



**Conference on Agri-Health Research
at ANH Academy Week, Addis Ababa, 20-24 June 2016**

National information platforms for nutrition: an international initiative to improve the analysis of existing data to understand how to improve human nutrition

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While there is a growing need for more and better data to track improvements in human nutritional status towards national and international development goals, many countries have existing data that could be analysed in greater depth to help understand what has driven recent improvements, particularly the role of agriculture to prevent malnutrition among young children. The aim of National Information Platforms for Nutrition, which is an initiative of the European Union supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is to support seven countries initially to bring together all data available on important nutritional outcomes, such as stunted linear growth, wasting and anaemia, with data from all sectors that could be applied analytically to understand what factors have driven changes in prevalence or may have protected children from malnutrition. The potential sectoral sources of data include: health, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food prices, water, sanitation, social protection, population and the environment. The first five countries to start establishing platforms are Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger and Laos. A Global Support Facility has been established by the Agrinatura Consortium at Agropolis International, and a group of experts has been constituted to provide technical advice.

The presentation will discuss some of the political and practical challenges experienced while setting up a NIPN in the first five countries to enable the platform to be multisectoral as well as objective and non-sectoral in its analytical approach, and will briefly describe the challenges for estimating the attributable impact of programmes and investments in agriculture to prevent malnutrition.

Theme (select one)

- Agriculture and food systems, environmental change and diets
- Drivers of food environment at national, community and household levels
- Contribution of agriculture and food systems policies and programmes towards nutrition
- Agriculture and human health linkages
- Institutions and governance of food systems

If selected for an oral presentation, will you apply for a bursary (available only to presenters from developing countries)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know (yet)