspended after the Tufts' partner in the activity, the United Arab Emirates, decided not to renew its involvement in a second phase of this program. As a result, the existing intake of students in the program (including two Nepalese matriculated in Y1) will complete their studies and graduate under the current program arrangement, but no additional Nepalese students were able to start that program. Instead, a new blended program is being formulated (to start in September 2013) that will have a physical residency period in Boston rather than in Dubai or Ras al Khaimah. The potential for Nepalese students to be enrolled in this new, US-based program will be assessed during Y2.

#### 4.5 Government officials attended workshop on Evidence-Based Policymaking - Achieved

The original idea for Y2 had been to convene several workshops for mainly government officials

to discuss issues directly relevant to research; namely, the evidence base for policymaking, and research priorities in public health and nutrition. It became clear, through discussion with counterparts in Nepal, that wider stakeholder engagement in such dialogues would be preferable. As a result, the smaller workshops were subsumed under two much larger conference-style meetings. The first, held in November 2011, was framed as a stakeholder forum that brought together a wide range of participating institutions, including the Nepal Government's National Planning Commission, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Local Development, as well as many other agencies/ organizations working in nutrition, health, and agriculture. The objectives were to: i) discuss priorities for research and programming around nutrition, health and agriculture in Nepal, ii) understand the multi-sectoral process on integrating health, nutrition and agriculture, iii) gain insights on capacity building needs, and iv) promote demand for empirical rigor and the development of an evidence base around integrated programming (see Appendix 5 for the conference report). A total of 115 participants attended the two-day workshop, held November 22-23, 2011.

#### 4.6 Forty professionals attended a meeting on issues in public health nutrition - **Achieved**

Building on the earlier stakeholder forum, a 2nd large meeting was organized to focus on the science and research needed to achieve Nepal's policy and programming goals. A Scientific Symposium was organized for March 21/22, 2012, using internationally recognized processes and standards, including a call for abstracts (that were vetted), on-line registration, and peer review of presentations. Co-hosted with the Institute of Medicine and the National Agricultural Research Center, this symposium sought to, a) generate country level consensus on what is known (empirically) about agriculture's role in nutrition and models of effective multisector intervention. More than 140 individuals attended both days of the meeting, representing the full spectrum of professionals from academia through program implementers, policy makers and donors. The symposium was so successful that calls were made for this to become an annual event. The ME therefore plans to support this activity again in Y3 (see appendix 4 – report on the symposium).

#### 4.7 Conducted Grant Proposal Writing Workshop – **Achieved**

Co-organized and hosted by Tribhuvan University's Department of Community Health and Public Medicine, this workshop was conducted on July 25-27, 2012, in Kathmandu. Its goal was to help academic and non-academic professionals in Nepal to, a) identify research priorities and needs in their domains of work, b) articulate key research questions and propose rigorous methods to study them, c) have a clearer understanding on how to respond to calls for research proposals, and d) be able to evaluate and select appropriate funding opportunities and respond to them effectively with proposals. The audience was Nepalese researchers and research administrators in nutrition-related fields (dealing with public health, agriculture, political science, or economics). Some 30 participants attended, of whom 15 were women. Presentations were made by ME faculty as well as local academics. Feedback from the workshop was very positive (Appendix 6).

#### Additional Activities

The ME and its partners were extensively engaged during Y2 with in-country collaborators on reviewing and offering comments on the government's draft multisector nutrition plan, contributing to local dialogue on complementary feeding practices and needs, reviewing and

offering extensive suggestions on IFPRI's draft baseline survey instruments, and so on. In other words, there are many important, discrete activities undertaken in the field under N/CRSP auspices that go beyond activities formally considered in the annual implementation plan.

### **Summary of Y2 Capacity-Building Activities**

#### Student enrollment in degree and non-degree trainings

Tufts University	39 (7 BBNC, 1 Ph.D., 2 Masters students, 29 in workshops)
Johns Hopkins	3 (1 MPH, 2 summer course participants)
Harvard	1 (1 summer course participant)
Purdue	1 (1 Ph.D.)
Tuskegee	1 (1 Masters student)

#### Total N/CRSP-Asia capacity-building results (Y2):

- 2 Nepalese Ph.D. students currently studying in the US
- 2 Nepalese Masters students currently studying in the US
- 2 Nepalese Masters students studying with N/CRSP support outside of the US
- 29 Nepalese trained in workshops during the year in Nepal
- >100 Nepalese exposed to rigorous scientific method at the scientific symposium

### **5. Financial and Administrative Issues**

The ME worked closely with its core partners to establish sub-contracts and scopes of work for Y2 allowing for disbursement of funds to enable their activities to begin. We awarded over \$400,000 to our partners for their core activities. Over \$100,000 was awarded to Nepalese partners. These funds were used to strengthen the N/CRSP's work to support small research projects and for large-scale research collaboration projects. The funds were also used for capacity-building initiatives that included individual student training locally, small workshops for policy and health care professionals and large meetings and symposiums that brought together the best scientists and policy makers from around the world.

In addition, research collaboration was expanded to include a new partner (Heifer International), awarded \$200,000 for in-country research that will fold into the larger NCRSP activity. We are pleased to report that, given this large scale financial activity in the ISA and internationally, we received a stellar audit report. This speaks volumes to the fiscal accountability that the ME maintains as well as the partnership the ME holds with all the domestic and international institutions.

Dr. Paul Giguere, Associate Director for Communications, left Tufts in August 2012. He was not replaced in the N/CRSP ME through the end of Y2. An assessment will be made of how to share his role among other members of the team for Y3.

## 6. Overall Progress towards FTF Indicators

Discussion continued during Y2 with USAID/Washington and USAID/Nepal on issues relating to the appropriate choice of indicators needing to be collected in the context of N/CRSP activity in Asia. Agreement was reached with the mission that a) it is important to avoid duplication of reporting, and b) N/CRSP should avoid reporting on outcomes that can be claimed as achievements by the programs being studied. In other words, N/CRSP needs to focus on reporting outcomes related directly to its own activities (research and capacity-building), while the implementing partners of USAID programs should report on outcomes achieved (including nutrition outcomes, hunger perceptions, food security status, etc.) As a result, the activities and indicators reported on by N/CRSP in relation to Feed the Future outcomes were adjusted, in consultation with the AOR, in July 2012 (see Appendix 8). The adjustment reflected consultation with technical staff in USAID/Washington and consultation with other CRSP directors.

In terms of research, N/CRSP has focused on establishing an agreed survey design and key questions to be answered through data collected at household, community, ward, VDC, district, program management, and central policy levels. Close interaction with IFPRI, the Suaahara program management, and USAID mission staff has allowed for a more refined survey approach with a potential to yield a wider range of lessons learned of global relevance than originally anticipated. The outcome indicators agreed to under the rubric of research relate to a) enhanced capacity of US and host institutions to undertake research in the complex realm of agriculture-to-nutrition linkages and multisector programming, b) surveys relevant to nutrition undertaken or reported on/disseminated, and c) institutions or individuals completing a nutrition assessment of some kind. Progress on these outcomes was constrained by the delays in rolling-out field data collection; that said, targets were still met. The number of Nepalese institutions having enhanced capacity for nutrition research of various kinds (N/CRSP Output Indicator 1) through trainings of individuals and/or direct collaboration with N/CRSP on research activities was at least 10 (the Institute of Medicine, Nepal Medical College, New Era, Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal Public Health Foundation, Valley Group, Nepal Technical Advisory Group, Nepal Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal Health Research Council, Helen Keller International, Heifer International, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, and National Planning Commission).

In terms of food consumption and nutrition surveys (N/CRSP Output Indicator 2), at least three were initiated with N/CRSP support—including Harvard's study with IOM in Bhaktapur district, start of the next round of data collection at the Heifer International site by NTAG, and initiation of the Suaahara baseline (by IFPRI and New Era) using instruments co-developed with N/CRSP and to which data N/CRSP will have access once cleaned. The planned fourth survey (the main N/CRSP data collection with Johns Hopkins) was, as noted above, delayed until the end of 2012.

N/CRSP Output Indicator 3 (US or Nepalese institutions or individuals having undertaken an assessment, survey or gap analysis) was met: a gap assessment was conducted by DAI in Nepal on quality complementary foods (see list of working papers), involving 2 Nepalese and 2 US-based professionals; initial interviews were undertaken for an analysis of curriculum and training gaps with key informants by one Nepalese and one US faculty member working for N/CRSP; the IOM survey undertaken in collaboration with Harvard included three Nepalese researchers (see

partner report from Harvard); three Nepalese have worked on the Heifer International data collection in Nawalparasi. In each case, further analysis is required to complete full papers.

Due to the delays in implementation of N/CRSP field research, the potential to submit formal papers to peer-reviewed journals (N/CRSP Output Indicator 8) was constrained. That said, one conceptual piece will hopefully be submitted to a journal like *Science*, and several drafts of papers have been put together in the form of working papers and research briefs. Appendix 9 provides a list of all research briefs and working papers of the Global N/CRSP and N/CRSP Asia in particular. Many of these will be further elaborated into formal papers for publication in Y3.

N/CRSP Output Indicator 9 relates to briefs and presentations co-authored with host country institutions. During the Scientific Symposium, one presentation was co-authored by Tufts, NTAG and several local Nepalese researchers, while the Proceedings of the Symposium (called Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in Nepal-Taking Stock and Defining Priorities; see report attached in Appendix 6 and list of working paper series for proceedings) was co-authored by N/CRSP partners and Nepalese collaborators. Two presentations made at the grant writing workshop were developed collaboratively between Nepal academics and N/CRSP (Tufts) faculty. One of the working papers (on CLTS) is co-authored with Nepalese author.

