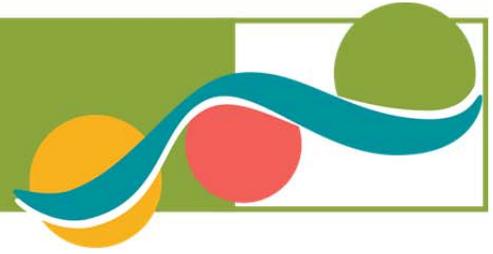


BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY



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Introduction and Rationale

Poor countries and vulnerable people are being hit hard by a barrage of shocks—economic shocks such as volatile food prices and financial crises; environmental shocks and natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and earthquakes; and social and political shocks such as conflicts and violence. The number and intensity of these shocks are not diminishing over time—on the contrary. Emerging threats such as climate change, competition over increasingly scarce resources, and growing inequality and social exclusion will in all likelihood lead to more shock events, resulting in further loss of assets, including productive land and animals, and displacement of people, to the detriment of already vulnerable communities and populations, including women and smallholder farmers. There is an urgent need to predict these shocks, prepare for them, and devise coping strategies to ensure resilient global-, national-, and community-level agricultural and livelihood systems, institutions, and policies so that food and nutrition security can be achieved for all.

Resilience is rapidly rising to the top of the international development agenda: In 2012, the European Commission articulated “The EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Security Crises;” USAID put forth “Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis: USAID Policy and Program Guidance;” and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies released “The Road to Resilience: Bridging Relief and Development for a More Sustainable Future;”; in 2013, the Asian Development Bank released “Investing in Resilience: Ensuring a Disaster-Resistant Future;”; and in 2014, the World Development Report will focus on managing risk for development. Resilience building must be a key component in the post-2015 agenda if the goal is to end hunger and poverty sustainably.

There is a general understanding that building resilience means helping individuals, households, communities, regions, and countries anticipate, prepare for, cope with, and recover from shocks and, at a minimum, bounce back to where they were before the shocks occurred. Equally important, increased resilience could also improve livelihoods and support economic growth and transformation while mitigating future shocks.

However, there is far less understanding about resilience in the context of food and nutrition security. Key questions include:

- Whose resilience needs to be strengthened?
- What is the role of food and nutrition security in building resilience?

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- What is the relationship between resilience and vulnerability?
- Why are some people and communities more resilient than others – i.e., why can they better overcome shocks while others suffer long-lasting repercussions? How can a gender lens be applied to resilience?
- How can degrees of resilience be measured, especially when assessing the impact of policies, programs, and interventions? What type of indicators of resilience would be appropriate? What kind of evidence on resilience is needed in order to scale up interventions?
- What are the tradeoffs of investing in resilience versus economic or other development strategies for growth?
- What instruments, approaches, institutions, and policies, originating in both industrialized and developing countries, can help foster resilient agricultural and food systems (including climate-smart agriculture), ecosystems, health systems, social systems, and governance structures that can pre-empt and better manage different types of shocks?
- Using a case study approach, what has worked and not worked in dealing with key shocks during the past few decades? How quickly did agricultural systems rebound after certain shocks, how was food and nutrition security addressed during and after these shocks, and to what extent did these responses build long-term resilience? What lessons can be learnt from around the world, especially from the South (for example, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and South Africa) in building resilience for poor people?
- Looking forward, where are the priorities for policymakers and practitioners in civil society and private sector to focus their investments and scale up their actions in order to contribute to building resilience in the face of persistent food and nutrition insecurity? What are the key knowledge gaps that need to be addressed?

Resilience is a systems way of thinking about development, and can be key to tackling issues that run across the entire agriculture, food, and nutrition system. Also, since resilience has roots in the environmental and humanitarian fields, it offers an important opportunity to overcome “silos” and bring different sectors and actors together to tackle complex problems related to food and nutrition security.

Policy Consultation Process

Recognizing there is an urgent need for more evidence, IFPRI’s Strategy for 2013-2018 has identified “building resilience” as one of its six strategic research priorities. Hence, there are compelling reasons and opportunities for IFPRI and its 2020 Initiative to play a catalyzing role in this area through an international policy consultation process to inform, influence, and catalyze action by key actors—including policymakers, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, educators, and researchers. This process will bring together available information, identify knowledge and action gaps, share lessons on viable instruments, institutions, policies, and approaches through a strong communications effort, facilitate networks, and contribute to consensus on priorities for appropriate investment and action by different actors/stakeholders for building resilience for food and nutrition security.

IFPRI’s 2020 Vision Initiative has organized five global policy consultations since 1993 on key emerging issues influencing hunger and poverty, the centerpiece of which have been multi-stakeholder international conferences: (i) *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health* (February 2011, New Delhi); (ii) *Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People* (October 2007,

Beijing); (iii) *Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020* (April 2004, Kampala); (iv) *Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020* (September 2001, Bonn); and (v) *A 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment* (June 1995, Washington DC). These consultations have strengthened information sharing, networking, and collaboration across sectors and actors and have been instrumental in policy-change processes.

