

## **MEASURING EFFECTS OF AGRI-HEALTH INTERVENTIONS**

This event is organised by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Agriculture and Health Research Platform as well as 2020 Vision Initiative. Support has been provided by the Leverhulme Trust, IFPRI, and International Development Research Centre, as a follow-up to the IFPRI 2020 International Conference in Delhi: 'Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health' (<http://2020conference.ifpri.info/>).

### **Rationale**

Decoupled policies and systems for agriculture and health are not responding adequately to global nutrition and health needs. Addressing persistent under-nutrition, the growing dietary transition and its serious health effects, the risk of agriculturally-related disease including pandemics, and the consequences of population health for agricultural productivity and food security requires a more integrated approach. Specifically, we need to have a way of evaluating 'agri-health interventions': interventions whose full benefits and costs depend on integrating their agricultural and health effects. These include, for instance, improving the nutritional value of crops, reducing the risk of zoonotic disease emergence, or focusing public health interventions to improve economic growth.

The barrier to such integration is the longstanding isolation of health, nutrition, and agriculture, found in research organisations, government ministries, multinational business and intergovernmental bodies. As a result, these sectors have different research languages and tools. For example, agricultural economists predominantly use summary economic measures of household/ farm consumption/ production outcomes and economic surplus methods to examine issues in the continuum from the production of food and its distribution to consumers: food benefits to health are implicitly assumed to relate to availability and affordability of food energy. Health economists use economic representations of health impacts (e.g. disability adjusted life years or DALYs) to quantify the benefits of non-health interventions to population health. The compatibility between these measures is ill-understood, and very little research attempts to grapple with cross-sectoral measurement issues to capture the full range of effects. Integration of evaluation requires finding a "common language" and development of shared tools to represent the effects of agricultural change on population health and vice versa.

This workshop in London will bring together health and agricultural specialists to explore development of common tools and methods for the evaluation of 'agri-health' interventions. Its objectives are to:

1. engage the health and agricultural communities to encourage cooperation toward improving agri-health evaluations;
2. identify existing metrics and methods for agri-health evaluations and their value and limitations;
3. identify the potential for improved agri-health evaluation and the research that would be required to develop better tools and methods.

This will involve several steps: conceptualising the relationship between health and agriculture; exploring existing tools for measuring this interaction; examining case studies where such tools have been (or could be) applied; and identifying research opportunities or gaps for improving tools or developing new ones.

Recent initiatives in linking agriculture and health have been largely driven from the agricultural research sector, primarily with the nutrition community and to some extent with the infectious disease community. But there is a need to strengthen these ties and to engage the broader health community, particularly those which measure health impacts and the social and economic determinants of health. Hence the deliberate structuring of this workshop to engage the health research community in finding approaches to evaluating agri-health interventions.

**Workshop Programme**  
**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Venue:** Khalili Lecture Theatre – Lower Ground Floor, Russell Square Campus, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London  
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/location/maps/>

**09.30 Registration and Coffee** (Private foyer off of Khalili Lecture Theatre – Lower Ground Floor). Please note that coffee will be available all day so that delegates can help themselves rather than having specific coffee breaks

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**09.50** *Jeff Waage*, Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and *Marie Ruel*, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**Session 1: Measurement of health effects of agri-health interventions.** In this session, experts on health metrics will discuss their approaches and their possible relevance to agricultural and food issues, and experts on agricultural interventions will comment and present their ideas on these interactions.

- 10.20** Health Presentation 1: *Mike Kelly*, Director, Public Health Excellence Centre, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). 'Population approaches to preventing cardiovascular disease: the role of food, farming and agriculture'
- 10.45** Health Presentation 2: *Mandy Ryan*, Professor of Health Economics, University of Aberdeen 'Measuring effects of agri-health interventions: A role for Contingent Valuation and Discrete Choice Experiments?'
- 11.10** Health Presentation 3: *Hareth Al-Janabi*, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham 'Evaluating outcomes using the capability approach: theory and applications'
- 11.35** Health Presentation 4: *John Cairns*, Professor of Health Economics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 'Evaluating health outcomes using DALYs and QALYs'
- 12.00** Open Discussion/ Round Table
- 13.00** **Lunch**
- 13.45** Agricultural Response 1: *Peter Hazell*, Professorial Research Associate, SOAS and Imperial College London
- 14.10** Agricultural Response 2: *Ellen McCullough*, Associate Program Officer, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 14:35** Open Discussion/ Round Table

**Session 2: Case Studies in Agri-Health.** In this session, speakers will examine specific agricultural and health interventions where efforts have been made to evaluate real or potential agri-health effects

**15.15** Case Study 1: *Matin Qaim*, Professor of International Food Economics and Rural Development, University of Goettingen 'Using food consumption data to assess nutrition and health impacts of interventions: An example from Malawi'

**15.40** Case Study 2: *Zaman Talukder*, Country Director, Cambodia, and Regional Food Security Advisor, Helen Keller International; and *Deanna Olney*, Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute 'Nutrition and health effects of homestead food production in Cambodia'

**16.05** Case Study 3: *Karen Lock* and *Marcus Keogh-Brown*, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 'The challenges of measuring health, agricultural and economic effects of adopting healthy diet recommendations'

**16.30** Open Discussion/ Round Table

**17:00** Priorities and issues for discussion on Day 2

**17.30** **Drinks!**

**Friday, 13 May 2011**

**Venue:** Khalili Lecture Theatre – Lower Ground Floor, Russell Square Campus, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London  
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**Session 3: Measurement of food security and nutritional outcomes.** This session will focus particularly on measurement of agricultural impacts on nutrition in a development context, building on the IFPRI 2020 Conference.

- 09.30** Presentation 1: *John Newman*, World Bank, and *Patrick Johnson*, Booz/Allen/Hamilton 'Linking nutritional outcomes to adequacy of food, health and care'
- 09.55** Presentation 2: *Stuart Gillespie*, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI. 'Agriculture, food security and nutrition in India: Measurement perspectives from the TANDI project'
- 10.20** Presentation 3: *Anna Taylor*, Senior Nutrition Advisor, Department for International Development, Food security and nutritional outcomes: Evidence needs for policy'
- 10.45** Discussant Comments: *Peter McDermott*, Managing Director, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
- 11.10** Open Discussion

**Session 4: Problem Solving Discussion Session.** This session is designed to start exploring new agri-health metrics through discussions between participants. We will select four or five specific interventions for discussion, and participants will be asked to state their preferred subject on the first day. Breakout groups will address specific questions for each intervention, and these will be summarised and reported back to plenary after lunch.

- 11.30** Introduction to 'Problem-Solving' Session
- 11.45** Breakout Groups – in Khalili Lecture Theatre and Brunei Gallery at SOAS
- 13.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00** Plenary Session: Feedback from Groups and Discussion
- 15:00** Closing Remarks and Next Steps