

## **Agriculture for Health Abstracts**

### **Links for Life: Promoting Integrated HIV, Food and Nutrition Security Programming** **Gwendolyn Blake**

The epidemics of HIV, hunger and poverty are inextricably linked. Throughout Africa, these singularly threatening assaults have converged to form the perfect storm, which ravages the lives and livelihoods of individuals, destroying the capacities of families and communities to care for their most vulnerable members. This presentation will explore Project Concern International's response through "*Links for Life: Promoting Integrated HIV and FNS Programming*", an initiative implemented in collaboration with public health & development practitioners from 20 sub-Saharan African countries.

### **Keyhole gardens: Improving nutrition in HIV and AIDS programming** **Adam Weimer / Sempe Lerotholi**

Originally developed by CARE Zimbabwe for use by chronically ill, keyhole gardens have proven an effective way to grow vegetables year round in semi-arid climates because of its moisture retention and soil nutrient enrichment properties. In Lesotho, C SAFE has promoted keyhole gardens among populations vulnerable to hunger and food insecurity as a way to improve household resiliency to external shocks such as drought. CRS Lesotho and partners is currently addressing HIV and AIDS impact mitigation vis a vis OVC Care and Support along with community based food and nutrition security interventions.

### **Arborloos: Improved hygiene intervention increases agricultural production** **Mayling Simpson**

Simple low-cost ecological toilets called "Arborloos" were introduced into the CRS Ethiopia program in 2005 as a pilot project. Ethiopia has low sanitation coverage at about 6%, primarily because toilet options being promoted were too expensive for the rural poor. To date, CRS Ethiopia projects have completed over 40,000 Arborloos with enthusiastic acceptance by the beneficiary populations. These toilets have small slabs costing about US\$7, a shallow pit and a simple superstructure of local materials. After a year or less of use, a fruit tree is planted in the pit, which thrives and grows faster and larger than control trees and provides abundant fruit. Households not only have fruit for consumption but also for sale. This presentation explains how and why this sanitation innovation was successful in Ethiopia and how it is now spreading to other CRS watershed programs.

### **Breaking the cycle of malnutrition: Totonicapán, Guatemala** **Hugh Aprile**

A common challenge found in multi-sectoral programming is to ensure that different yet complementary activities (such as agriculture and health in a food security program) are carried out in an integrated manner. The CRS "Breaking the Cycle of Malnutrition Project" in Totonicapán, Guatemala, tries to overcome this barrier in three ways: 1) By ensuring that each technical staff member, whether a health and nutrition or agriculture and small livestock specialist, receives training in all aspects of the program; 2) carrying out all community-based training, monitoring, and follow-up activities in a joint fashion; and finally 3) by implementing small garden and livestock management activities specifically targeted at women as a means to improving the health and nutrition of children and mothers.