

16-17
November
2017

Abidjan

AFRICA REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
FOR HEALTHY DIETS AND IMPROVED NUTRITION

Monitoring the Price of Nutritious Diets in Ghana

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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
ACTION ON NUTRITION
2016-2025



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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- Improving availability and affordability of nutritious food is a way that Agriculture can improve nutrition.
- MoFA aims to help ensure economic viability for farming in Ghana, and also food and nutrition security for Ghana.

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- Some missing information...
 - ...to know if what we are doing is positive for nutrition;
 - ...to support decision-making about what we can do to better improve nutrition.

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- MoFA has a mandate to ensure food security.
 - This includes access to nutritious foods.
- MoFA-SRID supports this mandate, provides information for decision-making in agriculture, by tracking production and food price data.
 - Collects prices on a weekly basis in 164 markets nationwide.
 - This provides a powerful structure to track access to nutritious food.

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Current Uses of Food Price Data

- For making quality informed decisions
- Planning
- Calculating real prices
- To compare prices across countries
- Research purposes
- Food security analysis
- Policy formulation, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation

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Need to fill an information gap

- Previously, the food list for food price data collection was missing some nutritious foods.
- Could be used for many basic commodities, but could not very well track the cost of nutritious diets.
- Difficult to formulate informed policies and programs toward food and nutrition security without data showing the problem areas

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Partnership with IANDA: Reviewing the food list

- **Indicators of Affordability of Nutritious Diets in Africa (IANDA)**
 - Tufts University, University of Ghana, funded by DFID through IMMANA
 1. IANDA reviewed current MoFA-SRID food list and suggested commonly-consumed nutritious foods to be added;
 2. 22 foods added in all; most worked well
Such as: several dark green leafy vegetables; some fruits; two additional beans/seeds; meat and fish in the form typically bought by consumers
 3. MoFA-SRID piloted the expanded list and made the decision to institutionalize it

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Piloting the expanded food list



MoFA-SRID enumerator
collecting food price data



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State of Institutionalization

- Expanded Food list Questionnaire sent to all 10 regional offices and 20 major selected markets have started using it
- Weekly Market Price Reports are now generated for the expanded food list since July 2017

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Partnership with IANDA: Tracking indicators

- IANDA developed four new indicators:
 - Cost of Nutrient Adequacy
 - Cost of Recommended Diets
 - Cost of Dietary Diversity
 - Nutritious food Price Index
- Using the recently-expanded food list, MoFA-SRID can track these indicators using food price monitoring data

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Better Information for decision-making for Nutrition Impact

- **MoFA** can use these indicators for decision-making toward a more nutritious food system
 - Could see where, and when, nutritious diets are too expensive
 - MoFA-SRID is continuing to roll out the expanded food list nationwide
- **Ghana Statistical Service** is exploring reporting the new indicators as national statistics

Conclusion

- **Existing food price data monitoring system** can be used, with very little added cost, to provide better information for nutrition impact
- **Ghana may be the first country in Africa to commit to monitoring the cost of nutritious diets**
 - This can be a model for how food price monitoring can reflect nutritious food, and how it can better inform policy, production, and program decisions to promote healthy diets

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THANK YOU

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