N/CRSP-Asia's capacity building activities continue to strengthen. The ME and its partners took on the training of five degree students (longer-term, N/CRSP Output Indicator 4) from Nepal during Y2 (in addition to two in Y1 who continue to pursue their Master's degree with Tufts). The total number was slightly lower than planned due to the non-extension of the Tuft's led hybrid Master's degree with the United Arab Emirates. Another 39 Nepalese received formal "short term" trainings (N/CRSP Output Indicator 5) in multi-week certificate programs (at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and St. John's Research Institute in Bangalore), or in multiday workshops (such as the grant writing workshop in Kathmandu).

The number of US and host country institutions with enhanced capacity to design, implement, and evaluate nutrition programs or policies (N/CRSP Output Indicator 6) continues to grow—with two key Nepalese professionals focused on monitoring and evaluation in Helen Keller International and Save the Children learning a great deal from N/CRSP interaction with IFPRI on the Suaahara baseline, three NTAG staff gaining cutting edge knowledge on study design through involvement in organization and implementation of the scientific symposium as well as involvement in the grant writing workshop, and two individuals working in the National Planning Commission and Ministry of Health trained in India (through the BBNC certificate program).

N/CRSP Output Indicator 7 relates to individuals gaining enhanced capacity in clinic, operational, or translational research focused on reduced malnutrition. One female researcher at NTAG has had intensive interaction with Tufts and Johns Hopkins researchers, honing her own skills for research on analysis of secondary data on nutrition from the DHS surveys; four Nepalese were directly involved in developing presentations for the scientific symposium (under N/CRSP guidance) and presenting results; two senior academics linked to IOM were fully involved in the preparation and conduct of the grant training workshop, and they gained knowledge of the latest thinking on research protocols, approaches and skills requirements.



## 7. Y2 Project Performance Narrative - Summary

- Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program – Asia (N/CRSP-Asia)
- Tufts University
- The mission of N/CRSP- Asia is to discover how policy and program interventions can most effectively achieve large-scale improvements in maternal and child nutrition, particularly when leveraging agriculture.
- The program emphasizes a) operationally relevant research that can support national governments across Asia in their attempts to improve nutrition, health, and agricultural productivity, and b) human and institutional capacity-building in the domain of food and nutrition policy analysis.
- During FY12, N/CRSP-Asia established itself as a major asset by the Nepal’s government, and by its academic and practitioner communities, in the search for viable evidence-based solutions to the country’s many nutrition problems. N/CRSP has a) developed strong relations with key national bodies (such as the Ministry of Health, National Planning Commission, and the Institute of Medicine), b) established a program of research that will yield rich findings on key questions relevant to Nepal’s government, to USAID, and to the global research community, and c) quickly established itself as a facilitator of human and institutional capacity-building supportive of local policy-relevant research. A large network of collaborators has been established through the signing of memoranda of understanding (as with the Child Health Division of the Ministry of Health, the Suaahara Program (funded by USAID), and soon with the Institute of Medicine.
- The main challenges for N/CRSP-Asia during Y2 were a) delays in the roll-out of USAID/Nepal contracts for the Suaahara program, which b) led to delays in finalizing research protocols for the baseline data collection for Suaahara. This meant that the initiation of field data collection, originally planned by IFPRI (commissioned to do the work) had to be postponed until the end of 2012. While the delay had a knock-on effect in terms of N/CRSPs ability to start generating field data-based analyses and publications, the upshot was ultimately favorable in that the research design subsequently agreed upon will be appropriate to answering a much wider range of important questions than was originally anticipated. By the end of Y2, the research agenda was moving forward rapidly, and demand for insights and findings is already growing.
- The N/CRSP-Asia is, so far, active in Nepal and Bangladesh. It also supports short-term trainings in India for qualified candidates from across the region.
- Other key partners in the US include Harvard University, Tuskegee University, Purdue University and Johns Hopkins University, as well as Development Alternatives, Inc. Key partners in Nepal include the Institute of Medicine, Tribuvan University, the National Agricultural Research Center, the Nepal Technical Assistance Group, Helen Keller International, Save the Children, and Heifer International.

**8. N/CRSP-Asia Story** (Patrick Webb, Tufts University, [Patrick.webb@tufts.edu](mailto:Patrick.webb@tufts.edu))

The N/CRSP-Asia is a multidisciplinary research consortium focused on generating empirically rigorous findings on how best to leverage agriculture for improved nutrition (an issue of global relevance), while building national institutional and human capacity that supports country-owned analysis of local problems and of cost-effective solutions at scale. In Nepal, the Nutrition CRSP (N/CRSP) has worked hand-in-hand with various parts of government on both of these critical goals.

In Nepal, the N/CRSP focused on three quick-win objectives. First, to help raise the bar on in-country dialogue on nutrition problems and potential food-based solutions. Although much discussed, such issues have a limited empirical base in Nepal. Thus, the N/CRSP organized a large scientific symposium in March 2012 to promote sharing and understanding of policy-relevant evidence. Using international processes and standards, including a call for abstracts, on-line registration, and peer review of presentations, the meeting was co-hosted with Nepal's Institute of Medicine and its National Agricultural Research Center, and chaired throughout by the National Planning Commission. Over 140 policy makers, politicians, scholars and donors attended. The success was such that N/CRSP was asked to make this an annual event.



Second, the Joint Secretary (Social Development Division) of the National Planning Commission (NPC) secretariat of the government of Nepal decided to link itself directly with the N/CRSP's agenda through the creation, in May 2012, of a national advisory group comprising seventeen individuals nominated from different academic and research institutions and ministries to advise and oversee the activities of the N/CRSP in Nepal. The group is chaired by the Joint Secretary of the NPC and includes representatives from five separate lines ministries. The intent is to help prioritize N/CRSP's research so that it contributes to country needs and identify areas where N/CRSP can help strengthen human and institutional capacity supportive of improved nutrition. In tandem, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the N/CRSP and the Ministry of Health, to facilitate interactions with government staff at all levels. These moves by the government represent high-level political recognition of the potential for the N/CRSP to conduct research and capacity-building activities of direct relevance to the government, while at the same time producing public goods of the rigor and stature to be relevant globally.

The third immediate goal of the N/CRSP was to engage actively with stakeholders involved in the preparation of the government's ground-breaking Multisector Nutrition Plan. This involved many meetings with line ministries and close collaboration with NPC (which coordinated the complex process of plan formulation, discussion and finalization). Nepalese and international N/CRSP researchers were heavily involved in that process, which culminated in the government's formal approval of the plan in September 2012. N/CRSP's research and capacity-building activities in coming years will contribute directly to the successful implementation of this national plan which aims to effectively link agriculture, health and nutrition.

## **Appendices**

1. Compiled minutes and resolutions of the N/CRSP global BOD and TAC meetings, Year 2
2. N/CRSP-Asia leadership, 2011/12
3. Letter from National Planning Commission on establishment of Nepal TAC
4. Map of likely research sites in Nepal
5. Report on Stakeholder Forum
6. Report on Scientific Symposium
7. Report on Grant Writing workshop
8. Activities and Outputs, N/CRSP-Asia Year 2 (FY2012) – REVISED JULY 2012
9. Research briefings
10. Appended Partner Reports

## Appendix 1: Compiled Minutes of BOD and TAC for Year 2

### Minutes

**Third Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Programs (Nutrition CRSP)  
June 2012  
Holiday Inn Mayfair, London, UK**

**Present:** Eileen Kennedy, Patrick Webb, Will Masters, Christopher Duggan, Jeffrey Griffith, Keith West, Rolf Klemm, Eunice Bonsi, Maura Mack, Pascasie Adedze, Nilupa Gunaratna.

#### 1. Welcome and Opening Comments

1.1 **Patrick Webb and Jeffrey Griffiths** welcomed the Board of Directors and reported on the momentum and visibility of the Nutrition CRSP.

1.2 **Maura Mack**, as the new AOR, also welcomed the group and reported that USAID is pleased with the progress of N/CRSP in both Africa and Asia and expressed gratitude to Tufts and the NCRSP team, and looked forward to a productive relationship. She also introduced **Pascasie Adedze** who, while still undergoing AOR training, has already become an active part of the team.

#### 1.3 Procedures (Webb)

1.3.1 Reviewed previous minutes from BOD meeting and opened the meeting to any comments. Motion made by Will Masters to adopt the minutes and seconded by Keith West. BOD unanimously approved minutes.

1.3.2 Reviewed and approved the day's agenda.

#### 2. Report on BIFAD review of CRSP modality

2.1 Following a very brief overview of Year 1 global activities of the Nutrition CRSP, **Webb** and **Griffiths** reported on the external review of CRSPs commissioned by BIFAD at the request of the USAID administrator. The review seeks to understand how well the CRSP modality for engagement with US universities for research on developing country-relevant topics is working today (roughly 30 years after inception). The review team has been undertaking an assessment of all aspects of all CRSP activities. It was reported that some CRSP MEs have assumed that an alternative model is likely to be proposed and that this may represent the end of the CRSP 'as we know it'; others feel that this is an opportunity to present CRSP strengths and widen awareness of how well CRSPs perform with limited funding. Interviews with the Nutrition CRSP ME personnel have been very productive and collaborative in nature, rather than critical. Key points raised included a) how closely CRSPs are working with local missions, b) whether cost-effectiveness of CRSP activities has been demonstrated, and c) whether the model of having a few universities with long-term CRSP contracts make sense. A draft report is due in August 2012.

**2.2** In this context, it was suggested that the NCRSPs make a more concerted effort to link with other CRSPs to achieve wider understanding of how their various research foci are collectively linked to overall USAID goals. A motion was tabled and voted on (see **Resolution 1, Annex 1**).

**2.3 Webb** shared that a recent draft of US Senate version of the Farm Bill has \$32 million dedicated to CRSP research. He also shared that CRSP awareness-raising activities are now focused around an NGO (called Cultural Practice) based in DC which has been retained by the CRSP Council to lobby on CRSP's behalf. Deborah Rubin (former post-doc of Eileen Kennedy) is director (see <http://www.culturalpractice.com/>) He also mentioned that he had given presentations on the overall Nutrition CRSP research agenda at USAID and at the World Bank, seeing to build a network of intellectual partners and donor supporters.

