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WOLLO UNIVERSITY

# Improving the Food Systems of Resource-Poor Farmers through Innovative University-Community Engagement Activities in Eastern Amhara, Ethiopia

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# Introduction

- Three pillars of WU
  - Teaching and Learning
  - Research and
  - **Community Engagement**
    - Improving the **Food Systems** of Resource-Poor Farmers is one of the major community engagement of the university

# Innovative Community Engagement Activities

1. Demonstration and distribution of improved crop varieties (WU & Zonal Agriculture Offices)
2. Urban Food security project (WU & JCFS Office)
3. Kabe watershed development project (WU-ICRISAT)
4. Promotion of Urban agriculture through training (WU)
5. Enset (*E. ventricosum*) introduction (WU-BETin-SARC)
6. Seed and live animal support for conflict affected farmers (WU)
7. **School Gardening Establishment (WU-UoG-KDP)**
8. **Stunting Reduction through NSA (WU-ISD-IFOAM)**



## 7. School Gardening Establishment (WU-UoG-KDP)

- Objective: Promote vegetable production at school and back yard
- 164 primary school (Tita & Kutaber) students involved
- Main Activities
  - Nursery bed preparation demonstration
  - Vegetable seed distribution
  - Frequent visit to schools and their home



Kutaber



Tita



Back yard



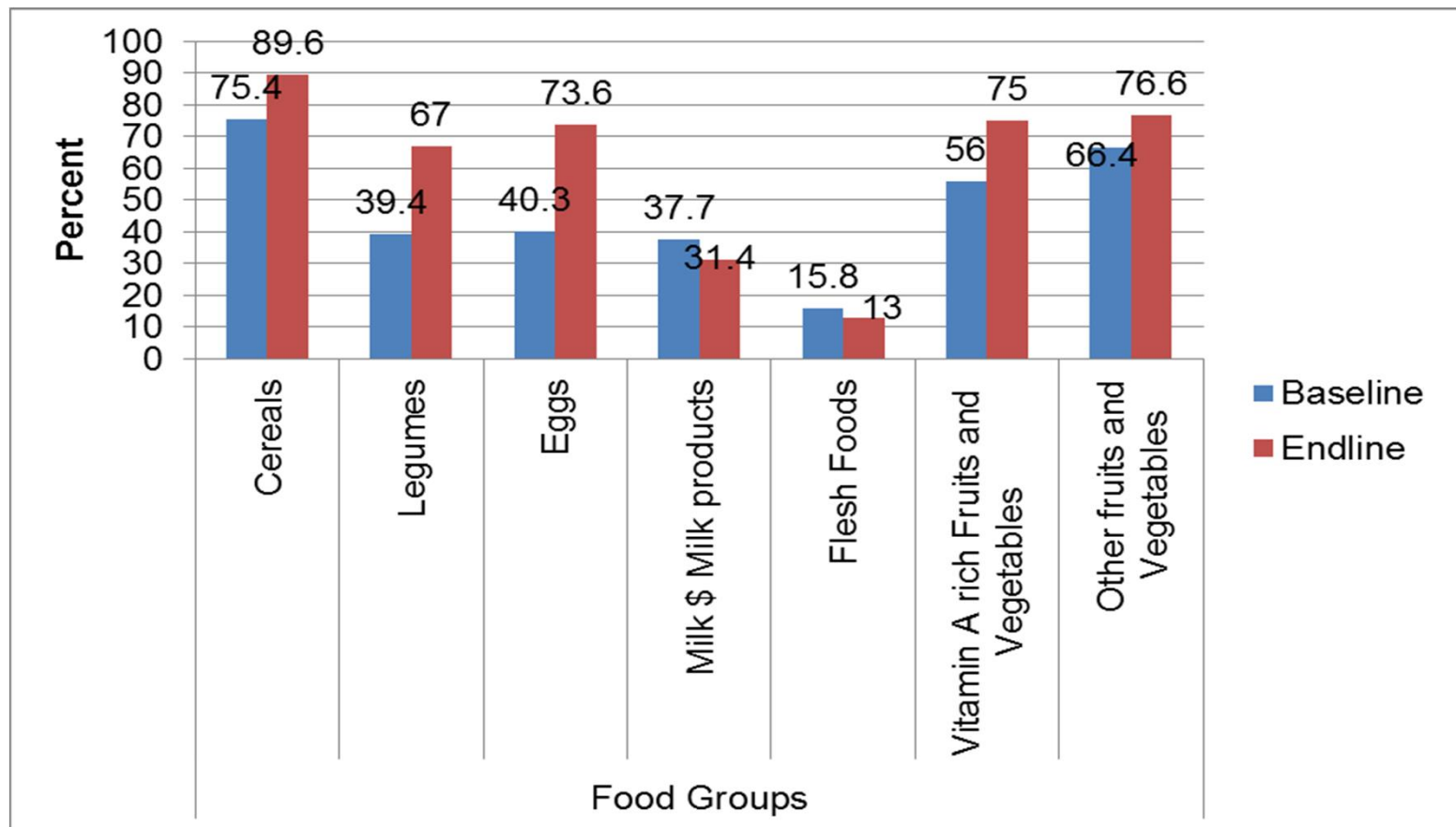
## 8. Stunting Reduction through NSA (WU-ISD)

