

Editor's note

The end of the year coincides with the release of a number of reports which highlight and extend the complexity of addressing malnutrition in all its forms and call for improvements in our current approaches in achieving that goal. The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land¹ addresses greenhouse gas, fluxes in land-based ecosystems, land use and sustainable land management in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification, land degradation and food security. The USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition report² outlines current thinking and research on the interaction of agriculture and food systems and their effects on diets and nutrition. The report summarises research challenges and opportunities in the production of nutrient-dense foods, agriculture-nutrition linkages at population scale, food processing, food safety, and food loss and waste. It also reviews current evidence on cross-cutting issues (gender, resilience, and sustainability) that impact on food systems for nutrition and health. The equally insightful WHO report³ on "Essential nutrition actions:

mainstreaming nutrition through the life-course" provides an updated monitoring approach and a broader scope of key interventions to address malnutrition in all its forms, the so called "double" or "triple" burden of malnutrition, by policies appropriately designed to alter practices that continue to hinder progress.

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References:

1. IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. Aug 2019. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf
2. USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition. Ilana Cliffer, William A. Masters, Johanna Andrews Trevino, Patrick Webb and Shibani Ghosh. Food systems and nutrition: emerging evidence and research opportunities. Nutrition Innovation Lab, October 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00W5W9.pdf.
3. World Health Organization. Essential nutrition actions: mainstreaming nutrition through the life-course. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/essential-nutrition-actions-mainstreaming-nutrition-throughout-life-course>