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August 22, 2017 | Volume 7, Issue 33

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Submitted by The TOPS Program, Photo by Adam Lowe

Matt Nims, Acting Director of USAID's Office of Food for Peace, gave the keynote address at last month's TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting. You can watch the keynote address [here](#). The address kicked off two days of knowledge sharing through concurrent sessions, small group work, lunchtime table topics, networking, and more for our 200+ participants. You can access all recordings, presentations, and handouts from the Knowledge Sharing meeting [here!](#)

[Submit photos or videos for future newsletters.](#)

DID YOU KNOW...

International Medical Corps, Save the Children, and Action Against Hunger joined forces to establish the Technical Rapid Response Team (Tech RRT) – a rapid response mechanism born out of the need for immediate nutrition

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emergencies or protracted crisis. The purpose of these deployments is to provide technical support for the nutrition emergency response, particularly in CMAM, surveys and assessments, IYCF-E and social behavior change (SBC). The technical support will benefit the collective nutrition sector in the respective countries and the deployment costs are fully covered by this grant. More information can be found here: www.techrrt.org

Contribute to the Newsletter!

The FSN Network News is a community newsletter, and we welcome your input. Let us know of upcoming events, new publications, and interesting articles. We also share new job openings, funding opportunities, calls for input, and photos. Email submissions to news@fsnnetwork.org.

Reflect on the TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting: Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward: Seven Years of Community Building July 19-20, 2017 | Washington, DC



Over 200 implementers, donors, and researchers from over 60 organizations joined us for the final TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting on July 19-20, 2017 in Washington, DC. The conference not only looked back over the past seven years of The TOPS Program, but also looked forward to productive discussions about our collective accomplishments and innovations, lessons learned, and ways in which the greater food security and nutrition community can keep advancing in the years to come.

Knowledge Sharing Meeting participants continue to share their reflections and experiences on the FSN Network website's discussion forum. Want to share your insights, ask questions, or continue conversations started at the meeting? Join the online discussion [here](#).

All recordings, presentations, and other supporting materials are now available on the FSN Network website. You can access the materials [here](#).

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Submit Your Feedback! Survey Closes Tomorrow, August 23

Did you miss the [stakeholder consultation](#) with Food for Peace (FFP) on RFA supporting materials? No problem!

FFP is seeking feedback on its technical and analytical documents that support RFAs. These documents include, but are not limited to, the FFP Technical Reference Chapters, country specific information, market analyses, country desk reviews and environmental fact sheets. Which do you use or not use, and why? What are the information gaps? Give your feedback on these documents here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LQWZ3N>

The survey is only open through tomorrow, Wednesday, August 23, so make sure you take the survey soon!

[Take the Survey](#)

You can view the recording and presentation from the consultation [here](#). Additionally, FFP's Technical Reference Chapters were last updated July 26, 2017; [view them here!](#)

New Theory of Change Tools

Theory of Change Checklist and Narrative Matrices

Two new tools, developed by The TOPS Program in collaboration with USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP), will help PVOs improve the quality of Theory of Change (TOC) diagrams and narratives for FFP development activities. [Click here to explore the tools!](#)

Theory of Change Checklist

The purpose of this tool is to provide an overview of FFP expectations for TOC development in a concise format. It is expected that the tool will be used by PVO staff reviewing their TOCs before submitting to FFP, and by FFP staff when reviewing the submitted diagrams.

For more information about the items on the checklist, please reference the document [Food for Peace Policy and Guidance for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting](#), as well as the [TOPS Theory of Change Curriculum](#).

[Click here to download the Theory of Change Checklist!](#)

Theory of Change Narrative Matrices

The matrices provide a sample format for submitting the additional information required in a TOC narrative for FFP development activities. A common misconception about the TOC narrative is that all information that is not easily interpreted from the TOC diagram must be submitted in written paragraphs - This is not true. Matrices such as these samples are an effective and efficient way to add necessary detail and evidence to support assumptions; to fully explain rationales; and to identify and clarify the role of other actors, among other uses.

