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**Your source for the latest in food security and nutrition**

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#### VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Submitted by The TOPS Program

As The TOPS Program comes to a close, we are reflecting on seven years of knowledge sharing for improved food security programming. In July 2017, a video about TOPS premiered at our final Knowledge Sharing Meeting. This video highlights the type of work TOPS has done and what our FSN Network community has achieved. [Check out the video here!](#)

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

#### DID YOU KNOW...

The Government of India recently launched a new National Nutrition Strategy. The strategy gives detailed information on the country's nutrition status and objectives, ensuring that every child, adolescent girl, and woman attains optimal nutritional status by 2022. [Access the strategy here and learn more about India's nutrition efforts and current status here.](#)

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## 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](mailto:news@fsnnetwork.org).

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## The Gender Analysis Process in Food for Peace Development Programs: Bridging the Gap between Consultants and Implementing Partners

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Online

The demand for gender analysis consultants is growing. Earlier this year, TOPS distributed a survey to consultants and implementing partners to find out what each is seeking and where gaps exist in the gender analysis process. During this one hour webinar, we will summarize the survey results and share resources to bridge the connection between consultants and implementing partners of Food for Peace development programs. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute comments and resources in response to the survey results as well as answer questions.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

Questions? Please contact Kristi Tabaj, [ktabaj@savechildren.org](mailto:ktabaj@savechildren.org)

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## Resilience Task Force Meeting

September 21 meeting resources now available online!

The FSN Network thanks all who shared tools and participated in last week's Resilience Task Force Meeting. This meeting was hosted in collaboration with Mercy Corps with over 30 participants representing a dozen organizations.

We've received several requests for materials presented at the meeting and appreciate the high level of interest in approaches and methods for assessing the effectiveness of our collective efforts to strengthen resilience capacities.

Please use [this link](#) to access the meeting agenda, webinar recording, slide presentations, and supplemental materials.

If you have additional resources you'd like to add to the M&E tools featured on the RTF meeting page, please contact Karyn Fox at [kfox@tangointernational.com](mailto:kfox@tangointernational.com). As always, we welcome your feedback and input.

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## Updated Food for Peace Information Bulletins (FFPIB)

Comments due November 13, 2017

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Section 202(e) and CDF for FFP awards [here](#), and access the FFPIB on eligible uses of ISTH, Inland Freight, and Monetization Proceeds for FFP awards [here](#).

These documents serve as an update to [the previous FFPIB document](#) outlining eligible uses of Section 202(e) and ITSH funds published on August 15th, 2017.

All comments and input on these two documents should be submitted to [facg@usaid.gov](mailto:facg@usaid.gov) by COB November 13, 2017.

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## **Mercy Corps STRESS Methodology Guideline documents now available**

Mercy Corps is sharing its first external guidelines for conducting its Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS) process.

This document is the result of 5 years of hard work among a diverse group of stakeholders. It provides development practitioners guidance through a process of applying resilience thinking in the distinct and increasingly fragile contexts in which they work.

**Read the full process guidelines [here](#). Read a two page background document [here](#). Watch a short video on STRESS Niger [here](#).**

### **What is STRESS?**

STRESS is a methodology that helps teams apply resilience thinking in humanitarian or development contexts. The process deepens practitioners' understanding of risk and the systems that communities rely on—allowing them to adjust what they do and how they do it—with the goal of maintaining progress toward well-being outcomes even in the face of increasing instability and fragility.

STRESS has been applied in a variety of geographic contexts ranging from Niger to Mongolia with the goal of informing program, regional and country level strategies. [Click here to learn more about some of these applications.](#)

### **Why is STRESS needed?**

Mercy Corps designed the STRESS process to help practitioners understand how complex, interconnected drivers of instability threaten progress toward development outcomes in specific contexts. In so doing, STRESS facilitates the development of measurable strategies and targeted interventions aimed at supporting communities in achieving long-term well-being outcomes and transformational change.

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## **FY 2017 Annual Results Report (ARR) Guidance USAID's Office of Food for Peace shares final guidance information**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is pleased to share with you the final fiscal year (FY) 2017 Annual Results Report (ARR) guidance. Please note that this year there is separate guidance for development and emergency/International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) awards. FFPMIS is scheduled to open for reporting on Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

For FY 2017 results reporting, FFP updated the ARR guidance to improve the overall quality and consistency of

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and LRP into FFPMIS via the Actuals tab (accessible through the Program search criterion). If a development or emergency award programmed a Specialized Food Product, it **must** report on the product and the corresponding planned/reached beneficiaries by age within the 'Nutrition' Program Area/Element.