### **3. Updates on program implementation - Africa**

**3.1 Jeffrey Griffiths** offered an update on progress since the last BOD meeting in establishing a presence in Uganda, connections with the USAID mission, Community Connector and other partners in the country.

### **4. Updates on program implementation - Asia**

**Patrick Webb** reported on progress in relation to Nepal:

4.1 He noted that process has been slow but steady—delays in rolling out the USAID Suaahara program (formerly INP) led to delays in rolling out the baseline data collection (for which IFPRI was commissioned). NCRSP has been a key part of the collaborative group working together on baseline methodology and instrument preparation. Intensive discussions during March led to the conclusion that NCRSP could not (as previously intended) link closely with IFPRI in terms of research sites (because the needs of the baseline data collection/impact assessment do not match the needs of the NCRSP for randomization, greater spatial coverage of agroecologies across the country, and greater openness to non-Suaahara interventions). As a result, the NCRSP will design its own sample frame, while still based household-level surveys on the core instruments used by IFPRI to allow for comparability in interpreting results. It was pointed out that while NCRSP in Nepal will indeed be able to research process as well as impact of Suaahara implementation, it will go beyond that and be able to speak more broadly about a variety of government and other donor intervention types and approaches. In this context a motion was tabled to encourage the NCRSPs to play an active role in global discussions on the search for relevant metrics of integrated programming and the leveraging of agriculture for nutrition (see **Resolution 2, Annex 1**).

4.2 An NCRSP-Asia office has now been firmly established within the headquarters of Helen Keller International in KTM. Relations with HKI are good, the latter providing financial and administrative support, as well as physical space. Since HKI are a key partner in Suaahara, this allows for good entrée to ongoing discussions with core partners. NCRSP has notional office space also in NTAG, but we have not used that much so far.

- 4.3 GoN (Government of Nepal) has established a formal advisory technical committee (Nepal TAC) to advise the Nutrition CRSP and, potentially, to oversee all research in the country relating to research on integrated programming relation to nutrition. A first meeting of the NTAC was held in Kathmandu in May 2012.
- 4.4 The focus of the rest of Y2 of the NCRSP in Asia will be to finalize research design for Nepal, and push forward with an RFA for field data collection, and clearance of survey instruments through IRBs in the US and Nepal. MOUs are expected to be finalized with the Child Health Division of Ministry of Health, with the Institute of Medicine (as the local academic partner for NCRSP), with Suaahara (as a program partner also funded by USAID), and also with Heifer International (as part of a widening of the stakeholder network of collaborators in field research).

## 5. Update on Associate Awards

- 5.1 **Griffiths** shared that in addition to the early Associate Award from Mali (conducted in December 2010 and into 2011 on the strategic position of nutrition in the country's Feed the Future plan), there have been additional discussions with Mali on the themes of exclusive breast feeding, complementary foods, iron/folate, malaria prevention.
- 5.2 Additional associate award activity is likely with Malawi. Over a 3 year period, the ME will lead on capacity building with the agricultural college, curriculum design, food composition table creation, etc.). There is talk of support for a country-wide BCC campaign on exclusive breast feeding and quality complementary foods.
- 5.3 And there are discussions on potential associate awards with Ghana, Ethiopia and Bangladesh, although each of these is only at the exploration stage. **Griffiths** and **Kennedy** pointed out that ENGINE (Empowering New Generations in Improved Nutrition and Economic Opportunities: <http://ethiopia.usaid.gov/programs/global-health-initiative/projects/empowering-new-generations-improved-nutrition-and-economy>) is another USAID-funded initiative just starting in Ethiopia. Tufts plays a core role in that new activity which deals with many of the same issues as NCRSP. As a result, it makes sense to try to collect data in similar ways such that Ethiopia becomes a comparison country.

## 6. Capacity building activities.

- 6.1 **Webb** reported that for Asia, a successful Scientific Symposium was held in KTM at the end of March 2012 (co-hosted by the NCRSP and the Institute of Medicine of Nepal). The intent was not simply stakeholder discussion, but establishing a process of scientific endeavor in the country, with calls for abstracts, on-line registration, and reviewed presentations. The 2 day meeting had full participation of over 150 people, active dialogue, and strong agreement that this should be an annual event. Thanks are due to the JHU team for the efforts in making this work.
- 6.1.1 Training activities have proceeded well in Nepal. In addition to the 7 Nepalese students recruited for the Harvard-Tufts-St. John's training in Bangalore in January 2012, several students have been recruited for summer trainings at JHU and Harvard, the two MS students at Tufts continue to do well, and doctoral students have been recruited by Purdue and Tufts for the

Fall 2012 semester. A grant proposal writing workshop has been organized (in collaboration with the Institute of Medicine) for August 2012 in KTM. In this context, several motions were put to the vote on priority selection criteria for individuals seeking N/CRSP support for appropriate training and degree-programs (see **Resolutions 3 and 4, Annex 1**).

- 6.1.2 **Griffiths** reported on a workshop held in Jinja (Uganda) at the end of March 2012. N/CRSP- Africa hosted the 2.5 day workshop that aimed to develop a clear understanding of research design and analyses of large-scale integrated nutrition, health and agriculture programs. Over 40 participants attended including stakeholders from line ministries and district officials (health, agriculture, gender), USAID Uganda, international and national NGOs, USAID Community Connector program, IFPRI, IPA, VEDCO, BRAC Uganda and Makerere, Gulu, Kyamboga and Mbarara universities. Participants were introduced to the Community connector program as well to the concepts of impact, process evaluations and program impact pathways and developing research design using epidemiological and econometric methods. A review of research studies ranging from cross sectional to randomized controlled interventions and longitudinal cohort studies were provided. Discussions were held with district officials on the barriers and facilitators of program implementation and implementation research. The workshop was interactive and allowed students and faculty, line ministry and district officials to understand the importance of research design and methodology in developing an evidence base for future policy and programming around health, nutrition and agriculture in Uganda.

- 6.2 An important issue relates to criteria for selection of individuals from NCRSP countries to benefit from short or long-term training activities under CRSP auspices. While such criteria have not typically been formally codified and made public by other CRSPs, it is felt that NCRSP needs to have transparent criteria to apply to the many forms of support on offer. **Webb** committed the ME to coming up with draft criteria for selection, for comment by BOD members before the end of Y2.

## **7. Brief partner reports**

### **7.1 Johns Hopkins University**

- 7.1.1 **Keith West** explained that JHU was working mainly in Nepal for NCRSP, and had a) moved to the design and costing phase for fieldwork (the intent being to have a formal research proposal out in the form of an RFA (for a data collection company) by September 2012). The decision to steer away from 100% colocation with IFPRI's baseline surveys has led to a much better research design for CRSP purposes; b) one person has been hired to be based in Nepal (Sweta Manohar) and work alongside the ME's Diplav Sapkota to facilitate JHU activity on the ground; and c) considerable effort paid off in the success of the scientific symposium.

**7.2 Purdue University** was not represented at the BOD.

7.2.1 As a result, **Griffiths** reported that **Jerry Shively** has been directly involved in ongoing discussions with the Peanut CRSP and others on the potential for Uganda-based research relating to aflatoxins. Discussion was had around questions like, is aflatoxin exposure responsible for inflammation during pregnancy, anemia, child stunting? **Keith West** shared that JHU has some data among pregnant women in Nepal where levels seem significantly higher than past African studies. **Webb** will pursue the potential for collaboration on these Nepal data. East African USAID will possibly allow us to measure aflatoxin in our cohort studies in Uganda.

7.2.2 **Webb** also reported that **Shively** participated in the March 2012 Scientific Symposium in Nepal, and was engaged in NCRSP discussions both with IFPRI and Suaahara on research design, and with the Mission. It is likely that Purdue will engage with the Asia NCRSP primarily in relation to analysis of secondary data to answer key questions. Already they have prepared (regression-ready) data from the 2006 and 2011 DHSs for Nepal, and are linking these to national consumption surveys and GIS-linked data on agroecology and climate. Close interaction between Purdue and Tufts on such analyses is anticipated.

### **7.3 Tuskegee**

7.3.1 **Eunice Bonsi** explained that she is still interacting with academic partners in Nepal and Uganda to try to bring students into the US for fields of study relevant to the NCRSP objectives. She is hoping to have a good crop in Y3. She herself has remained active in the online discussions around research design, and was looking forward to the LICRAH-NCRSP workshop coming up.

### **7.4 Harvard SPH**

7.4.1 In Nepal, Harvard's school of public health has focused its activities in Bhaktapur district, seeking to analyze data on mother-infant pairs and establish a follow-up survey that will allow them to consider dietary trends in a peri-urban location, and how diet and nutrition/health outcomes match up over time. Data analysis has already started, and new data collection will be undertaken prior to the end of 2012.

**7.5 DAI** were not represented at the BOD.

7.5.1 DAI has identified partners to conduct an assessment of market potential for quality low-cost complementary food production in various parts of Nepal, including a qualitative assessment of why opportunities have not been taken to work with entrepreneurs in local complementary food production. They also see the need to conduct value chain assessment. A draft report is due by September 2012.



## **8. Research Publications and Dissemination**

8.1 Webb raised the idea of a formal MOU among CRSP partners to establish data sharing and rules for co-authorship up front. This was discussed, and the view was that a formal additional agreement was unnecessary since all core partners of NCRSP feel that they are bound by the partnership to share data and seek appropriate co-authorship as part of the NCRSP. It was also agreed that more formal MOUs with non-core partners would be important to ensure protection of/access to data as appropriate (for example with IFPRI), and to ensure local collaborator co-authorship as far as possible on all CRSP-related research publications.

