

INGENAES Updates

December 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.

Engaging Youth in Gender and Nutrition-Sensitive Aquaculture and Horticulture

WorldFish and INGENAES worked together with the Tonkolili District School in the village Kamathor, Sierra Leone, to support the launch of a youth engagement in agriculture and aquaculture program (pictured above). First visiting the fish pond, 28 students aged 10-13 listened to their teacher demonstrate how to construct a pond, maintain it for fish harvesting, and test its pH level. (Photo 1). Students were surprised that the tilapia fish in the pond is different than the common marine fish they see at the market, though they learned that both types are good sources of protein.

The students next moved to the vegetable plot, where they passed around samples of harvested pumpkin, cucumber, beans, and eggplant purchased at the local market, while a staff member explained the importance of eating a variety of foods.

At the end of the day, students and staff discussed the typical household, farming, and aquaculture roles and responsibilities that each gender usually has. At the horticultural demonstration plot, the teachers encouraged the students to try out all of the tasks regardless of their gender associations. Students prepared and planted sweet potato vine seedlings along with pumpkin and beans. They enriched the soil with locally procured dung and pulled weeds (Photos 3 and 4).

Check out the [full story here](#).



Photo 1. Students at the fish pond



Photo 2. Staff explain nutrition concepts



Photo 3. Teacher talks gender roles



Photo 4. Students assess the plot

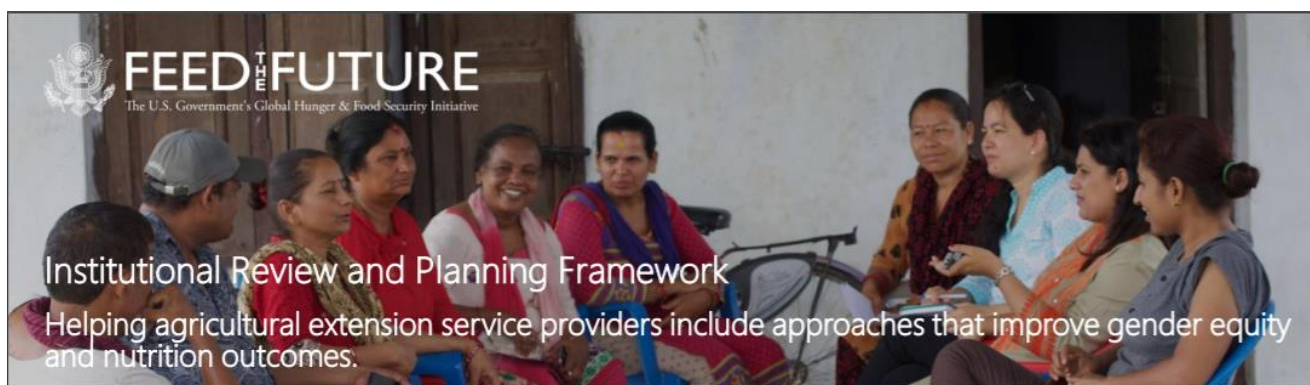
INGENAES on Agrilinks!

On November 16, the spotlight turned to INGENAES's efforts to develop the capacity of both institutions and individuals. The Institutional Review and Planning Framework (IRPF) engages organizational leadership in considering how gender equity and nutrition relate to their missions, and committing to concrete activities that will enable them to realize related objectives. Our tools and training materials were also highlighted.

Strong participation in this event (174 registrants from 34 countries!) attests to the demand for products and experiences in enabling extension to become truly gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive. For event materials and a recording, visit [Agrilinks](http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/library).
<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/library>

Check out these key resources:

- [Competency Framework - Nutrition and Gender in Extension](#)
- [Discussion Paper: Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services](#)
- [INGENAES: Key Publications](#)
- [Compendium of Indicators for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture](#)
- [Integrating Gender into Climate Change Adaptation Programs: A Research and Capacity Needs Assessment for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)



New Manual for Using Gender and Nutrition Approaches when Working with Farmers Engaged in Markets

Our new [Training of Trainers Manual](#) has been designed for use by government, private, and NGO extension providers and rural development practitioners who will be planning and implementing village-level agricultural interventions to strengthen their capacity to integrate gender and nutrition sensitivity for men and women farmer groups engaged in markets.
<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/training-materials>



Photo 5. Two agricultural extension trainers at an INGENAES workshop in Nepal

G-CAN Initiative to Address Research Gaps

Kristy Cook, Cristina Manfre, and Deborah Rubin participated in the startup workshop and roundtable discussion on the new USAID-funded International Food Policy Research Institute "Gender-responsive and Climate-resilient Agriculture for Nutrition" (G-CAN) Initiative on October 13, 2016 in Washington, DC.

