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**SAFANSI’S THREE PILLARS**

- Analysis - improving evidence and analysis on the most effective ways to achieve FNS outcomes in SAR;
- Advocacy - improving awareness of FNS-related challenges and advocacy for action amongst relevant stakeholders;
- Capacity Building - strengthening regional and in-country policy and programming capacity to achieve FNS outcomes.

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**Starving Amid Growth: Tackling Hunger and Malnutrition in South Asia**

**WASHINGTON, DC, USA**

On March 15, 2010, the World Bank and DFID launched the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI) to tackle the “South Asia Enigma” – a phenomenon observed across the region where even rising household incomes and an annualized growth rate of 6% for 20 years have not guaranteed increased nutrition. In India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has called malnutrition, “a curse that we must remove.” In South Asia, this curse is estimated to cause a 2-3 percent loss in GDP and to decrease lifetime earnings by 10 percent.

SAFANSI is taking on this challenge by promoting cross-sectoral action on food and nutrition security. Recognizing this need, AusAID has recently contributed approximately AUD $8.5 million in additional funds to our fight against hunger and malnutrition.

On March 15, 2011, SAFANSI marked its one-year anniversary with a seminar on Managing Cross-Cutting Action for Improving Food and Nutrition Security. The session, which was opened by Isabel Guerrero, Vice President for South Asia Region, and attended by managers from Agriculture and Health,

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**South Asia Development Marketplace on Nutrition**

**KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

The South Asia Region Development Marketplace (SAR DM) on Nutrition is a competitive grant program of the World Bank that identifies and funds innovative, early stage pilot projects with high potential for developmental impact and replication. SAFANSI has supported the SAR DM on Nutrition in order to increase the set of effective tools from which policy makers can chose their modeled interventions.

Isabel Guerrero, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region, has stated, “Undernutrition is one of the most challenging issues facing South Asia. Poor nutrition robs a child of a chance to succeed and live a healthy, productive life. And yet, an investment in nutrition is one of the social policy interventions that has the highest impact for each dollar spent, in improving this child’s future.”

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Agriculture & Water Roundtable Calls for Innovation for Growth

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
On March 8 and 9, 2011, the Planning Commission of the Government of Pakistan and the World Bank organized a Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and Water for Agriculture in Pakistan, with the co-sponsorship of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, USAID, and financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The event, which was inaugurated by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, took stock of Pakistan’s current status, challenges, and aspirations for agriculture and water for agriculture. It created a forum to tap into the extensive in-country knowledge and to share knowledge on how similar challenges were addressed using local and international good practice and analysis.

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Multi-sectoral Analytical Approaches to FNS

WASHINGTON, DC, USA
SAFANSI has supported the development of evidence-based research and analysis, which can help policy makers produce more informed and effective policies. A focus on what constitutes adequate food, health and care—the three dimensions that feature prominently in the UNICEF framework—has the potential to shape policy dialogue.

The most important SAFANSI innovation in this regard is the formulation of explicit and scientific measures for the adequacy of food, health and care, and determining how significantly being adequate in one, two or all three dimensions is associated with differences in the level of nutritional outcomes. The approach makes use of recent advances in visual data analysis to create dashboards that allow policy makers to observe

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SAFANSI Technical Advisory Committee Created

Sudarshini Fernandopulle (Sri Lanka)
Dr. Fernandopulle currently serves as a Member of Parliament for Sri Lanka. Dr. Fernandopulle has a background as a community physician for which she began her career as a medical officer in the Gampaha district. Subsequently, she served as a Medical Officer of Health in Katana, through which she developed primary healthcare for that division. Dr. Fernandopulle is also the President of the Jeyaraj Fernandopulle Educational Foundation.

Kul Gautam (Nepal)
Dr. Kul Gautam is currently a Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on International Affairs and Peace Processes. Dr. Gautam has previously served as Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. During his career in the UN system, Dr. Gautam was given prime responsibility for spearheading the 1990 World Summit for Children at the United Nations and the 2002 Special Session of the General Assembly on Children.

Mahabub Hossain (Bangladesh)
Dr. Mahabub Hossain is the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). Prior to joining BRAC, Dr. Hossain was the Head of the Social Sciences Division and the Program Leader of Rainfed Ecosystems Program at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. Dr. Hossain also served as the Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies from 1989 to 1992.

Saba Gul Khattak (Pakistan)
Dr. Saba Gul Khattak currently serves on the Government of Pakistan’s Planning Commission for Social Sectors. Prior to her role on the Planning Commission, Dr. Khattak was the Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan from 1997 to 2002.

