Highlight 1: Contributing Research to Dialogues and Decision-Making

Food safety is a topic of great interest to policymakers and consumers alike the world over, but more evidence is needed to better understand where risks exist and to identify appropriate actions and policy interventions. Contributing to the evidence base in on this critical issue, A4NH researchers produced more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, chapters, policy briefs, and presentations at scientific and policy meetings in 2018. Highlights of this work include:

◆ A4NH researchers at ILRI were commissioned by major stakeholders to develop key papers. Among them were a white paper on food safety for the US Agency for International Development; a food safety investment report for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development (DFID); food safety metrics research for the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy; and a paper on the role and importance of animal source foods in the first 1,000 days for Chatham House.

◆ A4NH researchers at IFPRI published a paper on the first randomized control trial on aflatoxin and child stunting. The paper, titled “The Impact of Reducing Dietary Aflatoxin Exposure on Child Linear Growth: A Cluster Randomized Control Trial in Eastern Kenya,” was published in BMJ Global Health. In an accompanying blog post, the authors noted their results “paint a complex, nuanced picture of the relationship between aflatoxin and child linear growth.” The research was funded by DFID.

◆ A4NH researchers at ILRI contributed to two major reports with the World Bank, The Safe Food Imperative, and the Global Food Safety Partnership, Food Safety in Africa. The first provided the first estimate of the cost of foodborne disease in low- and middle-income countries: more than US$115 billion a year. The second showed that investments in food safety had been trivial in comparison to health and economic impacts and called for new, risk-based and demand-driven approaches to food safety. A special issue of Global Food Security included 12 articles on leveraging value chains for food safety and nutrition security.

◆ Researchers from ILRI contributed to two articles released as part of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change. The first, “From 25 Years of Inaction to a Global Transformation for Public Health,” published in February, received an Altmetric score of 1765. With 152 news articles, including coverage in The Telegraph and the Huffington Post. The article was tweeted about 1395 times with an upward bound of approximately 4.1 million followers. The second, “Shaping the Health of Nations for Centuries to Come,” published in December, earned an Altmetric score of 1711, with coverage beyond mainstream media including trade publications such as Medical Health News and EcoBusiness and an upward bound reach on Twitter of more than 4.9 million followers.

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