



AgExchange



Aligning USG Research Investments to the Global Food Security Strategy

Closing Webinar

April 20, 2017

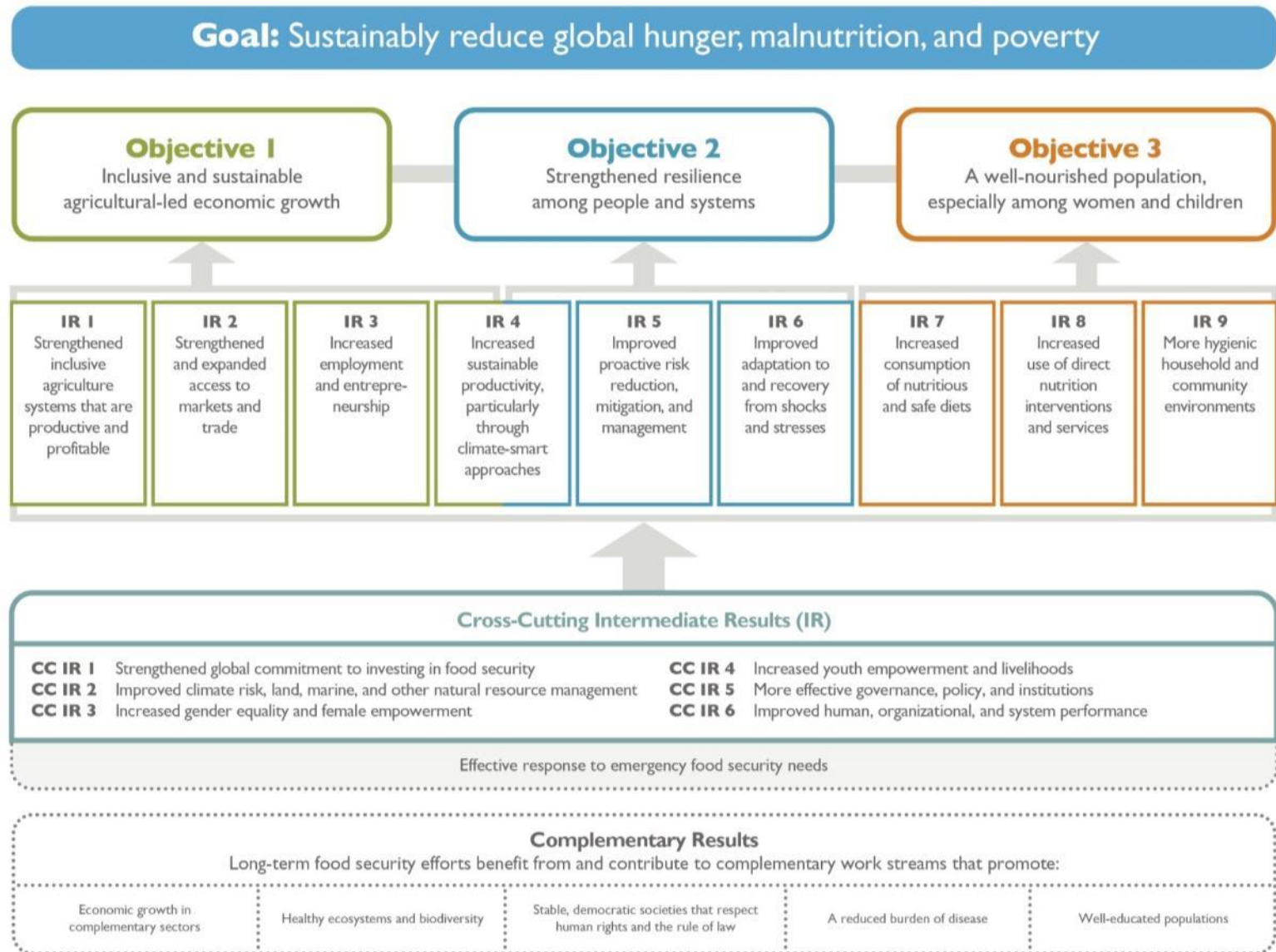
Agenda

- Introductory remarks
- Key takeaways from the four discussion themes:
 - Criteria for Focusing Research Investments
 - Nutrition Research
 - Ag-Led Economic Growth Research
 - Resilience Research
- Reflection and discussion
- Audience Q&A
- Closing remarks and next steps



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GFSS Results Framework 2017 to 2021



Realign Feed the Future Research Strategy



**Meet Goals of
Global Food Security
Research Strategy**



Criteria for Focusing Research Investments

- Potential for technology adoption and scalability
- Consideration of risks: connecting the technology agenda with social protection investments
- Institutional capacity building to achieve sustained impact.

Overall, we need to be strategic in prioritizing public investments and look for opportunities for private sector engagement.