The G-CAN Initiative will address research gaps in these three interrelated cross-cutting themes of gender, climate change, and nutrition to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of USAID missions' investments in key focus countries to improve resilience in a gender-equitable and nutrition-sensitive manner.

Women’s Leadership in Honduran Farm Communities

Although women play an important role in agriculture in the Western regions of Honduras, gender disparities exist in access to trainings and participation in leadership positions in community and agricultural organizations. Women in two subsistence farming communities were interviewed about their daily use of time, decision making in the home, participation in groups, leadership self-efficacy, and social ties to better identify opportunities and barriers for women to participate in community groups and take on leadership roles. Focus groups with men and women were also held (discussing leadership) (Photo 7). Interviewer Jera Niewoehner considers the information collected from these interviews crucial to illuminating challenges and opportunities in designing trainings and programs for both men and women in these communities.

Although the communities are in the same zone and have populations of Lenca (an indigenous group) subsistence farmers, they have very different characteristics in terms of the dynamics between men and women in the households, the types of projects that have been completed in the community in relation to agriculture, education, and natural resources, and their access to nearby municipalities. Ms. Niewoehner’s findings will support future program developments beyond INGENAES.

Gender and Nutrition Status within Training Programs in Honduras

What types of agricultural training programs and projects are organizations currently implementing, and how might they better incorporate gender and nutrition? Dr. Kathleen Colverson and Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez visited Honduras in November to find out through conducting interviews with Honduran policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organizations.

Dr. Colverson and Mr. Medina-Ramirez spoke with women and men in technical positions who work on agricultural extension teams, including two of USAID’s largest projects – MERCADO and the Dry Corridor Alliance. This is particularly important because many of the agricultural extension workers are male, and have not received any training on how to address gender or incorporate nutrition in their work. Information from this activity will be used to produce training materials and workshops that will be offered to participants next year.



Photo 6. A woman stands in the midst of her family farm



Photo 7. A focus group discusses leadership in their community



Photo 8. Dr. Colverson (right) meets with an extensionist from APANESA, students from CUROC and a group of farmers that have been participating in a farmer field school

Nutrition Decisions in Tajik Households

INGENAES is working with two Feed the Future projects in Tajikistan to increase their training capacities concerning nutrition-related topics with support from two University of Florida faculty. Dr. Elizabeth Wood, accompanied by two masters students, supports the Tajikistan Health and Nutrition Activity (THNA) though studying decision-making around household nutrition. Dr. Agata Kowalewska, accompanied by another masters student, works with the Tajikistan Agriculture and Water Activity (TAWA) on nutrition-related topics surrounding the introduction of strategic crops in Tajikistan. While meeting with project staff, the INGENAES team also interacted with women's groups at Bokhtar and Balkhi Districts, which are part of Khatlon Region (pictured below).



Photo 9. A women's group in Bhokhtar district



Photo 10. Drummers from a West African dance troupe on campus join us in celebrating the launching of AgReach.

Program Launch, AgReach: An Illinois Program for Smallholder Extension

On November 30, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Department of Agricultural and Consumer Sciences launched AgReach, a smallholder farming initiative that closes gaps in agrisystems so that smallholder farmers can receive the knowledge they need to thrive. Dr. Paul McNamara is the founding director. AgReach is a new umbrella structure created to house several active donor-funded projects, including "Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension" (SANE) in Malawi as well as INGENAES as a global program. AgReach activities have been held in more than 50 countries worldwide, all in support of enabling rural clients to receive better services from improved extension systems. AgReach has achieved impressive results, in areas that have historically proven problematic, directly or indirectly supporting improved extension services to 11,500,000 rural clients.

Visit agreach.illinois.edu to learn more!

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.

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