

Informing the global evidence base on food security and nutrition

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Highlights

Evidence impact

- 3ie's living evidence and gap map (E&GM) is featured on the European Commission's Knowledge4Policy (K4P) portal, which highlights two recommendations for policymakers based on the results.
- 3ie's living E&GM is cited in a 2021 UN Food Systems Summit brief. The summit's scientific group prepared the review as a brief, which informed the recommendations and commitments emerging from the summit.
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) commissioned 3ie to carry out a rapid evidence assessment on the long-term outcomes of food systems interventions.

Factors that contributed to impact

- The research team ensured strong buy-in by cultivating relationships and regular engagement with key stakeholders in the food security and nutrition sector.
- The researchers were effective knowledge translators and disseminated evaluation findings through a variety of knowledge products.

Evidence gap map details

Title: [The effects of food systems interventions on food security and nutrition outcom...](#)

Authors: Nick Moore, Charlotte Lane, Ingunn Storhaug, Amber Franich, Heike Rolker, Josh Furgeson, Thalia Sparling, and Birte Snilstveit



Context

In the last few years, significant efforts have been made to improve food systems for better food security and nutrition outcomes. As a result, there is a vast amount of evidence demonstrating what works; however, complications in navigating this research make it difficult for decision-makers to use.

3ie, with support from Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA), has been commissioned by BMZ through GIZ's Knowledge for Nutrition program to continuously monitor the available evidence and regularly add studies to ensure that the E&GM remains a useful and current tool. 3ie's first living evidence and gap map (E&GM) includes the largest collection of high-quality research on food systems interventions in low- and middle-income countries.

Evidence

3ie's largest, living E&GM includes over 2,900 studies. It represents a rich body of evidence in an accessible format.

The EGM has found that several widely implemented interventions are not well-researched, allowing for potentially negative consequences and inefficient use of funds. Larger interventions, which impact more people, are also less frequently studied; most evaluations have taken place at local and subnational levels, with less evidence of national and transnational interventions. We also identified relatively few studies examining interventions that support women's decision-making or measure the outcomes of women's empowerment—despite the fact that women are traditionally major actors within food systems.

The literature additionally has a strong focus on randomized trials, with mixed-methods approaches, and those considering cost evidence, severely underrepresented.

Evidence impacts

3ie's living E&GM featured in the European Commission's Knowledge4Policy portal
The living E&GM is featured on the [European Commission's Knowledge4Policy \(K4P\) portal](#) for evidence-based policymaking. The portal highlights two recommendations for policymakers, based on the results presented in the review: (1) Make use of high-quality systematic reviews when designing and developing new policies and programs (A total of 34 high-quality systematic reviews were identified); and (2) Consider investing in under-researched areas (The map identified several intervention-outcome combinations for which there is relatively little impact evaluation evidence). The K4P's goal is to bridge the science-policy gap by delivering policy evidence from scientists to policymakers across Europe. The portal contains "high quality, relevant and scientifically robust evidence" curated by 19 teams of European Commission scientists.

3ie's living E&GM cited in a UN Food Systems Summit brief

Ahead of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, research partners in the summit's scientific group (including leading IFPRI researchers) [cited 3ie's E&GM on Food Systems and Nutrition in their review of evidence on gender equality, women's empowerment, and food systems](#). The group prepared the review as a brief, whose work informed recommendations and commitments that emerged from the summit.

Norad commissioned 3ie to carry out a rapid evidence assessment

Following engagement on the process and findings of 3ie's living E&GM on food systems—and its associated rapid evidence assessments around [women's empowerment](#) and [fiscal policies for healthy diets](#)—Norad commissioned 3ie to produce a [rapid evidence assessment on the long-term outcomes of food systems interventions](#).

Suggested citation

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Evidence impact summaries aim to demonstrate and encourage the use of evidence to inform programming and policymaking. These reflect the information available to 3ie at the time of posting. Since several factors influence policymaking, the summaries highlight contributions of evidence rather than endorsing a policy or decision or claiming that it can be attributed solely to evidence. If you have any suggestions or updates to improve this summary, please write to influence@3ieimpact.org

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