

On 21st March 2017 the Oxford India Centre and Tata Trusts convened around 100 people from across the food, nutrition, social change and environmental sectors at the Habitat Centre, Delhi.

The ambitious goals of this meeting were: (i) to enable experts from diverse fragments of the food system to make connections beyond their normal silos; and (ii) to use this broad gathering of experts to generate a prioritised list of the ideas, actions or research questions necessary to enable transformative steps to achieve sustainable nutrition.

The day was designed to take full advantage of the diverse knowledge in the room by breaking the audience-speaker divide. The morning of interesting talks, followed by energetic table conversations, generated an impressive list of over 50 key ideas, far wider than we had imagined. In the afternoon you worked hard to distil this long list of ideas down to a Top 10, an important process to provide focus for future action. These ideas are below:

Ten prioritised ideas, actions and research questions - generated by over 60 experts from across the food system - necessary to enable transformative steps to achieve sustainable nutrition.

1	Centrality of Women's Agency in Ending Malnutrition: when do, and when don't, collective community campaigns focused on women (such as women's or adolescent girl groups) lead to improved behaviour relating to maternal and child nutrition? Of successful strategies, which are scalable?
2	Local vs general food production and malnutrition: What are the advantages and disadvantages of local and non-local food production strategies in achieving sustainable nutrition?
3	Biodiversity in agriculture – how can managing on-farm biodiversity maximise resilience and yields, and how can this information be most useful dispersed to farmers?
4	Barriers and opportunities to the introduction of local biodiverse crops into government and private distribution programs including nutritional, environmental and economic indicators
5	Mapping and real time tracking of malnutrition and using this data to understand potential correlates (including social/access/economic) with malnutrition, key issues, obstacles and beliefs
6	Diverse food baskets are essential for good nutrition, but are rarely achieved. This project would aim to understand the relative importance of <i>access</i> (physical or economic), <i>knowledge</i> and/or <i>motivation</i> in holding back the consumption of diverse food baskets.
7	What is the role of different Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches to improve nutrition?
8	What are the 10 most destructive food production practices impacting biodiversity and in turn what is their impact on food production, human health and nutrition? What are the drivers of these practices which negatively impact bio diversity?
9	Using trend-analysis to understand how health and nutrition outcomes correlate with environmental indicators.
10	Spatial mapping of access to social transfer programmes (ICDS centres, midday meals etc) with nutritional outcomes: is there a relationship?

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development and the Tata Trusts are keen that these Top 10 ideas are taken up and used. We will also aim to ensure that these ideas are taken up by other individuals and groups in the food system, and we will actively promote them to governments, academia, industry and NGOs.

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