

Facilitating strategic change for better nutritional outcomes

In June 2015, ESSP co-facilitated a conference to bring together the nutrition community engaged in combating malnutrition in Ethiopia. The *Transform Nutrition* consortium (funded by DfID) worked closely with IFPRI-ESSP to develop a relevant program to share knowledge on the nutritional needs facing Ethiopia today.

This major conference entitled ***Together for Nutrition***, and attracting a national and international audience, was attended by almost 150 people including donors, the Ministries of Agriculture (MoA) and Health (MoH), and many other wide ranging organizations and individuals who are engaged in food and nutrition in Ethiopia.

Leading experts largely from IFPRI's research community, shared research from both a global and local perspective, covering many of the lessons learnt in health and nutrition. They also poised unanswered questions that could, if answered, deepen understanding of the complexity of malnutrition and how to, more effectively, implement strategies and programs to impact nutritional issues in Ethiopia. Participants indicated unanimous positive feedback (Figure 1) on the quality and impact of this gathering.

IFPRI-ESSP has supported nutritional change through: i) Delivering critical research findings to the nutrition community through regular conferences and seminars ii) Assimilating feedback from field organizations to build a united picture to address nutritional needs iii) Helping to develop improved business strategies with donor organizations

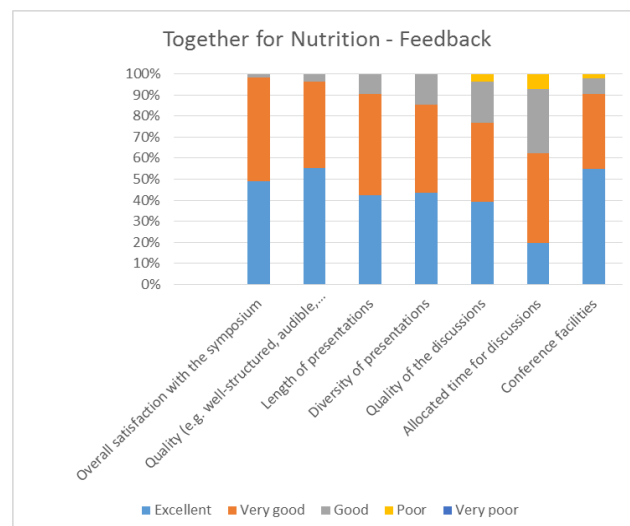


Figure 1 - *Together for Nutrition* 2015 Conference feedback

Subsequent reports on the research findings presented during the conference have served to influence several strategy documents and investment in the country. For example, in the Nutrition Project Appraisal Document for USAID, numerous references are cited from IFPRI's research presented at the conference.

Additionally, a report to the EU and UNICEF on Nutritional Situation Analysis in Ethiopia, and the new phase of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) that refers to the research to justify extra

nutrition-sensitive investments in the existing program (also see [Outcome Note 09](#)), both attribute content to IFPRI-ESSP's work on nutrition imparted during the conference.



These examples, among others, illustrate that this evidence-based research is highly relevant and helps influence thinking and strategy for on-going investments in food and nutrition in Ethiopia.

Preparing maize for the household
(Photo credit: P. Brown)

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