

NUTRITION-SENSITIVE EXTENSION

Reflections from the 13th GFRAS
Annual Meeting and the Nutrition
Working Group

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CONTEXT

In Chile, 35% of children under six are overweight and 74% of the adult population is overweight or obese. Globally, the estimate is that 2 billion people worldwide are overweight.

Any intervention requires a multi-sectoral approach so that policies and policy instruments can effectively reach the population. What is the role of advisory services?



OBJECTIVES

- Identify and discuss policies and incentives that allow directing and strengthening food systems and extension with a focus on nutrition;
- Identify and prioritize the food systems, with their different components, that best contribute to the nutrition of the population;
- Identify the necessary capacities required at the different levels to strengthen policies, production systems and extension, so that they can contribute to better nutrition.

MEETING STRUCTURE

- Four keynote addresses
- Four parallel sessions (Advocacy and Policy; Capacity Building; Nutrition-Sensitive Production Systems, and Youth and Gender)
- Two field trips
- Poster session



KEYNOTE DISCUSSIONS

- What is the importance of rural extension in nutrition-sensitive food systems?
- Support food systems in going beyond basic nutritional needs and focusing on improved nutrition at the individual and household level;
- Policies must be embedded within the framework of processes of transformation of agri-food systems. This is not a problem of individual habits, but of structural causes;
- Rural advisory services can contribute to nutrition if they are part of national strategies and policies and strengthened via multi-sectoral efforts;
- Successful projects can serve the role to orient public policies.



ADVOCACY AND POLICY

- Malnutrition caused by different factors and must be tackled in different spheres: marketing, government regulation, urbanism and city growth, educational.
- Nutrition education without public policies is useless, because it will not have an impact.
- Importance of alliances and multi-sector networks to convene actors and promote spaces for integrated decision making, and to move from theory to practice.



CAPACITY BUILDING

For better integrating
nutrition into RAS

Producers and Farmers

- Ability to analyze the problem;
- Identify the source for support and where to obtain it;
- Obtain the knowledge needed;
- Have the ability and agency to use the knowledge.

Primary Extension Agents

- Ability to identify, listen and respond to the voices of farmers;
- Support farmers in producing sufficient quantity, quality and diversity of agricultural products to be economically viable and nutritious.

Extension Organizations and Systems

- Ability to influence public policies;
- Ability to train and support continuous development of agents;
- Develop participatory methods to have farmers at center of needs.



YOUTH AND GENDER

- To strengthen technological capabilities and invest in infrastructure in rural areas;
- To invest in a specific extension program for young people and innovation tools;
- Governments should support initiatives such as community gardens to raise consumer awareness of the food production process;
- To advance in digital tools access in a comprehensive manner;
- To include young people, women and producers in discussion and decision forums, where they can better articulate their needs and represent their interests.





OCCASION/OPPORTUNITY

- Geopolitical conflicts
- Increase in the price of inputs
- Difficulties in international trade

NEEDS/CONTEXT

MORE RELEVANT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

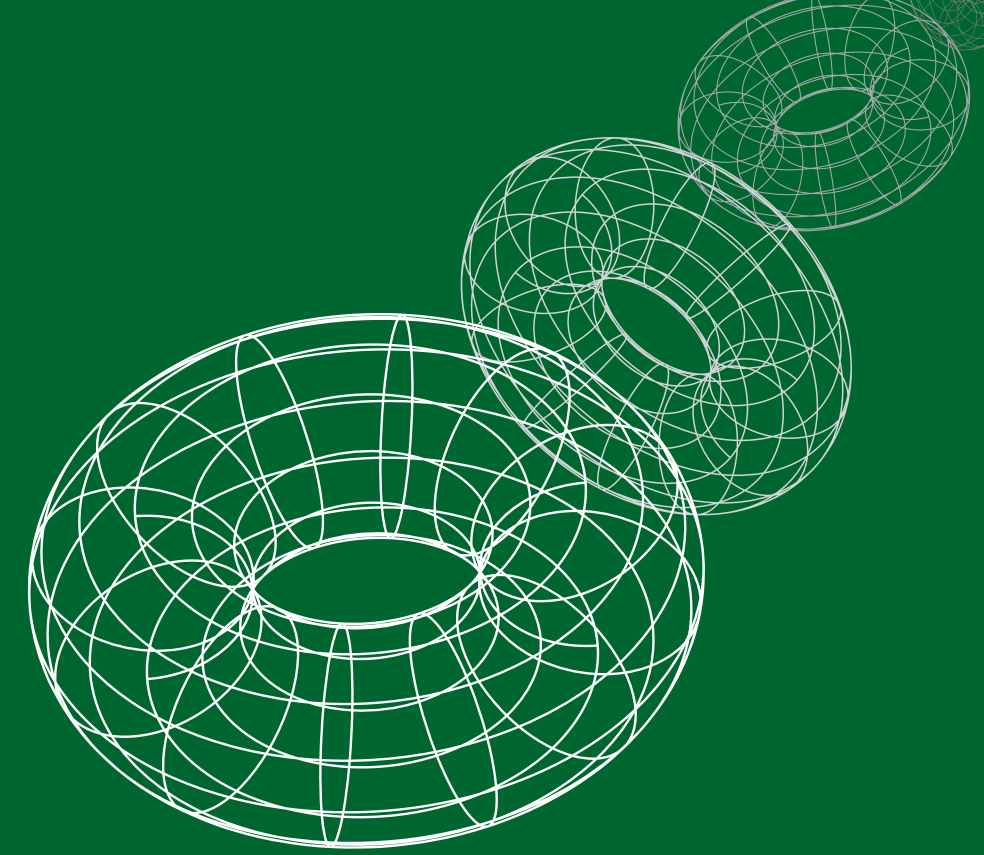
- Sustainable
- Focus on nutrition



NUTRITION-WORKING GROUP

- Initially established in 2016 (SDC, GIZ, USAID) broadening discussions and knowledge pool (GGP Notes and material on GFRAS website) and reinvigorated in 2022 (FAO);
- Multi-sector and actor working group (+ various GFRAS regions)
- Recommendation on policies, productive systems, capacities needed to improve the effectiveness of extension and how to reinforce the role of young people in addressing nutrition;
- Case studies (Uganda, Chile, Bangladesh) helping identify gaps, priorities, articulations, methodologies;
- Goal for 2023: increase the impact of existing knowledge in order to influence food system actors and public policies to work towards healthier and balanced food systems.
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THANK YOU



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