

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON GLOBAL NUTRITION POLICY
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Latin American Society of Nutrition (SLAN), World Health Organization (WHO)/ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Food Programme (WFP)/ Bengoa Foundation/Micronutrient Initiative

The Latin American Society of Nutrition is pleased to announce the first multidisciplinary training programme on global nutrition policy for sustainable development, a practical hands-on initiative designed to equip nutrition professionals with the tools and knowledge necessary to be leaders in an increasingly interdependent world. The financed programme offers a multidisciplinary approach to the complex and broad economic, political, technological, and social issues that influence contemporary global policy in nutrition and its actors – governments, private industry, and non-governmental organizations. The participants will strengthen core professional skills and will acquire hands-on expertise tailored to the contemporary global environment in nutrition global policy for sustainable health and development.

The programme provides selected professionals with an overview of the global policy process and helps build analytical and professional communications skills. Through rotations in high profile host international organizations, the programme provides participants with opportunities to engage in real-world policy projects in nutrition from identifying the magnitude and distribution of a public health nutrition problem and its determinants, to the scoping, retrieval, summary and assessment of evidence to support effective and safe implementation of nutrition and nutrition-sensitive interventions for sustainable development, and monitoring and evaluating their impact, while they are mentored by technical staff. The programme includes attendance to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the possibility of up to two consecutive rotations of three months each, assigned according with the trainee's profile and/or the Organizations' needs, either in the headquarters or a regional office. The institutions include: two specialized United Nations agencies: the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) as well as on two non-governmental organizations, The Micronutrient Initiative and the Bengoa Foundation.

The Latin American Society of Nutrition (SLAN) aims to stimulate the generation and application of knowledge in nutrition and related disciplines, as well as to encourage contact and knowledge exchange between researchers and other professionals in the field in order to build capacity on global health and nutrition policy making and knowledge translation in Latin America. This programme will give attendees the opportunity to experience how food and nutrition global policies are developed at global level and how they are implemented at country or regional level. The Society was created in 1964 in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia in a meeting about protein-energy malnutrition organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). From that time the society has been promoting the reunion of regional academic fora, to discuss about health and nutrition in Latin America dealing with aspects related to food production and technology, epidemiology, research, clinical aspects and public health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, with headquarters in

Geneva, Switzerland, and is a member of the United Nations Development Group. WHO's role in public health is captured in its six core functions: providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed; shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge; setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation; articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options; providing technical support, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends. WHO has 194 Member States: all Member States of the United Nations except Liechtenstein, as well as the Cook Islands and Niue. As of 2013, it also had two associate members, Puerto Rico and Tokelau. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is an international public health agency working to improve health and living standards of the people of the Americas. It was founded in December of 1902. It enjoys international recognition as part of the United Nations system, serving as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization, and as the health organization of the Inter-American System.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations, and it is the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger. WFP provides food, on average, to 90 million people per year, 58 million of whom are children. From its headquarters in Rome, Italy and more than 80 country offices around the world, WFP works to help people who are unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee.

The Bengoa Foundation for Food and Nutrition is a national social organization nonprofit, public action, created in 2000 by professionals, researchers and scientists to promote policy proposals and develop strategies and actions to improve the nutrition of the Venezuelans, particularly the most vulnerable groups of the population: children and women. The foundation is based in Caracas, Venezuela and works in national and community nutritional status surveillance, information and dissemination of food and nutrition knowledge and technological advances in the area of nutrition, training and technical assistance to strengthen professional and technical capabilities in the area of food and nutrition, social organizations and business and community groups and in community nutrition.

The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) works in partnership with governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, the private sector and civil society organizations to address micronutrient malnutrition, which affects at least one-third of the world's population. Its purpose is to ensure through integrated, innovative and sustainable solutions that the world's most vulnerable affected by hunger and undernutrition - especially women and children in developing countries get the vitamins and minerals they need to survive and thrive. With headquarters in Ottawa and regional offices in Africa and Asia, MI's projects and programmes reach over 500 million people in more than 70 countries.

