

# Development of a Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Training Manual for Use by Extension Staff in Ethiopia: The Experience of the Feed the Future Growth Through Nutrition Activity Livelihoods Team

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## Introduction

Feed the Future Ethiopia Growth through Nutrition Activity (2016-2021) is the USAID's five-year flagship multi-sectoral nutrition and WASH project which aims to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in four of Ethiopia's regions, focusing on the first 1000 days. Building off of the USAID ENGINE (2011-2015) project, Growth through Nutrition works across all government and society levels to bring multi-sectoral nutrition programming to community levels, and link development and emergency efforts to build resiliency and sustainability. The activity directly contributes to the development objectives of Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, and USAID's Multi-Sector Nutrition and Water Strategies, as well as the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) priorities, strategic plans and programs, which include the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP), National Nutrition Programme (NNP), One WASH National Programme (OWNP), Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), Agriculture Growth Program (AGP), and the Seqota Declaration.

### Growth Through Nutrition Activity Project Primary Objective

To prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy until the child's second birthday

### Intermediate Results (IR) Areas

- 1) Increased access to diverse, safe & quality foods
- 2) Optimal nutrition, WASH & agriculture-related behaviors adopted
- 3) Increased utilization of quality nutrition services
- 4) Increased access to WASH products and services
- 5) Strengthened multi-sector coordination & capacity to implement effective nutrition & WASH programs

## Methods

This poster applies a mixed methods approach incorporating 1) retrospective analysis of the manual development process; 2) key informant interviews with five different program staff and extension officers; 3) interpretation of project collected monitoring and evaluation data.

## Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Training Manual Development

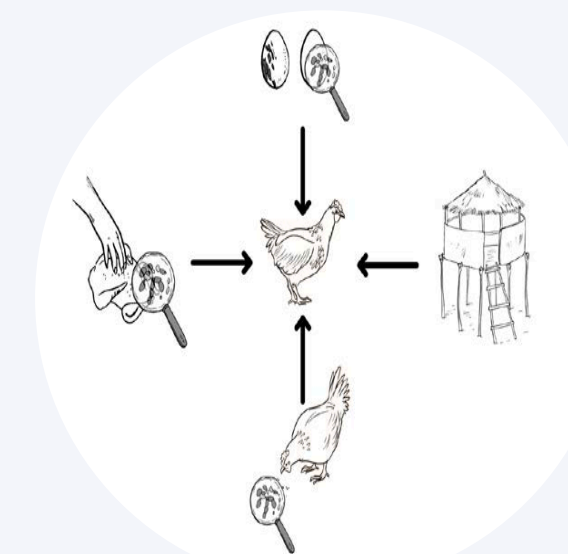
In 2017, a multidisciplinary team developed a nutrition-sensitive livestock and agriculture training-of-trainers manual and accompanying comprehensive facilitator guide for use by Ethiopian extension workers, as part of an activity in IR1.



### Manual Cover Image



Custom Manual Drawings, by Yemisrach Yetneberk



### Manual Chapters

- 1) The Role of Agriculture in Nutrition and Health
  - 2) Fruit and Vegetable Production
  - 3) Livestock and Animal Source Foods (ASF) Production
  - 4) Food Safety and Post Harvest Handling
  - 5) Permaculture, Conservation Agriculture and Soil Management
  - 6) Selling and Buying of Nutritious Foods
  - 7) Savings & Credit Cooperative Formation to Sustain Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions
- ★ Each chapter led by a technical expert on livelihoods team
  - ★ Nutrition – Sensitive technical advisor oversaw manual process
  - ★ Integrated contents of >30 training resources

## Findings

Using a Training of Trainers approach, **304 Agricultural Extension Workers** cascaded nutrition-sensitive training to **2245 Development Agents**, who have trained over **22,000 additional trainers, farmers, heads of households and others.**

**3** local language translations: Amharic, Oromiffa & Tigrigna

Overall improvement in Knowledge Scores Post Training – of –Trainers **27%**



“...we need more work on changing attitudes of households on providing ASF to pregnant mothers and children under two. Households are struggling with providing ASF to pregnant and lactating women.”

**13%** Increase in most vulnerable households receiving nutrition-sensitive information from AEWs

“The manual works well on convincing us about the ...linkages with nutrition. The livestock portion was especially interesting; it explained the positive and negative impacts of livestock production on nutrition.”



Locally prepared Ethiopian yogurt



Project partners monitor adoption of nutrition-sensitive behaviors, including consumption of animal source foods. however .... “I am not sure that our ways are accurately monitoring behavioral changes...” (all quotes from program staff)

## Conclusions

- Manual development was a year-long process driven by an expert team with backgrounds in nutrition, livestock, crops, and livelihoods; a common vision for the manual was paramount to success.
- A more comprehensive training needs assessment prior to manual completion would have highlighted areas to focus on
- Improved methods to monitor impact of multi sectoral programming are needed.
- Funders and implementers must recognize the importance of training needs assessment and the time scale necessary for integrated, multisectoral programming to realize effects on nutrition outcomes.
- Contents of the manual are contributing to a national standardized NSA training manual in Ethiopia

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