

Datathon Stimulates New Analyses of the Intersection of Gender, Nutrition and Climate Change

To facilitate the use of Feed-the-Future Open Agriculture and Nutrition Datasets in agricultural research and development, IFPRI's Gender, Climate Change and Nutrition Integration Initiative ([GCAN](#)) organized the first [Feed the Future DATATHON](#) to make household-level data more accessible and interoperable with other databases, and in particular spatially explicit, biophysical data layers.

At the first such event, held on August 11, 2017 at IFPRI-HQ, the GCAN project team showcased findings from the harmonized data in Bangladesh ([BIHS 2011](#) and [2015](#), available on IFPRI Dataverse) across four key food security-relevant domains (climate, agriculture, nutrition, and gender) to about 90 participants, including about 30 remotely connected. The audience was very diverse, including participants from:

- USAID
- Knowledge-Driven Agricultural Development (KDAD)
- USDA ARS
- MSI Inc.
- Save the Children
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- Chemonics
- Counterpart International
- CTA
- John Snow, Inc.
- Keshif
- Hellen Keller International
- CARE International
- Vijaya Development Resource Center (Nepal)
- ACIDI-VOCA
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- World Bank
- University of Missouri
- Emory University
- Syracuse University
- The Catholic University of America
- Stanford University
- Cornell University
- Clark University
- University of Minnesota
- William and Mary University

The gathering was also webcast live on U-Stream, Facebook, and retweeted on Twitter with the hashtag #ftfdatathon.

The event promoted the analytical use of Feed-the-Future datasets with stimulating presentations, insights, and visualizations, especially from participants, who--during the course of the event--generated their own analyses, infographics, and new insights.



Images: Reflections from the event

Welcome

[Ruth Meinzen-Dick](#) welcomed participants and introduced the objectives of the event. Mark Visocky from USAID framed the event and the GCAN project in the broader context of the Feed the Future initiative and the Global Food Security Act and Strategy supported by USAID, especially focusing on open data access.

Climate, Gender and Nutrition Data: The Bangladesh Feed the Future Datasets

[Carlo Azzarri and Chris Gray](#) from the GCAN team presented the datasets shared with the participants and provided three descriptive examples to illustrate the process and propose ideas to address the following three research thrusts:

- Historical trends of climate shocks and their impacts on the livelihoods of female farmers and their empowerment in agriculture
- Spatial representation and historical dynamics of gender inequality in agriculture
- Relationships between women's empowerment in agriculture and nutritional outcomes

Jawoo Koo from IFPRI's GCAN team then took the audience on a journey into data visualization and mapping using [Tableau](#).

Data Analysis

The core of the event was a data competition, in which participants explored the Bangladesh data and identified ways to visually display or statistically test relationships between gender, climate, and nutrition. While participants were busy working on their assignments, dynamic and diverse 3-to 5 minutes lighting talks were continually presented featuring, among others, work by [Datawheel](#), [Keshif](#), [GCAN team members](#), IFPRI colleagues and university staff. These talks served to spark new ideas on how to better analyze, present and generate insights from large datasets.

Competition and Prizes

At the end of the event, three prizes were awarded for 1) best visualization, 2) best presentation and 3) best insight. The awards, three gift certificates for a local bookstore, went to Adan Silverio Murillo, American University for best presentation, as well as *ex-aequo* to Angela Garcia, and Naziha Sultana, International Center for Research on Women for best visualization and insight.

All three winners touched upon the core elements of the G-Can project. Adan Silverio Murillo's presentation on "[Can Public Speaking Explain the Nutrition of Your Children?](#)" was inspired by the discussion on the women's role in child nutrition; [Angela's talk](#) focused on the spatial variation of WEAL in Bangladesh; and finally [Naziha's discussed](#) the correlation between household head's gender and improvement in child stunting.



Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Jawoo Koo and Carlo Azzarri with the three Datathon winners: Adan Silverio Murillo, Angela Garcia, and Naziha Sultana

The DC event will be followed by a [similar event in Dhaka](#) (Bangladesh) on October 12, 2017.

Stay tuned for more updates!