

SISN Sessions at the Micronutrient Forum, Cancun 2016

Plenary session (13), Friday Oct 28th, 8:30-10:00

Implementation Science in nutrition: purposes, forms, functions and country examples.

Drawing from the broader literature on implementation science the session will present a general schema for implementation science as applied to nutrition. Examples of implementation research in practice will be provided from India, Zimbabwe, Guatemala and Ghana to illustrate the range of research approaches applied to address different implementation issues and to share experiences of how the findings have been used to improve coverage, adherence, quality and/or equity.

Moderated by Dr. Rolf Klemm from Hellen Keller International (HKI) and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and Anne Peniston, Chief of the Nutrition Division at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the session will include two speakers, four vignettes and a closing Q&A.

Brief Introduction		Ms. Anne Peniston, US Agency for International Development (USAID)
Speaker 1	Implementation Science in Nutrition: Forms and Functions	Dr. David Pelletier, Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN), Cornell University (CU)
Speaker 2	Summary of implementation constraints, bottlenecks and priorities from a sample of SUN countries	Mrs. Patrizia Fracassi, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Secretariat (SUN)
Vignette 1	Implementation Research in Practice: Examples from Zimbabwe	Ms. Natsayi Nembaware, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
Vignette 2	Implementation Research in Practice: Examples from Guatemala	Ing. German Gonzalez, Secretariat for Food Security & Nutrition (SESAN)
Vignette 3	Implementation Research in Practice: Examples from Ghana	Dr. Richmond Aryeetey, University of Ghana (UG)
Vignette 4	Implementation Research in Practice: Examples from India	Dr. Sunny Kim, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Moderated Q&A		Dr. Rolf Klemm, Hellen Keller International (HKI), Johns Hopkins University (JHU)

Symposium sponsored by SISN and Sight and Life, Monday Oct 24th, 14:00-15:30, Xcaret Room

Implementation research to improve implementation outcomes (coverage, adherence, quality, and equity) of micronutrient/nutrition programs and policies.

The session will be chaired by Dr. David Pelletier, Cornell University (CU), Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN) and moderated by Dr. Meera Shekar, World Bank (WB). It will include a keynote address and a stakeholder panel discussion followed by a facilitated discussion. The symposium will examine the challenges and opportunities for embracing implementation research and experiential knowledge from the perspective of stakeholders who are both producers and users of evidence. It will:

1. Examine the value that implementation research can deliver to each stakeholder group/sector to improve the implementation of micronutrient programs
2. Identify challenges for doing implementation research and strategies to overcome them
3. Identify key components of an Action Agenda to more fully embrace implementation science in nutrition

Brief Introduction		Dr. Meera Shekar, World Bank (WB)
Introduction	From Information to Impact: Promises and Pitfalls of Implementation Research	Dr. David Pelletier, Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN), Cornell University (CU)
Panel discussion	Academic and research institutions	Dr. Stanley Zlotkin, Centre for Global Health, the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), University of Toronto (U of T)
	Government	Ms. Daysi de Marquez, National Council on Food Security and Nutrition (CONASAN)
	NGOs/implementing organizations	Dr. Ame Stormer, Hellen Keller International (HKI)
	Funders	Dr. Ellen Piwoz, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
Facilitated discussion	Integrative discussion and key components of an Action Agenda	Dr. Meera Shekar, World Bank (WB)

Closed Meeting co-organized by SISN & SUN
Tuesday, Oct 25th, 12:00-13:30, Xcaret Room

From Implementation to Impact: Modalities for Supporting and Strengthening Implementation Research in SUN countries

Organizers: The Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN) and Scale Up Nutrition movement (SUN).

Introduction: In collaboration with The Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN), this session will reflect on the modalities for supporting and strengthening implementation research in SUN Countries.

Objective: The aim is to understand how national researchers, policy makers and program managers can access existing and potential support to improve the implementation research capacity in their country and/or share results from implementation research.

Format: The session will use interactive discussions to stimulate dialogue among participants in order to come up with a shared vision on the most feasible modalities.

Expected participants: Around 20 people with a balanced mix of representation from national and international research institutes and universities, governments, donors, INGOs, civil society organizations and businesses.

1. Framing of the session (15 minutes)

Patrizia Fracassi (SUN Movement Secretariat)

Opening remarks and setting the purpose

Mandana Arabi (Vice President of the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition)

Introduction of the framework on Implementation Research that resulted from the literature review and the consultation with key authors. The aim for this session is to provide an overview on what is the distinctive role of research versus technical assistance in advancing the implementation of programs, including identifying and addressing bottlenecks.

Richmond Aryeetey (University of Ghana)

Guiding questions:

- *What type of support do countries need? (policy perspective)*
- *What kinds of modalities of support exist? (e.g.: curating roles, learning visits, etc.)*
- *What can we do with what is available?*

2. Breakout session (45 minutes)

Introduction (3 minutes)

Group A: Donors, INGOs, UN Agencies and representatives from Government, civil society and private sector.

Guiding questions:

- *What initiatives are you already supporting? What is in the pipeline that might be useful in the short-medium term? Please share the inventory in advance (if possible)*
- *What is the potential for those initiatives to be responsive to the implementation research agendas and capacity-strengthening needs in those countries?*
- *What kind of mechanisms for sharing and learning do you have which could be accessed by other countries?*

Group B: Country & international researchers and representatives from Government, civil society and private sector.

Guiding questions:

- *What are the existing IR projects & initiatives that you are already supporting? Where are these located and what is the scope for expansion? Please share the inventory in advance (if possible)*
- *What are the modalities that could be mobilized to expand, in order to respond to the needs of additional countries?*
- *What is the view of country researchers as to the effectiveness and timeliness of these various modalities?*

3. Open discussion and synthesis of key points (30 minutes)

Moderator: David Louis Pelletier (President of the Society for Implementation Science for Nutrition)

Concluding remarks: Gerda Verburg (SUN Movement Coordinator)

Closed Meeting organized by SISN in collaboration with WHO
Wednesday, Oct 26th, 12:30-14:00, Xcaret Room

A Repository of Implementation Research? An Exploratory Consultation

Organizers: Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization, and the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University (a WHO Collaborating Centre on implementation research in nutrition and global policy 2016-2019).

One of the key goals of the Society for Implementation Science for Nutrition (SISN) is to “Create and maintain an innovative and effective implementation science knowledge management system.”

One component of this might be to provide a publicly accessible and searchable repository of implementation research.

The consultation seeks to explore four questions:

- 1) Is there a need for such a repository?*
- 2) If so, what types of data and/or knowledge resources should it contain?*
- 3) What related initiatives or knowledge resources are being planned or may already exist?*
- 4) How might these initiatives and potential users best communicate and/or collaborate on such an endeavor?*