Empowering Women through Community-based Promotion of Value Chains for High Value Products in Nepal

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Kathmandu, Nepal
Mountain districts – inaccessibility, isolation & remoteness

- Limited employment options
- Food insecurity - rely on agriculture & forest
- High male out-migration - intensify women’s workload

- Rich tradition of A. cerana beekeeping (Dadeldhura) & Bay leaf (Udayapur)

- Magar (Udayapur) & Chhetri (Dadeldhura)
Situation before the project intervention

1. Low yield
   - lack of knowledge and skills on production management
   - lack of modern technologies

2. Low price offered
   - low quality
   - lack of quality up-gradation skills
   - lack of market information

3. Unorganized producers
   - inequity in participation
   - men dominated decisions
   - no coordination among producers
   - weak bargaining power

- Poor quality product
- Low harvest
- Low income
- Inequity in benefits sharing
Major interventions

Gender-sensitivity

- Gender-sensitive Project designing
- Feasibility study & market survey (both women & men)
- Formation of producers' groups & cooperatives
- Training on gender orientation, forestry & cooperative management
- Skills development training (nursery management, colony management, quality assurance, packaging, bottling, hive making)

Pro-poor value chain approach

Horizontal strategies - Inclusive approach

Vertical strategies - Contractualisation

Multi-stakeholder involvement

Gender-sensitive Community-based Promotion of Value Chains for High Value Products
Impacts at the ground

From Problem to the Success

1. Women participation
   - In all group activities
   - Market survey & selling products

2. Social capital
   - Groups & cooperatives
   - Access to technologies and skills
   - Access to information & markets
   - Networking
Impacts ……

3. Collective bargaining power
- Women producers’ group
- Cooperative and association
- Access to market information

4. Transforming traditional gender roles
- More leadership role of women
- Control of household budget
- More positive male members
Impacts ............

5. Production of honey & bay leaf
   - Improvement in local production practices
   - Frame hive beekeeping
   - Processing techniques

6. Quality products
   - Capacity building in quality products and value addition technologies
   - New functions (processing, sorting, grading, packaging, and storage)
7. Household cash income

- Contributed to household basic needs and food security
- Contributed to children & girl education
Challenges

• Institutionalization of the project initiatives

• Women’s heavy workload limits the time they can dedicate to the enterprise

• Domination by elites – the rich and powerful may capture most of the benefits
Lessons learnt

• Gender orientation to the partners, traders & staff
• Building alliance of the producers
• Access to market information
• A competent and efficient committed team and national partners
• Increased empowerment of women through mobilizing groups & changing gender roles
Conclusions

• Integration of gender perspective right from the project design

• Community-based multi-stakeholder involvement with deliberate inclusion of women

• Women’s empowerment contributed to economic development, food security, & education of girls and children
Thank you