This is not to say that explanatory paragraphs will never be needed in the TOC narrative. For example, a discussion of how the activity addresses cross-cutting areas or clarifications about how targeting a limited number of direct participants will result in sustained population-level changes, are both topics that may be easier to explain in paragraph versus matrix format. Using matrices, such as these samples, simply makes it much easier for users to follow many of the links between the TOC diagram and the details in the narrative.

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Please direct questions related to developing or using a TOC throughout the life of your development activity to Laurie Starr: laurie@tanqointernational.com.

Updated Permagarden Toolkit Materials Technical Manual and Training Guidelines Second Edition Now Available!

Earlier this summer, our agriculture and natural resource management team released the second edition of the popular TOPS Permagarden Toolkit. Read more about the materials below, and learn more and download the materials [here!](#)

What is the Permagarden Method?

The permagarden method combines components of permaculture and bio-intensive agriculture to create a highly productive garden using a small amount of land. It is designed to work in both the rainy and dry seasons, and is an approach to home gardens that improves soil fertility and water management to produce nutritious crops. The method shows how farmers around the world with only a small amount of land can produce food throughout the year by learning principles behind proper gardening and resource management, and matching those principles to basic practices. The permagarden method is designed to empower gardeners to use local resources to overcome challenges in the garden; it is a simple solution that can help bring resilience to each household, one small adjustment at a time.

If you are interested in learning more about the permagarden method or permagarden training options, please contact Eric Carlberg at ECarlberg@mercycorps.org or Andrea Mottram at AMottram@mercycorps.org.

Featured Resource

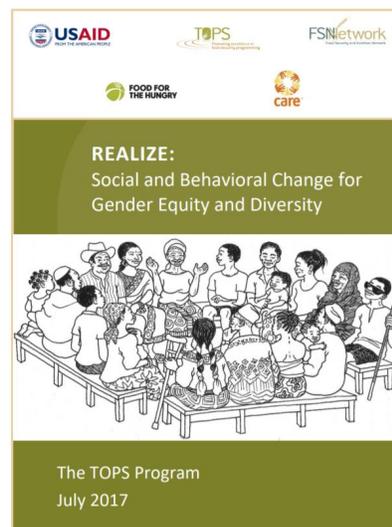
REALIZE: Social and Behavioral Change for Gender Equity and Diversity

The TOPS Program and CARE USA are pleased to offer this set of field-friendly activities entitled Realize: Social and Behavior Change for Gender Equity and Diversity (SBC for GED). The aim of these lessons is to build awareness, facilitate critical reflective dialogue, and explore potential action to improve gender equity and diversity among development staff and community members and to identify GED linkages within social and behavior change interventions to increase their effectiveness.

The activities are designed to be experiential, to encourage new thought and communication patterns that motivate people to change gender norms (and other types of societal norms) that impede the success of development programming – in health, agriculture, and other sectors.

This guide is currently being translated into Spanish and French. Translations will be available online on the FSN Network resource library soon!

[Read more and view this document in the resource library on the FSN Network website.](#)



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Job Postings

- [Senior Director, Food, Nutrition & Livelihoods Security](#) based in Washington, DC with PCI
- [Senior Director, Financial Inclusion](#) based in Washington, DC with Mercy Corps
- [Consultant - Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Plan Revision](#) based in Sierra Leone with WFP
- [Food and Nutrition Security Advisor](#) with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI)
- [Gender Cohort Coordinator](#) based in Atlanta, Georgia with CARE
- [Deputy Chief of Party](#) based in Washington, DC with Fintrac
- [Senior Gender Specialist](#) based in Mogadishu, Somalia with UN Women
- [Gender Analysis Consultant](#) for Ethiopia with REST

