



# INGENAES Updates

on Gender and Nutrition in Agricultural Extension

September 2016

## About

The Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project is a Feed the Future initiative funded by USAID. The project supports improvements in extension and advisory services to reduce gender gaps in agricultural extension services, empower women farmers, and improve gender and nutrition integration.

INGENAES works with policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organization in Feed the Future countries. Activities include workshops, action-oriented research, technical assistance, case studies, assessments, learning exchanges, and mentoring to promote gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive agricultural extension practices.

The project is led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the University of California Davis, the University of Florida, and Cultural Practice LLC.

## SIERRA LEONE and UGANDA - Network and COP Launch

The Network and Community of Practice (COP) for Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension launched on August 23rd at the Njala University Campus in Sierra Leone and on September 1st in Kampala, Uganda. The University of Illinois and Njala University manage the Sierra Leone COP and the University of Illinois and the Uganda Forum for Agricultural and Advisory Services (UFAAS) jointly manage the Uganda COP.

The Network and COP is a learning and exchange platform includes organizations at the forefront of strengthening nutrition and gender in Uganda, with the aim to strengthen their extension approaches to better engage smallholder farmers and promote gender equitable production methods for improved nutrition outcomes. The Network and COP will have peer-to-peer best practices and effective extension approaches sharing, training on how to integrate gender and nutrition into extension programming and other activities to facilitate knowledge sharing between different actors.

## UGANDA - New Fellows to Lead Change (cover photo)

INGENAES selected eleven highly skilled fellows from diverse backgrounds and varied research interests for the INGENAES Fellowship Program in Uganda. The program aims to empower Ugandan students with the professional skills to lead change and strengthen the capacity of local organizations and increase their understanding of the linkages between agricultural extension, gender, and nutrition for ultimately stronger extension systems and increased food security in Uganda. The fellows will obtain some financial support, professional development, and funding for research that falls within INGENAES thematic areas of agricultural extension, gender and nutrition.

## New Resources!

- [Women's Empowerment feature on Nelia Banda's agro store in Zambia \(pg. 10\)](#)
- [Video on Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension](#)
- [Webinar: Assessing Agricultural Technologies for their Impacts on Gender Roles and Nutrition \(Recording\)](#)
- [Completed Technology Profiles \(Beehive, Digital Fat Tester, Aflasafe, etc.\)](#)
- [Gender and Nutrition Facilitator Fact, Activity, and Tip Sheets](#)
- [Nutrition Club of Imam Gazzali Girls High School & College \(IGSC\), Pabna, Bangladesh](#)
- [Explore the INGENAES Library](#)

## Photos

Right (Zambia) - PROFIT+ CAD Olipa Showa outside of her shop in Chipata with PROFIT+ staff Mary and Ivy. © M Bell 2016

Top (Honduras) - Lettuce is irrigated alongside, herbs, maize, oranges, and plantains, all of which the farm family eats in season. © K. Mosiman 2016

Middle (Honduras) - This farmer near San Pedro de Copan utilizes her kitchen garden to produce carrots, red and white onions, lettuce, maize, beans, and rice. Her carrots are doing marvelously. © K. Mosiman 2016

Bottom (Honduras) - Backyard gardens add herbs, lettuce and maize to household meals. © L. Ramos 2016



## ZAMBIA - PROFIT+ Survey of CADs Implemented

Vincent Akamandisa, INGENAES Local Representative, designed and implemented the PROFIT+ Community Agro-Dealer (CAD) Survey. PROFIT+, a U.S. Government Feed the Future Initiative project, is working with CADs and entrepreneurship groups to improve dissemination of technologies and access to markets for remote men and women farmers.

Vincent and his team interviewed 57 CADs (50% women) in three Eastern Province districts. Preliminary results demonstrate how women have been able to access and adopt agricultural extension advice and new technologies, contributing to improved well-being.

Some of the CADs have been able to save and acquire bicycles, build houses, buy inputs, educate children, and pay for medical expenses. Women took up leadership positions in community groups and were consulted for agricultural advice by other smallholder farmers. The CAD model demonstrates that women can create strong networks and disseminate agricultural advice amongst men and women farmers.



## HONDURAS - How do Men and Women Farmers Treat Nutrition?

A group consisting of six INGENAES members began the process of strengthening the integration of nutrition education into extension services of PILARH OPDF and MANSURCOPAN Mancomunidades in the Dry Corridor. Dr. Juan Andrade leads the research and strengthening activity, with graduate students from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and University of Florida (UF).

The aim is to understand the nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices of vulnerable, rural, low-income, and/or farming households from the perspectives of both the male and female heads of each household. This diagnostic step with beneficiaries of agricultural extension service institutions will help guide efforts towards incorporating nutrition and gender concepts into the training of agricultural agents and facilitators.

This effort will ultimately inform several regional and national agricultural extension organizations on what is and is not working in nutrition education, and what the greatest needs are in each community in order to strengthen the nutrition components of their services for men and women farmers.



