



NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition and Health

Advancing and implementing nutrition knowledge to improve health, wellbeing and society

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Global Challenges – Let’s End Malnutrition by 2030

“We want a world with NO POVERTY” is the first statement you see on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website. Poverty is being contained around the world – over a billion people have been lifted from it since 1990. Vaccines are saving more lives than ever; child mortality continues to fall; and an unprecedented number of children are in school. However, development is steady but still slow, and improving the poor or disenfranchised people is an increasing challenge due to the inability of infrastructure to keep up with growing populations. Agriculture and nutrition represent key determinants of both health and economic development (Figure 1).

Nutrition took centre stage in 2016 when Margaret Chan (Previous WHO Director General) vowed to “end all malnutrition by 2030”. The UN Decade of Actions on Nutrition (UNDAN) was created particularly for this purpose and illustrates the multifactorial problems that underpin malnutrition: **Accessibility, Production, and Funding.**

Thus, NNEdPro aligned its 2016-2025 vision with the UN’s Decade of Action on Nutrition. As highlighted by the 2016 Global Nutrition Report, NNEdPro seeks to assess existing systems in tackling malnutrition, identify gaps as well as areas for improvement and propose ways to fill them, particularly via Education and Healthcare Workforce Development. Such an enterprise calls for well thought-out action, innovative insights, interventions that demonstrably work, and research which has a crucial role to play in this

framework. Part of the solution may lie in projects supported by the UK **Global Challenges Research Fund.**

The UK Government launched the £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) (Figure 2) in late 2015 to stimulate research on the challenges faced by emergent countries. This new challenge-led funding supports innovative research that will strengthen capacity, provide an agile response to emergencies and ensure local communities’ voices are heard in outlining fundamental issues and shaping solutions.

NNEdPro has the opportunity to function as an advisor to Ulster University for one GCRF project and as co-investigator/joint work package lead with the University of Cambridge for another such GCRF project. These represent 2 out of 17 UK Institutions/Groups who received GCRF awards in the latest round in 2017.

Figure 1: Nutrition is a Fundamental Need to Drive Development

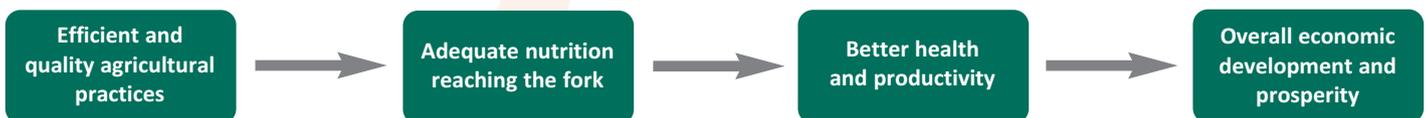
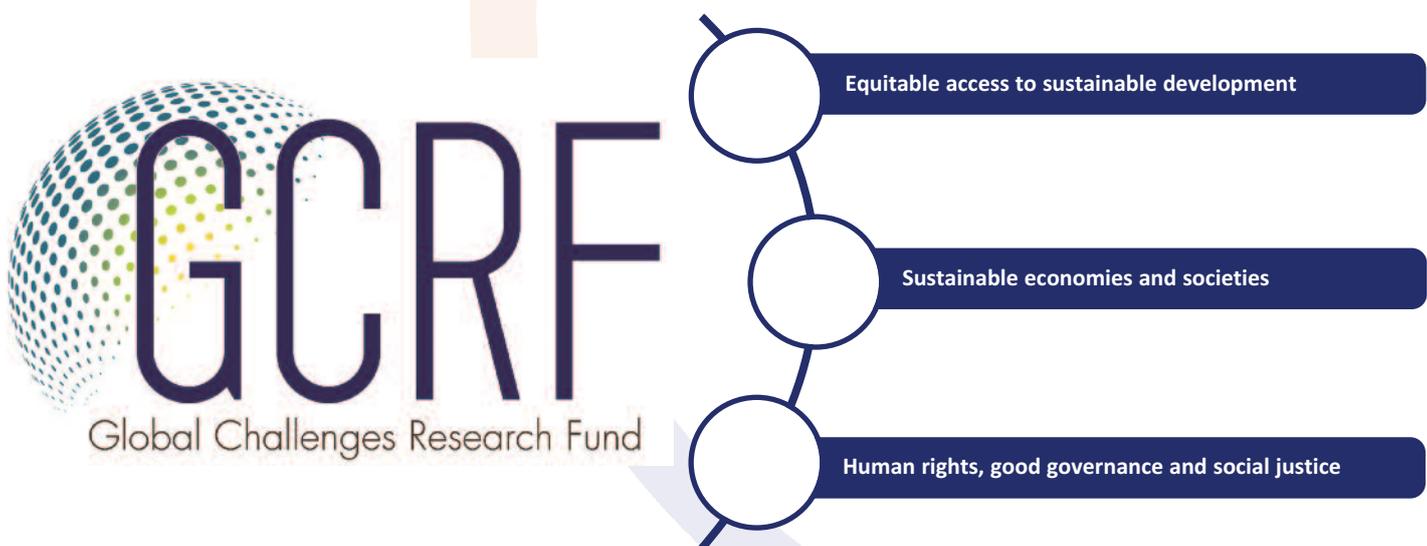


