



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

LANSA India Newsletter

Welcome to LANSa India e-newsletter for stakeholders!

This issue is especially to announce that LANSa's work in advancing nutrition has received recognition, and to present highlights of agri-nutrition stakeholder engagement.

Other highlights: Technology sharing and capacity building sessions for farmers, and national / international events celebrated with village communities.

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LANSA felicitated for advancing nutrition agenda in India

The [Odisha Environment Congress \(OEC\)](#) had its sixth edition in December 2015 between 22 and 24 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. [LANSA](#) was felicitated for its outstanding work in the field of advancement of nutrition. [Akshaya Kumar Panda](#), senior scientist [MSSRF](#) and with the LANSa Programme received the award from Aurobindo Behera IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment, and the present Member, Board of Revenue, Government of Odisha on December 24, 2015.

A public forum on the 2015 theme was organised and a LANSa presentation was made to highlight efforts and achievements in advancing nutrition on the agriculture agenda in South Asia, and especially in India. The audience included a large gathering of around 250 comprising of Odisha state government officials, scientists, researchers, activists and students. [Read more.](#)



Agri-nutrition stakeholder knowledge-sharing

at Mumbai and Bhubaneswar

[LANSA MSSRF](#), the lead partner for the LANSA research programme, organised two agri-nutrition knowledge exchange roundtable dialogues in November 2015 at Mumbai and Bhubaneswar titled 'Tackling Undernutrition in India'.

The purpose of the dialogues was to appreciate the benefits of linking together agriculture and nutrition stakeholders in the Indian policy environment.

This is a second effort by [LANSA Research Uptake](#) to strengthen capacity of agriculture-nutrition stakeholders in India, and the capital cities – Mumbai and Bhubaneswar were specifically chosen for these workshops since MSSRF is conducting the [Farming System for Nutrition \(FSN\)](#) study in Wardha (Maharashtra) and Koraput (Odisha). Our [blog](#) for more



Wardha celebrates 'World Toilet Day' on Nov 19

An awareness programme on sanitation and nutrition

[LANSA MSSRF](#) team at Wardha celebrated '[World Toilet Day](#)' by organising awareness programmes on constriction to usage of built toilets for defecation, and on sanitation / hygiene in all Wardha [FSN](#) villages under the UN declared theme for 2015 - 'Toilet and Nutrition'. On November 19 & 20, rallies were organised with village people holding posters and raising public awareness messages on open defecation. After the rally, participants set an example by cleaning villages. Short films (PSAs) were screened to emphasize the importance of sanitation and hygiene. As a future measure, village youth were divided into teams to monitor and stop open defecation and encourage usage of toilets in FSN villages.



LANSA MSSRF research showcased & shared

Exhibition stalls display posters at national & international conferences

LANSA MSSRF took up [stalls](#) at the 11th International Food Data Conference Exhibition and at the 47th Annual Conference of Nutrition Society of India, both held at NIN, Hyderabad attracting many scientists, academics, researchers, students, farmers, media persons and common people around the world. Many delegates visited LANSA stall with a lot of interest.

[Films](#) produced by [LANSA](#) and [MSSRF](#) on food security and nutrition were screened. LANSA brochures, research papers and newsletters were distributed to delegates who visited the stall.



LANSA Working Paper 3 now online

Study on women's BMI among farm households in rural India

LANSA published working paper on '[Dietary Diversity and Women's BMI among Farm Households in Rural India](#)' which probes further to understand the linkage between agriculture, dietary diversity and women's Body Mass Index (BMI) in rural areas in India. In the first part of the analysis, it was found that Indian rural areas, women in cultivator households or those who have higher share of agricultural incomes have



Poultry Rearing for women farmers in Wardha

LANSA and MAFSU co-facilitate the workshop

Capacity Building Programme on Poultry rearing for women farmers under [FSN](#) villages was organised by [LANSA](#) at [MSSRF](#), Wardha with the help of MAFSU (Maharashtra Animals & Fishery Sciences of University) Nagpur. The main focus of the training was to promote the subsidiary occupations like Poultry, Goatery, Fishery, etc to better livelihood Security of the farmers. Read a [report](#) on this.



National Nutrition Week celebrated in FSN villages

Wardha and Koraput village communities participate

[MSSRF](#) [LANSA](#) celebrated '[National Nutrition Week](#)' at Wardha and Koraput in all [FSN](#) villages during in September 2015.

Programmes were organised on the topic 'Iron and Vitamin A deficiency' at schools andanganwadis in the villages of Wardha and Koraput. Many events including cooking of nutrition-rich recipes, drawing competition for children, and presentations on Anaemia and Vitamin A for village women. As many as 250 students, many Anganwadi children and nearly 40 women from Koraput and more than 200 women in

lower rates of undernutrition and it is the women in non-agricultural wage labour households who are worse off. To capture the specific features of agriculture, the second part of the analysis focuses on farm households, wherein dietary diversity reflecting nutrition intake is modeled at the household level, while women's BMI-capturing nutrition outcome is modeled at the individual level.



Capacity strengthening and exposure visits

LANSA team at Wardha and Koraput organised for farmers

[Field visits](#) for FSN farmers in Wardha were organised to create awareness on plant diseases and pest management. In association with YUVA, a capacity strengthening [workshop](#) to transfer knowledge about Deshi cotton cultivation was organised. [Technical sessions](#) for farmers in Saheli and Borgaon on Rabi crop cultivation was also conducted.

In Koraput, a training programme on 'Integrated Pest Management in Rice and Pulses Crops' was organised FSN farmers where 42 farmers participated.



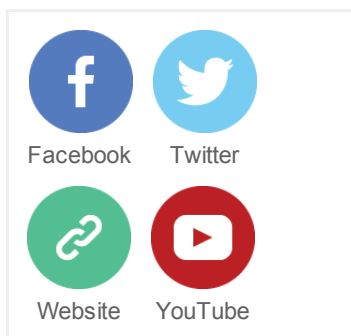
Field crop interventions

For Kharif season under the FSN intervention at Koraput

Rice and millets are staple food of the tribal community in the Koraput district.

FSN baseline survey revealed that consumption of cereals and millets is 125% of recommended dietary intake (RDI).

Due to deficient production, they purchase millets from markets by selling rice. Therefore, to increase the productivity of Finger millet and pulses the following trials were under taken in [FSN](#) villages in Kharif 2015.



Look forward to our next issue!

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

Wardha took part in the nutrition week celebrations.



Backyard nutri-garden initiative for better nutrition

FSN farmers take on this

To improve access of communities to nutritious food, communities have been educated on how to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables in backyard land. Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) initiative promotes backyard nutri-garden at the household level in Wardha and Koraput villages.

LANSA distributed saplings of Moringa, Papaya, Acid lime, curry leaves and orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP) as a part of common nutri-garden interventions to all households having backyard land for cultivation to increase nutrition values in their food. Read our [report](#).

Upcoming events

18th International Conference on Global Food Security
January 7-8. Singapore
<http://bit.ly/1NPPDYh>

International Conference on Global Food Security
March 7-8. Miami, FL
<http://bit.ly/1NPOEHv>

3rd International Conference on Food Security & Nutrition
March 23-25. Amsterdam, Netherlands
<http://bit.ly/1YS1cAZ>

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