

**6<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting**  
***Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services***  
**14 - 17 September 2015, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan**

**Reporting Form for Side Events**

Side events are an important instrument for organisations and stakeholders to prepare a joint position for the 6<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting, plan follow up activities, initiate partnerships, or discuss other issues of interest. However, everyone cannot be at all side events. This form is provided so that the knowledge generated at the side events can be shared with a wider audience. It will be made available on the annual meeting website. Please fill it out and send it to the GFRAS secretariat ([natalie.ernst@g-fras.org](mailto:natalie.ernst@g-fras.org)) by 30 September 2015.

**General information**

Name of the side event	How to Harness the Power of Extension to Improve Household and Community Nutrition Outcomes
Sponsoring organisation(s)	INGENAES
Name(s) & email(s) of contact person(s)	Andrea Bohn, abohn@illinois.edu
Moderators	Andrea Bohn, Associate Director INGENAES project
Participants	7 ( <i>very frustrating! We had more 16 signed up but that was prior to the change in schedule</i> )

**Summary of the event: Purpose, key discussion points, main recommendations**

(Maximum 1 page in total – this will be published as such as summary of your side event on the 6<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting website, so please do not just use bullets). It shall contain:

**Initial content, purpose, and objectives of the meeting (max 1/3 page)**

Stimulate the Dialogue on the Role of Agricultural Extension Service Providers in Relation to Nutrition Messaging, Education, and Advice

Participants will have a clearer understanding of the opportunities and limitations of the role of RAS in terms of improving nutritional outcomes in communities and have a better understanding of the mediating role of gender

**Key discussion points and learnings (Please explain in detail; max 1/3 page)**

We discussed multiple examples of nutrition messaging being built into agricultural programs. Key takeaways from those:

1. Behaviour Change Communication specialists often are not nutrition specialists. Often experts are called in but they know too little of the culture
2. What may seem a neutral, factual term (e.g., "stunting") to a project implementer can be a highly sensitive term associated with tabus or stigma in the community
3. Images can send unintended messages. Example: The "before good nutrition" image portrays a woman with children that don't look well and only eating a few food groups. The "after" image portrays a family of four under an umbrella that signifies improved nutrition with more diverse food intake. The children now look well, but this can be taken as "no wonder, there now is a man in the family". And is the image promoting limiting family size to 2 children or improved nutrition practice?
4. Look for entry points for improving nutritional habits. Example from Timor L'Este: highly nutrition plants are being eaten for specific ceremonies. So people are already familiar with these foods. Encourage use beyond ceremonies.
5. "Doing something different because it's good for you/your children" (e.g., eat more xyz) is not necessarily a compelling argument. Embed better nutrition advice in multiple other reasons for adapting a certain practice. Example: The six main benefits of agrobiodiversity. And don't use the term "should".
6. Extension services should be demand-drive. Rural communities are not necessarily demanding nutrition education/advice. How dare we push this on them? Whose agenda is this?

**Main recommendations, conclusions, and/or ways forward (Please explain in detail; max 1/3 page)**

1. Nutrition extension: design, implementation, evaluation, and revision must be done in interdisciplinary teams. And work with multiple stakeholders. Good extension practice involves multi-stakeholder approaches, and thus extension is actually well suited to tackle nutrition. Multiple topics, multiple types of players, including Civil Society, multiple public sector agencies/ministries.
2. Also: work "up and down the elevator". In order to support better nutrition outcomes, there is work that needs to be done with "top" level stakeholders, as well as from the bottom up, and various levels inbetween. Money is more likely available "at the top". Watch the flow of resources to understand what can really be done "at the bottom". Advocate for resources needed at the base.
3. Use community mapping tools to generate awareness and interest. (E.g., the tool used by SNV. Example: <http://akvo.org/blog/snv-zambia-improves-rural-water-supplies-with-mapping-and-monitoring>)
4. Extensionists with a strong background in technology may first have to "unlearn" that. For supporting better nutrition practice, the networking, engagement, and communication skills of good extensionists are key.
5. Engage children and young people.

