

**FOOD AND NUTRITION PLANNING: A SYSTEMS MODEL****Priennie Ranatunga***(Veterinary Research Institute, Gannoruwa)*

Food and nutrition planning seeks to provide a whole population with basic nutrients for physical and mental well-being. Both technological and social inputs are required for such planning.

The model is designed to view the total environment in which the nutrition system operates. It has five levels as depicted in the flow lines below:

**WORLD → NATION → COMMUNITY → HOME → PERSON**

At the interface of any two levels, inputs result in outputs due to certain processes. This output together with more processes become inputs for the next level and so on, till the final result of good nutrition of the person is achieved. The processes are policy areas required to produce outputs/inputs as the case may be.

At the World/Nation end of the model are food policies. At the Home/Person end are nutrition policies. In the middle, both food and nutrition policies (with social and distributional dimensions), intermingle.

The model highlights the fact that the two ends of the spectrum which are more technological, have received some attention; the middle (community and home levels), have received less attention from planners.

All levels must be active simultaneously to induce the desired objective, namely, good nutrition in the most vulnerable persons, in the poorest homes, in the most deprived communities of poor nations.