## **9. Communication of CRSP activities**

- 9.1 There was discussion of the NCRSP website, the prevailing opinion being that the site is not sufficiently flexible to meet existing or future needs. Nor are updates made fast enough. It was widely agreed that a more dedicated web-management is required. The ME was tasked with pushing improvements on a priority basis, and to consider an additional technical hire to support such activity for Y3.
- 9.2 The fact that no policy briefs have yet been finalized was raised. It was reported by Webb that the template suggested by JHU had elicited a lot of discussion. The design issues have been more or less resolved (logos and references to CRSP etc. on front cover). There is also agreement that such policy briefs should be focused on policy-relevant issues core to the CRSP (integrated programming, leveraging agriculture for nutrition, best practice in nutrition interventions, etc.) rather than cover generic nutrition and health issues already published elsewhere.
- 9.3 There was discussion around the question of whether all BOD members should review drafts of policy briefs or working papers carrying NCRSP name. It was decided that prior to making any products public, the ME will alert BOD members and offer them the opportunity to review and make comments, but that a formal all-BOD review of drafts is unnecessary. At the same time, the Board took it on itself to be the peer-review body with regard to formal publications deriving from N/CRSP research. A motion was made to establish this principle (see **Resolution 5, Annex 1**).

## **10. Administrative Business**

- 10.1 **Maura Mack** presented a list of issues relating to use of TRAnet (for registering of foreign students). She offered to (re)send information by email on requirements and process. She reiterated the importance of ensuring that all necessary data be entered in a timely fashion.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10PM

## **Annex 1 (for the Minutes)**

### **Resolutions of the Third Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nutrition CRSP**

1. The Nutrition CRSPs should seek to engage with other CRSPs as appropriate to promote greater understanding of the important interfaces between public health, nutrition and agriculture, and with food systems more broadly.  
(Motion proposed by Eileen Kennedy, seconded by Chris Duggan). Approved unanimously.
2. Recognizing the catalytic role played so far by the Nutrition CRSPs in furthering the cross-disciplinary agenda framed by USAID's Feed the Future policy, the Nutrition CRSPs should seek to play an active role in the defining of common metrics for assessing the contribution of agriculture to nutrition goals, and the mechanisms by which impacts are achieved.  
(Motion proposed by Keith West, seconded by Jeff Griffiths). Approved unanimously.
3. The Nutrition CRSP should prioritize its capacity-building activities (degrees, short-course training, workshops, etc.) towards appropriately-qualified nationals from government service, academia, and think tank institutions, as well as professionals working in fields related to nutrition, public health or agriculture in national research centers and appropriate non-governmental organizations. Individuals from such institutions supported for any such capacity-building should work in, or seek study leading towards, fields directly related to the goals and mandate of the N/CRSP.  
(Motion proposed by Will Masters, seconded by Chris Duggan). Approved unanimously.
4. The Board of Directors of N/CRSP tasks the ME to establish clear criteria for the selection of individuals for each form of capacity-building, including approaches to recruitment, basis for selection, and post-training requirements of successful candidates. Additional guidelines will specify the role of N/CRSP in supporting successful training and post-training career growth.  
(Motion proposed by Keith West, seconded by Eileen Kennedy). Approved unanimously.
5. The Board of Directors of N/CRSP will assume responsibility for reviewing proposals for peer-reviewed publications deriving from N/CRSP research. The Board tasks the ME to establish criteria for co-authorship, including, but not restricted to, CITI certification, and the nature of 'substantive contribution'.  
(Motion proposed by Will Masters, seconded by Rolf Klemm). Approved unanimously.

## Minutes

### Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Programs (Nutrition CRSP) June 2012 Holiday Inn Mayfair, London, UK

**Present:** Eileen Kennedy, Patrick Webb, Will Masters, Christopher Duggan, Jeffrey Griffith, Keith West, Rolf Klemm, Shibani Ghosh, Eunice Bonsi, Maura Mack, Pascasie Adedze, Richard Deckelbaum, Shakuntala Tilsted, Nilupa Gunaratna.

#### 1. Welcome and Opening Comments

1.1 **William Masters** and **Shibani Ghosh** chairing offered welcomed the members of the technical advisory committee (TAC)

1.2 **Maura Mack**, as the new AOR, also welcomed the group and reported that USAID is pleased with the progress of N/CRSP in both Africa and Asia and expressed gratitude to Tufts and the NCRSP team, and looked forward to a productive relationship. She also introduced **Pascasie Adedze** who, while still undergoing AOR training, has already become an active part of the team.

#### 1.3 Review of Agenda

1.3.1 **Patrick Webb** reviewed the day's agenda (which received approval) and briefly presented on discussions and decisions taken by the BOD on the day before. These were summarized as i) promoting close interaction between Nutrition CRSP and the other CRSPs to enhance understanding of cross-sectoral linkages, ii) moves towards defining common metrics for understanding links among agriculture, health and nutrition, iii) a need to better define priorities in seeking and selecting candidates for N/CRSP supported trainings, and iv) issues relating to data sharing and authorship; BOD agreed to oversee paper ideas. It was noted that 5 BoD resolutions were approved on these issues during the day.

#### 2. Overview of activities in Africa.

2.1 **Jeffrey Griffiths, Shibani Ghosh Nilupa and Chris Duggan** all offered updates on progress since the last TAC meeting in establishing a presence in Uganda, connections with the USAID mission, Community Connector and other partners in the country. Community Connector (USAID-funded effort) has met with district leaders and NADS (National Ag Assistance Program of Uganda), Chief Medical Officers, etc. to assess each community's specific needs and designing individualized intervention. It is the effectiveness of these interventions that N/CRSP is designed to measure. The N/CRSP plans to work in both north and southwest Uganda, which differ in terms of rates of undernutrition, anemia, and agriculture. Discussion focused on whether or not to focus on process variables (input, throughput and output variables) more than outcome variables (e.g., rates of stunting, anemia) -- especially due to the limited cluster size and highly variable number of interventions.

2.2 **Jeff Griffiths** also shared that in addition to the early Associate Award from Mali (conducted in December 2010 and into 2011 on the strategic position of nutrition in the country's Feed the Future plan), there have been additional discussions with Mali on the themes of exclusive breast feeding, complementary foods, iron/folate, malaria prevention. Additional associate award activity is likely with Malawi. Over a 3 year period, the ME will lead on capacity building with the agricultural college, curriculum design, food composition table creation, etc.). There is talk of support for a country-wide BCC campaign on exclusive breast feeding and quality complementary foods. And there are discussions on potential associate awards with Ghana and Ethiopia.

### 3. Overview of activities in Asia

3.1 **Patrick Webb** reported on progress in relation to Nepal. He noted that process has steady, and collaboration with many stakeholders in the country has strengthened. He elaborated on the study design, with JHU leading a 21 district annual household survey (complemented by intra-annual data collection in 3 of those sites), dovetailing with Tufts research on process from ward level up to central level. This approach is uncoupled from the original idea of linking with the Suaahara project baseline (to be implemented by IFPRI). It frees N/CRSP to stratified random sampling that allows N/CRSP to capture process, uptake and outcomes in the USAID implementation locations, but also allows the same to be understood in future FTF sites, national government multisector nutrition plan sites, World Bank-supported conditional cash transfer sites, Heifer International sites and Winrock aquaculture sites. In other words, the research will be much richer and more able to generalize about implementation processes that otherwise might have been the case.

3.1.1 Patrick reported the Government of Nepal has established a formal advisory technical committee (Nepal TAC) to advise the Nutrition CRSP and, potentially, to oversee all research in the country relating to research on integrated programming relation to nutrition. A first meeting of the NTAC was held in Kathmandu in May 2012.

3.1.2 **Rolf Klemm** and **Keith West** made a presentation with more details of the sampling approach, the links with IFPRI survey instruments, and intent of repeat surveys of households in 21 districts. Field data collection is expected to start later in 2012. Keith also reported on the potential for collaborating with JHU research on aflatoxin exposure in blood samples taken in Sarlahi in the 1980s. And he demonstrated new approaches to identifying micronutrient deficiencies derived from a panel of plasma samples.

### 4. Capacity building activities.

4.1 **Webb** reported that for Asia, a successful Scientific Symposium was held in KTM at the end of March 2012 (co-hosted by the NCRSP and the Institute of Medicine of Nepal). The intent was not simply stakeholder discussion, but establishing a process of scientific endeavor in the country, with calls for abstracts, on-line registration, and reviewed presentations. The 2 day meeting had full participation of over 150

people, active dialogue, and strong agreement that this should be an annual event. Thanks are due to the JHU team for the efforts in making this work.

4.1.1 In addition to the 7 Nepalese students recruited for the Harvard-Tufts-St. John's training in Bangalore in January 2012, several students have been recruited for summer trainings at JHU and Harvard, the two MS students at Tufts continue to do well, and doctoral students have been recruited by Purdue and Tufts for the Fall 2012 semester. A grant proposal-writing workshop has been organized (in collaboration with the Institute of Medicine) for August 2012 in KTM.

4.2 **Griffiths** reported on a workshop held in Jinja (Uganda) at the end of March 2012. N/CRSP- Africa hosted the 2.5 day workshop that aimed to develop a clear understanding of research design and analyses of large-scale integrated nutrition, health and agriculture programs. Over 40 participants attended including stakeholders from line ministries and district officials (health, agriculture, gender), USAID Uganda, international and national NGOs, USAID Community Connector program, IFPRI, IPA, VEDCO, BRAC Uganda and Makerere, Gulu, Kyamboga and Mbarara universities. Participants were introduced to the Community connector program as well to the concepts of impact, process evaluations and program impact pathways and developing research design using epidemiological and econometric methods. A review of research studies ranging from cross sectional to randomized controlled interventions and longitudinal cohort studies were provided. Discussions were held with district officials on the barriers and facilitators of program implementation and implementation research. The workshop was interactive and allowed students and faculty, line ministry and district officials to understand the importance of research design and methodology in developing an evidence base for future policy and programming around health, nutrition and agriculture in Uganda.

