NIPN Partners Webinar #3: Strategic Engagement with Academia

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Experience from Nepal

- The academia platform was formally established as a regular, strategic forum with specific TOR.

- **Key entity:** National Nutrition & Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), based within the National Planning Commission (NPC)
  - Facilitated collaboration and supported the platforms, high level committees and Multisectoral Working Groups (MS-WG).
  - Planning and follow-up of action points from meetings.
  - Facilitated events related to knowledge-sharing, dissemination of research findings, research capacity enhancement.

- **Modality of working:**
  - Academia platform took place every 2 months, unless the members decide differently.
  - As needed, this platform assigned small teams or individuals for specific tasks.
Coordination Architecture

- MoF
- MoUD
- MoE
- MoHP
- MoAD
- MoFALD
- MoWCSW
- MoIC

- Academia Platform
- Private Sector Platform
- Media Network

- 3 MS-WGs
- NFSCC
- HLNFSSC
- NNFSS/NPC

- CSO Alliance
  - CSANN
- Nepal Nutrition Group (NNG)
- Food Security Working Group (FSWG)

- DISTRICTS/VDCs
Academia

“National and international research institutions/universities, and/or other actors (Government, development partners, etc.) conducting research projects, studies and working with students who may be involved in field research”
Actors involved

Universities, research institutions and councils in Kathmandu

Ministries relevant for the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP)

National Planning Commission

Training institutions

UN agencies

NGOs

Nutrition and Food Security Projects
There is a tendency for many research activities and studies to be conducted individually by national and international universities, research teams or others, public health institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, projects, etc.

Engagement with academia is often limited to:
- Bilateral research cooperation
- Invitation to attend events
- Conferences organized by Academia
Opportunities

➢ Coordination of research activities to fill evidence gaps to inform policies and programmes in support of the MSNP
➢ Discuss and get advice on planned research and studies
➢ Identify new & targeted study/research opportunities
➢ Coordinate use of HR resources (students for thesis, etc.)
➢ Enable better identification and allocation of resources for studies/research
➢ Advise foreign research institutions and ensure information sharing about planned studies/research
➢ Etc.
Purpose

i) Bring together academia members and institutions to share information about their engagement in research and capacity development for nutrition and food science

ii) To facilitate coordination and collaboration of “Academia Platform” members with others, such as the Multisectoral Working Groups in support of the MSNP
Specific Objectives

• To share and discuss results of research activities
• To ensure coordinated, targeted planning and implementation of research, training activities and other relevant activities
• To identify policies that should be revised or developed based on evidence created
• Provide advisory support to HLNFSSC and NNFSCC
• To identify opportunities on how research, academic or training activities could be planned and implemented in collaboration with other stakeholders
• To provide advice to and collaborate with other stakeholders (via the three MS-WGs)
• Coordinate resource allocation
• Organize knowledge sharing events
• Guide and facilitate planning and implementation of FNS programs
• Provide advice to new organisations/institutes planning to carry out research in Nepal
Achievements

- Better coordinated planning and implementation of studies and research
- Better alignment of studies and research with evidence needs for the implementation of the MSNP
- More effective planning and utilization of field work of students in collaboration with development partners
- Ensuring that external research institutions would present their plans for discussion prior to implementation
- Enabling research institutions to have better access to funding resources (donors, development partners, etc.)
- Enabling academia to be part of the MSNP coordination and collaboration efforts
Q&A