



Nutrition- and gender-sensitive agriculture

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Why is nutrition-sensitive and gender-sensitive agriculture important?

- Maternal stunting affects offspring outcomes
- Preconception nutrition is crucial
- Pregnancy and lactation increase nutritional requirements
- Challenges meeting recommendations for breastfeeding
- Mothers and children have specific micronutrient requirements



What challenges do we face?

Nutritional information for breastfeeding women



Tanzanian Food and Nutrition Centre, 2014

Environment where breastfeeding women live







Compared to plants, animal source foods provide more:

- Energy and fat
- Vitamin B-12 (the only dietary source)
- Riboflavin
- Vitamin A (the only preformed source)
- Vitamin E
- Available iron (the only dietary source of heme)
- Available zinc
- Calcium
- Vitamin D (the only dietary source)

Credit: Lindsay Allen 2015

Comparison of nutrient content of meat, milk and eggs (relative amount/kcal)

	Meat	Milk	Eggs
Heme iron	+++	0	0
Total iron	+++	+	+
Zinc	+++	+	+
Vitamin A	+	++	+++
Riboflavin	++	+++	++
Vitamin B12	+++	++	++
Folate	+	+++	+
Calcium	0	+++	0

Credit: Lindsay Allen 2015



Achieving balance ...

Imagine if animal source food could be available once a week to undernourished women and children ...



Food for thought

- IQ is declining globally
- The double burden of under and over nutrition spans "developed" and "underdeveloped" countries
- Arable land is finite
- Climate change and weather variability is already impacting on agricultural production
- What is an optimal, ethical and sustainable diet for the world's dominant species?



