

Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions
(IMMANA)
&
Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy

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What is IMMANA?

- A 5-year partnership supported by DFID
- Led by LSHTM, in partnership with
 - SOAS, University of London
 - Friedman School, Tufts University
- Coordinated by LCIRAH
- Grant value: £ 7.2 million

IMMANA's Aim

Accelerate the development of a robust and coherent scientific evidence base which will underpin effective policy and investments in agriculture for improved nutrition and health.

IMMANA's Objectives

1. Engagement with the research community to stimulate **development** of robust methodological approaches and novel metrics to improve measurement and understanding of the role of agriculture for nutrition and health
2. Building a cadre of young researchers equipped and skilled in developing and **applying** cutting-edge methods
3. Strengthening international, interdisciplinary research collaboration and **mobilizing research community** to deliver the best metrics and methods for evidence-based policy making and programme design

IMMANA Workstreams

1. Competitive research grants directed at accelerating the development of the best new interdisciplinary metrics and methods filling the key knowledge gaps
2. Post-doctoral Fellowships for emerging leaders
3. A global network to link researcher groups, to ensure rapid sharing, development /use of the best approaches emerging from their work and from the grants and fellowships proposed

Cross-cutting: M &E and research uptake

Competitive research grants

- Grant program
 - 2 rounds of competitive grants
 - 15-20 grants of up to £250,000 /grant awarded
- Broad criteria
 - Scientific excellence and originality
 - Salience of metrics and methods proposed to be generated
 - Development relevance
- Review process
 - Peer-review and an assessment by an independent panel

Postdoctoral fellowships for emerging leaders

- Fellowship program
 - 24 fellowship in 4 rounds; 12-month duration
 - Host and home mentors
- Broad criteria
 - Scientific excellence and promise of the project
 - Transformational contribution to the fellow, host and home institutions
 - Demonstrated commitment of the mentors
- Review process
 - Similar to the grants program but strategic considerations to develop capacity in key areas and institutions

A global research network “The Academy”

- **Rationale:** Several reasons for key gaps in evidence
 - The challenges of working across research disciplines
 - The tendency of a proliferation of new programmes to generate small, isolated research groups
 - The lack of expertise and capacity in those low and middle income countries where methods and metrics for programmes will be most needed
 - The need for a network to facilitate sharing and capacity strengthen was articulate and many fora and publications
- A4NH, LCIRAH and several institutions from Africa and south Asia initiated discussions following IFPRI conference in Delhi
 - Meeting of stakeholder in London in 2013

Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy: Looking Ahead

- Envisioned to be a partnership of organizations, with LCIRAH and A4NH playing the initial coordination role
- IMMANA to provide support to initiate the Academy activities
 - An Annual conference
 - Training and mentorship activities at the conference
 - Technical and policy working groups in South Asia and Africa
- But, **more funds are needed** to ensure that the Academy is not “projectized” and that it has indeed space for people and institutions to share, learn and grow.