



Sustainable Food Systems and Biofortification – Complementary Weapons to Fight Nutritional Deficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean

High rates of urbanization in the developing world – 80% in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) – have helped create a triple nutritional burden, meaning that globally (1) about 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger, (2) twice that many are affected by micronutrient deficiencies, and (3) more than two billion adults are overweight, half of whom are obese.

CIAT has embarked on a novel strategic initiative called FoodLens, with the aim of guiding food systems toward an equitable and sustainable future. This initiative will deliver new knowledge and interventions that better enable developing countries to provide all urban and rural consumers with ready access to healthy food.

FoodLens complements HarvestPlus, the successful CGIAR program focused on breeding and disseminating varieties of rice, wheat, maize, cassava, beans, sweetpotato and other crops with increased micronutrient concentration. Many such varieties have already been released in 29 countries, and others are undergoing testing in 44 countries. In Latin America, these crops are promoted through a “food basket” approach designed to increase intake of zinc, iron, and pro-vitamin A in the diets of people at risk of deficiency.

ONGOING PROJECTS

FoodLens			HarvestPlus		
Analyzing crop loss and food waste along value chains for two indicator crops (tomato and cassava) in Cali, Colombia.	Food system mapping to support development of innovative and inclusive business models in Cali, Colombia.	Analyzing the potential impact of diet transition and food system transformation on the triple nutritional burden.	Current focus is on Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Haiti for breeding and dissemination of biofortified crops.	Effectiveness study on high-iron beans underway in Guatemala (2015-2018).	Farmers' feedback studies on biofortified beans planned in Nicaragua and Guatemala (2015).