Opportunities in Science and Research

- Big data and Information sharing platforms
- Novel tools and approaches to capture technology needs and adoption

Nutrition

Posting Distribution

- Dietary Diversity 22%
- Water/WASH 6%
- Food Safety 16%
- Nutrient Dense Foods/Partnerships 12%
- SBCC 17%
- “Latest/Greatest” Research Innovations 29%

General TakeAways

- ***Interaction with WASH sector*** in AG/N linkages is very weak
- General agreement that we need to highly reinforce ***SBCC, DD, and ASF***

Cross Cutting Takeaways (***Multi-Sectoral, Uptake of Recommendations, Consumption Patterns***)

Nutrition

- Multi-Sectoral Approach (still weak...)
 - N/Health research trials should be **co-integrated** with ag projects vs. simple, coordinated co-location.
 - Cross-sectoral interventions require more time/patience, but will have a synergistic effect over long term.
 - More attention should be paid to the **One Health** interface where human and animal health, environmental stewardship, and natural resource management are deeply intertwined.
 - The Ag/N interface would highly benefit from more engagement with **veterinarians**. **Breeding of ASF for higher nutrient content** is highly overlooked area, also **zoonotic disease**

Nutrition

- Uptake of Technologies and Recommendations
 - Behavior Change Messaging (SBCC)
 - More Nutrition education focused on incorporating nutrient-dense foods into traditional meals is needed.
 - What is the best age for messaging? Are we targeting **youth** correctly?
 - Remove “western savior complex” – beneficiaries are “**customers**” in a **private sector** dominated food system
 - Policy
 - More research is needed on the policy and operational considerations that underpin successful scale-up/roll-out of new technologies which target N.
 - Uptake can be much improved if national N policies become reinforcing

Nutrition

- Consumption Patterns
 - How do poor households choose what to buy/sell?
 - We need to understand how food price, income, nutrition, availability, perishability, taboos interface with **HH-level choices**
 - Must keep in mind that increased income not directly proportional to improved N (can lead to increased intake of junky foods...)
 - We simply don't have good handle on HH food consumption
 - ASF: more needed, but what is actual **frequency needed?**
 - Metrics
 - Current **metrics** do a poor job of assessing household consumption patterns and whether DD is being achieved
 - Better define the balance better sufficient **income** and food affordability

Agriculture-Led Economic Growth

Research to improve productivity

- Go beyond production: Increased research needed along the value chain--e.g. post-harvest loss reduction, food safety, marketing, transport innovation, *etc.*
- Research to understand farmer typologies, and which agricultural strategies produce the best outcomes for different types of farmers.
- Research on how to support/drive on-farm diversification to higher-value crops (both nutritional value and income value).
- Interdisciplinary research approaches essential to generate research outputs that will achieve development impact.

Agriculture-Led Economic Growth

How to improve technology adoption

- Engage with farmers and others throughout research to understand needs, constraints, and development context.
- Understand how/which variations across beneficiaries drives differences in adoption, to improve research processes and outputs.
- Collaborate with value chain actors to ensure research is demand-driven, builds on private-sector solutions, and rests on effective distribution system.
- Link research efforts with USAID development project implementation to study adoption and impact.

Agriculture-Led Economic Growth

How to improve ag enabling environment

- What are country-specific regulations for procuring land and licenses for commercial infrastructure?
- How can donors support a better enabling environment for agricultural finance, mobile money, and cross-border mobile payment systems?
- How can we spur greater harmonization and mutual recognition of regulation of inputs?
- We understand the benefits of an enabling environment for private sector, but what's the evidence for the connection between improved enabling environment and benefits to smallholders?

Resilience

- System-wide measurement
 - How to incentivize use of measurement tools by policy makers?
 - Role of spatial technologies/other tools in resilience measurement.
- Prioritizing investments in social protection and market systems
 - Need to link to improving resilience measurement to identify who needs social protection (and where)
 - How can these systems be scaled up? How to incentivize for investment and growth?
 - Policy: trade offs between productivity goals and resilience goals

Resilience

- Behavioral development and social cognitive research
 - Connections to behavioral economics research
 - Research in medical literature showing relationship between hope and resilience. What are successful strategies for fostering hope among marginalized groups?
 - Social cognitive and behavioral research: well embedded within other sectors, not so much ag/food security

Resilience

- Financial systems – role of insurance
 - Need for more research on risk transfer – how does insurance fit within a broader risk management strategy?
 - In multiple discussion threads it was emphasized that more research needed around the appropriate combinations of risk management and value-added tools to promote resilience
- Poverty Escapes – livelihoods/livelihood diversification
 - Need to find better solutions for youth
 - Need to better understand existing resilience capacities and adaptations underway among communities exposed to complex/compound risks
 - Importance of diversifying livelihood risks





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Consultations & Timeline

Nov 2016 – Intra and Interagency consultation

Dec 2016 – Climate Smart Ag Global Learning & Evidence Exchange (Cambodia)

Jan 2016 – USDA/Nat'l Institute of Food & Agriculture

Feb 2017 – Innovation Lab meeting (Senegal)

March 2017 – Mission input - survey

April 2017 – Public e-consultation

May 2017 – Draft Strategy with USG agencies & departments

Summer 2017 - Completed

On-going - Share strategy at events (Innovation Lab meeting, World Food Prize, American Society of Agronomy Symposium, etc)

THANK YOU!

→
Comment
through Friday
→

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Questions? Please contact: agrilinks@agrilinks.org



