

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Lead Farmers View of Nutrition at Household and Community Levels.
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 7 November 2024 16:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	James Zimba, National Campaign Coordinator, World Vision Zambia
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Mufumbwe, Zambia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Mufumbwe District
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision and Ministry of Agriculture
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55193/



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward - particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

50

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	0	19-29
20	30-49	30	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

24	Female	26	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	0	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	30	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
4	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	16	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

We had 16 Agriculture Camp Officers from Two Districts, Mufumbwe and Manyinga, in the Northwestern Provinces of Zambia.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The group consisted of lead farmers from two districts. All were of a similar wealth background. In terms of ethnicity, the group was homogenous in composition as the two Districts are under the same chiefdom. All are lead farmers involved in food production at a small scale and dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The event was designed to attract the lead farmers to the workshop already organized by The Development facilitator for EL&R in Mufumbwe and Manyinga. The team indicated that malnutrition in the community was caused by various factors. Among them are parents' and caregivers' poor knowledge of what and when they should be feeding children. During the introduction, q4 and Q1 of each year are the most hit regarding food insecurity at home because by this time, much, if not all, of the harvest would have been sold while the fresh still in the field. Furthermore, during the rainy season, parents and guardians are very busy cultivating their fields and leaving children alone. Other factors raised include food insecurity as a result of mono-cropping. Most farmers grow only one type of crop, maize, because the government supports it through the fertilizer support program. Climate change was also singled out as a major cause of crop failure due to drought, as all farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture.

DISCUSSION

The Topic under discussion was " Lead Farmers' View and Recommendation of Nutrition at Household and Community Levels." The following questions were used to guide the discussion. 1. What do you think are some causes of malnutrition in our communities? 2. What are the feelings or concerns about nutrition in our community? 3. How can we ensure good nutrition for all in our community? 4. What actions might be needed to ensure good nutrition for our community? 5. Who needs to be involved to enable us to achieve good nutrition for all in our community? 6. What are your recommendations for improving nutrition in our community? Follow-up questions after answers were used to ensure the discussion flowed smoothly. Conclusion

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The following are some challenges farmers face in meeting their nutrition requirements.

1. Poor households have limited to no income to afford the needed nutritious foods. Households in rural areas only get an income after selling their produce, and it's once per year as their farming is dependent on rainfed.
2. Some participants submitted that there are a lot of cases of teenage pregnancies and child marriages leading to unplanned children, making families bigger and challenging to sustain with little resources.
3. Access to clean water is challenging in most villages, and humans share water sources with domestic animals. As a result, widespread diarrhea occurs, especially in the rainy season, which affects children's health.
4. Due to child marriages and teenage pregnancies, divorce cases are high, coupled with orphans, making it difficult for the surviving spouse to sustain the family. Child-headed homes are also prevalent.
5. They also submitted that most peasant farmers had not diversified their farms to include livestock, fish farming, etc. This entails limited sources of nutrition at the household level.
6. There is low knowledge in the community and among caregivers about how to prepare nutritious meals and when to prepare and feed the children, even when the food may be available.

URGENT ACTIONS

1. They need access to resources such as small loans to invest in their fields and diversify crop production. The extra resources will also enable farmers to expand their farms and run them as businesses. This will increase income generation, allowing them to afford nutritious foods.
2. They need the construction of productive infrastructure, such as earth dams, and the provision of mechanized systems to enable them to conduct agricultural activities throughout the year.
3. Farmers are looking for partnerships with civil society to conduct community conversations and raise the levels of nutrition knowledge among mothers and caregivers, including fellow farmers.
4. They want traditional and faith leaders to advocate for crop diversification at the community level, as they hold a certain level of influence among their subjects. This will help break the traditional norms of monocropping among the many community members.
5. Farmers want the government to revise the Fertilizer Support Program (FISP) to include other nutrient-dense crops. Currently, farmers limit the scope of cultivation because other crops are not supported, and no market is available.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The lead farmers' group did not diverge in terms of their views mainly because they come from two sister Districts. Therefore, they experience similar climatic conditions and share a similar cultural heritage.

OVERALL SUMMARY

1. Poor households have limited to no income to afford nutritious foods. Households in rural areas only get an income after selling their produce once per year, as their farming depends on rainfed. Farmers here request support from the government and other cooperating partners to increase their productivity. This can be done by reforming the FISP and including more benefits. Only a few politically aligned people benefit from the program, leaving out the child-headed homes.
 2. Some participants submitted that there are a lot of cases of teenage pregnancies and child marriages leading to unplanned children, making families bigger and challenging to sustain with little resources. What is leading to most of these adolescent pregnancies and child marriages is hunger at home. As a result, girls fall vulnerable to the money provided by boys and men who run small businesses in the community. Empowering the girls' parents with means of generating income and supporting them is the solution.
 3. Access to clean water is challenging in most villages, and humans share water sources with domestic animals. As a result, widespread diarrhea occurs, especially in the rainy season, which affects children's health. The call from the farmers and community is to have access to clean drinking and bathing water. Drilling of boreholes and provision of piped water in the way forward to resolving these problems
 4. due to child marriages and teenage pregnancies, divorce cases are high, coupled with orphans, making it difficult for the surviving spouse to sustain the family. Child-headed homes are also prevalent. Health personnel and other community groups must come on board to raise awareness and put in place prevention measures to resolve these problems
 5. They also submitted that most peasant farmers had not diversified their farms to include livestock, fish farming, etc. This entails limited sources of nutrition at the household level. This point is a must-do for all farmers with support from the government and civil society involved in improving the people's lives. Access to financial services, including savings for transformation, changes the economic status of rural families as it enhances their income generation, hence improving nutrition status.
 6. The community and caregivers lack knowledge about how to prepare nutritious meals and when to prepare and feed the children, even when food may be available. There is an urgent need to help the community understand the importance of nutrition through the sharing of knowledge from different community forums, such as the church and other groupings.
- Recommendations from the groups were very educative, and one would realize the need for community involvement in the design of specific programs aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Each group member was allowed to raise their thoughts and debate freely. All views and opinions were taken into account and recorded. No serious divergent views were recorded during the discussion. The SUN movement principles were followed.

METHOD AND SETTING

The setting was formal, as participants had already been convened for a workshop on capacity building for farmers. The methodology included an open discussion in the introduction part of the session, and then the participants were divided into smaller groups for further engagement and more participation. Selected leads from the small groups presented recommendations.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

The advice is always to tailor your session according to the participants and the environment.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to acknowledge the Manyinga and Mufumbwe District Agriculture Officers, 16 camp officers, and the DF from World Vision for making this activity possible. They set aside 1 hour and 30 minutes for me to conduct the meeting with the participants.

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Attendance-List-1-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Attendance-list-2-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF-1-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF2-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF3-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF-4-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF-5-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LF6-scaled.jpg>