



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL



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Livelihood perspectives for future generations

Home-gardens plus Agri-business



- Food Security
- Improved nutrition/diets
- Gender equality

Value Chain Development
Agro-vets and local resource person:
Agri-business planning

- Post harvesting
- Income Generation
- Entrepreneurship



Rural Village Water Resources Management Project-III
Sudurpashchim and Karnali Provinces, Nepal

FCG ●



Improving livelihoods through Joint Action with Rural Municipalities

Within the new federal structure RVWRMP works with the Rural Municipalities on water resources-based livelihoods that are climate and disaster resilient. Livelihood Implementation Plans (LIP) follow a bottom-up planning process as part of the overall Water Use Master Plans. RVWRMP's holistic approach combines traditional knowledge with modern technology responding to multi-dimensional needs to improve the well-being of the population.

In many places, drinking water competes directly with water for irrigation. For this reason, the Project supports the construction of Multiple Water Use Systems (MUS). Even the standard drinking water schemes have often around 100 Litres extra per household for agriculture and livestock. During the scheme design, the user groups discuss the use the water and draft simple production plans. Commercial use of energy from Micro Hydro Power schemes in remote areas is promoted for financial sustainability. Women and disadvantaged people are priority target groups. At least 50% of beneficiaries must be women and at least 24% from disadvantaged groups.

Food security, healthy nutrition, and income generation

Home gardens, irrigated agriculture and livestock benefit from recycled tap water and surplus water from the water, sanitation and health (WASH) schemes. During the project the livelihood interventions have expanded from home gardens for improved nutrition into income generation for families, with the added benefit of women's empowerment:

- Diversified home gardens for improved nutrition and a sale of surplus
- Commercial agriculture and Agri- and Nature-based businesses
- Strengthened private and public service providers for agribusiness development

Achieved results so far (July 2021):

- 316 385 home-gardens established
- 81% of trainees are women (home garden and Lead Farmers training)
- 28.3% of the participants in home garden are Dalit or other socially excluded people
- 16 138 households are trained in income generating activities
- 517 809 people have received rural advisory services
- 52% of leadership posts in cooperatives are held by women
- 75 557 irrigators
- 30,730 new cooperative shareholders

Home gardens

So far, the Project had an impact on the diet of participating families through the home-gardens offering a diverse selection of fresh vegetables and fruits. The user groups are trained for highly productive home garden management using better seeds and resource-efficient techniques for nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Trainings offered include: nursery management, composting, improved cultivation practices, use of bio-pesticides and fertilizers (including the use of human urine and waste-water), household nutrition basics, and raising awareness about Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles.



Women in Aalital RM earned 20,000 NPR within 3 months.

A typical home garden is 100% organic.

To maximize production and benefits from the home-garden the recommended mix includes: 1) seasonal vegetables, 2) fruits, 3) spices and 4) fodder crops.

Each home garden group of about 25 people selects two genuine Lead Farmers (one woman and one man). The lead farmers receive additional training and act as a liaison between the groups and the Project for farmer-to-farmer extension.

Value Chain Development Approach

Commercial agriculture and agro-enterprises are practically nonexistent in the area. Markets are far away and the supply chains were undeveloped. However, smartphones, roads and federalization have been 'game-changers'. Rural Municipalities have been vitalized while remote areas are better connected. Communities can now invest in fresh vegetable production for the local markets. The Value Chain (VC) approach embraces the chain from producer to consumer: input supply, production, post-harvest, finance, transport and marketing. Support services include financial services, extension services and knowledge from training institutes.

RVWRMP mainly focuses on the Value Chains: Fresh vegetables (off-season), Ginger, Large cardamom, Citrus, *Chiuri* (butter-tree). The VC support consists of: analysis of constraints, VC capacity building and agri-business investment support. The Project also supports "short-, or local value chains", when the local stakeholders identify market opportunities, for example honey, mushroom, fruit trees, (walnut, apple), bamboo (crafts, vegetable), potato processing (chips), dairy and sea-buckthorn. Linking farmers and farmer-groups to local and regional markets is a main activity of RVWRMP. The project orients farmers to respond to market demand, using a buyer-led approach, rather than being production-driven.

