Identifying points for intervening in the food supply to improve food choices

The global food system is not delivering for nutrition. Globally, 155 million children are stunted, 52 million are wasted and approximately two billion are deficient in key micronutrients. At the same time, over two billion adults worldwide are overweight or obese and many suffer from diet-related non-communicable diseases. Dietary risk factors are the main contributor to the multiple burdens of malnutrition. This talk will examine points for intervening throughout the food supply chain (from agricultural production to consumption) to improve the availability, affordability and acceptability of nutrient-rich foods using a food systems approach. It will present examples of interventions and policies aimed at improving food choices in both developing and developed world contexts.

Shauna Downs, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Policy at Rutgers School of Public Health. Her research focuses on two main areas: 1) the role of policies and interventions to reorient the food system towards the production and consumption of nutritious foods and 2) the environmental and health trade-offs of the promotion of healthy diets. She conducts research in India, Senegal, Myanmar and New York City using mixed-methods approaches. Shauna received her PhD in Public Health from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy at the University of Sydney. She also has a Master’s of Science in Nutrition from the University of Alberta, Canada.

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