## 5. **Communication of CRSP activities**

5.1 There was discussion of the N/CRSP website, the prevailing opinion being that the site is not sufficiently flexible to meet existing or future needs. It was widely agreed by the TAC that a more dedicated web-management is required.

5.2 There was discussion of potential for interaction with the US academies of science on approaches to defining common metrics for integrated agriculture-health and nutrition processes and outcomes. The idea was floated by Richard Deckelbaum that IOM might be interested in convening a working group or a meeting to discuss such issues. The idea of a 'think piece' on analytical linkages among these sectors was proposed by Will Masters. Both ideas were enthusiastically taken up by the TAC and will be discussed further in the context of the upcoming workshop hosted by LCIRAH in June.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned by Will Masters at 5:35PM

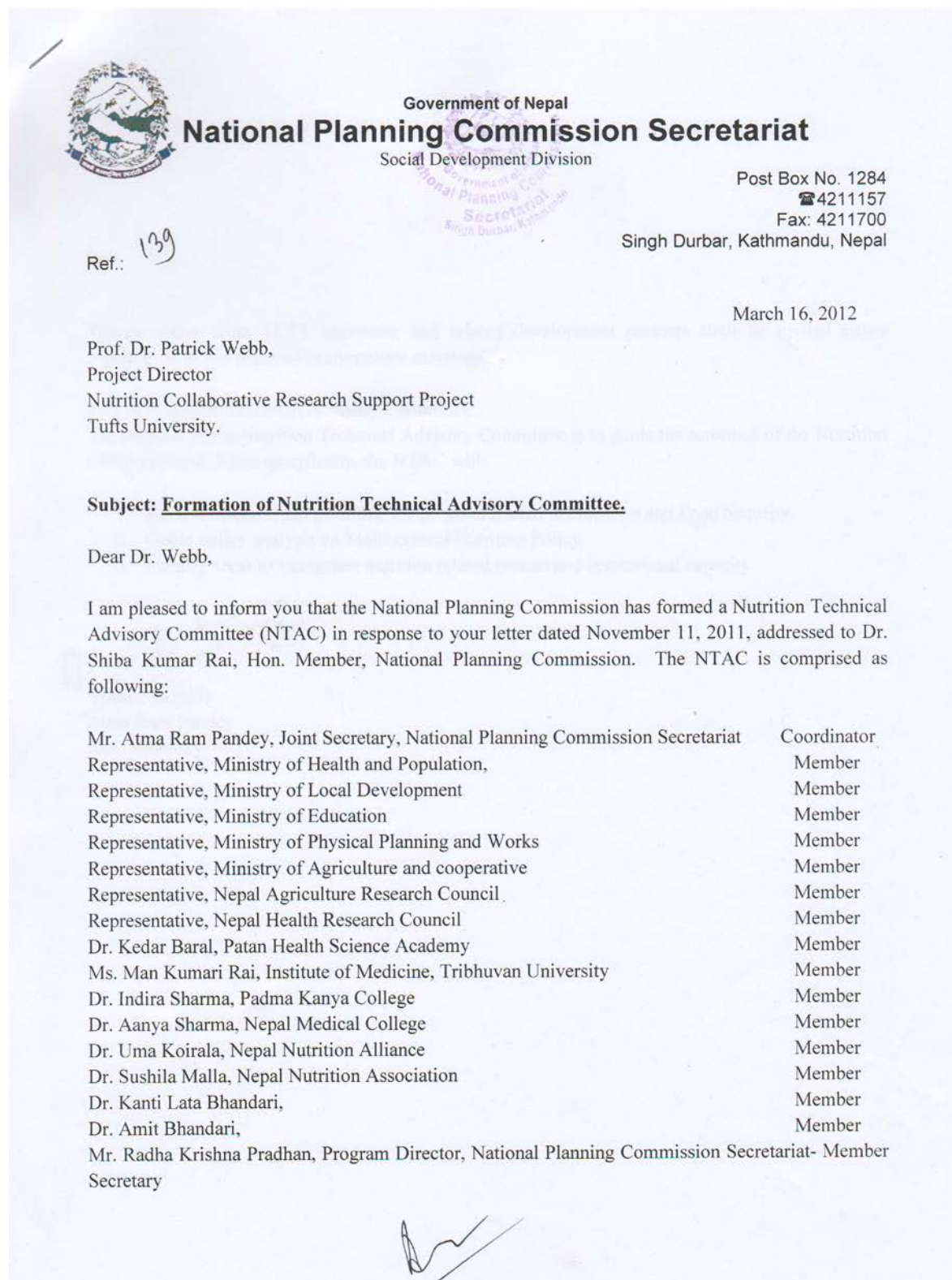
## Appendix 2. Nutrition CRSP - Asia Leadership, 2011/12

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In- Maura Mack (ex officio)	Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR)	Nutrition Advisor, USAID	mmack@usaid.gov
In – Vern Long (ex officio)	Alternate AOR	Senior International Agriculture Research Advisor	jlong@usaid.gov
In- Pascasie Adedze (ex officio)	Activity Manager	Nutrition Advisor, USAID	padedze@usaid.gov

**Appendix 3. Letter from National Planning Commission confirming the establishment of a Nepal Technical Advisory Group to work with N/CRSP-Asia**







Government of Nepal  
**National Planning Commission Secretariat**

Social Development Division

Post Box No. 1284

☎4211157

Fax: 4211700

Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Ref.:

Representative from TUFT university and related development partners shall be invited either regularly or as per required in committee meetings.

ToR of Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee:

The purpose of the Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee is to guide the activities of the Nutrition CRSP in Nepal. More specifically, the NTAC will:

1. Review research and prioritize the program related to Nutrition and Food Security.
2. Guide policy analysis on Multisectoral Nutrition Policy.
3. Identify areas to strengthen nutrition related human and institutional capacity.

Yours Sincerely

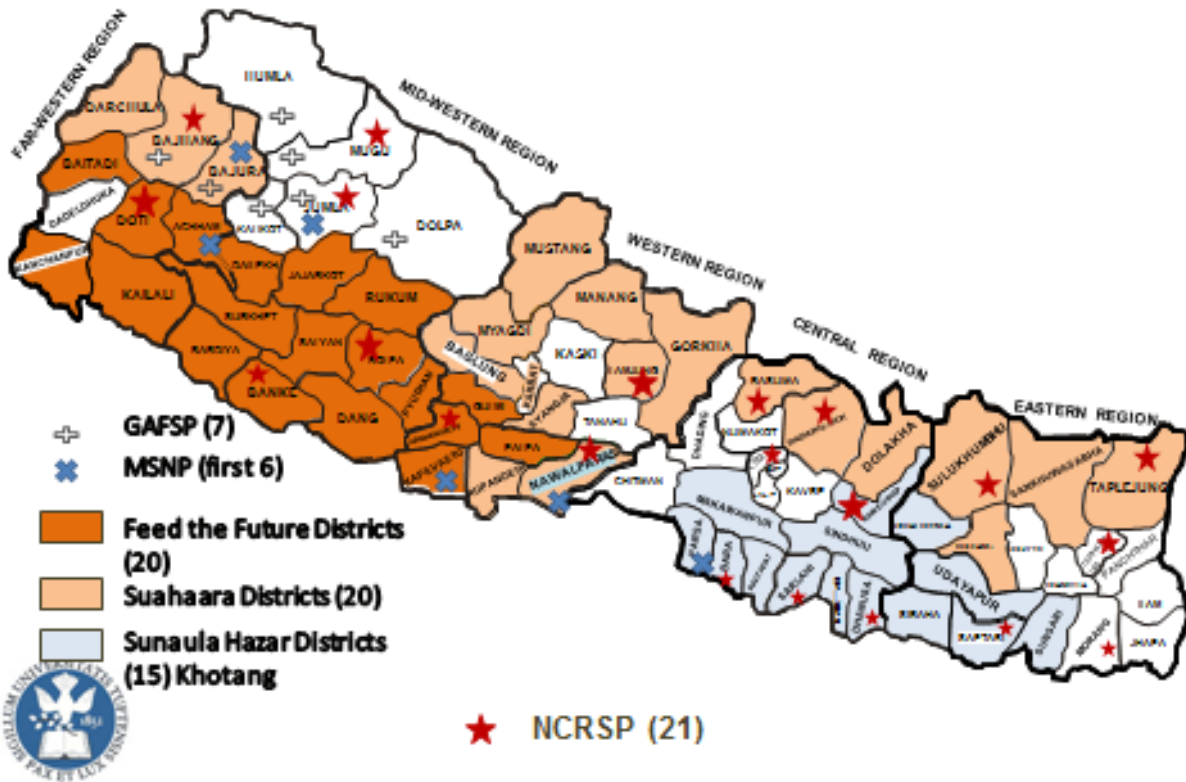
Atma Ram Pandey

Joint Secretary

The National Planning Commission has formed a Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on November 11, 2011, with the following members:

Member	Role
Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission	Coordinator
Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Local Development	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Education	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative	Member
Representative, Nepal Agriculture Research Council	Member
Representative, Nepal Health Research Council	Member
Dr. Kedar Bhandari, Pabna Health Science Academy	Member
Mr. Mani Kumar Bhattarai, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University	Member
Dr. Indira Sharma, Pabna Kanya College	Member
Dr. Anura Sharma, Nepal Medical College	Member
Dr. Uma Karki, Nepal Nutrition Alliance	Member
Dr. Anshu Malik, Nepal Nutrition Association	Member
Dr. Kishor Lakshminarayanan	Member
Dr. Anshu Bhattarai	Member
Mr. Radha Krishna Pradhan, Program Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat	Member Secretary

## Appendix 4. Likely research site for N/CRSP fieldwork in Nepal



Note:

- Red stars represent proposed N/CRSP research sites
- White crosses represent the likely location of the World Bank’s Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)
- Blue crosses represent the 6 districts in which the Nepal Government’s Multisector Nutrition Plan will be rolled out.