Mohammad Taufiq Mashal (Afghanistan)
Dr. Mohammad Taufiq Mashal is the Director General of Primary Health Care & Preventive Medicine for the Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan. In this role Dr. Mashal has recently been involved in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, where he has been working with UNICEF and the WHO to support the Afghan government’s efforts to immunize 7.8 million children.

K. Srinath Reddy (India)
Dr. K. Srinath Reddy is currently the President of the Public Health Foundation of India. Dr. Reddy received his MD in 1977 from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, India. He has edited the National Medical Journal of India for 10 years. Dr. Reddy has also actively represented India in the inter-governmental negotiations for the development of the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Naresh C. Saxena (India)
Dr. N.C. Saxena currently monitors hunger-based programs on behalf of the Supreme Court of India. Dr. Saxena also served as the Secretary of the Planning Commission and of the Ministry of Rural Development of India. He chaired the Government of India Committee on identification of the poor in 2009 and is currently also serving as the Supreme Court Commissioner on Food Security.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA
The Bank has invited prominent South Asian experts in Food and Nutrition Security to join SAFANSI’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC – comprised of experts from the South Asia region – will provide guidance and advice to help the program achieve its strategic goals. SAFANSI hopes to utilize the knowledge and advice of these individuals to advance food and nutrition security issues within their respective countries, sectors and organizations. The TAC will be chaired by Simeon Ehui, the Bank’s Sector Manager for South Asia Agriculture and Rural Development (SASDA). SAFANSI is now proud to announce the following composition of the regional TAC members, including:
The DM was launched in February 2009 in order to engage civil society and grassroots organizations interested in improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) throughout South Asia. The winning organizations were selected through a highly competitive process from a pool of 1000 applicants and 60 finalists.

About the Grant Winner
Helen Keller International (HKI) was the recipient of one such DM grant in Nepal. HKI’s program — *Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture (AAMA)* (AAMA means “mother” in Nepali) — aims to improve infant and young child nutrition by targeting pregnant and lactating women’s access to micronutrient-rich foods.

HKI’s Director of Programs, Pooja Pandey Rana, further explained the rationale of AAMA’s effective approach:

1. AAMA’s three main strategies include: i) Essential Nutrition Actions; ii) Homestead Food Production; and iii) Behavior Change. How do these three strategies work together to improve the health of children and pregnant women?

The population in Nepal’s Far West Region has inadequate access to both a diverse, high-quality diet and to nutrition knowledge that improves feeding and consumption practices. These are significant barriers to improved nutritional status for women of reproductive age and children under two years of age. The AAMA approach merges two proven interventions into a holistic approach to address the two complementary and critical facets of undernutrition in Nepal.

HKI’s Homestead Food Production (HFP) program introduces appropriate technologies for improved, year-round household food production and consumption of vegetables, fruits and animal products rich in essential micronutrients. The Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) framework includes a nutrition education package which demonstrates the impact of nutritional practices on health.

Linking these two interventions is the behavior change component (BCC) that addresses the barriers to enhancing the factors that affects infant and feeding behaviors. For example, AAMA addresses all the direct causes of malnutrition i.e. health, food and care component. The HFP intervention will improve household access to micronutrient-rich foods and will be complemented by the ENA/BCC intervention, which will foster optimal child feeding and care practices and better use of health and other services to prevent child malnutrition.

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Gender & Nutrition: Policy Implications for Adolescent Factory Workers

WASHINGTON, DC, USA

Gender has long been recognized as a critical factor in solving the ‘nutrition puzzle’ in South Asia, although there have been few operational implications for the design of gender-based policies and programs. The cross-sectoral nature of gender issues has made harnessing the multi-level implications of gender in nutritional outcomes particularly difficult.

SAFANSI Technical Advisory Committee member, Dr. K. Srinath Reddy emphasized the role of gender and has advised that the ability of maternal malnutrition to lead to the perpetuation of low health and nutrition outcomes, “… is not confined to one generation but can carry through to several generations, because of modification of gene expression.”

In this complex equation, adolescents constitute a key population. Children and adolescents represent almost 40 percent (615 million) of the South Asia’s population. Over the next 15 years, the region expects its share of the global youth population to grow from 25 to 28 percent.

Adolescence — as a transitional phase both physiologically and socio-economically — is a critical stage for addressing inter-generational transmission of malnutrition, especially given the young age of first pregnancy in the region. This is accentuated by the data that suggests a relatively higher prevalence of adolescent undernutrition in South Asia. Adolescence is thus a particularly crucial window in addressing “hidden hunger” and breaking the cycle of inter-generational transmission of nutritional deficiencies.