- Objective: Improve nutritional status of women and children
  - 412 Pregnant and lactating women
- Duration: 3 year (2019 -2021)
- Main Activities
  - Vegetable Seed distribution
  - Poultry (643) distribution
  - Infant food formulation ingredient distribution
  - Nutrition Education



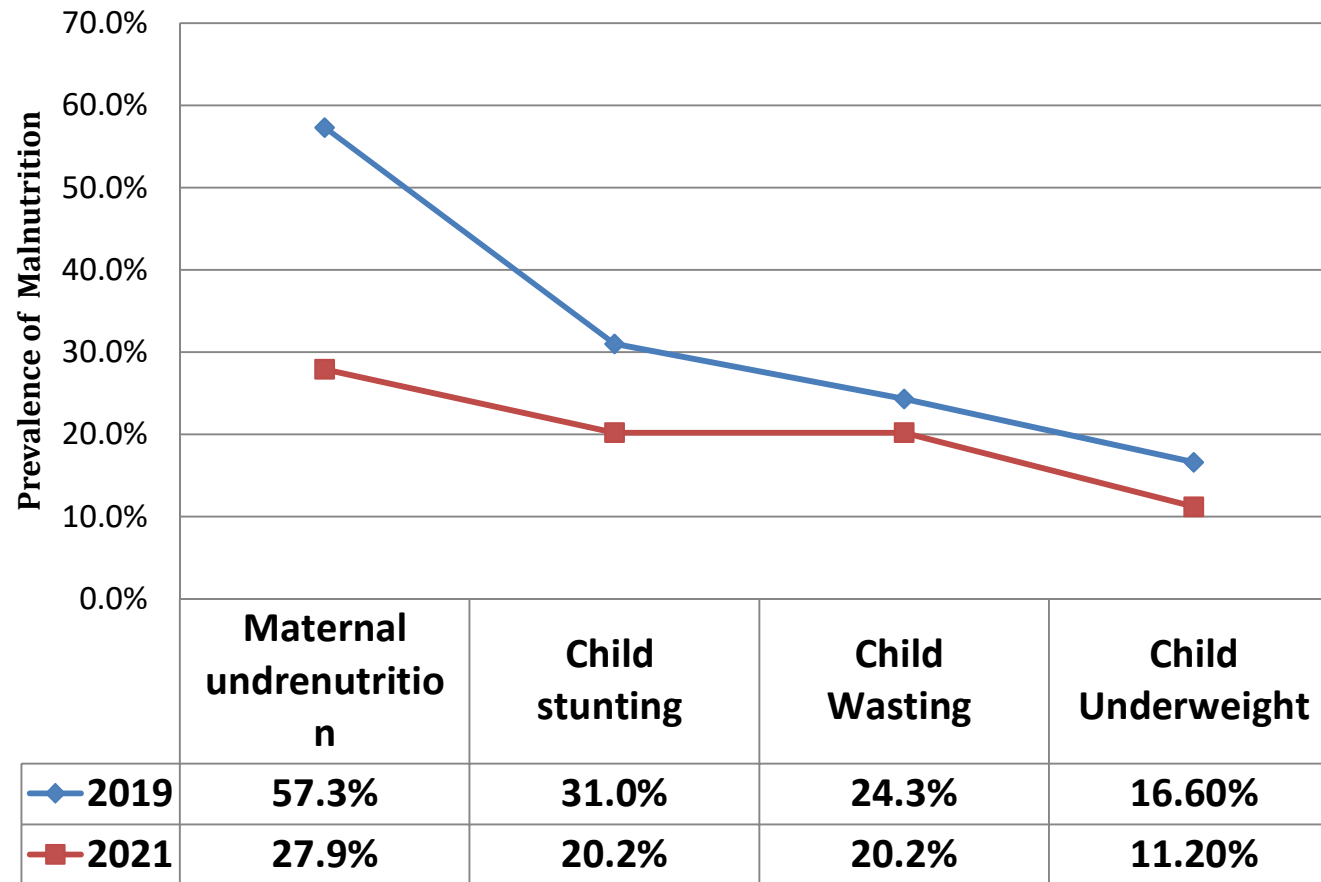
# Impact (case of stunting reduction project)

## Maternal Feeding Practices



Percentage of consumption of food groups by children below the age of 24 months in North-Central Ethiopia 2020

## Maternal and child malnutrition



# Lessons learned

- DFP and DFC in the project area increased with minimal support
- Behavioural change through Nutrition education
- A comprehensive, coherent and coordinated strategy
- **Collaboration** is important to bring about change in the food system



# Acknowledgement





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