## **Appendix 5: Report of N/CRSP Asia Stakeholder Forum**

### **Research in Nutrition, Health and Agriculture – Stakeholder Forum**

Tufts University led Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program - Asia (N/CRSP-Asia) in collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) organized a two-day stakeholder forum to define research priorities in nutrition, health, and agriculture as well as discuss research and capacity enhancement priorities in support of these goals. The workshop held on November 22 and 23 at the Himalaya Hotel in Kathmandu drew a total of 115 participants from different ministries – Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), and Ministry of Education (MoE) - INGOs, NGOs, and academic and research institutions.

In the Nutrition CRSP program, research, training and operational activities are framed by 3 themes: a) policy-to-practice research; b) filling gaps in knowledge on specific nutrition problems at country level; and c) integrating essential packages of actions across sectors, with a focus on core food, water and disease interactions that impact nutrition outcomes. In this regard, the aim of the stakeholder forum was to bring together key stakeholders in addressing nutrition, agriculture and health issues: the Nepal Government (NPC, MoHP, MoAC, MoE, MoLD), the USAID Mission in Nepal, and other agencies/ organizations working in nutrition, health, and agriculture to design a common agenda around research and capacity building in nutrition, health and agriculture. More specifically, the forum objectives were as follows:

1. Gain insights from a variety of stakeholders working in research and programming around nutrition, health and agriculture
2. Understand the multi-sectoral process on integrating health, nutrition and agriculture
3. Provide an introduction to the USAID's integrated programming including the Feed the Future Initiative
4. Provide an introduction and elicit discussions around the Nutrition CRSP research to practice agenda and anticipated activities
5. Gain insights on priorities around research and capacity building needs
6. Promote demand for empirical rigor and the development of evidence base around integrated programming

The program was chaired by Mr. Atmaram Pandey (Joint Secretary, Social Development Division, NPC), who officially welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of research and building capacity in nutrition and requested full commitment from all sectors involved to ensure food and nutrition security. Dr. Pravin Mishra, Secretary, MoHP officially opened the forum as the chief guest, followed by opening remarks from Ms. Shanda Steimer, Director, Office of Health and Family Planning, USAID and Dr. Fulgen Pradhan, Joint Secretary, MoAC. Dr. Mishra highlighted the importance of a multi-sectoral approach in addressing food production, selection, storage, and utilization, all of which affect nutrition outcomes and health of the Nepalese people. Ms. Steimer underscored the USAID priority to advance and intensify the important link between nutrition-agriculture -and poverty reduction in Nepal and highlighted the significance of nutrition in early life of children and its impact on their proper growth and development. Dr. Pradhan stated that despite food and nutrition security becoming

key development agendas, evidence of impact of improvements in agriculture on nutrition outcomes are lacking in Nepal and globally. He mentioned that a research priority would be to establish the linkages between health, nutrition, and agriculture and that a common consensus across sectors needs to be built on the concept of the issues, development of tools, and methods for measuring outcomes.

A Key Note Presentation, *Status of Nutrition in Nepal and Future Vision* was delivered by Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Professor, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University and Coordinator of Multi-sectoral Work Plan under NPC/GoN. He provided an overview of the nutrition status in Nepal, the different programs aimed at reducing the alarming rates of stunting, wasting and underweight, and traced the formation, challenges, and opportunities of the government's *Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP)*. Dr. Saba Mebrahtu, Nutrition Chief, UNICEF, then provided a follow-up to the *Nepal Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis*, a seminal document that led to the formation of the MNSP. Her very well accepted presentation was followed by a presentation on the findings of a stock taking exercise with IFPRI on food and nutrition security in Nepal, which was delivered by Dr. Aruna Palikhe, Senior Economist, Institute for Integrated Studies. Dr. Patrick Webb, Director, N/CRSP - Asia, Tufts University, wrapped up the day with his presentation '*The Nutrition CRSP within the Context of Feed the Future*', where he highlighted the aims and goals of the N/CRSP – Asia.

Day 2 was organized in four different sessions: 1. Agriculture interventions that affect nutrition, 2. Public Health Interventions that affect nutrition, 3. Panel Discussion: Multi-sector research priorities in Nepal, and 4. Panel Discussion: Capacity Building Needs. Session 1 included presentations on status of food security in Nepal and on program interventions with agricultural focus that either an explicit focus on nutrition or food security. Programs that focus on improving income and livelihoods and their potential to improve nutrition were also highlighted. Presentations included those by the USAID Flood Recovery Program, USAID Education for Income programs, and Helen Keller International/World Food Programme/Manahari Development Institute. Session 2 focused on health and nutrition programming in Nepal. Dr. Robin Houston from the USAID/ Nepal Family Health Program presented an overview on community based strategies around integrated health and nutrition programs/research to improve nutrition. This was followed by two presentations, one by a local NGO, Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) and the other by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MoPPW) on water, health, sanitation and hygiene activities that improve nutrition outcomes. Session 3 was a panel discussion on research priorities around nutrition, health and agriculture programming. Panelists included senior academics and ministry level officials in nutrition, health and agriculture. Dr. Robin Houston, Mr. Raghu Ghimire from the Health Programs Facilitation and Coordination Committee, Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota from Tribhuvan University, Dr. Madan Upadhyay from Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital, and Dr. Patrick Webb served as the panelists. Session 4 was a panel discussion on capacity building needs in nutrition (from a health, nutrition and agriculture lens). Panelists included Dr. Eileen Kennedy, Mr. Bhaba Krishna Bhattarai, Joint Secretary, NPC, Dr. Arjun Karki from Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Dr. Indira Sharma from Padma Kanya Campus, and Dr. Tirtha Rana from Nepal Public Health Foundation. The forum was concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Siva Kumar Rai (Hon member, National Planning Commission), and the Chair, Mr. Atmaram Pandey.

**Stakeholder Forum  
for the  
Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program  
Research in Nutrition, Health and Agriculture  
November 21-22, 2011  
Hotel Himalaya**

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**Day 1**

Facilitator:	Prof. Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota (Institute of Medicine, TU)
9:00	Morning Tea and Registration of participants
9:30-9:40:	Welcome (Mr. Atmaram Pandey, Joint Secretary, NPCS)
9:40-9:55	Official Opening and Inaugural Remarks by Chief Guest (Dr. Pravin Mishra, Secretary MoHP)
9:55- 10:15	Welcome and Remarks on Feed the Future and Global Health Initiative: (Ms. Sheila Lutjen, Acting Mission Director, USAID)
10:20 -10:40	Remarks: Ministry of Agriculture (Dr. Fulgen Pradhan, Joint Secretary, MoAC)
10:45-11:15	Tea
11:15-12:00	Key Note Presentation: Status of Nutrition in Nepal and Future Vision (with emphasis on multi-sectoral planning led by NPC in Nepal) Prof Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Institute of Medicine
12:00-12:45	Discussion
12:45-2:00	Lunch
2:00-2:30	Nepal Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis: Follow up (Dr. Saba Mebrahtu, UNICEF)
2:30-3:00	Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Nepal: Findings of a Stock taking exercise (Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant, Institute for Integrated Development Studies)
3:00-3:30	The Nutrition CRSP within the Context of Feed the Future (Prof. Dr. Patrick Webb, Director of Nutrition CRSP, Tufts University)
3:30-4:30	Discussion
4:30	Meeting adjourns

## Day 2

Meeting Chair: Mr. Atmaram Pandey

9:00 Tea

9:30-10:45 Agriculture Interventions that affect nutrition

1. Increasing incomes through agriculture interventions (Mr. Joe Sanders, FINTRAC)
2. Education for Income Generation (Mr. Praveen Baidya, Winrock International)
3. WFP/HKI/Manahari Development Institute (MDI) Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Program (Mr. Khop Narayan Shreshta, MDI)

Discussion

10:45-11:00 Tea

11:00- 12:30 Public Health Interventions that affect nutrition

1. Nepal Family Health Program (Dr. Robin Houston, NFHP)
2. NEWAH project (Mr. Himalaya Panthi, NEWAH)
3. WASH Interventions (Mr. Rajan Raj Pandey, MPPW)

Discussion

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Panel Discussion: Multi sector Research Priorities in Nepal

1. Prof Dr. Patrick Webb (Tufts University)- Panel Facilitator
2. Prof Dr. Madhu Dixit Devkota (Institute of Medicine)
3. Dr. Madan Upadhyay (TUTH)
4. Mr. Raghu Ghimire (Health Programs Facilitation and Coordination Committee)
5. Dr. Robin Houston (NFHP)

3:30- 4:30 Panel Discussion: Capacity Building Needs

1. Prof. Dr. Eileen Kennedy (Tufts University)- Panel Facilitator
2. Mr. Baba Krishna Bhattarai (Joint Secretary, Agriculture, NPC)
3. Prof. Dr. Arjun Karki (Patan Academy of Medical Sciences)
4. Prof. Dr. Indira Sharma (Padma Kanya Campus)
5. Dr. Tirtha Rana (Nepal Public Health Foundation)

4:30-4:45 Forum Review (Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari)

4:45-5:15 Vote of Thanks  
Prof Dr. Eileen Kennedy (Tufts University)  
Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai (Hon Member, NPC)  
Mr. Atmaram Pandey (Joint Secretary, NPCS)

5:15 Meeting adjourn

## Appendix 6: Report of Scientific Symposium

The Global Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) - Asia through its partner, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, organized a two-day scientific symposium in Kathmandu, Nepal, co-hosted by the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health at the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The Nutrition CRSP is a multidisciplinary research consortium which seeks to determine investments needed in agriculture, health and nutrition, institutional and human capacity development, and program development to achieve large scale improvements in nutrition outcomes.

