POLICIES AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR GROWTH OF AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

Nutrition Response
July 2019
Nutrition Situation
Nutrition status in under-five children

- Stunting is declining, but still high at 37%. Overweight remains at 5%.
In adult women 15-49, overweight has increased from 10% to 21% in from 1992 to 2015/16.

WHO conducted a 2009 non-communicable disease survey and found 16% of men overweight.
Feeding of the 6-23 months

Minimum dietary diversity
MDD = Eating at least 4 food groups

Minimum meal frequency
MMF = 6-8 mo eat food 2x/day
9-23 mo eat food 3x/day

Minimum acceptable diet
MAD = MDD + MMF
Some observations…

- **Anaemia** is declining but still high, especially among women and children.
- **Vitamin A** has decreased significantly.
- **Zinc** deficiency is prevalent in all sexes and ages with men leading in the deficiency at 66%, preschool and school aged children at 63% and women 15-49 years at 61%.
- Only 25% of the U5 meet **Minimum Dietary Diversity** (4 of 6 food groups)
- Only 29% of the U5 meet **Minimum Meal Frequency** (2-3 times per day)
- Only 8% of the U5 meet **Minimum Acceptable Diet** (Diversity + Frequency)
Agriculture the Basis of Nutrition?

• The primary role of agriculture may be feeding people well by improving stable availability and accessibility
  
  Are the gains in agriculture productivity translating into optimal nutrition outcomes.
  
• High anaemia levels because of iron, folate and/or vitamin B12 coupled with high malaria rates.

• Significant decrease levels Vitamin A, is it because of health interventions, or agriculture and food interventions.

• High prevalence Zinc deficiency is prevalent in all sexes and ages >60%
What has been done?

• Advocated nutrition in the national development agenda – MGDS
• Developed and reviewed the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan
• Developing Food and Nutrition legislation
• Developed and reviewed Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy
• Developed the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy in line with NMNP, NAP & NAIP
Key Objectives of the ASFNS

1. To ensure stable **availability** of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production
2. To ensure stable **access to safe and nutritious** foods
3. To promote Social **Behaviour Change** for improved dietary practices
4. To promote **gender integration**, and women and community empowerment and participation for improved food and nutrition security
5. To create and strengthen an **enabling environment** for effective delivery of food and nutrition programs
Conclusion

• Strengthen weak links in behaviour change from production – processing – utilisation.
• Women empowerment – influence what goes into family pot (VSLs & Land ownership)
• Capacity strengthening at district and community levels (Personnel, Equipment and Structures)
• Scale up research to address the emerging issues in nutrition
Thank You …