

## **Workshop to develop IFPRI's resilience research agenda**

*November 3, 2014*

*IFPRI Headquarters, Washington, DC*

### **SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

The global food system has become increasingly vulnerable to shocks. IFPRI recognizes the need to build resilience and has made this one of six strategic research areas for the Institute. The 2020 conference on “Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security” helped advance the dialogue on resilience and identify research gaps including defining resilience, measuring resilience, and taking a systems approach in policy and programming. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together resilience practitioners and experts to brainstorm priority research areas and topics for IFPRI’s research agenda on resilience.

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

*Shenggen Fan opened the workshop and welcomed participants. Derek Headey provided a brief introduction to IFPRI’s definition of resilience as well as the value added and challenges/risks of working with the concept of resilience. Rajul Pandya-Lorch reviewed the workshop agenda. Workshop participants introduced themselves and briefly shared why they are interested in resilience.*

#### **Thematic Session 1: Economic and Financial Shocks**

*Mark Conostas, Mbene Faye, Xing Li, and Bharat Ramaswami provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

#### Key suggestions for research:

- Examine the impact of shocks on specific groups, sectors, and trends:
  - Smallholder farmers (particularly ones headed by women)
  - Private sector (and its responses to shocks)
  - Food-importing/food-exporting countries
  - Urban-rural migration
  - Livestock sector in West Africa following the EU removal of milk production quotas
- Create economic and regional risk profiles including macro indicators for key food and non-food commodities to facilitate *ex ante* baseline assessments.
- Develop a typology of countries’ responses to shocks.
- Document best practices and lessons learned from resilient institutions and policy responses—what worked, what did not work, and why in political terms.
- Link modelling results with potential political outcomes to account for political economy factors and identify feasible responses.
- Further examine the effectiveness of targeted safety nets and stocks in dealing with shocks
- Collect continuous, high-frequency data over time and space, particularly for areas that are often overlooked when monitoring shocks. Use innovative data sources such as SOS or Google.
- Use a resilience lens to improve analysis of existing data before collecting new data.

## **Thematic Session 2: Conflicts and Crises**

*Dominique Burgeon provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

### Key suggestions for research:

- Explore stress-testing in the context of conflicts with an emphasis on modelling political risk, precipitators for conflict, and agricultural risk.
- Research preventative measures strengthening institutions, improving natural resource management, service provision, or risk management tools (e.g., price stabilization mechanisms).
- Explore the impact of issues that aggravate conflict such as droughts, floods, or health crises.
- Examine food system resilience in crisis situations, particularly the impact of shocks on trade and markets.
- Conduct local assessments or studies examining distributional effects of conflicts on food security for different groups.
- Identify win-win mechanisms that address food insecurity without exacerbating conflict, as well as balance national resilience with local resilience.
- Explore the interactions among internally displaced persons, refugees, post-combatants, and host communities.
- Examine how systems can be rebuilt after conflict and identify lessons from countries that have emerged from conflict using a typology of conflicts.
- Partner with organizations working in conflict zones or focus on post-conflict environments

## **Thematic Session 3: Health and Nutrition Shocks**

*Javier Escobal and Arif Husain provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

### Key suggestions for research:

- Identify entry points for making the most cost-effective investments and policies, and whether these should be made within the first 1,000 days or the catch-up growth period.
- Explore how clinical approaches compare to other investments in health and nutrition (e.g. WASH) to improve the environment.
- Continue studying success stories and best practices, and revisit older success stories to determine if long-term resilience was achieved.
- Identify models of health systems that can be built during stresses or be responsive to threats through adaptive learning (Uganda is a good example).
- Use intrahousehold data to identify gender and age issues related to health and nutrition.
- Examine nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, such as fortification or irrigation, in response to nutrition and health shocks.
- Explore obesity and the double burden of under- and overnutrition among children.

#### **Thematic Session 4: Climate Risk**

*Robert Nasi and Atiq Rahman provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

##### Key suggestions for research:

- Examine policy issues related to climate change such as the role of India and China; the impact of agricultural subsidies; which best practices should be scaled up; and the impact of climate change on pastoralists.
- Explore the climate change-nutrition-gender nexus including measuring consumption and dietary impacts by gender.
- Investigate issues related to technology adoption such as the role of agricultural extension; how to identify if technologies are adopted at the local level and at what costs; identifying break-even points for the adoption of conservation agriculture; the role of orphan crops in adaptation strategies; and gender implications of new technologies
- Assess the effectiveness of existing farmer/indigenous coping strategies
- Examine the resilience of the global trade system (i.e., how efficient and resilient the system is in terms of dealing with climate shocks).
- Undertake further work on innovative insurance schemes
- Study links between internally displaced persons and climate change.
- Explore how uncertainty due to climate change impacts the management of investments.

#### **Thematic Session 5: Environmental Risk**

*Tekalign Mamo and Rachael McDonnell provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

##### Key suggestions for research:

- Identify the policy, strategy, institutional, and programmatic gaps related to land degradation. More national and regional case studies are needed.
- Examine the long-term impacts of technology introduction on societies and political systems.
- Review best management practices for addressing environmental risk and examine tradeoffs between environmental resilience and livelihood resilience.
- Identify the types of inputs to governance systems that are needed to address environmental risk; for instance, there are opportunities for work on hybrid models of natural resource management or differences in sustainable intensification models across poor and rich countries.
- Focus on a specific geography or location to enhance the engagement of multiple disciplines
- Study gradual changes in environmental trends in addition to dramatic ones.

#### **Cross-cutting Issues Session**

*Tim Frankenberger, Charles Godfray, and Jon Kurtz provided opening remarks. Participants then provided their insights.*

Key suggestions for research:

- Explore how political economy issues, such as the roles played by political actors and institutions, affect resilience thinking, programming, and outcomes.
- Identify new resilience needs borne by urbanization (e.g., different dietary environments).
- Focus on the “who” of resilience, particularly how women and men are affected by and deal with shocks differently.
- Explore how to build up ecosystems that are resilient to extreme weather events, and examine how this might relate to food issues.
- Examine the propagation of shocks in economic terms (i.e., how economic shocks spread through the international system) and in the context of crises (i.e., when does a shock become a crisis and how should responses differ accordingly?).
- Develop a portfolio of data that need to exist at different levels, particularly on farmer priorities and risk assessment (there are currently no survey models that describe *ex-ante* risk).
- Improve data collection on vulnerable groups and identify options that would build their resilience, including non-farm opportunities.
- Strengthen the resilience research agenda by including work on appropriate program design and operational issues, recognizing the importance of qualitative research

**Concluding Session**

*Participants shared their perspectives on issues that were under or overemphasized, or missed throughout the day's discussions.*

Key suggestions for research:

- Examine the intersections of risk in a particular landscape or geography, perhaps in areas that are in most need of primary data collection, as a way of focusing on key issues
- Identify technologies and innovations for resilience, fostering new partnerships (e.g., Google or Give Directly) and identifying new ways of doing M&E and collecting beneficiary feedback.
- Improve research on excluded groups such as those ageing in poverty and individuals who work but do not live in cities and therefore lack access to social protection for urban residents.
- Develop survey questions to identify who is less resilient.
- Better define political economy so that it does not become an overarching area of research
- Examine the different time frames necessary to build farmers' resilience versus the resilience and sustainability of agricultural systems.
- Identify mechanisms to transition farmers out of agriculture while building their resilience.

*Shenggen concluded the workshop with brief reflections on the key points of the day's discussions. He thanked the participants for their input and closed the workshop.*