The preliminary report of the 2011 Nepal Demographic Health Survey shows an improvement in child nutritional status between 2001 and 2006 with stunting, wasting and underweight prevalence decreasing from 49% to 41%, 31% to 11% and 39 to 29%, respectively [1]. Nonetheless, chronic undernutrition is still widespread, and wide disparities exist across socioeconomic groups and ecological regions with children from the poorest households and those living in the mountain and hill areas exhibiting the highest levels of stunting.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia. A high proportion (estimates range from 25%-55%) of its population lives on less than <\$1.25/day[2]. Over 80 percent of the population works in the agricultural sector, most of who work on subsistence-oriented family farms. Households employed in agriculture account for more than three quarters of Nepal's poor. Many of these households were deeply affected by the protracted conflict, drought and other natural disasters. Improvements in agricultural productivity have not maintained pace with population growth, particularly among small landholders and female farmers, the latter constituting over 60% of the agricultural labor force. In 2009, the World Food Programme reported that 43 of Nepal's 75 districts faced a food deficit, and 23 districts were chronically food insecure. The inability of households to successfully "weather" transitory food supply shocks from drought, flood, market failure, or civil strife can impact their nutritional intake, nutritional status and health.

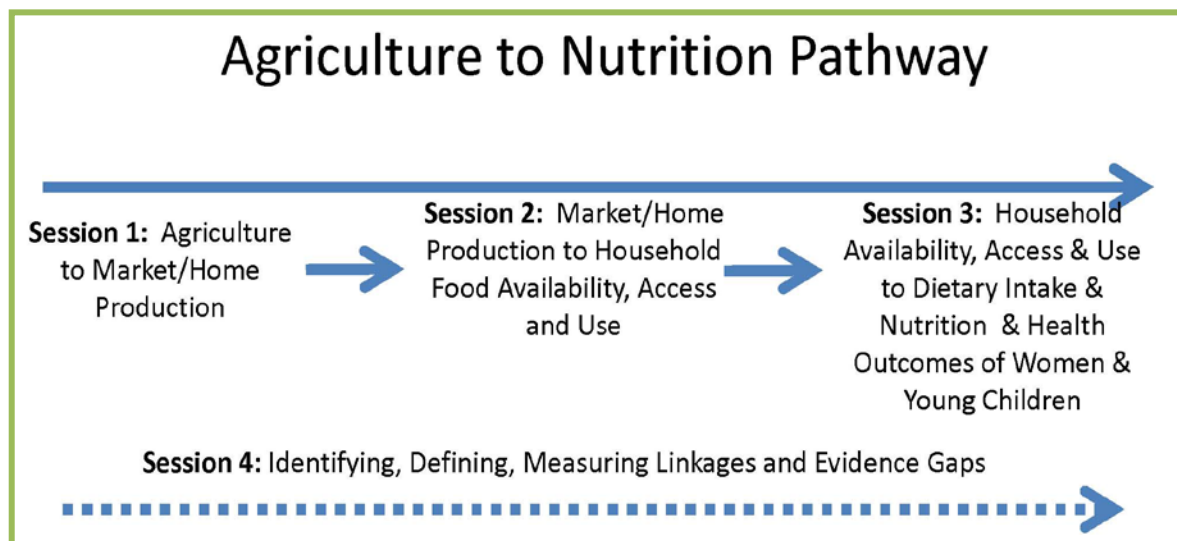
FAO's report on 'Guiding principles for linking agriculture and nutrition: Synthesis from 10 development institutions' illustrated that the linkages between agriculture faces four "main constraints: (i) information on what to do, (ii) how to do it, (iii) how much it will cost (per benefit gained), and (iv) how it will be supported or rewarded"[3]. Further, Leroy et al. noted that the impact of multi-sectoral programs focusing on nutrition is limited in 2008[4].

Improved agriculture leading to better household food security has been identified as a fundamental determinant of processes that lead to food security, adequate dietary intake and nutritional status, and health, yet limited empirical evidence exists on the kinds of actions in agriculture that do (or do not) support nutrition and health for impoverished segments of the population or groups passing through vulnerable life stages. Little data exists beyond pilot projects that reveal ways to optimize the production, availability and access of food products that assure dietary diversity among the poor. The pathways that lead from food production to household food security to improved nutrition are complicated, with multiple determinants. Yet, systems do exist that convey food within and across communities throughout the year,

with varied efficiency, quality and impact. It is the connected pathways that we need to understand, measure and classify, and address their modifiable components in order to reduce food insecurity and undernutrition in high risk geographic areas and socio-economic groups. These represent critical steps towards effective programming.

The intent of the symposium was to share, understand and assimilate country- relevant evidence about factors that contribute to causal pathways that lead from agriculture to nutrition, in national, regional and local contexts. A national call for abstracts was made to researchers conducting work across these diverse but connected fields to present their work. The event was attended by approximately 140 participants from the scientific, research, program, policy maker and development partner communities.

The symposium sought to understand, from data relevant to Nepal, (a) aspects of agricultural production that affect food production quality, quantity and availability in markets across ecological zones and seasons, (b) market dynamics that affect year round and seasonal household access to food, through purchase or home production, (c) household food security and consumption norms that determine dietary intake, and (d) elements of dietary adequacy and hygiene that affect nutritional status, health, development and survival. The symposium was organized into four thematic sessions: (1) Agriculture-to-Market, (2) Market Purchase or Home Production-to-Household, (3) Household Diet to Nutritional Status of Women and Young Children, and (4) Linkages Across the Causal Spectrum.



The four sessions deconstructed and assessed the strength of evidence of key factors along this pathway, described methods for measuring these factors, explored factors that link domains within the pathway and attempted to identify evidence gaps. Oral and poster presentations of abstracts on Day 1 covered varied topics, including the impact of consumption of legumes on health outcomes, results of combined interventions (agricultural production, income generation, home gardening) on health and nutritional outcomes, methods available to assess food insecurity, and reviews of findings from randomized nutritional intervention trials.



Day 2 of the symposium consisted of a participatory and dynamic discussion of domains of concern that span the agriculture to nutrition pathway, to identify gaps in knowledge, design and measurements issues, and capacity building. Themes raised included 1) improving dietary intake (quality & quantity) of poor and malnourished women & children; 2) setting of practical dietary goals in the home that may improve nutritional conditions; 3) contextual factors that influence dietary adequacy; 4) relationships between home food production, storage and processing to dietary adequacy; 5) market factors that affect year round food access; and 6) agricultural factors that affect availability, market prices and access (effective demand) to food in the household.

Symposium participants identified knowledge gaps both within and between the domains. These included needs to better understand: (i) determinants of household and child malnutrition, (ii) how different target groups perceive nutrition information, and (iii) effects of common cooking and food preparation methods on nutritional value, (iv) women's roles in agriculture with respect to control of household resources, decision-making, intra-household food allocation, their own nutrition and their ability to care of their children, (v) roles of poverty alleviation strategies for improving nutritional status of women and children.

There is a need to build research capacity within Nepal and to translate research findings into policy and programs across the country and mobilizing evidence-based advocates within government to present convincing and better understood findings are necessary. Based on discussions that transpired throughout the symposium, the symposium organizing committee identified the following priority actions as recommended "next steps" for the Nepal research community:

- ❖ Form a cross-disciplinary working group composed of established researchers from each relevant sector—agriculture, economics, marketing, food security, dietary intake, public health and nutrition—to identify the key research questions that need to be addressed in the next 3, 5 and 10 years to inform the agriculture-to-nutrition causal pathway.
- ❖ Conduct efficacy (i.e. under optimal conditions) and effectiveness (under real-life and programmatic conditions) research on promising and relevant interventions.
- ❖ Establish community-based surveillance sites in the major agro-ecological zones in Nepal to (i) provide longitudinal measures of trends and changes over time in food availability, access and utilization, and relate them to household food security, dietary intake and nutrition and health status, and (ii) generate empirical evidence about integrated agriculture and other food and nutrition program interventions have an effect on nutrition and health outcomes. This should be a priority area for the Nutrition CRSP.
- ❖ Organize a bi-annual or annual forum for policy makers from the NPC, MoAC and MoHP and researchers to discuss and translate research findings that pertain to improvement of nutrition status through a multi-sectoral approach.
- ❖ Organize an annual scientific symposium or "evidence summit" to facilitate the rapid sharing of findings and innovative solutions.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### March 21, 2012: Day 1

9:00-9:20	Morning Tea and Participant Registration
9:20-9:30	Welcome (Dr. Sharad Onta)
9:30- 9:40	Welcome and Remarks on Feed the Future and Global Health Initiative: USAID Mission Director (Mr. David Atteberry)
9:40 -10:00	Keynote address on Agriculture – Nutrition Pathway (Dr. Rolf Klemm)
10:00-10:10	Official Opening and Inaugural Remarks by Chief Guest (Honorable Dr. Shiva Kumar Rai)
10:10 – 10:20	Opening Remarks (Dr. Praveen Mishra, MoHP)

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#### SESSION 1: AGRICULTURE TO MARKET

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10:30 – 10:50	State of the Art/Evidence (Dr. Devendra Gauchan)
10:50 – 11:05	1.1 Household Consumption of Grain Legumes in Nepal Terai: A Study on Impact of Improved Technologies (Dr. Ram Krishna Neupane, FORWARD Nepal)
11 05-11:20	1.2 Efficiencies in Linking Agricultural Development with Health and Nutrition Training in Nepal (Dr. Luke Covalito, IDE)
11:20- 11:35	1.3 High impact, integrated approaches for improved food security and nutrition of rural poor (Joe Sanders, Fintrac)
11:35- 12:00	Q&A, Rapporteur key comments, identifying the evidence gaps
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch

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#### SESSION 2: FOOD MARKETS AND/OR HOME PRODUCTION TO HOUSEHOLD ACCESS

