



Rural agriculture for improved nutrition: Stakeholder insights from different sectors in Tanzania

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INTRODUCTION

- Nutrition sensitive pathways and approaches involving agriculture are being recognized as essential to guarantee nutrition security and lessen undernutrition (Hodge, et al., 2015).
- In Tanzania, the majority of the population lives in the rural areas and depend on agriculture as the main source of livelihood (URT, 2016).
- The agricultural sector provides 85% of exports, employs 85% of the workforce contributes, 75% of foreign exchange earnings and contributes about 25.8% to national GDP (URT, 2016).
- Although agriculture can play a big role in alleviating undernutrition, its role in tackling malnutrition needs to be dealt with based on policies and plans to the actual implementation

PURPOSE

To investigate perspectives of stakeholders on links between rural agriculture and nutrition, opportunities and challenges, evidences and policy inferences.

METHODS

- Participants: 10 stakeholders working in the nutrition sector
- Open ended interviews with stakeholders
- Focus group discussions with 20 farmers from Mzula and Tindiga villages in Dodoma and Kilosa

Stakeholder mapping: The process

Identifying	Analyzing	Mapping
↓	↓	↓
Listing relevant groups, organizations, and people	Understanding stakeholder perspectives and interests	Visualizing relationships to objectives and other stakeholders

- Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre
- Ministry of agriculture livestock and fisheries,
- Ministry of Health-preventive services
- ✓ Nutrition section,
- ✓ Department of Community Development, Gender and Elderly,
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Water,
- National Institute of Medical Research,
- Tanzania Food and Drug Authorities,
- Bakhressa Company limited,
- Centre for counselling, nutrition and Health Care
- Department of Food Technology, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences of the Sokoine University of Agriculture.



A focus group discussion with women farmers

References

- Hodge, J., Herforth, A., Gillespie, S., & Beyero, M. (2015). Is There an Enabling Environment for Agriculture in East Africa? Stakeholder Perspectives From Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, 36(4), 503–519.
- United Republic of Tanzania. (2016). Tanzania Agricultural Sector Development Support Program. URT, Dar es salaam.

RESULTS

Obstacles to better achieving reduction of undernutrition included:

- Unclear motivations/guidance in the agriculture sector regarding enhancing nutrition
- Focus and support directed on cash crops production
- Lack of accountability of agriculture matters for improving nutrition
- Policies exist but are not put into action
- Limited competence in the available human resources to coordinate agriculture activities for nutrition
- Limited coordination between/among sectors
- Limited evidence that agriculture works for nutrition and vice versa
- Budgetary constraints to support agriculture
- Limited extension services for both agriculture and nutrition
- Lack of access to agricultural productive resources
- Limited knowledge about nutritious and quality food
- Increased occurrences of natural disasters such as floods and serious drought

Possible measures

- Promoting production of nutrient-dense crops
- Empowerment of communities with Nutrition education and information
- Improved access to markets for sale and buying of foods and other staff
- Labour saving technologies for women

CONCLUSIONS

There is need to strengthen the structure of agriculture and nutrition policies which will in turn need proper implementation for the desired success.

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