



**Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia**  
M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

# LANSA India Newsletter

Welcome to LANSAs India e-newsletter for stakeholders!

This issue invites you to join LANSAs e-consultation on FSN Forum later this month.

Other highlights: MSSRF takes over Research Uptake for the Consortium; NFI publishes LANSAs paper; Community training at FSN sites; Media interaction and other events. For more news, visit [www.lansasouthasia](http://www.lansasouthasia) or follow us on social media!

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## You are invited! Inform our Research Call

Join colleagues to share new ideas around nutrition-sensitive agriculture from May 18 to June 5

We need innovative thinkers! Your expert knowledge will be used to identify potential ideas of innovations in agriculture to promote better nutrition.

[Dr Alan Dangour](#), our Pillar 3 lead researcher is facilitating the discussion, and his blog [Are There Any New Ideas in Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture?](#) informs of the need to identify and fill the agri-nutrition gaps. Do contribute your ideas live on FAO FSN Forum [www.fao.org/fsnforum/user/register](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/user/register). We look forward to your views and opinions to help us define the priorities for this Research Call due in July 2015.



and food-related policies, programmes and interventions can be better designed to improve nutrition in South Asia.

To read the LANSa paper in full, please drop an email request to [lansa.india@gmail.com](mailto:lansa.india@gmail.com)

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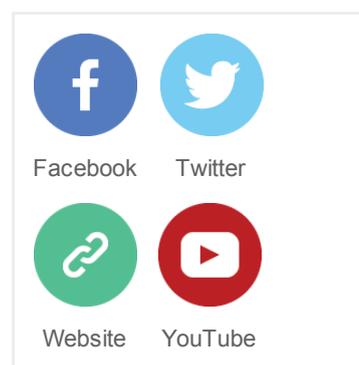
### Stakeholder interest around value chain research

[Rohit Parasar](#), researcher with the value chain India study on the e-dialogue...

"The discussion had participation across the four countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Many useful insights were presented on the role of government, food safety, role of private sector and challenges to reach out to the poor. Various examples were sighted across the four countries on how nutrient-rich food can reach poor keeping in mind food safety."

The e-dialogue on '[Markets for Nutrition](#)' was open between Feb 24 and 26 specifically to generate stakeholder interest around the market-based approach studies under LANSa's Research Pillar on [Food and Agri-Value Chain](#).

Research Uptake played a vital behind-the-scenes role in organising, disseminating, facilitating and reporting on the Online Dialogue using IDS-Eldis platform. From India alone, 61 stakeholders registered and there was more than 50% contributions lasting over a period of three days.



villages underwent training (Dec 2014 – Mar 2015) in ten modules. The training was organised by MSSRF, and included field exposure visits.

In Koraput also, CHFs were trained in three villages. Totally, 30 CHF will undergo residential training at MSSRF's Jeypore office.

[CHF](#)s will receive nutrition, health and hygiene info posters, leaflets and flash cards in their local language. Knowledge extension from exposure will be arranged periodically, and LANSa nutritionists – [DJ Nithya](#), [Rupal Wagh](#) and [Jasaswini Padhy](#) will empower the CHFs to create nutrition awareness in the FSN villages.



### Media – an important stakeholder

Research Uptake organised a [media interaction](#) in March for journalists based at Nagpur and in Wardha district. Around 15 district and state correspondents registered.

After a briefing on LANSa's research priorities and on the Farming System for Nutrition study underway in Wardha, journalists were taken on a field trip to witness first-hand how agricultural interventions on the ground could impact the nutrition status of the community.

National and regional press persons were shown the Village Knowledge Centre in Saheli village, and the Community Nutrition Garden in Bargaon village.

They interacted freely with the farmers and local community, and also spoke to MSSRF scientists. Several news articles were published as a result of this exercise.

The media is an important

### International Women's Day commemorated

LANSa – MSSRF observed International Women's Day on March 6 with a Seminar on '[Gender and Nutrition](#)'.

[Dr Swarna Vepa](#) made a presentation on '[Women's agency and Nutritional outcomes](#)'. The analysis based on District Level Household Survey (DLHS) 2002–04 data examines the association of aspects of women's agency like work participation and education level, and its impact on nutritional status of children.

Dr G N V Brahmam, Retired Scientist, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad spoke on '[Nutrition Status of Women & Children in Rural India](#)'. Using the results of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) surveys of ten states, he highlighted the nutritional status of population in rural areas with particular focus on women and children.

Key takeaways from the day's event was that women are key actors within the food system, but are chronically disempowered in some parts of the country, and that women's lack of power weakens the links between agriculture and nutrition.

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in the context of agriculture, and LANSa attempts to address it explicitly in several studies, and across all our main research themes.

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### Upcoming Events

Agriculture & Food 2015, 3rd International Conference June 1–5. Elenite, Bulgaria <http://bit.ly/1FZYJxa>

Food Products, Nutrition, & Health 2015 Conference July 8. Washington DC, USA <http://bit.ly/1EPsiH5>

8th Annual International Symposium on Agriculture July 13–16. Athens, Greece <http://bit.ly/1Hj86sD>

Transforming Nutrition: Ideas, Policy & Outcomes 2015 July 13–17. IDS, Brighton, UK

## Look forward to our next issue!

Updates on LANSAs research work, research uptake activity and stakeholder engagement events in India

stakeholder to disseminate LANSAs research and this effort has encouraged a few journalists to look at the issue of nutrition seriously.

<http://bit.ly/1Ja369h>

2nd International Conference on Food & Nutrition Technology  
July 29–30. Jeju Island, Korea  
<http://www.icfnt.org/>

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You are receiving LANSAs India's e-newsletter because you attended a LANSAs India event or were part of the LANSAs India stakeholder interviews.

### **Our mailing address is:**

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