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12:45-1:05	State of the Art/Evidence: Improving Access to Nutritious Foods in Rural Markets (Dr. Marie Ruel)
1:05-1:20	2.1 Application of the Household Economy Approach for assessing food security and describing livelihoods in Nepal (Dr. Naomi Saviile, MIRA & UCL)

1:20-1:35	2.2 Homestead Food Production contributes to dietary intake among children 6-23 months old in Kailali district, Far Western Terai (Debendra Adhikari, HKI)
1:35-1:50	2.3 Food security, food price and income trends in Dhanusha district Nepal between 2005-2011 (BP Shrestha, MIRA)
1:50 – 2:05	2.4 Validating district-level assessment with survey data: example from the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (Mariko Kawabata, WFP)
2:05-2:30	Q&A, Rapporteur key comments, identifying the evidence gaps
2:30 – 3:00	Tea

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SESSION 3: HOUSEHOLD AVAILABILITY, ACCESS AND USE TO DIETARY INTAKE AND  
NUTRITION AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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3:00- 3:20	State of the Art/Evidence (Dr. Ramesh Adhikari)
3:20-3:35	3.1 Nutrition Interventions that Improve Child or Maternal Health or Survival: Findings from RCTs in the Terai of Nepal NNIPS research (Dr. Keith West, JHU)
3:35-3:50	3.2 Growth and health of rural children in 3 districts of Nepal: effect of a community development intervention (Neena Joshi, Heifer International)
3:50-4:05	3.3 Impacts of Changes in Grain Pulse (legume consumption) on micronutrient supply of rural women in Nepal and North (Dr. Peter Andersen, UIB)
4:05 – 4:20	3.4 Correlates of Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in Chepang community of Makawanpur (Dr. Subedi, Nepal Public Health Foundation, IOM)
4:20- 4:45	Rapporteur key comments, identifying the evidence gaps
4:45- 5:00	Closing remarks (Dr. Adhikari/ Dr. Klemm)

## **Appendix 7: Grant writing workshop**

The Nutrition CRSP Asia held a Grant writing workshop in August 2012. A total of 29 participants attended the workshop (15 women and 14 men).

The workshop was rated by participants and was found to be on target with respect to course content, organization, delivery, and participant engagement. The workshop was conducted by 5 resource-persons who led different sessions. These included Dr. Sharad Onta, Dr. Paul Giguere, Dr. Ramesh K. Adhikari, Dr. Devendra Gauchan, and Dr. Krishna Aryal from the Institute of Medicine, Tufts University, NARC and NHRC respectively. Drs. Adhikari and Aryal from NHRC led the sessions on Ethical considerations and the process of submission at the two research bodies. Linkages to local sources of funding were also provided. Dr. Onta and Dr. Giguere facilitated the workshop and the group activities.

Key feedback from course participants is provided below:

- very helpful to get donor/ reviewer perspectives on proposals since they usually developed proposals based on their interests and didn't target it to the reviewer/ donor agency
- added to their skills in filling out the different sections of the proposals, especially in keeping to the page/ word/ budget limits
- was very practical in terms of its content and delivery, e.g. ways of cutting down the budget/ bringing down word/ page count, etc
- helped them become aware of different RFPs that were put out in Nepal. Participants from the medical schools were unaware about such mechanisms
- appreciated the reference book that was provided to their institutions
- almost everyone suggested that providing a certificate for participating in such a workshop would be very helpful.

A survey was conducted that provided additional feedback on the course. Survey responses are provided in the next section.



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### Training Workshop on Research Proposal Development in Nutrition Evaluation Results

The public results are available below. The results will be shared through Jan 01, 2013. If you need help, please contact support@surveyshare.com

[View Aggregate Results](#) [View Individual Results](#)

#### 1) How would you rate this workshop for meeting your needs or expectations?

Graph this question

Option	# Responses	Response %
Excellent	12	41.38%
Satisfactory	17	58.62%
Unsatisfactory	0	0.00%
Poor	0	0.00%
0 skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

#### 2) How would you rate the quality of the information presented?

Graph this question

Option	# Responses	Response %
Excellent	14	48.28%
Satisfactory	15	51.72%
Unsatisfactory	0	0.00%
Poor	0	0.00%
0 skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

#### 3) How would you rate the quality of the workshop materials?

Graph this question

Option	# Responses	Response %
Excellent	16	57.14%
Satisfactory	12	42.86%
Unsatisfactory	0	0.00%
Poor	0	0.00%
1 skipped this question	Total responses <b>28</b>	96.55%

#### 4) Were the workshop activities appropriate?

Graph this question

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	26	92.86%
No	1	3.57%
Don't Know	1	3.57%
1 skipped this question	Total responses <b>28</b>	96.55%

## 5) Did you feel free to ask questions?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	26	92.86%
No	1	3.57%
Don't Know	1	3.57%
<b>1</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>28</b>	96.55%

## 6) Were your questions answered to your satisfaction?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	27	96.43%
No	0	0.00%
Don't Know	1	3.57%
<b>1</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>28</b>	96.55%

## 7) Were you treated with respect?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	29	100.00%
No	0	0.00%
Don't Know	0	0.00%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

## 8) Have your skills/knowledge increased as a result of the workshop?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	28	96.55%
No	0	0.00%
Don't Know	1	3.45%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

## 9) Will you be able to apply what you learned?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	26	89.66%
No	0	0.00%
Don't Know	3	10.34%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

## 10) Would you recommend this workshop to your colleagues?

 [Graph this question](#)

Option	# Responses	Response %
Yes	29	100.00%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

Option	# Responses	Response %
No	0	0.00%
Don't Know	0	0.00%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

11) How would you rate this workshop overall?

 Graph this question

Option	# Responses	Response %
Excellent	10	34.48%
Satisfactory	19	65.52%
Unsatisfactory	0	0.00%
Poor	0	0.00%
<b>0</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>29</b>	100.00%

12) What did you like best about the workshop?

Option	# Responses	Response %
Responded	28	96.55%
Did not respond	1	3.45%
<b>1</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>28</b>	96.55%
<a href="#">[View Responses]</a>		

13) What did you like the least about the workshop?

Option	# Responses	Response %
Responded	20	68.97%
Did not respond	9	31.03%
<b>9</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>20</b>	68.97%
<a href="#">[View Responses]</a>		

14) What, if any, Improvements would you suggest?

Option	# Responses	Response %
Responded	21	72.41%
Did not respond	8	27.59%
<b>8</b> skipped this question	Total responses <b>21</b>	72.41%
<a href="#">[View Responses]</a>		

## Appendix 8 - Activities and Outputs, N/CRSP-Asia Year 2 (FY2012)

REVISED JULY 2012

Theme (a): Scientific Research				
Outcomes	Indicator Number	Output Indicators	FY 2012 Targets	FY 2012 Actuals
<b>Outcome 1: Improved host country nutrition and food security monitoring, analytics and surveillance capacities</b>	N/CRSP	1. Number of U.S. and host country institutions that have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition research, monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems, and/or nutrition interventions with USG assistance	3	10
	N/CRSP	2. Number of food consumption and/or nutrition surveys undertaken, or reported on and disseminated	4	3
	N/CRSP	3. Number of U.S. or host country institutions or individuals having completed a nutrition assessment, survey or gap analysis.	6	12
Theme (b): Human and Institutional Capacity Development				
Outcomes	Indicator Number	Output Indicators	FY 2012 Targets	FY 2012 Actuals
<b>Outcome 2: Improved host country academic, technical and research capacity in nutrition, health and agriculture</b>	N/CRSP	4. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG supported programs (longer term)	6	5 (3 men/ 2 women)
	N/CRSP	5. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG supported programs (short term)	34	39 (21 men/ 18 women)
	N/CRSP	6. Number of US and host country institutions with enhanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices	3	7 (4 men/ 3 women)
	N/CRSP	7. Number of U.S. and host country institutions and individuals who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition with USG assistance	6	7 (6 men/ 1 women)
	N/CRSP	8. Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance (submitted or published)	2	4
	N/CRSP	9. Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance	5	5

### Deviation Narratives

1. N/CRSP indicator No.2: data collection under the auspices of Johns Hopkins University was postponed until the end of 2012 as a result of delays to the roll-out of the Saaahara baseline survey and subsequent change in study design for N/CRSP research (elaborated in the main text).
2. N/CRSP indicator No.4: The number receiving long-term training was one person lower because it was determined that one potential student identified for a Tufts in-person Master's degree was not qualified to receive CRSP support.
3. N/CRSP Indicator No.5: The number of people who received short-term training was five people higher than planned since there was more interest than anticipated in the workshop-based training. Rather than turn government-sponsored participants away, the additional people were welcomed to participate.



## **Appendix 9: Research Briefings**

Several research briefs and working papers have been developed by the N/CRSP Asia as part of the Global Nutrition CRSP and as N/CRSP Asia. Listed below are the research briefs and papers by CRSP.

1. The Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (N/CRSP): Planned Activities in Nepal (Tufts)
2. Nutrition CRSP Stakeholder Meeting: Selected Conclusions on Research Priorities for Nepal (Tufts)
3. N/CRSP-Asia Scientific Symposium (Johns Hopkins)
4. Impacts and Review of Evidence (Tufts)
5. Metrics in Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (Tufts)
6. Constraints in Complementary feeding in Nepal (Tufts- In progress)
7. N/CRSP Scientific Symposium Proceedings (Johns Hopkins)
8. Community led total sanitation in Nepal (Tufts)
9. Nutrition Degree Programs in Nepal: A Review of current Offerings and Gaps (Tufts)
10. Measuring the links between agriculture and child health in Nepal (Purdue)
11. Stocking of Curricula in Agriculture (Tufts)
12. Market analysis of complementary foods in Nepal (DAI)

**Appendix 10: ~~Appended~~ Partner Reports Available Upon Request**