

Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice

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Emily Levitt Ruppert, M.S., Ph.D.

E-mail: LEVITTEJ(at)gmail.com

Coordinator, Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice

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Cecilia Gonzalez

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Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice

Ag2Nut Ethiopia Sub-Group

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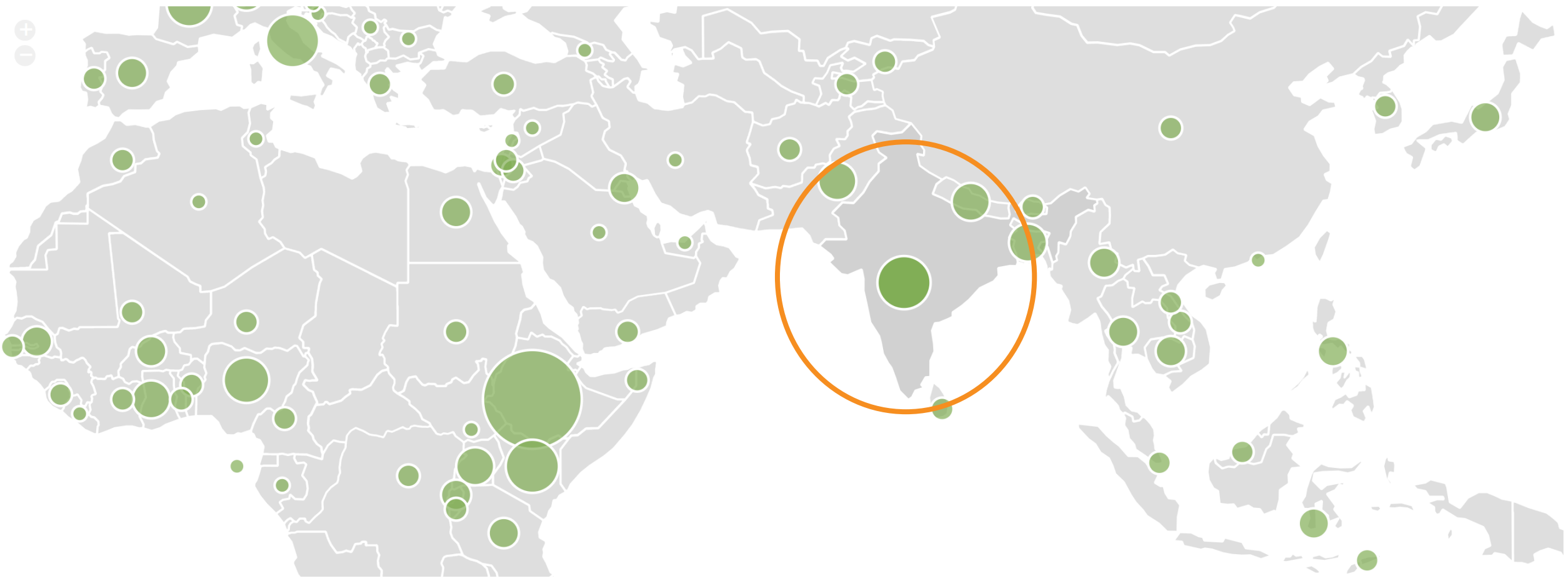
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Summary

India










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India
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Why Ag2Nut country chapters?

- Subgroups are formed by members of Ag2Nut Global Community who have a common interest. So far, subgroups have formed based on geography. Other topic-specific subgroups could be considered (e.g. Ag2Nut-Fish) in the future.
- **The reason for forming a geographic subgroup is to focus and connect more effectively on agriculture-nutrition issues specific to the country or region.**

Examples of what subgroups can do

- Curriculum development within and across universities, that improves inter-sectoral training on agriculture-nutrition linkages, so that students trained in agriculture have an understanding of how their work relates to nutrition and health, and vice versa.
- Sharing fellowship and job announcements of relevance to students and professionals with skills in agriculture-nutrition linkages.
- Sharing events related to agriculture-nutrition (webinars, meetings, symposia).
- Sharing news and publications related to agriculture-nutrition linkages (for example, relevant research papers; release of new biofortified variety in the country; a national/state policy change in agriculture that could affect nutrition; etc).
- Producing a statement, brief, or document that can be used for advocacy within the government, or across institutions.
- Face to face meetings

Ag2Nut Subgroup guidelines

- The starting point of a subgroup is an email list that facilitates connection of people interested in agriculture-nutrition linkages in the subgroup country.
 - Country subgroups are open to all those who are interested or work in the country; members do not have to reside in the country.
- A dedicated volunteer leader(s) needs to be named in order to create a subgroup. Essential tasks include adding and approving members, screening emails sent to the list, and responding to emails as needed.
- Other optional duties for subgroup leaders include organizing meetings (online or in person, as desired), or facilitating activities such as curriculum development, discussions, co-written statements, communication/advocacy/leveraging of the community's unified views, etc.

Steps to create an Ag2Nut subgroup

- Provide the contact information of the Ag2Nut subgroup leader(s) to the Ag2Nut global coordinators.
- Write a brief group description that includes the subgroup's purpose and aims, and how members are encouraged to use the subgroup platform (e.g. announcements only, discussion forum, cross-institutional co-branded outputs, etc.).
- Provide to the Ag2Nut Global coordinators a list of all founding members with their email addresses, preferably in an Excel or Google Sheets file.
- Once these first three steps have been completed, the Ag2Nut Global coordinators will be able to create the Ag2Nut subgroup, add the founding members to the subgroup list serve, and give administrator rights to the leader(s). The Global coordinators can have an initial orientation call with subgroup leaders to explain how to use the web platform for list management.
- The group leader/moderator can then send a welcome email to the members of the list with information on how sign in and update their profile.
- Start using and moderating the list/platform according to its stated purpose and aims.

Ag2nut-Ethiopia

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Key points about the group

- The group was formed as subgroup of the global ag2nut community
- It was formed in 2016 after the ANH Academy meeting in Addis Ababa, since then it has more than 2300 members from Ethiopia and abroad.
- The major aim is to facilitate exchange of information and resources among members
- The group is also part of community services initiatives of the team facilitating the online discussion

Why is the Ethiopia group formed?

- to make effective discussion and networking among scholars interested on Ethiopian specific nutrition and development topics
- To minimize the number of emails which are sent to the global audience
- Since the context of nutrition topics in Ethiopia can be different from other countries, country specific sub-group was recommended
- Yet, group members can join both the global and country specific groups

Progress so far

- Forum members are actively discussing
- Number of members grew a lot in short time
- the online discussions did also lead to face to face discussion in different forums conferences
- It also helped to advocate and attract attention to key issues such as jobs for youth
- Scholars from none nutrition background are being informed about nutrition issues in Ethiopia
- The forum also helped the leading organization Hawassa University through promotion, feedback on curriculum review and networking with different institutions, internship for students, win grants etc
- the group made it easier to communicate within Ethiopian Institutions, NGOs and Government organizations
- Young scholars that have limited access and skills about internet are getting relevant information
- The forum also helped the facilitator to build his network and professional engagement

Tips for other countries

- Dedication of group leader is very important
- Its best to link it with Universities or training institutions
- There is lots of potential and interest from those scholars with limited knowhow about nutrition
- Its best to link the key messages from online discussion with decision makers
- If possible, its best to make summary of each discussion before starting new one
- People join the forum for different reasons, thus, its best to share job vacancies, grant calls, publications, possibilities for online survey etc
- Some comments might go personal and negative than adding value to the ongoing discussion. Thus, its good to see details of discussion points and comments before sharing