Time Use in Agriculture-Nutrition

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Does time use matter in agriculture-nutrition pathways?

Do agricultural interventions have unintended negative consequences on nutrition via increased time burdens?
Time use as a method for data collection

- National Time Use Surveys
- Time use modules integrated in other surveys – e.g. Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)
- Direct observation and qualitative interviews

DATABASE OF TIME USE STUDIES

South Africa Time Use Study (2000)
**Key Findings**

Women play a key role in agriculture, reflected in their time commitments whether as farmers or farmworkers.

Agricultural interventions tend to increase women’s, men’s and children’s time burdens. However, the nutritional impact is not clear-cut:

- Indicators of food and nutrition could worsen
- Non-maternal care givers important
- Purchased food can substitute home-grown or -prepared food

**Why?**

Impact on nutritional outcomes is mediated by:

- Seasonality, work intensity
- Income and socio-economic status
- Household composition
Key Evidence Gaps

Overwhelming focus on women – household composition and patterns of substitution
Impact on women themselves: evidence of decreased leisure and sleep time

Time use patterns → time constraints?

Is time spent in agriculture the key constraint?

Turning points: when does time become scarce, and what for?

Critical areas of time use for nutrition: what aspects of care are most critical for nutrition?
Resources