Figure 2: GCRF’s Challenge Areas with Reference to the UK Aid Strategy and the UN Global Goals of Sustainable Development (SDGs)



Save the dates for NNEdPro's 10th Anniversary Week

- NNEdPro Cambridge Summer School in Applied Human Nutrition: 14th-17th July 2018
- International Summit on Medical Nutrition Education and Research in Cambridge: 19th & 20th July 2018

Here is a brief summary of the aforementioned projects:

SAFEWATER Project: Safe Drinking Water for All

Ulster University (PI: Byrne)

(NNEdPro Chair: advisory panel)

- Nearly 25% of the global population drink water that is contaminated with faeces from animals and humans
- Can cause deadly diseases such as polio, typhoid, cholera and dysentery
- Clean water saves lives
- Cost of making water safe this may be too high since nearly half the world's population live on less than £2 per day.

Through the SAFEWATER project, Ulster University, collaborators in South America and local NGOs aim to develop low cost technologies such as smart devices that can provide affordable clean water solutions. We aim to involve the local people from the beginning of the project so that the technologies can be developed to meet their needs.

TIGR2ESS: The Second Green Revolution

University of Cambridge (PI: Griffiths)

(NNEdPro Chair: co-investigator/joint work package lead along with Dr S Fennel at the University of Cambridge; in collaboration with Prof N Rao, UEA and Dr L Allen, Centre for Global Equality)

- India is developing fast with a fast growing population and urbanisation
- First Green Revolution brought a massive increase in crop production
- Growing need to reduce the damage done by excessive use of pesticides, fertiliser and water.

TIGR2ESS, a collaboration between UK and Indian scientists, aims to bring about a Second Green Revolution, through use of smart technologies. Smallholder farmers need smart technologies to sustain crop yields, and improve health and nutrition. The TIGR2ESS programme will assess these options, as well as support basic research programmes, and provide advice to local communities.

This programme will open up opportunities for academic exchanges, mentoring and career development for scientists from both the UK and India. Through our India Network, links with the relevant Indian government ministries and industrial connections will enable us to provide sustainable and affordable solutions to local farmers and help turn their crops into gold.

Malnutrition continues to remain an important clinical and public health problem in both developed and developing parts of the world. We hope to make useful contributions to these Global Challenges Projects over 2017-21 by helping to provide sustainable solutions in tackling malnutrition as well as associated problems and in this process, establish strong collaborations between the UK and rapidly developing nations.

Work with us to end malnutrition by 2030.

If you are interested in our progress, do follow this space and check our website at: www.nnedpro.org.uk.

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