Consultation Structure

Drawing on successful 2020 consultation experiences, a two-year process is envisioned:

1. **Expert roundtable(s)** (half-day to one-day)—to take stock of the current knowledge, agree on a working definition of resilience for the conference, identify gaps, discuss a possible intellectual and organizing framework—primarily a meeting of the 2020 and Strategy Advisory Council with selected experts.
2. **2020 conference** (two to three days)—the substantive event that goes beyond taking stock to assessing emerging developments, filling in knowledge gaps, identifying what works and what does not, sharing experiences, creating a menu of policy actions conducive to resilience and prioritizing them— it will focus not only on *what* can be done but *how* it can be done and by *whom*.
3. **Follow-up event(s)** (half-day to one-day)—to share the outcomes of the 2020 conference with high-level policy, private sector, or civil society audiences—to advance the policy discourse and actions.
4. **Communications activities**—a range of products and activities undertaken throughout the consultation to generate momentum and share and further knowledge on resilience in food and nutrition security, including Knowledge Fair, research papers and policy briefs, social media campaigns, and dedicated website.

The 2020 conference program could be structured as follows:

1. **Articulate an intellectual framework** for resilience that is long term and forward looking, i.e. capable of dealing with future food- and nutrition-related shocks and threats.
2. **Identify key emerging shocks** that pose the biggest threats to food and nutrition security, where resilience needs to be significantly strengthened. This discussion could be organized according to different shocks, such as economic- or market-related shocks (e.g., food price volatility), environmental shocks (e.g., extreme weather events), and social- or governance-related shocks (e.g., conflict).
3. **Assess experiences through case studies and draw out lessons** from programs, policies, institutions, and investments around the world to build resilience for food and nutrition security. This in-depth discussion could be organized according to different shocks, different approaches (such as through a gender lens), or different regions.
4. **Identify key approaches and tools to build resilience** to shocks at different levels. This in-depth discussion could be organized according to different shocks or different approaches—economic, agro-ecological, science, social, or governance.
5. **Set priorities for action by different actors and in different regions.** This in-depth discussion could be organized according to geographic region or agro-ecological or thematic region (e.g., drylands, flood-prone areas, peri-urban areas). The roles of different organizations and actors, such as national and local governments, global and regional policy bodies, research institutions, the private sector, and civil society, especially nongovernmental organizations that can link humanitarian assistance with long-term economic development initiatives, can also be discussed here or in separate sessions.

6. **Identify knowledge and action gaps** in research, policy, and programming that need to be met or scaled up in order to successfully build resilience to food and nutrition insecurity.

The conference program would feature a wide range of plenary sessions, parallel sessions, and side events. A website would be established as a hub for sharing information about the topic. A Knowledge Fair would be launched alongside the conference and be added to throughout the full consultation process, in order to facilitate informal interaction, learning, and collaboration among participants. The Knowledge Fair would feature exhibit booths, displays of digital posters and videos, a presentation stage, and informal discussion groups in order to fully engage participants using a wide variety of media. Following the conference, the Knowledge Fair would transform into an online, interactive knowledge exchange. Social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, would be a central part of the communications strategy.

Consultation Timing and Conference Location

The two-year consultation will be carried out in 2013-2014. The international conference will be held on May 15-17, 2014, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Lead-in expert roundtables and/or seminars will be held in winter 2013 / spring 2014 while follow-up events will be held in summer / fall 2014.

Consultation Participants

The multi-stakeholder consultation is expected to bring together specialists from the resilience and vulnerability communities alongside leading experts and practitioners from food and nutrition security, agriculture, humanitarian, and related development sectors. Participants will include policymakers, leaders from nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, educators, and researchers, at the local, regional, and global levels. The international conference is expected to host approximately 300-500 participants.

Advisory Committee

The 2020 and Strategic Advisory Committee, supplemented with other selected leading experts and practitioners and cosponsors, will provide guidance on conference themes, participants, and background materials.

Consultation Outputs and Outcomes

The consultation will produce a number of outputs, including research papers, policy briefs, conference book/booklet, virtual knowledge exchange, information tools including videos and powerpoints, and an international conference and associated events. A range of communications tools and strategies will be employed to help key stakeholders better understand how to effectively build resilience for food and nutrition security, re-frame the policy discourse on resilience, and create a network for cross-sectoral dialogue and information sharing and action.

It is IFPRI's hope that these outcomes will incorporate resilience into the post-2015 agenda and in the longer term, lead to improved policies, investments, and institutions that help individuals, households, communities, regions, and countries anticipate, prepare for, cope with, and recover from shocks and benefit from long-term economic growth.