



**August
7-9, 2017**

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON FARMING SYSTEM FOR NUTRITION

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**VENUE
M.S.SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION
CHENNAI**

'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture' by 2030, is a UN Sustainable Development Goal that the world is working towards. However, malnutrition continues to be a major concern in many countries, particularly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. India has the largest number of people with malnutrition in the world. Agriculture is still the primary source of livelihood for nearly 60 per cent of the population here. To address this, it is important to focus on potential linkages between agriculture and nutrition.

'Consumption from own production' is a link that could change food production, enhance availability and access to food for small-scale farming households. Evidence is available across the globe linking farm diversification to diet diversification

The supporting environment, the policies and strategies adopted will condition the chances of success of interventions. Growth-oriented agricultural strategies, credit and market linkages (value chains) help in the adoption of state of art agricultural technology in crop, livestock, poultry and fisheries. Nutrition awareness and knowledge empowerment are equally important.

Farming System for Nutrition

The concept of Farming System for Nutrition (FSN), works on the premise that household food production is important to diets of farm families, particularly small holders. This farmer-led strategy is defined by Prof M S Swaminathan as: "The introduction of agricultural remedies to the nutritional maladies prevailing in an area through mainstreaming nutritional criteria in the selection of the components of a farming system involving crops, farm animals and wherever feasible, fish". This location-specific, inclusive model is based on resource endowments and specific environment to address nutritional needs of families.

About the Conference

The Consultation on Farming System for Nutrition from August 7 – 9, 2017 in Chennai, India, aims to bring stakeholders from agriculture, nutrition, health and related domains to examine evidences on this theme from across the globe and within India. Agro-biodiversity, climate change, technology and the elements to bridge the gaps – gender, social inclusion and nutrition literacy would be explored. Farm men and women will share experiences in bringing a nutrition focus to farming.



The technical sessions during the consultation are on:

- I. Pathways of Farming System for Nutrition (Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture)
- II. Agro biodiversity/Climate Change and Farming System for Nutrition
- III. Nutritionists' Perspective on Farming System for Nutrition
- IV. Role of Technology in Farming System for Nutrition
- V. Bridging the Gaps
- VI. Farmers' Experiences with Farming System for Nutrition
- VII. Policy Support required for Farming System for Nutrition

Expected Output

The Consultation will endeavour to bring about a consensus on the FSN approach and requirements to scale this up for better nutrition outcomes. The outcome of the consultation will serve as a valuable advocacy tool at different forums to mainstream nutrition in agriculture policy and strategy. This will be presented to policy makers at the national and regional levels to bring a nutrition sensitive focus in agriculture policy and strategy.

About MSSRF

Established in 1998, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) works to leverage science for sustainable development for nutrition security in India and the region. From 2013, MSSRF has been leading a study to demonstrate the feasibility of the FSN approach in Odisha and Maharashtra states, under a consortium research programme, 'Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia' (LANSA). MSSRF is also disseminating the FSN concept across stakeholders, in four Indian states, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Odisha, while examining the policy requirements to strengthening agriculture-nutrition linkages. In 2016, MSSRF organized a consultation on the International Year of 'Pulses' and the recommendations emerging from the discussions were presented and provided inputs to national policies and regional discussions.