Programme objectives

To build capacity and leadership in the area of global policy in public health nutrition in eligible individuals. After successfully completion of the programme, participants will:

1. Be familiar and understand the core functions, objectives, goals and tasks of the organizations and foundations assigned during the international leadership training programme.
2. Understand the international architecture of food and nutrition in public health and high level political agendas from public and private sectors and to engage in these issues at local, national and global levels.
3. Comprehend the cause-effect nature of nutrition and health problems and the interrelation with social and economic factors such as food systems, production, environmental sustainability, poverty and social justice, organizational and political processes.
4. Develop skills to use basic and applied research for the development of evidence-informed global policies systematic searches of literature (WHO).
5. Have hands-on skills to evaluate the effectiveness of nutritional interventions and public health programmes worldwide, identifying and analyzing advantages and barriers for success or failure.
6. Be able apply the experience acquired in world level organizations to manage nutritional problems and priorities, as well as handling public health problems at country level, anticipating the barriers to apply those policies in different country settings.

Prior to the initiation of the training (as part of the selection process) eligible participants will be asked to present an essay in English, on a topic on nutrition or nutrition-sensitive intervention for sustainable health and development of global relevance or that is a priority for the organization that will receive them for the rest of the programme (see lists below). The protocol will be considered by tutors and will define the other 2 institutions where the trainee will go for the rest of the programme.

Besides developing the project, the trainees will be incorporated in the selected organizations in the activities that his/her skills and rank inside the institution allows and the needs of the organization. The trainee will participate under the supervision of mentor technical staff and in close collaboration with other technical experts to develop the project and to acquire the expertise gained in the global context.

At the end of the programme it is expected that the trainee will produce a report with the results of his/her research and practice, to be, preferably, submitted to the official journal of the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nutrición, which is Archivos Latinoamericanos de Nutrición.

Requirements for applicants:

1. University degree in nutrition, medicine, agriculture or associated health professions with less than five years after graduation.
2. Masters degree or specialization in nutrition, medicine, development, agronomy or associated health professions or equivalent experience within 5 years after graduation.
3. Fluency in English and Spanish. Professional working proficiency in other official United Nations languages desirable.
4. Availability for this training for up to 9 months starting in 2015.

Interested individuals must prepare a cover letter indicating the interest in this programme and an updated CV. The support of individuals and institutions for the participation of the applicant, is desirable but not essential.

All applications will be evaluated by a jury that will select the participants.

Those selected will receive a stipend to vary according to the countries where they do their internships. They will also receive transfers from their sites of origin to Switzerland and then to the other places undertake the program and return to their countries of origin.

Participants will need to purchase their own international medical insurance.

The start site for all participants is the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Applications will be accepted until December 15, 2014.

The program start is scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.

Send your request to info@slaninternacional.org placing in the subject: Multidisciplinary training program on global nutrition policies for sustainable development

Themes of interest for WHO

Biofortification of crops

Breastfeeding

Fortification of staple foods and condiments

Safe provision of micronutrients in emergency settings

Social and economic determinants of nutrition for sustainable development

Themes of interest for WFP

Stunting prevention programming at scale

Innovative delivery mechanisms for stunting prevention programmes

Incorporation of novel information technology solutions to improve monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes

Value chain of local production of specialized nutritious foods

Feasibility and affordability of local production of specialized nutritious foods

Mechanisms for behavior change communication

Monitoring and evaluation of behavior change communication programming

Appropriate performance indicators for optimizing large scale monitoring and evaluation systems of nutrition programmes

Contextual factors that influence the optimal specialized nutritious product for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and prevention programmes

Key programmatic inputs for technical guidance to support MNP in school feeding programmes

Investment case for nutrition programming (stunting prevention, MAM prevention) in different contexts

Use of cash and/or vouchers in nutrition programming

Nutrition programming for healthy pregnancy (adolescent girls, young women)

Nutrition programming for healthier lactation

Nutrition programming for stunting prevention during the entire 1000 days

Themes of interest for MI (evidence base and program implementation)

Bio fortification and agricultural interventions for improving populations' micronutrient status

Adolescent nutrition: assessment at population level and promising nutrition interventions

Community based maternal and neonatal health and nutrition

Point of use fortification in different age groups

Iron and folic acid supplementation in different age groups and settings, including malaria endemic areas

Multiple micronutrient supplementation in pregnant women

Salt fortification with iodine

Innovative delivery mechanisms for micronutrient interventions in different age groups

Value chain of local production of complementary foods, including food safety assessment.

Behavior communication interventions to improve demand and coverage of micronutrient intervention

Themes of interest for Bengoa Foundation

Community nutrition

Field studies in nutritional education

Educational nutrition interventions in school aged children

Food fortification programmes

Breastfeeding

Recommended dietary allowances

Protein-energy malnutrition

Diet diversity and effective communication

Growth and development in children