## NEPAL - Focus on More Visual Communication Products in Local Languages

Communication and extension officers of INGENAES partner-agencies stressed the need for highly pictorial communication materials in the local languages to reach rural women with nutrition information. Meeting in Kathmandu, the officers stressed that such materials bridge the literacy divide and are more likely to grab the attention of rural women who are increasingly taking on more active roles in agriculture.

The participants recommended greater coordination among development organizations, and saw the need for more formative research to gather baseline data and thus permit systematic barrier analyses in the conduct of communications work. They also saw the importance of reinforcing key messages through multiple communication channels, and the value of venues that allow women to share experiences and success stories.

These recommendations were elicited in a one-day seminar-workshop on “Communication Strategies to Reach Rural Women with Nutrition Messages” on July 21. Conducted by Lulu Rodriguez, Director of the Agricultural Communications Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the seminar-workshop was attended by 25 individuals from 12 agencies.

The event’s morning session focused on the principles and concepts of targeted communication, especially considering a hard-to-reach audience such as rural women. The participants, divided into teams, discussed the communication efforts of their agencies that have gained traction, the communication materials rural women prefer, the constraints they faced in reaching women, and the difficulties they encountered in disseminating information about nutrition.

During her recent visit to Nepal, Rodriguez jumpstarted a research project that aims to keep stock of the strategies, tactics, and messages INGENAES partner organizations have used in efforts to disseminate information about nutrition to rural women. The data gathering phase of the study entailed interviewing key communication and/or extension officers of these partner agencies.

[Read the entire Setember Nepal Newsletter here.](#)



### Photos

Top: MICD graduate students Sarita Syangtang and Abhishek Karki (right) interview Suresh Sharma (center), senior agriculture officer in Nepal’s Ministry of Agricultural Development.

© L. Rodriguez 2016

Middle: Women sell produce at a market in Nepalgunj. © B. Thapa 2016

Bottom: Women and men assess livestock at the collection center in Nepalgunj. © B. Thapa 2016

Right: Communication/extension officers and representatives attend the seminar-workshop in “Communication Strategies to Reach Rural Women with Nutrition Messages”. © L. Rodriguez 2016





**Photo**

*Students discuss the nutritional consequences of women and young girls not receiving adequate food during meals. © J. Henderson 2016*

**TAJIKISTAN - Who Eats What?**

Thirty-six extension professionals and university instructors, administrators, and students attended the three-day “Introductory Workshop on Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services”. The workshops were held in June 2016 at the Tajikistan Agriculture and Water Activity (TAWA) office in Qurgontepp and at the Tajikistan Agrarian University (TAU) in Dushanbe.

As one participant shared, “allowing everyone to participate through role plays, drawings, and group discussions helped put theory into practice.” The participants were enthusiastic about creating value chains for agricultural enterprises relevant to their country, such as apricots, watermelon, and grapes. They examined who controls the assets, makes the final decisions, and performs the different tasks, a first step for many in understanding the gendered aspects and consequences of agricultural production.

Many participants remarked that they are now more aware about the important contribution women make in the household and on the farm, appreciating that this contribution often goes unnoticed.



**SIERRA LEONE - Horticulture Demonstration for Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange**

In early August, a group of 15 farmers from the Mathelebana pilot community worked with a WorldFish and INGENAES team to construct a diversified horticulture demonstration plot. Constraints affecting vegetable production in the inland valley swap were identified through group discussions with the local farmers. Poor drainage and soil saturation during the rainy season were primary concerns, along with weather limiting the seasonality of the cultivation of many crops. In-field brainstorming led farmers to address these constraints by increasing the height of the heap and row formations and digging trenchways for water to drain freely without washing away soil and seeds.

Integrating nutrition was an additional priority. A plot filled with groundnut, okra, sweet potato, hot pepper, bean, and jute seeds and seedlings, which were procured locally from the community, will help fulfil four of the West African FAO recommended food groups. To attain a complete diversified diet, farmers could add fish from the nearby pond.



**Photos**

*Middle-left - Fatmata Koroma, farmer from Mathelebana, teaching peers about the Seasonal Food Availability Calendars with Rebecca Fayama and Jennet Fofanah both visiting from the neighboring community, Masankoro 2, during the farmer-to-farmer learning exchange © Silvert 2016*

*Bottom-left - Masiray Kargbo (front) preparing groundnut seeds, while John Tholley, community volunteer, discusses the newly prepared demonstration plot with Lester Greywood from the Tonkolili District. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security. © Silvert 2016*

This newsletter is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Government Feed the Future project “Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Extension and Advisory Services” (INGENAES). Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-LA-14-00008. The contents of this newsletter are the sole responsibility of INGENAES and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

© INGENAES 2016

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.



Articles written by INGENAES staff and partners. Technical editing and production by Katy Mosiman.