

# Breakout Session 1

## Undernutrition

Coordinator: Suneetha Kadiyala

## Speakers

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- ❖ Derek Headey:
  - ❖ Alan Dangour
  - ❖ Lynn Brown
  - ❖ Anna Herforth
  - ❖ Matin Qaim
  - ❖ Jemimah Njuki
  - ❖ Prabhu Pingali
- Day 1
- Day 2
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Several *enthusiastic* participants

## The big question

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How do we make *agriculture systems (and therefore related policies and processes)* work for health and nutrition?

## The research question

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- ❖ What do we know about the contribution of agriculture (multisectoral) *research, policies and programs* in reducing the undernutrition burden and how?
- ❖ How can we strengthen that link in the most cost-effective way?
- ❖ Under what conditions?
  - Development trajectories
  - Other enabling environmental factors
  - Sequencing
  - Winners and losers
- ❖ A big evidence gap...still

## Progress

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- ❖ A recognition of the disconnect between agriculture, nutrition and health
- ❖ Emerging knowledge of links between farm production, diets and some nutrition outcomes
- ❖ Increasing recognition of the centrality of gender dimensions
- ❖ Nascent discussions on learning from other disciplines to conduct integrative research
  - Challenges well recognized

## How do we go about it? Methods and Metrics

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- ❖ Diagnostic approach to understand where the biggest gains or pain points are from macro to individual level
- ❖ Research designs
  - Quantitative: RCTs, Quasi-experimental, IV, Panel fixed effects etc
  - Qualitative methods : How and *why* of human behaviour
- ❖ Nutrition outcome indicators
  - Stunting
    - ? For short-term impact studies
    - ? Large scale program evaluation
  - **Dietary diversity /diet quality:** how to measure
- ❖ Pathway indicators (e.g.)
  - Empowerment
  - WASH

## Recommendations

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- ❖ A guidance note on a decision making tree for research design
  - Choice of nutrition outcomes
  - Pathway indicators
  - Using already existing guidance from diverse disciplines
- ❖ Harmonizing survey instruments
  - ❖ Minimum set of nutrition questions in agriculture survey
  - ❖ Minimum set of agriculture questions for nutrition surveys
- ❖ Improvement and validation of some tools/scales
  - ❖ E.g. Food frequency questionnaires; dietary diversity scores etc .





