



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## TOOLKIT AND E-LEARNING MODULE on NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

*Guidance for policy and programme planner*

### What is at stake?

The role of food systems features as a central focus of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, and political commitment and efforts to make agriculture and food security policies and programmes “nutrition-sensitive” are growing. Ministries of agriculture and rural development are increasing their contribution to multi-sectoral nutrition strategies. On their side, development partners are making nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food security a central feature of their support to agricultural investments. A prominent challenge for transforming this commitment in action, however, is the lack of capacity for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture policies and programmes, alongside with the lack of guidelines and tools to assist professionals and policy makers to effectively integrate nutrition in their work.

### *A toolkit for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems*

FAO “*Toolkit for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems*” address these needs, through providing an integrated package of guidance materials which include:



✓ **Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems:** presents 10 recommendations for designing programmes in a nutrition-sensitive way and 5 recommendations for optimizing the nutritional impact of policies. Available at [www.fao.org/3/a-i4922e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4922e.pdf)

✓ **Checklist and guidance for programme formulation:** designed to assist program planners in operationalizing the Key Recommendations. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i5107e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5107e.pdf)

✓ **Compendium of nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions:** provides a list of 19 interventions across the food system that have great potential to improve nutrition;

✓ **Compendium of indicators for Nutrition-sensitive agriculture:** describes a range of indicators that can be used to monitor and evaluate the nutritional impacts of investments in agriculture.

The toolkit materials have been developed through a very consultative process. The *Key Recommendations* are based on an extensive review of experiences and good practices on agriculture programming for nutrition conducted in 2013, and through consultation with a broad range of partners (CSOs, NGOs, government staff, donors, UN agencies) in particular through the Ag2Nut Community of Practice; the *Compendium of nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions* has been developed through leveraging different expertise in FAO, from nutrition to agriculture, food technology, market linkages and food value chains, social protection, gender, agricultural investments and food safety.

## Module: Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and Food Systems

In addition to the Toolkit, FAO has recently launched the second course of its series *E-learning Modules on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems*, entitled **Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and Food Systems**. Designed to assist professionals from any fields related to shaping and implementing food and agriculture programmes, investments and policies, the module uses a scenario-based and experiential learning approach to illustrate the linkages between agriculture, food systems and nutrition.



The module covers all forms of malnutrition and a diversity of contexts. It provides a series of examples of nutrition-sensitive policies and interventions and gives an overview of the main initiatives and commitment on which learners can build to integrate nutrition in their work.

Go to: [www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/NFS](http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/NFS)

The series is complemented by **Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods: Basic concepts**: short course on the basics of nutrition. Go to: [www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/NFSLBC](http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/NFSLBC)

Alongside with the series, the e-learning course **Agreeing on causes of malnutrition for joint action** is a key resource to improve the understanding of the multi-sectoral causes of malnutrition and support integrated nutrition planning, through the use of the “problem-and-solution tree” methodology. Go to [www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/ACMJA](http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/ACMJA)

The series is the outcome of a multi-year consultative process, started in 2015 with a learning needs assessment workshop which has brought together 44 experts from 31 organizations to jointly design and agree upon the module target audience and content. The module has been developed through an iterative process, where both FAO technical units and external partners have actively contributed and acted as peer reviewers at every stage. This inclusive creative process has ensured that the module reflects the state-of-art and more recent thinking in nutrition and food systems. The content has been also informed by, and enriched with, the lessons learnt and case studies gathered through regional and country training workshops and initiatives implemented by FAO over the last 5 years.

### Next steps

These materials are already used by FAO and partners (e.g. the World Bank) as a reference material to support enhancing the nutrition impact of agriculture and food security investments. They are also key resources for FAO-supported capacity development workshops in nutrition and food security integrated programming. In 2017, the priority will be to:

- Develop the last module of the series: **From nutrition situation analysis to nutrition-sensitive project design, monitoring and evaluation**: will provide guidance for nutrition situation and institutional analysis, and address key features of programme design, implementation and monitoring of nutrition-sensitive policies and programmes
- Further disseminate these materials in order to enhance their uptake. Various means will be used, including e-learning platforms and websites of FAO and partner organizations. Awareness about the toolkit and modules will be raised through advocacy at organizational level, but also through global, regional and country networks related to nutrition and food systems (e.g. SUN; Ag2Nut Community of Practice). Partnerships will be established with regional and national academic institutions for the uptake of the e-learning resources as part of university and other training programmes. Implementation methods will include the preparation of online or blended learning courses (and their delivery through Massive Open Online Course), technical assistance to training institutions on the adaptation and piloting of the courses, facilitation of global consultations/lessons sharing workshops. Learning courses and materials developed (for face-to-face, e-learning and blended versions) will be available free of charge as global public goods.