ARRs for both development and emergency awards are due no later than Monday, November 6, 12:00pm EST.

**FFP encourages awardees to take advantage of the various checklists in the annexes to assist with quality reporting**, in particular Annex A, the Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire (SAPQ), which presents updates on indicators.

The guidance and associated templates are available via the Food for Peace website. Access them here: <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/food-assistance/guidance/implementation-and-reporting>

- Awards signed less than three months prior to the ARR submission due date for the FY that they were awarded, are not required to submit an ARR for the reporting FY.
- Questions related to the ARR and SAPQ may be directed to [FACG@usaid.gov](mailto:FACG@usaid.gov). Questions related to individual awards and performance should be directed to the AOR.
- Awardees are required to submit all ARR information through **FFPMIS**. FFPMIS Users' Guides can be found on the [FSN Network website](#). Questions or problems related to FFPMIS may be directed to the Help Desk at [FFPMIS\\_Support@devis.com](mailto:FFPMIS_Support@devis.com). The Help Desk hours are Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM EST, not including holidays.

**If you have any additional questions, please contact your respective AORs.**

## Survey of Interest for a new Social Accountability Interest Group

FFP's strategy calls for systems strengthening through increased Social Accountability. Social accountability approaches can be critical for sustaining improved access to essential services in education and health, public and private extension, financial services and social protection.

Although Social Accountability as a field is not new, its application in food security is relatively nascent. World Vision and CARE are seeking to join hands with other organizations interested in the topic to build a learning community around the application of social accountability in food security programming.

If you are interested to participate in the Social Accountability Interest Group, please email Gitau Mbure at [gmbure@worldvision.org](mailto:gmbure@worldvision.org) and/or Vidhya Sriram at [vsriram@care.org](mailto:vsriram@care.org) for further details.

## Featured TOPS Resource #1

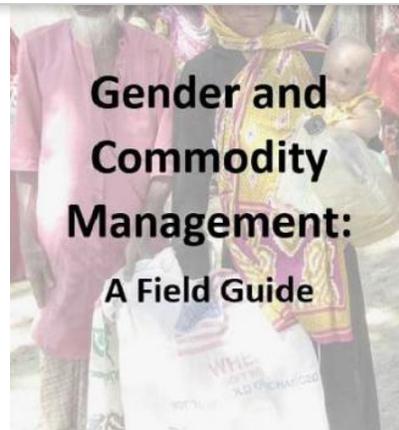
### Gender and Commodity Management: A Field Guide

This brief guide confirms that gender affects the management and distribution of food commodity, both within the managing organization, and between the organization and commodity recipients. It outlines good practice that Commodity Managers and their staff can follow to ensure that all parties enjoy equal and safe access and opportunity. It offers a set of assessment questions that Commodity Managers can ask, of themselves and others, to verify that people's rights to food commodity are not hindered by gender norms that marginalize or exclude any group.

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

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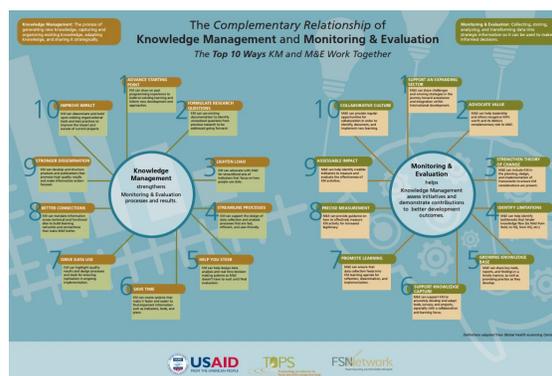
## Gender and Commodity Management: A Field Guide



### Featured TOPS Resource #2

#### Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation Collaboration Package

Both Knowledge Management (KM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) facilitate collaborative learning, and require intentionally working with others to be successful. Despite these similarities, some confusion exists about how these two sectors should work together for stronger programming; leading to many difficulties in day-to-day program activity and overall quality and impact. There is a growing need for sustained and coordinated collaboration between project-level KM and M&E functions, in order to achieve stronger program design and implementation that lead to better results.



This package contains two documents: 1) The Complementary Relationship of Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation poster, which outlines the value that M&E and KM collaboration can bring to each sector and to programming as a whole; 2) Proposed Collaboration Activities across the Program Cycle, which provides practical guidance on activities that can be jointly undertaken by KM and M&E program functions across a program's cycle.

