

Towards Evidence-based Change: nutrition evidence to agriculture policy

A pragmatic Research Uptake Conceptual Framework

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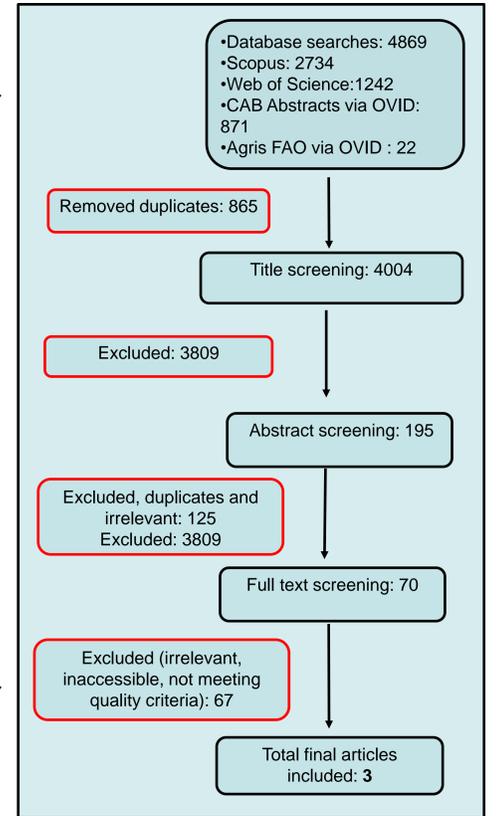
ABSTRACT:

Evidence-based approach to policymaking is becoming a reality in LIMCs. This is already being used in science-policy processes with medicine, disease and health, nutrition, environment, and agriculture. Could similar evidence be found for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA)? We find a strong case in literature to support efforts of evidence-based nutrition-sensitive action to combat all forms of malnutrition in LIMCs. Despite an enabling environment for NSA in Southern Asia, due to different agendas/values, organisational and institutional barriers, also contextual/cultural pressures, science-policy interactions to facilitate knowledge translation and transfer are complicated. Several frameworks to facilitate research-to-policy exist operating within linear science-policy fields, but do not cover different science-policy disciplines like NSA. LANSA developed the 4E pragmatic framework to manage these complexities in Southern Asia.

RESULTS:

The 4E Research Uptake Conceptual Framework is based on pragmatic use of the research uptake function within the NSA policy landscape and is specific to the diverse Southern Asia policy environment. The overall approach lays emphasis on the agri-nutrition stakeholder and strategic engagement to encourage demand-driven NSA evidence. These are seen as pivotal to evidence-based change in the different science-policy settings of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

PRISMA Flowchart



Afghanistan
 Bangladesh
 India
 Pakistan

Malnutrition



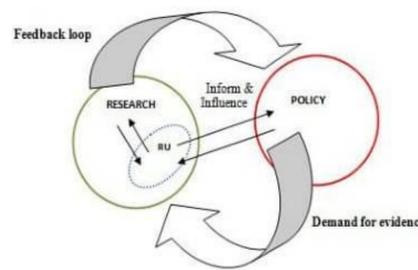
OBJECTIVE: To unravel evidence of research-to-policy strategies and processes for the uptake of NSA in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan by using the LANSA Research Uptake 4E framework.

METHODS:

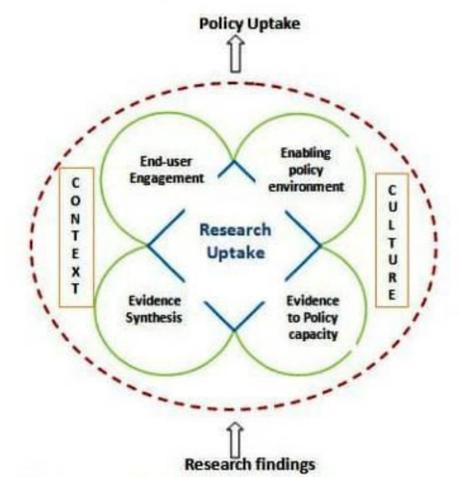
A systematic review of scientific literature plus a manual search found via experts was undertaken to examine the research question: Is there evidence that RU influences the use of NSA evidence in agricultural policy decision-making? PICoT criteria - Problem, Interest, Context, and Study Type was applied. Findings were systematically and thematically synthesised. Using real world case studies with RU experiences from the LANSA programme, a pragmatic 4E framed was derived using theoretical concepts.



RU role and function



4E Research Uptake framework



CONCLUSIONS:

This paper systematically reviewed scientific literature to uncover evidence of NSA uptake in literature and found very few. The paper also uses real world examples of RU practice in Southern Asia under the Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) Research Programme Consortium to validate the RU framework. We conclude that the 4E framework is a working model, born out of clarifying agriculture-nutrition linkages and understanding science-policy interface from the stakeholder perspective to ensure evidence is taken up by the end-user.