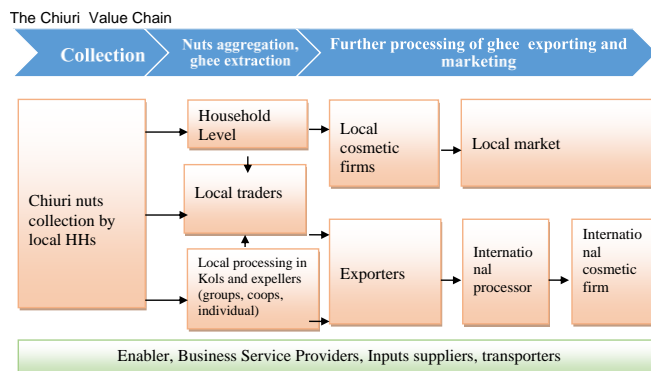
There is also a sizable international market for typical Himalaya products such as Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP), high-value herbs, honey, and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). The label of Himalayan Ayurvedic products is an increasingly attractive brand. Prioritized products can be upgraded through skills trainings, facilitation of market linkages, and small investment support.

Capacity Building of farmers groups, cooperatives and service providers

Cooperatives are key for sustainable finance (savings and credit) and technical services (input supplies, marketing) for their members. Whilst Cooperatives vary greatly in the services they offer, the cooperatives can be the vehicle for small holder farmers to group together to create market volume and negotiate with buyers, thereby helping farmers to become more commercially and market oriented. Some are ready to invest in machinery and VC facilities in the collective interest of their members. In future, as vegetable trade increases, cooperatives may have a role in helping farmers negotiate contact production arrangements with commercial buyers, and act as a channel for higher quality



Agro-vet shop



vegetables in volume to pack houses. An initiative already successful in central and eastern Nepal. Capacity building of cooperative staff is focused on, business plan preparation, and financial sustainability.

Agro-vets and Local Resource Persons (LRP) provide basic agricultural extension services in the village. The trained agro-vets and LRPs provide the first level of rural advisory services to the farmers. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Agro-vets, LRPs, and Local Service Providers are trained. Topic areas include financial and business literacy, agro-vet training, licensing, and technical trainings. User groups are trained on modern technologies such as the use of improved seeds, production in plastic tunnels and poly-houses, use of drip-irrigation, composting and chemical fertilizers, the safe use



Sea buckthorn juice



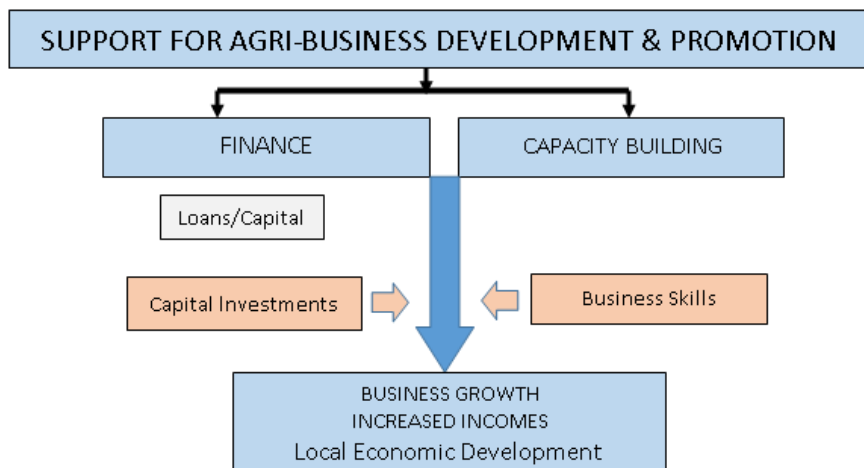
Skill development for micro-enterprise

of agro-chemicals, and post-harvesting techniques.

They are also introduced to basic business skills such as the calculation of cost-of-production, break-even-point and crop planning.

RVWRMP Agribusiness support facility

Commercially oriented cooperatives, farmer groups and Community Based Organizations in core RMs can qualify for Value Chain and Agri-business development support. The Agribusiness facility co-finances capacity building and small investments for VC infrastructures, such as collection centres, market structures, soil preparation and processing machinery.



The Agribusiness support, managed at the RM level, empowers Local Economic Development that serves the common interest. Cooperatives and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), working with RVWRMP, are invited to discuss their business plans and ideas for starting up or upgrading, their business activities with their Rural Municipality, with the possibility of submitting proposals for support.

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