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HKI Programs with Agriculture - Health Linkages

• In Asia, HKI's signature **Homestead Food Production (HFP)** programs support improved, year round cultivation of micronutrient-rich fruits and vegetables and the production of poultry and small livestock combined with nutrition education to improve household knowledge of the nutritional benefits of consumption of homestead products, particularly for young children and pregnant and lactating women. The program differs from traditional home gardening in the emphasis on nutrition education to teach and inform about improved diet and caring practices, the targeting women in recognition that their control over household resources better ensures care and food security for children and other vulnerable household members and its emphasis on fostering social networks to build human capital. Evaluations confirm that these HFP programs have been successful in improving food production, income, women's control over resources, and in many cases, the consumption of higher quality diets. HKI is implementing this model in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and the Philippines.

• In **sub-Saharan Africa** HKI's "**Eat Orange!**" programs are giving special emphasis to increasing the production and consumption of vitamin A-rich **orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP)**, which research has demonstrated to have a significant impact on the vitamin A status of young children. The crop is readily adopted by farmers, especially those cultivating the less nutritious white-fleshed varieties. HKI is promoting cultivation and testing improved strains for nutrient content, yield, pest resistance and acceptability to farmers. HKI currently has OFSP promotion programs in Burkina Faso and Mozambique.



• **Nepal:** HKI and its partner Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG) are implementing an innovative Child Survival Project with USAID funding in two districts of Nepal's far western region to merge two proven programs to address complementary and critical facets of malnutrition: increasing food security using HKI's **HFP** programs; and enhancing nutrition knowledge and behaviors using the Essential Nutrition Actions (**ENA**) framework and behavior change communications techniques. The project will include **impact evaluation** research in the district of Baitadi, where the intervention and control village development councils will be randomly selected and compared at baseline and end line on key nutrition, socioeconomic, and knowledge indicators.

• **Cambodia:** HKI and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) are using **program theory** to investigate the delivery, client use, and impact pathways of an on-going HFP program in Cambodia to gather information that will allow for the design, future implementation and evaluation of an enhanced HFP program model with stronger and better defined nutrition and health inputs, more clearly defined and measurable impact pathways, and overall greater potential for impact on maternal and child health and nutrition.

• In **Mali**, HKI is collaborating with the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the *Institut d'Economie Rurale* to enhance nutrition through sustainable **biofortification** of sorghum and millet with iron and zinc using participatory variety development, supporting adoption of appropriate technologies for enhancing bioavailability of these nutrients through fermentation and germination, and nutrition education to improve infant and young child feeding practices.

January 13, 2008