Funding & Other Opportunities

INNOVATE Call for Proposals | Deadline: October 6, 2017

The INNOVATE Call for Proposals (the Call) seeks applications from eligible organizations, companies and institutions (i) to pilot a Non-Traditional Finance (NTF) product/service focused on rapid testing and learning OR (ii) to document through a case study an ongoing or completed initiative related to NTF. The initiatives should demonstrate the potential and/or ability of products, services, or delivery channels that can catalyze and/or foster the adoption of agricultural innovations by women and men smallholder farmers in East Africa, South America (the Andes) and South Asia. INNOVATE aims to learn from the experiences of the grant recipients; to test and document which products, services or delivery channels have potential to catalyze agricultural innovation by smallholder farmers. Therefore, a key focus of the Call is learning. The Call also has a focus on gender, in which applicants shall clearly differentiate between women and men's priorities and needs, treating them as distinct market segments in the proposal and research process. [Learn more here!](#)

Two Funded PhD Opportunities on Environmental Impacts of Canadian Food Choices | Rolling Deadline

University of Waterloo (starting ASAP) and Dalhousie University (starting Fall 2018). Are you interested in sustainable and healthy diets, addressing food security, and the challenge of eating within planetary boundaries? Professor Goretty Dias, of the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, and Professor Peter Tyedmers of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, are looking for keen PhD students with a track record of successful research at the Masters level who enjoy engaging in multi-disciplinary research. Students will join a newly established, SSHRC-funded project. [Learn more here!](#)

Upcoming Events

[Improving Nutrition Outcomes Through Optimized Agriculture Investments](#): ATONU Project; August 24; online

[A Debate: Closing the DFS Gender Gap](#): Grameen Foundation; August 29; online

[Improving Our Understanding of Rural Livelihoods: Innovation and Insight from FEWS NET](#): FEWS NET; August 30; Washington, DC & online

[The Sustainable Microfinance and Development Programme Ghana](#): Microfin Consult; September 4-15; Accra, Ghana

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[Impact and Cost-effectiveness of the Preventing Malnutrition in the First 1000 Days in Burundi and Guatemala](#): FANTA; September 11; Washington, DC

[Toolkit Launch: Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Young Married Women and First-time Parents](#): Pathfinder International; September 13; online

[Fall 2017 Global Health Practitioner Conference](#): CORE Group; September 25-29; Baltimore, MD

[Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit](#): GYEO Summit; September 27-29; Washington, DC

[2017 SEEP Network Annual Conference: Catalyzing Transformative Change](#): October 2-October 4; Arlington, VA

[More Events](#)

New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Theory of Change, Metrics and Learning Agenda](#) from CRS

[Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services](#) from INGENAES

[Strengthening Civil Society's Role in Development: A Handbook for Engagement](#) from Feed the Future

[Data Africa Open Data Platform](#) from HarvestChoice

[To Consume or to Sell: A Mixed-Methods Study on Household Utilization of Home Garden Produce in Muhanga and Karongi Districts in Rwanda](#) from CRS

Recent Articles

[Connection and Collaboration at the TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting](#) from Cultural Practice, LLC

[Climate Extremes, Policy Confuse Crop Choices for Malawi Farmers](#) from Reuters

[Peer Learning Platform for Agricultural Insurance Event in Kenya Connects Policy to Markets](#) from Agrilinks

[Does Cash Aid Help the Poor - Or Encourage Laziness?](#) from NPR

[Major National Review Recommends Ways of Ending Hunger in Uganda](#) from WFP

[Using Theatre as a Tool for Nutrition Behavior Change Communication](#) from Agrilinks

If you are not already on our e-mail list, sign-up [here](#). We welcome news of events, tools, trainings, country updates and other content from the broad FSN Network community. Please send any suggested

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The TOPS Program was made possible by the generous support and contribution of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

The FSN Network is being spearheaded by TOPS, a USAID/FFP funded program seeking to build the capacity of FFP grantees and other food security and nutrition implementers. The program is working to improve the quality of implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing around food security and nutrition best practices. For more information about TOPS please click [here](#).



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