

Applied Basic Agri-Nutrition Resource Manual & Toolkit launched in Kenya

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A manual that will be used to pass key nutritional messages in an effort to address malnutrition in the country has been launched.

Applied Basic Agri-Nutrition Resource Manual & Toolkit is expected to address malnutrition both as a cause and consequence of food and nutrition insecurity with the devastating effect of poverty, hunger, disease and eventually death of infants and children.

Ministries of Agriculture, Public Health & Sanitation and relevant stakeholders are the developers of the program under the support of Kenya Horticulture Competitiveness Project (USAID-KHCP).

The manual is expected to help trainers educate and inform the general public community on the importance of Applied Nutrition in their day to day lives.

While launching the Manual, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture Dr. Romano Kiome said that by way of integrating Nutrition and Agriculture in the country, was a sure way of transformation from just food security to food and nutrition security.

“To effectively integrate nutrition and agriculture, there is need to optimally utilize resources such as environment, technology and human resources”, said the Permanent Secretary adding that this will address the underlying causes at the household level in order to ensure adequate dietary intake to minimize incidences of disease and malnutrition thus death and disability.

Permanent Secretary for Public Health & Sanitation Mr. Mark Bor said in order to improve nutritional status there was need for increased production of diverse and safe foods, increased household food availability and access throughout the year to ensure adequate food consumption through right quantity and diversity.

Kenya currently faces chronic and growing food insecurity with the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2008 indicating that 35 percent of children are stunted while 14 percent are severely stunted.

The country's high rates of under-nutrition are particularly due to poor maternal micronutrient status and consequent low birth weight, poor infant feeding practices, lack of access to adequate water and sanitation and safe hygiene practices, as well as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

It is estimated that under-nutrition reduces the economy's GDP by between 2 to 3 percent. Medical experts predict that Kenya could lose up to about US Dollars 38.3 billion between now and 2030.

The Applied Basic Agri-Nutrition Resource Manual & Toolkit will also

provide the trainer with further knowledge on applied nutrition to enable them diverge from the tool kit and expand the knowledge of the participants while encouraging active discussions through questions and answers.

If you are an experienced worker within the health environment, this could act as an essential program to enable one use it to refresh their skills and knowledge and to also use the resource as a tool for passing on information to their colleagues. For a community based worker, the resource book will aid them in passing on knowledge to benefit community members.

The manual is also expected to guide the trainer in providing relevant back grounded information for their reference. Also present during the launch was USAID-KHVP Director Ian Chesterman.



Representatives from USAID, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries at the launch event.