

The Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool

Focusing agriculture on nutritional outcomes

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Tom Schaetzel, Technical Director

Infant & Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project

The Manoff Group

The Infant & Young Child Nutrition Project

- USAID's flagship project on infant and young child nutrition.
- Aims to prevent malnutrition in mothers and children during the critical 1,000 days (from pregnancy through two years of age).
- Led by PATH in collaboration with CARE, The Manoff Group, and University Research Co., LLC.



Photo: Evelyn Hockstein

The problem

- Agricultural development has produced mixed results for nutrition.
- “There are trade offs...between production/employment goals and... nutritional goals.” (USAID, 1982)
- Agriculture and nutrition speak different languages and seek different objectives.

The solution

- Always want to orient agriculture toward better nutritional outcomes.
- If not possible, can we at least avoid harm?
- “Do no harm” approach.




Photo: QFP/Mario DiBari

Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool

- Methodology from environmental and gender impact assessments.
- Assessment of likely outcomes from planned and alternative approaches.
- Modification of project design only if negative impacts expected.

Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool

This tool assists agriculture and nutrition program planners in assessing the likely nutritional outcomes from agriculture interventions. Please refer to the accompanying Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool Guide for instructions on how to use the tool.





STEP 1 List project objectives
List each of the project objectives in the space below.

STEP 2 Define population groups at risk
List at risk-groups in the left-hand column and enter a comparison group for each one in the right-hand column.

| At-risk groups | Comparison groups |
|----------------|-------------------|
| A: | A: |
| B: | B: |
| C: | C: |

STEP 3 Determine nutritional status of population groups at-risk
Complete the table with data on the nutritional status of at-risk and comparison groups. Use rows 1 to 3 for data representing either children under 2 or children under 5. Use rows 4 to 6 for data representing girls/women 15 to 44 years of age. Insert an X if data is not available for specific populations.

| | At-risk group A | Comparison group A |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Children <2 or <5 (check one) | | |
| Indicator 1: | | |
| Indicator 2: | | |
| Indicator 3: | | |
| Girls/women 15-44 years | | |
| Indicator 4: | | |
| Indicator 5: | | |
| Indicator 6: | | |

 **USAID** FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE  **IYCN** USAID's Infant & Young Child Nutrition Project

What are the innovations?

- Prompts consideration of nutritional outcomes in a non-threatening way.
- Does not require agriculture to “take on nutrition”.
- Uses a familiar methodology for a new subject.



Process

1. Situation analysis.
2. Compilation of evidence base on nutritional impacts of agriculture approaches.
3. Selection of impact assessment methodology.
4. Production of beta tool with detailed guidance.
5. Dissemination for testing.
6. Follow-up.
7. Create and release final version.

Compiling the evidence base

- *Review of Nutrition and Food Security Impacts of Agriculture Projects* has become a useful product in its own right.
- Examples and recommendations condensed into a “fact sheet”.



Creating the tool

- Automated and paper-based versions.
- Introduced review to ensure due diligence.
- Obtaining data is a major constraint.



Photo: PATH/Jay Ward

Current status

- Interest has been very high.
- Primarily used for small-scale (< \$1m) agriculture projects or for integrated development projects.
- Planned survey to collect feedback.
- Workshop in August 2011.
- Release of final version in September.

Defining success of an innovation

- Offers a novel way of dealing with an established problem.
- Offers a practical solution to a problem that is widely recognized and a significant barrier to progress.
- Adopted and adapted by others (innovation on the innovation).

How to support innovation?

- Keep mandates flexible.
- Encourage risk-taking (i.e., accept failure).
- Allow time for testing and development.



Thank You