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International Technical Webinar
Making social assistance programmes work for
nutrition: the ISPA-FSN tool

Wednesday 16 November 2022
13:30 - 14:30 (Rome time)

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Questions and Answers

For more information about the international technical webinars series, please visit
the [FAO eLearning Academy website](https://elearning.fao.org)

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This document is a compilation of questions relevant to the topics covered during the International Technical Webinar, raised by the participants, and answers provided by the experts from FAO or partner institutions during the event. The answers provided in the Q&A document only reflect the personal views of the experts and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever, endorsement, nor recommendation on the part of FAO or the partner institutions involved in the webinars. FAO reserves the right to alter, limit or discontinue any part of this service at its discretion. Under no circumstances shall FAO be liable nor held responsible for any loss, damage, liability or expense suffered that is claimed to result from the use of information posted on this site, including without limitation, any fault, error, omission, interruption or delay.

1) Invitation for participation of small-scale farmers has led to issues such as food loss & waste, also inequal distribution of food availability around the region, especially in developing countries. How about the impact of this?

The link between small scale farmers and public procurement schemes needs to be managed carefully considering the regulatory framework, the existing supply chain and the demand. This is part of managing trade offs

2) What about food fortification intervention?

Food fortification can be integrated in the design of in-kind transfers and school feeding programmes. It could be made mandatory to ensure compliance (e.g. ensuring that all foods provided in food assistance programs are fortified). In FAO we are also considering bio-fortification through agronomic practices to increase availability of nutrient-enriched crops.

3) Is there any example country where FSN tools were implemented even though there are no FBDGs?

Countries that do not have a FBDG can still use the ISPA-FSN tool by considering dietary patterns and taking into account the different forms of malnutrition to inform the design of social protection programmes.

4) Is the tool used in rural areas, with least access to nutritious foods/ no information about food patterns? Is there any tips about situation analysis on this?

The Tool can be applied in both rural and urban settings. There will be instances where gathering information about food patterns will not be straightforward. The ISPA-FSN resource document provides tips on how to conduct a situation analysis, as well as sources that can be used to collect data and information (box 2.1 GN 30):

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb1564en/cb1564en.pdf>

5) How do I keep track of digital badges earned on the Elearning Academy platform?

Digital badges are online visual representations of skills and competencies earned through learning. They are visible, sharable, and verifiable. You can find more information about digital badges here:

<https://elearning.fao.org/mod/page/view.php?id=5179>

6) How best can we influence consumer behaviour to increase food access? How does consumer behaviour promote sustainable agriculture?

You may find the HLPE report on nutrition and food systems helpful:

<https://www.fao.org/3/i7846e/i7846e.pdf>

7) It has come out that the vulnerable tend to sell their rations for money to meet their other pressing basic needs, how can we address such issue?



This needs to be assessed within the context as new emerging basic needs may emerge during the implementation of a social protection programme that needs to be addressed looking at linkages with other services or redesign of measures within the current SP programme.

8) Do you take into account aspects related to climate change?

Here is a list of courses available free of charge at the FAO elearning Academy platform.

Introduction to climate-smart agriculture:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=439>

Climate-smart fisheries and aquaculture:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=579>

Climate-smart forestry:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=578>

Climate-smart crop production:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=436>

Climate-smart livestock production:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=437>

Water management for climate-smart agriculture:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=438>

Climate-smart soil and land management:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=435>

Sustainable Land Management and Restoration:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=454>

9) At times, in the absence of standardised (including proxy) indicators (eg: diets for certain vulnerable groups such as school children and adolescents) it's a challenge to measure the outcome/impact. What can be done in that case?

The minimum dietary diversity (MDD) for women of reproductive age (15-49 years) is a validated indicator that can be used as a proxy for diet quality. It measures the diversity of food groups included in the diet and what kind of food groups are present and/or missing.

10) Any New Courses on COP27?

Please refer to question number 8 for courses on climate-smart production and land management.



Please also find this brief on FAO's work on climate change and social protection at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3527en/cb3527en.pdf>

The following publications might also be of interest:

- Social protection, emergency response, resilience and climate change – a new interactive learning tool
<https://www.fao.org/social-protection/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1027407/>
- Managing climate risks through social protection: <https://www.fao.org/social-protection/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1250961/>

With regards to climate change and nutrition:

- Climate change, biodiversity and nutrition nexus: Evidence and emerging policy and programming opportunities <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb6701en>

Please visit the **FAO elearning Academy** elearning.fao.org, which offers free multilingual courses on the thematic areas covered in the Technical Webinar.

You can access all webinar recordings [here](#).