A shift in policy focus to target adolescent girls and nutrition is expected to bring valuable long-term gains for removing existing impediments to the improvement of nutrition indicators in South Asia, particularly if combined with other types of interventions, such as education, day-care, etc.

In order to effectively incorporate gender based policy prescriptions into the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) toolbox, SAFANSI will look to points of entry for effective and wide-spread intervention. One such possible intervention could involve targeting women in the workforce.

While generally women are under-represented in the formal sector, opportunities for gender-targeted FNS interventions may exist in sectors where women constitute the majority of those employed, as in the case of the ready-made garment industry in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In those countries, the Export Processing Zones have a large geographic concentration of women of child-bearing age working in the factories, where their labor force composition ranges up to 80% of those employed. These young women often migrate from less-developed areas and have a higher probability of facing nutritional deficiencies. As a result of the high concentration of this adolescent female demographic, the implementation of a nutrition program in these factories could be a cost-effective means to cheaply zero in on this crucial target.

Harnessing the Bank’s pull in such an economic zone could be an opportune entry point for inserting gender-based programs in the private sector for achieving nutritional outcomes. This would also be an opportune time for both the Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi, Board of Investment to facilitate a public-private partnership for an integrated Food and Nutrition Security plan. The effects of such a program could be amplified throughout society for generations to come.

Similar opportunities to insert gender considerations into the greater development framework for improving nutritional outcomes will be crucial to achieving FNS in South Asia. SAFANSI is working to identify these opportunities and to highlight the potential for program growth amongst policy makers.

Sophie Rodella, South Asia Social Development, SAFANSI TTL
Multi-sectoral Analytical Approaches to FNS

(Continued from Page 2)

the important relations and to see instantly how the results change as one explores the relationships in the data. This helps focus attention on those factors that are empirically proven to be most closely related to achieving improvements in nutritional outcomes. The results to date suggest that better measures are needed to capture the importance of the adequacy of food for nutritional outcomes. The indicators that are currently available for food and infant feeding practices are inadequate. More effort needs to be made to capture concepts of household food security and adequacy of diet and include them in household surveys, such as the DHS.

MST

SAFANSI has also supported the development of empirical tools, which can help Ministries and planners better utilize existing resources for FNS programs and targets. The Multi-sectoral Simulation Tool (MST) helps countries understand how different types of interventions at varying scales are likely to affect the impact on nutritional outcomes and the cost of reaching their goals.

At the heart of the MST is a causal model that links multi-sectoral interventions to nutritional outcomes. The MST allows users to determine what time, money, and effort is required to operate a given intervention at a desired scale. It is envisioned that a web-based version of the MST will allow local planning officials, an expert in Dhaka, and an international expert based in Washington to collaboratively review and simulate the circumstances of any given district in real time. This will enable experts to identify critical activities, knowledge gaps, and the highest payoffs to filling those gaps with implications for improving program design and implementation.

A high-level map is a device that allows one to "see the forest". This particular high-level map shows that there is a relationship between health status and nutritional status and that the effect goes in both directions. It also shows that this interaction depends on the

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Building the Drive for Greater Food and Nutrition Security

(Continued from Page 1) featured a presentation by John Newman, Lead Poverty Specialist in SASEP. Newman presented a tool being developed with funding from SAFANSI, that will help policymakers better manage resource allocations to achieve improved nutrition. His Multi-sectoral Simulation Tool (MST) – a causal model that links multi-sectoral interventions to nutrition outcomes – is now being piloted in two districts of Bangladesh to help district planners identify the specific mix and scale of interventions needed to achieve a 5% target reduction in stunting rates within 3 years.

This model takes advantage of other SAFANSI work that defines explicit and scientific measures of each contributing factor in order to establish their complex interactions, which can be monitored to observe their effects on nutrition outcomes. In the current climate of scarce resources, tools like the MST can help the Bank and our clients get the most “bang for their buck.”

SAFANSI has seized opportunities that span across sectoral boundaries. For instance, it co-sponsored the IFPRI global conference in February 2011 on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health in New Delhi. At the conference, it hosted a knowledge sharing booth where it featured literature, case studies and workshops on the latest nutrition innovations from the Development Marketplace and SAFANSI. SAFANSI promoted such South-South learning through arranging discussions on these rural and health sector community pilots as presented by the local women involved in running them. It also hosted a panel discussion featuring a group of international experts on Building a Platform for Food and Nutrition Security.