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

### Featured TOPS Resource #3

#### REST's 3-R Approach to Natural Resource Management

Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is operating a USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP)-funded Development Food Security Activity as part of the Ethiopian government's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP).<sup>1</sup> One priority of the REST PSNP activities is rehabilitating and recharging the natural resources of Tigray, Ethiopia. Towards this effort, REST is currently implementing public works and resource transfer activities in 12 woredas, or districts, in Tigray.

Situated in northern Ethiopia, Tigray has one of the country's poorest economies and has long suffered from chronic and transitory food insecurity. It is a semi-arid and arid region consisting of complex landforms dominated by rugged mountain plateaus and deep gorges. Rainfall is sparse, erratic, and increasingly unpredictable due to

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

### Management

The TOPS Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Case Study Series

September 2017

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Situated in northern Ethiopia, Tigray has one of the country's poorest economies and has long suffered from chronic and transitory food insecurity. It is a semi-arid and arid region consisting of complex landforms demarcated by rugged mountain plateaus and deep gorges. Scarce in space, erratic, and increasingly unpredictable due to intensifying climate changes, the location, tenure, and environment play a critical role in the success of Tigray becoming food secure.

#### Determinants of Food Insecurity in Tigray, Ethiopia

Natural resources are at the core of several root causes of food insecurity in Tigray, and although there has been progress towards natural resource regeneration in the region over the past two decades, the natural resource base in Tigray needs to improve in order to support the growing population. From 2010 to 2015, crop yields increased, but analyses indicated that yield increase was primarily driven by favorable weather conditions and that agricultural productivity had no significant change.

<sup>1</sup> The PSNP is one of the Government of Ethiopia's flagship programs to transfer cash or food to beneficiaries.  
<sup>2</sup> Ethiopia National Analysis 2016/2017 and Measurement of Crop Production and Marketing for 2015/16.  
<https://www.usaid.gov/ethiopia/development/development/2016/development/2016>

The Technical and Operational Procedures (TOPS) Program and Field Capacity and Performance (FCP) Network are made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. Funding for Operational Management (OM) is provided by the Government of Ethiopia. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

## Featured TOPS Resource #4 Updated TOPS Permagarden Toolkit

The permagarden method combines components of permaculture, an agricultural approach using design principles to utilize natural systems for production, and bio-intensive agriculture, an agricultural approach to maximize production on a small amount of land through sustainable practices that increase biodiversity, 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



### Permagarden Technical Manual Second Edition



The Permagarden Technical Manual serves a key resource for development practitioners working with farmers to help them incorporate permagardens into their farming systems. The manual explains key concepts in creating a permagarden and matches them with appropriate practices, such as double digging, making botanical fertilizers, bio-intensive seed spacing, multicropping, and succession planting. It is intended to be paired with The TOPS Program training materials to enable project staff, together with farmers, to successfully implement a thoughtful, strategic approach to home gardens.

***The Permagarden Toolkit has just been translated into French, and will be translated into Spanish and Amharic later this month. You can find all translations on the FSN Network website at the link below.***

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

## Job Postings

- [Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist](#) for USAID's Office of Food for Peace

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- [Senior Technical Advisor Gender Program Design & Resource Mobilization](#) based in Atlanta, Georgia with CARE
- [Chief of Party - Niger DFSA](#) based in Niamey, Niger with CARE
- [Deputy Chief of Party - Niger DFSA](#) based in Niamey, Niger with CARE
- [Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor - Niger DFSA](#) based in Niamey, Niger with CARE
- [Consultant for Mid Term Evaluation of SHOUHARDO III](#) with CARE
- [Local Technical Consultant for Agriculture Value Chain](#) in Senegal with CNFA

## 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!](#)

### **Call for Promising Practices to Advance Gender Equality, Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience | Deadline: October 6, 2017**

Across sub-sectors of rural climate resilience – including social protection, disaster risk reduction, livelihood diversification, climate-smart agriculture, among others – what are promising approaches to address gender and nutrition in project design, monitoring, and evaluation? The Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN), implemented by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in support of the USAID Bureau of Food Security (BFS), is seeking project case studies to identify promising practices and lessons learned from rural resilience projects that also advance gender equality and nutrition security, to develop a report on promising approaches for USAID BFS, USAID missions, and partners. Do you have experience designing, implementing, or evaluating a climate resilience project in an agricultural (including pastoral, forestry, and fisheries) setting that also advances gender and/or nutrition goals? If you have lessons learned from any stage of the project cycle, about approaches that did or did not work, please share your contact information and brief project description in this brief [survey form](#) by Friday, October 6, 2017 for follow up by the team. For those interested to participate, the team will analyze project documents and contact practitioners for further discussion (on or off the record) where possible. [Learn more here!](#)

