HGSF is conceived of as combining two distinct policy objectives: the first is a social protection objective focused on the health and nutritional status of school-age children, while the second focuses on the economic and technical transformation of small-scale agriculture.

These objectives are addressed by two separate policy instruments: school feeding which looks at the social protection objective, and “structured demand” which represents the strategic use of public procurement (to supply school feeding programmes) in order to open new markets to family farmers and thus stimulate their investment in productivity enhancing technology.

HGSF Working Paper Series #2 Linking Agricultural Development to School Feeding critically examines the theory of change associated with the HGSF approach, focusing on the agricultural development objective and the use of structured demand as a key policy instrument (the social protection objective is addressed in HGSF Working Paper Series #5).

The arguments presented aim to provide a basis for moving towards clarity on (1) a theory of change for HGSF programmes; (2) the conditions under which HGSF programmes are more able to yield positive agricultural development outcomes and; (3) an agenda for moving forward on research and impact evaluation.

The paper contextualises the rise of interest in HGSF within broader debates in both the developed and developing worlds around the use of public procurement to achieve broader economic, social and environmental goals and the value of more “local” economic development strategies.

- Read more about the Working Paper Series