On the panel, David Nabarro, UN Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition, noted how “the incentives in government are built around line ministries...so you are working against the culture when you try to work across the sectors.” Nabarro stressed the need for political commitment from a Prime Minister, President, or a selection of Ministers to push the convergence of sectors. Pakistan’s former Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz remarked that SAFANSI is a good start, but that corresponding national responses are necessary to affect change.

SAFANSI is working to build that political commitment at the regional and national level, as it forms its Technical Advisory Committee and as it funds the formation and enhancement of national food and nutrition security councils in several South Asian countries. SAFANSI is also financing work to build the evidence base for policymakers and program implementers on what works, what does not work, and why. As the body of evidence and analysis builds, the program will launch communication efforts to raise awareness of the impact of food insecurity and malnutrition and how best to combat it.

Breaking Down Silo Walls
Michal Rutkowski, Sector Director for Human Development in South Asia and Jack Stein, Sector Director for Sustainable Development in South Asia characterized SAFANSI as an unprecedented initiative that breaks from business as usual because it works across different sectors—including agriculture, health and nutrition, economic policy, social protection and others—that otherwise seldom interact. Partnership, rather than competition between these sectors, is critical to addressing food and nutrition security. This, of course, remains a key SAFANSI challenge.

So what is SAFANSI doing to overcome these barriers?

“the incentives in government are built around line ministries...so you are working against the culture when you try to work across the sectors.”

Pakistan: Agriculture & Water Roundtable calls for Innovation for Growth

sentatives from across Pakistan, including senior officials of Pakistan Planning Commission, Federal Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Power, and other federal agencies, in addition to senior officials from agriculture, irrigation, livestock, food and planning and development departments of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

The Planning Commission is working on a new strategy to achieve a sustainable growth rate of 7 percent per annum. The agriculture sector growth rate has decelerated during the last 3 decades. Business as usual will not work. There is a need for change in mindset. The role of the Government in the sector should be redefined. The private sector should be the growth driver in an open market environment that rewards productivity, efficiency, innovations, and entrepreneurship. The Government should re-focus its role on protecting the public sector interest and rights, providing public goods, formulating policies and enforcing laws.

Market reforms must also be undertaken. Computerization of land records and titles can facilitate exit of inefficient farmers. In view of the high rate of return on investment in agricultural research, agricultural scientists should be given incentives. While, wide ranging issues in agriculture, livestock, horticulture, dairy, and water for irrigation were identified, three areas emerged as of immediate priority: technology, markets and water use efficiency. Further analysis and reforms are needed in policy and governance, management, institutions, and knowledge and information systems.

The Roundtable created a forum where the Government of Pakistan presented its development agenda in agriculture and irrigation, and the participants have called for more of such forums at the national and provincial levels as the investment and analytical programs unfold. The National Forum on Agriculture of the Planning Commission will be coordinating the follow up work on priority areas identified by the roundtable participants.

Presentations and supplemental materials from this Roundtable are available at:
http://go.worldbank.org/8X1AQ35TT0
2. How does HKI's HFP model target women as primary beneficiaries?

There is now a clear consensus that along with pregnancy, the first two years of life constitute the critical window of opportunity for improving nutrition. Furthermore, since women are the primary caretakers, HKI's HFP promotes small-scale agriculture among women, specifically to improve women's and children's nutrition outcomes, including dietary diversity and knowledge of maternal and child feeding practices. The model identifies households with pregnant women and children under 2 years of age and builds local capacity by providing technical assistance, training and agricultural inputs to these women farmers. Gender training is an integral component of AAMA's agriculture training. By selecting women as our Village Model Farmer (VMF) owners, the AAMA project gives these women more control over household income and as the main caretaker control over the usage of nutritious foods.

3. To what extent is AAMA's approach adaptable to varying needs? And in what ways are AAMA's approach and goals sustainable?

The model will build on Nepal's highly successful Female Community Health Volunteer program, expanding nutritional skills and introducing incentives to sustain the motivation of these community-based agents. Over time, the AAMA beneficiaries will rely on their own seed storage techniques, or on the VMF for renewing their seed supply. Thus, the role of the VMF was envisioned to fill a gap in rural extension services, and also to ensure a local source of quality seeds and saplings, and new agricultural information and technologies to food insecure communities.

4. What are some of the challenges unique to Nepal that AAMA has faced in implementing strategies to address child and maternal malnutrition?

