



Beyond the Drinking Glass: Expanding our Understanding of Water-Nutrition Linkages

Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 11:00AM-12:30PM

Introduction: Biniam Iyob, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mark Rosegrant, International Food Policy Research Institute

Location: FH Congress Hall A

Organizers: Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USAID, and Texas A&M University

Water access and management play central roles in determining nutritional outcomes. Water-for-nutrition is most often approached from a WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) perspective, whereby the aim is to improve domestic water quality and practices, thus reducing the burden of water-borne diseases in a population. A WASH focus for improving nutritional outcomes is especially pertinent, given recent evidence highlighting the role of diarrheal disease and environmental enteropathy in determining child stunting. However, there are a number of water-nutrition pathways in addition to WASH that would benefit from greater attention in research and discussion.

First, the role of gender-inclusive water programs and policies could be critical in improving nutritional status. Since research highlights how empowering women may lead to improvements in nutrition, the role of women in management of water resources should be more closely analyzed. Second, the pathway by which irrigation can improve nutritional outcomes through agricultural practices has not been thoroughly explored. In this session, we will discuss various pathways from water to nutrition, with insights from nutrition, WASH, gender and irrigation experts.

Objectives:

- Outline the pathways by which water can influence nutritional status (group, moderator). This will be an interactive activity, whereby participants write down components of the water-nutrition “system” on notecards and connect them with arrows in a start-up

exercise

- Present current research exploring the linkages between gender, water and nutrition (WASH/irrigation/gender-water interactions)
- Discussion: Ways in which WASH and irrigation can more effectively and more gender equitably support nutrition outcomes (panel and audience interactions). include the following:

Outcomes:

- A crowd-sourced conceptual framework identifying the linkages among water and nutrition
- Participants will gain an improved understanding of the pathways linking water and nutrition
- Information sharing on current research examining water-gender-nutrition linkages through evidence-based presentations
- Rich discussion between participants and presenters water-nutrition linkages
- Interaction between sectors not often linked: nutrition, gender, irrigation, WASH and agriculture and insights on how these could be strengthened

Speakers include:

1. Biniam Iyob, USAID
2. Mark Rosegrant, IFPRI
3. Dawit Mekonnen, IFPRI
4. Muhammed Abdella Usman, ZEF
5. Sara Marks, EAWAG

PROGRAM

TIME (MINS)

SPEAKER/ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

11:00

Mark Rosegrant, Division Director, IFPRI

GROUP ACTIVITY

11:05

Exploring the Pathways by which Water can Influence Nutritional Status:
Moderator (Biniam Iyob, Water and Irrigation Advisor, USAID)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

11:20

Irrigation-nutrition linkages: Insights from the ILSSI project and beyond:
Dawit Mekonnen, Research Fellow, IFPRI

11:32

Improving Community-Led Total Sanitation through Experimental Games:
Yaniv Stopnitzky, University of San Francisco, presented by Dawit Mekonnen

11:44

Agriculture, Water Quality, Nutrition and Health: Muhammed Abdella Usman,
Junior Researcher, ZEF

11:56

Multiple-use water services and improved dietary diversity in rural Tanzania
and Burkina Faso: Sara Marks, EAWAG

12:08

Discussion

CLOSING REMARKS

12:25

Biniam Iyob, Water and Irrigation Advisor, USAID



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