



Tracking Agriculture & Nutrition Indicators

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Sara Duran, M&E Manager
sara@fintrac.com

Fintrac

Mission:

Develop agricultural solutions to end hunger and poverty in developing countries.

Approach:

Technical assistance and training in good agricultural practices provided directly to smallholder farmers.

Measure:

Selection of indicators on agricultural production, agricultural sales, technology implementation, nutrition, etc.



Cambodia: Select Project Activities



- Household gardens
 - On-site agricultural training
 - On-site nutrition training
- Mobile kitchen
- Community-level nutrition groups
- Community-level savings groups
- School and health center gardens

Cambodia: Lessons Learned

Select Findings:

- 80 percent of income from vegetable sales used to purchase food.
- Women's dietary diversity improved by 28 percent (from 4.6 to 5.9 food groups).

Lessons Learned:

- Most rural households have cash flow problems.
- Time and financial constraints in preparing diverse and nutritious meals for the family.
- Farmers plant with the intention to sell more than for consumption and dietary diversity.
- Length of project is key, change takes time.



Honduras: Select Project Activities

- Hands-on training focused on child health and nutrition.
- Technical assistance on nutrition education, food preparation, feeding practices, and ingredient selection (focused on children under age of 2).



- Healthy Households Initiative, basic infrastructure construction (eco-stoves, running water installation in kitchens, improved floors).
- Promotion of good agricultural practices and technologies.

Honduras: Lessons Learned

Select Findings:

- Women's dietary diversity improved by 51 percent (from 3.4 to 5.15 food groups).
- Women's dietary diversity improved because of increased production, sale, and consumption of protein and vitamins from high-value products (vegetables, livestock, dairy).

Lessons Learned:

- Diversification into high-value crops generates more consistent cash flow.
- Income generation alone does not lead to improved nutrition; hands-on training and technical assistance also required.
- Length of project is key, change takes time.



Main Takeaways

Beneficiaries:

- Diversification into higher-value crops with multiple harvests per year generates a more consistent cash flow.
- An increase in income leads to an increase in food purchased but not necessarily to an increase in *nutritious* food purchases.
- Most beneficiaries have such serious cash flow problems that an increase in income does not guarantee improved nutrition on its own.
- Behavior change at the community and household level is slow.

Implementers:

- Agricultural production (income generation) targets and nutrition activities need to be integrated from the beginning of project design and must be resourced accordingly.
- Need to couple our regular quantitative data collection with more qualitative assessments to better understand household decision making.
- There are other non-tangible, non-measurable benefits of incorporating nutrition into agricultural development projects that go beyond the indicators.

Thank you!