The low status of women in these communities, poor eating and child feeding habits, a lack of knowledge about adequate nutrition and health, and poor child care and hygiene practices have been particularly challenging. In light of these women's added farming responsibilities, female VMFs' heavy household workloads did not appear to diminish, which is something that should be addressed.

5. What do you hope AAMA's impact will be at the national and local levels?

The project will give participants the skills to conduct improved health, nutrition and homestead food production activities at the grassroots level. The program is implemented in close collaboration with both district public health offices and district agriculture development offices, and will encourage linkages between these two sectors, as well as between government and non-governmental providers. The project's formative research and monitoring and evaluation system will contribute to improved health research by generating data on food security, health and nutritional behaviors and status of mothers and children. Documenting and disseminating information to stakeholders at all levels will in turn strengthen evidence-based policy formulation and the management of health services.

Leveraging Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Security
Multi-sectoral Analytical Approaches to FNS

(Continued from Page 6) outcome of births and on the initial conditions associated with the drivers of nutritional and health status. The map also identifies some specific interventions that, depending on their program effectiveness and scale, would be expected to affect nutritional status directly or indirectly acting through health status.

By using the software to click on each item in the high-level map, one can see the details of how each part of the system works. This representation of the system would reflect experts' knowledge of how each component interacts and could help manage the complexity by pulling the different elements together. Once users are satisfied that the representation of the system is accurate, the behavior of the system can be simulated to help build operational understanding of how changes in the scale of interventions would likely affect nutritional outcomes. This tool is currently under development and is being piloted in Bangladesh.

John Newman, South Asia Economic Policy and Poverty Reduction, SAFANSI TTL

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, Achieving sustainable food and nutrition security is fundamentally a multi-sectoral, cross-cutting challenge since the problem is rooted in so many different dimensions. The food security objective has been defined by FAO (World Food Summit, 1996) as:

All people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food according to their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Operationally, four conditions need to be met to sustainably attain this objective: (i) increasing food Availability through faster (and diversified) agricultural growth, more efficient markets, and less restrictive trade; (ii) ensuring adequate Access to food by increasing the purchasing power of the poor and ensuring social and gender inclusion; (iii) enabling effective Utilization of food through improved micro-nutrient uptake — especially during the first two years of life — along with adequate healthcare, sanitation, and consumption of safe drinking water and food; and (iv) by creating Stability (and reducing volatility) across the three aforementioned categories in order to build the resilience of households, communities and countries to shocks.

Going forward, a critical need is to mainstream FNS issues into agriculture, rural development, education, health, early childhood development, gender, water and sanitation as well as social protection policies and programs.
Dear Colleagues,

Over the last year SAFANSI has been developing a cross-cutting array of activities, which will help address the gaps in the regional Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) framework. Through fostering cross-cutting action and integrating our approaches with our government partners, SAFANSI hopes to overcome sectoral divides in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

To assist in its efforts, SAFANSI has enlisted the help of several leading in-country experts, who will provide guidance on program development. It is with great pleasure that I can now announce the composition of SAFANSI’s Technical Advisory Committee, each of who are briefly profiled in this issue. As SAFANSI works to strengthen the FNS framework in South Asia, we are also facilitating contact with the SUN Initiative, REACH, and the EU/UNICEF Maternal and Child Nutrition Security Project amongst others. Of course none of our work would be possible without the contributions from our donors: the UK Department for International Development and the Australian Agency for International Development. Their continual support is crucial to our mission in South Asia.

For those of you, whom we met at the IFPRI Conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health, we sincerely hope that you will lend your hand in our efforts to facilitate greater integration between the sectors. Achieving measurable improvements in FNS cannot be accomplished without such a wide network of interested individuals.

We are establishing this newsletter to keep all interested parties “in the loop” and would welcome appropriate contributions that any of you may have for future issues. I look forward to sharing our progress on Food and Nutrition Security in the coming weeks, months and years.

Kind regards,

Animesh Shrivastava

Program Manager’s Note

Animesh Shrivastava
SAFANSI Program Manager
Senior Agricultural Economist
South Asia Region
Agriculture and Rural Development
The World Bank
SAFANSI’s Strategic Approach

These three pillars set the stage for our actionable work on food and nutrition security in South Asia.

Enhanced Stewardship of the FNS Agenda

Our goal is to increase the commitment of governments and development partners to more effective and integrated food and nutrition-related policies and investments.

The foundation of our strategic approach is to foster cross-cutting actions that will lead to measurable improvements in Food and Nutrition Security.

South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative

Fostering Cross-Cutting Action

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