### **Abstract Submission Open for 2018 International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit | Deadline: November 27, 2017**

The 2018 International Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Summit featuring Entertainment Education is organized to understand better what works in shifting social norms, changing behaviors and in amplifying the voice of those who have most at stake in the success of development efforts. And, it is designed to wrestle with the profound issues of social justice and agenda setting that affect these decisions. Who decides, for example, what behaviors need changing or which norms should be shifted? How can people's realities and voices be put at the center of such change? How much emphasis should be placed on shifting norms and

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challenges facing the SBCC community: understanding what approaches work and what investments in SBCC programming can expect to deliver, and making sense of the complexity and diversity in the field of SBCC that would facilitate greater investment. The Summit will be organized around three overarching themes: 1) What Works, 2) Making Sense of the Field Now, and 3) Voice and Agenda Setting. Abstracts and concept notes for the Summit sessions will be submitted by theme. [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!](#)

### **Food Systems for Healthy and Sustainable Diets Course | Deadline: April 23, 2018**

Food systems considers all the actors, elements and activities that relate to primary producing, processing, distributing, preparing and consuming food and waste disposal; and the socio-economic and environmental outcomes of these activities. The course explores food systems from a dietary perspective and discuss which components are related to the diet gaps for different populations groups at national, regional and global level. It discusses possible actions to be taken to transform the food system for addressing the gaps and how these actions can be leveraged in a sustainable way. The training targets staff of governmental and non-governmental organisations. The course is job-oriented and the training approach is interactive, experience as well as evidence-based: it provides the participants with the possibility to learn from expert facilitators as well as from each other. Transfer of knowledge goes hand in hand with case studies, working groups, etc. A mix of participants with different backgrounds, yet common interests, will provide a good basis for the exchange of experiences. [Learn more here!](#)

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## **Upcoming Task Force Meetings**

Commodity Management Task Force Meeting: November 14; location TBA

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## **Upcoming Events**

[SPRING Global Learning Event](#): SPRING; October 4; Washington, DC

[The Gender Analysis Process in Food for Peace Development Programs](#): The TOPS Program; October 4; online

[Expanding Financial Inclusion in Africa](#): CRS; October 5; Arlington, VA

[Symposium on Enabling Market Intermediaries for Improved Market Systems](#): Chemonics; October 6; Washington, DC

[Winning USAID Grants Workshop](#): Development Essentials; October 16-18; Arlington, VA

[Using Storytelling and Participatory Media to Support Gender Equality and Reproductive Health Outcomes](#):

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[Webinar: Neem-based Pesticides in Integrated Pest Management](#): Feed the Future Innovation Lab; October 18; online

[Making Finance Work for Women Summit](#): Women's World Banking; October 24-25; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

[2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering](#): SUN; November 7-9; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

[Advanced Training Workshop in Results Measurement for Private Sector Development](#): Miehbradt Consulting; November 20-24; Bangkok, Thailand

[World Bank Group Youth Summit 2017: Technology and Innovation for Impact](#): World Bank Group; December 4-5; Washington, DC

[More Events](#)

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## New Reports, Guides & Tools

[Case Study - Stunting: Peru](#) from the Gates Foundation

[The World Food Crisis: The Way Out \(Special 10th Anniversary Issue\)](#) from Right to Food and Nutrition Watch

[Digital Data Visualization Toolkit](#) from Population Council

[Preparation and Presentation of Corn-Soy Blend for Moderately Malnourished Children in Malawi](#) from Emergency Nutrition Network

[Data and Knowledge for Greater Impact in the Arab Region: Report on AFF 2016 Data Coalition Outcomes and 2017 Goals and Priorities Roadmap](#) from Foundation Center and Arab Foundations Forum

[Nutrition and Food Systems: High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition Report](#) from Committee on World Food Security

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## Recent Articles

[How Big Business Got Brazil Hooked on Junk Food](#) from New York Times

[After Ten Years of Decline, Global Hunger Increased in 2016, Driven by Conflict and Climate Impacts](#) from SDG Knowledge Hub

[Machine Learning Helps Small Farmers Identify Plant Pests and Diseases](#) from Fast Company

[Brainstorming to Connect Farming Research to Development](#) from Agrilinks

[Preparing Young Nutrition Graduates to Lead the Fight against Malnutrition in Uganda](#) from FANTA

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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 content to [news@fsnnetwork.org](mailto:news@fsnnetwork.org).

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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