## Useful resource people, websites, or documents related to side event theme

### Website/electronic resources:

Online training course on nutrition-sensitive agricultural programming.

<http://agrilinks.org/training/nutrition-sensitive-agriculture>

<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/>

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture library resources on Agrilinks <http://agrilinks.org/activity-cross-cutting/nutrition-sensitive-agriculture>

Collaborative bibliography of research publications related to agriculture, nutrition and health [www.mendeley.com/groups/844241/agriculture-nutrition-and-health](http://www.mendeley.com/groups/844241/agriculture-nutrition-and-health)

<http://www.fsnnetwork.org/resource-library>

### Documents/publications:

GFRAS (2014): [The Integration of Nutrition within Extension and Advisory Services \(EAS\) A Synthesis of Experiences, Lessons, and Recommendations](#). The full report is [available here](#).

GFRAS (2015) Global Good Practice NOTE 9: Integrating Nutrition into Rural Advisory Services and Extension [www.g-fras.org/en/ggp-notes/integrating-nutrition-into-ras.html](http://www.g-fras.org/en/ggp-notes/integrating-nutrition-into-ras.html)

MEAS (2015): [Whose Job is it? Integrating Agriculture and Nutrition in Public Sector Agricultural Extension Services](#) (Malawi Example) by Vickie Sigman. [www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/technical-notes](http://www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/technical-notes)

MEAS (2015): Integrating Nutrition in Farmer Field Schools in Eastern Africa [Full Report](#) (click to read), [Summary Paper](#). [www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/program-evaluation](http://www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/program-evaluation)

Mercy Corps (2015) Nutrition-sensitive agricultural programming. A nutrition sensitive approach for market-based agricultural projects. [www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/nutrition-sensitive-agriculture-programming-nutrition-sensitive-approach-market](http://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/nutrition-sensitive-agriculture-programming-nutrition-sensitive-approach-market)

SPRING (2014): Improving Nutrition through Agriculture Technical Brief Series [www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/series/improving-nutrition-through-agriculture-technical-brief-series](http://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/series/improving-nutrition-through-agriculture-technical-brief-series). The conceptual frameworks of the pathways and principles for improving nutrition through agriculture are described in Brief 1: [Understanding and Applying Primary Pathways and Principles](#). Each subsequent brief explores a different route between agriculture and nutrition: food production, income generation, and women's empowerment.

SUN Malawi: [http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Malawi\\_IYCN\\_KeyMessages-for-1000-Special-Days.pdf](http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Malawi_IYCN_KeyMessages-for-1000-Special-Days.pdf)

Helen Keller International. 2014. Nurturing Connections. [www.hki.org/our-impact/stories/nurturing-connectionsbangladesh#.VZTJh6b4ijw](http://www.hki.org/our-impact/stories/nurturing-connectionsbangladesh#.VZTJh6b4ijw)

## Participants

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Susumu	Gibson	<a href="mailto:GibsonS@spc.int">GibsonS@spc.int</a>
Matras	Frederique Anne	<a href="mailto:Frederique.Matras@fao.org">Frederique.Matras@fao.org</a>
Dhamankar	Mona	<a href="mailto:M.Dhamankar@kit.nl">M.Dhamankar@kit.nl</a>
Langen	Dominik	<a href="mailto:dominik.langen@giz.de">dominik.langen@giz.de</a>
Schuchmann	Alwin	<a href="mailto:alwin.schuchmann@giz.de">alwin.schuchmann@giz.de</a>
Quilitzsch-Schuchmann	Beate	<a href="mailto:quilitzsch@ambero.de">quilitzsch@ambero.de</a>
Collao Grandi	Sergio Gabriel Marcelo	<a href="mailto:collaogr@hotmail.com">collaogr@hotmail.com</a>