Benefit sharing in mountain households
A case of NTFPs from Bhutan
A gendered approach to informing national level policies

Bhutan+10: Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a Changing World
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Case Study Context

- Samdrup Jongkhar District
- Lauri block
- 8 NWFP groups, 407 hh
- 2011: informal trade
- Feb 2012: 1st NWFP Auction at road head

Intervention logic for the Auction:
"Auction increases competition between NWFP buyers, collective bargaining by farmers >> higher prices, increased incomes for collectors".

SNV
Connecting People’s Capacities
Analysis Lauri Case study

- What was the influence of the first auction on benefit sharing between women and men?

- Benefit Sharing Framework: 4 levels:
  1. Returns (financial): money expenditure of the additional income from the auction.
  2. Investment (labour): gendered time investment and factors of influence.
  3. Decision-making: influence of women at different levels: household, NWFP group, auction.

- Analysis based on hh and KI interviews conducted at 3 selected villages (June 2012)

Level 1: Returns (financial)

Summary of the expenditure of the respondents’ household from the additional income from auctioning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items for expenditure</th>
<th>First priority for expenditure</th>
<th>Second priority for expenditure</th>
<th>Third priority for expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HH items</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School expenditure for children</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious ceremony</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor purchase</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover cost to go for auctioning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total people who responded</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Additional income from auction largely benefited the whole household
Level 2: gendered time investment (labour)

Gender labour contribution in NWFP activities at household level:

Total time investment in all activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number of members from respondents</th>
<th>Average number of days spent in NWFP related work</th>
<th>Average number of hours spent doing NWFP related activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender distribution in the collection of NWFP

- Labour investment looks uniform

Gender division of labour (contd)

- Gender differences for harvesting and transportation to auction
- Women fall in “invisible” part of the chain
- To improve drying, grading & sorting (for quality) focus on women
Gender division of labour (contd)

Gender distribution in collection of NWFP species

- Species-specific gender intervention for resource management
- Factor of distance: Chirayita growth further away from the households

Level 3: Gender participation: Decision making in HH

- **Household level:**
  percentage wise

  "We will have to ask apa (father) for any decision as we are not sure about them."
Gender participation: Attendance vs. Decision making at meetings & auction

PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE:
- NWFP Group Meeting: mostly women (50% of the respondents)
- Auction Level: mostly men (73% of the respondents)

DECISION MAKING:
- Out of 32 executive positions, only 2 women – quality controllers (8 groups)
- NWFP Group Meeting and auction level: 100% male-dominated
- 100% of the respondents suggested that “role of men has increased with auctioning”

➤ Overall, auctioning has decreased the role of women in decision making (unintended effect).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reasons for participating in meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male member have more knowledge about species, harvesting and about agendas for future planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to conclude and make decisions for the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better public speaking skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfill the absence of father from the household in the meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

➤ Need for targeted training for women
Level 4: Capabilities

Women are aware of the importance of auctioning: expressed interest in wanting to participate in auctioning.

Zangthi village, 37 year old
"I do not have the capacity to go for meeting as I do not know much. I have interest to be involved..... I only attend meetings if husband is not here. I do all the farm work and take care of kids."

Zangthi village, 33 year old
"I gave company to my husband for auctioning to take are of the product. I want to participate but I do not know simple division as well."

➢ Auctioning has resulted in the reduced opportunities for women (to learn, network, to get information, etc.)

➢ To improve quality of the NWFP products, improved drying and grading - is required. Information on quality comes from the buyers. Women need more access to market information >> need to participate meaningfully in the auction.

Recommendations

The need for an integrated response, not only limited to NWFP policies to be able to approach at all these levels of benefit sharing.

Policy makers
• NWFP policies , CBMP (trainings specifically for women farmers, and also gender sensitizations for EAs)
• Creation of networks and its consequences on gendered benefit-sharing

Development Practitioners
• Skills and attitudes for gender sensitive practices with the NWFP groups
• Analytical framework (in depth gender integration in the VC approach, increase bargaining power of farmers with traders, in depth gender analysis during VC analysis)