

**Editor's note:** This section contains reviews of books, publications, and websites that, whether brand new or classic, we hope will be of interest to our readers. Notices of relevant new publications that do not actually constitute reviews will from henceforth be published on [www.sightandlife.org](http://www.sightandlife.org).

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Publication Notice

## Paths of Convergence for Agriculture, Health, and Wealth: Solutions at Scale to the Triple Burden of Malnutrition

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*Annals of New York Academy of Sciences*, Volume 1331.

Pages 1–295 ([onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.2014.1331.issue-1/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.2014.1331.issue-1/issuetoc))

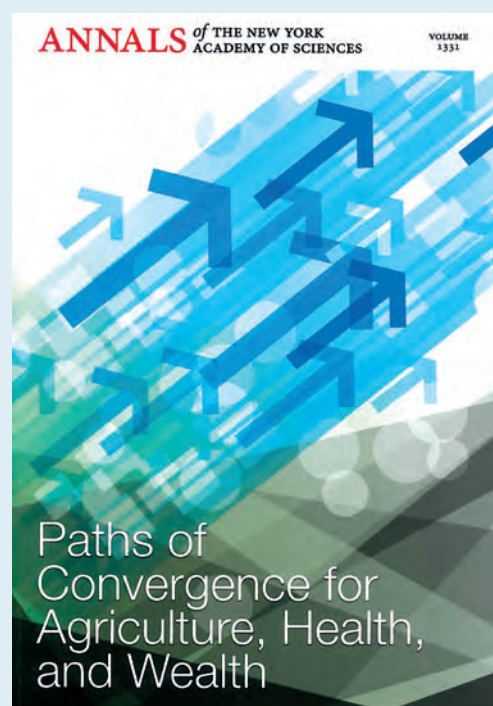
Special issue edited by Laurette Dubé, Patrick Webb, Narendra K Arora and Prabhu Pingali

Bringing solutions at scale to the complex challenges of malnutrition requires both behavioral change and ecosystem transformation at the nexus of farm, food and health systems. Food choices lie at the core of well-entrenched benefits and problems associated with Western lifestyles, income uses and chronic diseases. Focusing on enhancing dietary quality across traditional, as well as modern, food systems may support a convergence towards more sustainable and healthy food production and consumption environments. This special feature of the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* focuses on this potential for convergence thinking and practice. Articles are structured around four themes, with academic papers having a “roadmap” companion paper reporting on the current status of associated convergence-building projects.

Articles in Theme 1 bring evidence **on the need for convergence and on underlying mechanisms at the individual and societal levels**. The multiplicity of mechanisms under-

scores a major challenge in articulating paths of convergence at scale that go beyond what has been possible so far. Of particular relevance is the article by Portella and Silveira that examines the determinants of food choice and eating behavior in the especially vulnerable population of children born with fetal growth restrictions, these being highly vulnerable to all three facets of malnutrition over the life-course.

Theme 2 addresses strategy for **mainstreaming convergence as a driver of business engagement and innovation**. Reaching solutions to malnutrition at scale calls not only for scaling up, but also for extending private-sector engagement. Business engagement can be, for example, at the level of nutrition-sensitive product formulation and marketing, in inclusive organization and value-chain design and practice, through commercial and social entrepreneurship engaging with communities, or again via financial investments at scale. Of particular relevance is the academic paper and roadmap companion paper by Dubé and her collaborators that intro-



duces food-convergent innovation, implying the joint optimization of economic growth and human development in both their core profit-making and corporate social responsibility activities, making business a catalyst for change throughout society.

Articles presented in Theme 3 address **convergence in policy and governance** and tackle the present disconnect between policy-making in economic sectors, on the one hand, and human development sectors, on the other. Of particular relevance is the paper by Kirton et al that analyzes the political process for the global initiative for addressing mother and child health.

The final set of articles lays the foundations for better **convergence in metrics and methods**. The articles under this theme start to build bridges between knowledge systems and models in health, and those used in policy-making by agricultural, social, and economic actors at local, national, and global levels. Of particular interest is a paper by Pingali and Ricketts that proposes a minimum set of nutrition indicators to be included in nationally representative agricultural (and multi-topic) household surveys.

The insights provided by the papers assembled in the Annals special issue *Paths of Convergence for Agriculture, Health and Wealth* have the potential to enable all actors throughout society to enhance the supply of nutritious foods and demand for healthier diets in both traditional and modern food systems. The focus is placed on identifying economically viable solutions to the triple burden of malnutrition and associated ill health. Its production and open access, as well as the associated science, policy and innovation agenda, have been financially supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Agriculture Division) and the Rockefeller Foundation (Bellagio programs for writing residency and workshop).

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