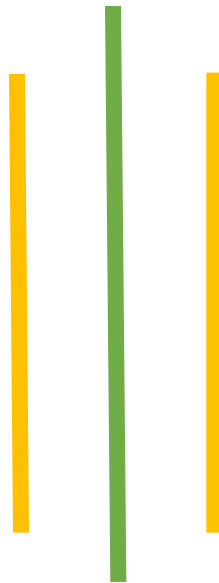


**A Case Study on
Distribution of Women-Friendly
Tools and Equipment
(Drudgery)**



Submitted To:

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP)
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September 10, 2024

1. Introduction

In Nepal, the number of women working in the agriculture sector is significantly higher compared to men. They have less involvement in income-generating activities and are compelled to spend more time on household chores. Women farmers face a twofold time burden due to their gender roles and social construct. They get up early to prepare food for the household and get the children ready for school. After laboring all day, they are responsible for collecting water and firewood, and for preparing the evening meal.

Women members involved in the value chain of cooperatives often face increased workloads due to their participation in various household reproductive and care tasks, productive work, and



community activities. This heavy burden makes it difficult for them to engage in development activities. The objective of this program is to reduce their workload by providing tools, equipment, and technologies that save time, thereby enhancing women's participation in agricultural production and cooperative activities, and promoting their economic and social

empowerment. By focusing on tools and technological support to reduce their workload, the program aims to balance the workload between men and women in households and communities and ensure equal opportunities for women.

Recent years have seen a rising trend in the use of farm technology in rural areas. Agricultural mechanization has been defined in several ways but one of the most often cited definitions is that it is the process of improving farm labor productivity through the use of agricultural machinery, implements, and tools. A variety of mechanical inputs, such as power-driven machinery, implements, and tools properly address the recurrent labor shortages and shorter duration for land preparation and harvesting. Hence, there exists a sizeable demand for small to medium-sized machinery which is not necessarily as efficient as larger ones, yet provide a practical solution given the explicit context of smallholders.

Women are farmers, laborers, and entrepreneurs. Rural women often manage complex households and chase multiple livelihood strategies. Their activities typically include producing crops, rearing animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other

rural initiatives, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members, and maintaining their homes. They also look after the energy needs of the household, collecting fuelwood and water. These domestic activities are time-consuming tasks that limit women's prospects to participate in and benefit from agriculture initiatives. The burden of work that women take on must be eased to allow them and their families to spend their time in more fulfilling and productive ways.

Gender equality and resilience for all can be achieved by focusing on four dimensions: increasing women's decision-making ability, reducing their workloads, increasing their access to capital, and supporting their combined action. Women-friendly tools include the hand-held corn Sheller, thresher, seed bags, and protective gear. These tools were found to reduce women farmers' drudgery and allow



them to work more efficiently. In addition to being highly effective in saving women's time when women would orthodoxly use a more labor-intensive method, these tools are also physically appropriate for women's use.

2. Objectives:

- ✓ To assess the impact of drudgery on women members physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality of life, including how it affects their ability to participate in economic, social and community activities.
- ✓ To assess the effectiveness of efforts in supporting women group members in the targeted community for improving nutrition and food security
- ✓ To review modern tools, technologies, or practices designed to reduce drudgery and evaluate their effectiveness in alleviating the women's workload and enhance their productivity and skills.
- ✓ To identify reducing the burden of women's agricultural work and utilizing the save time efficiently can enhance productivity in the value chain and increase women's income.

3. Criteria for Selecting Beneficiaries:

- **Groups/Cooperatives:** women groups or cooperatives involved in value chain development within Agriculture Sector Development (ASDP), with at 66% female members.

- **Member:** groups/cooperative female members
- Single women, the poor, Dalit's, indigenous people, women with disabilities, and those from geographically remote areas.

4. Operation Modality

- Provide information and orientation about the program to the eligible groups and cooperatives, and identify the groups and households
- Prepare and submit proposals
- Field verification and recommendation to Programme Coordination Unit Office.
- Approval of proposal and agreement.
- Procurement of materials and provision of acceptance.

5. Challenges

- It challenging to measure the physical, mental, and social impacts of drudgery on particularly women members, and quantifying how it affects their overall well-being and productivity.
- Establishing effective monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of interventions and make necessary adjustments based on feedback and outcomes.
- Providing adequate training and support to individuals and communities to effectively use new tools, technologies, or practices and integrate them into their daily routines.

6. Key Learning

- Evaluating which tools, technologies, or practices are most effective in reducing drudgery, saving time, and improving productivity and understanding the factors that contribute to their success or failure.
- Acknowledging the critical role of involving the community in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions, which can lead to more sustainable and impactful outcomes.
- Use new technologies enhances their skills, increase their confidence, and empowers them to take on new roles within their communities.
- Shared experiences in using new tools and participating in training sessions foster stronger social bonds among women, enhancing group solidarity and mutual support.
- Ongoing support and monitoring are necessary to ensure that the benefits of drudgery reduction interventions are sustained and adapted to evolving needs.

7. Conclusion:

The case study on drudgery support to women in group settings highlights the transformative impact of targeted interventions on reducing the physical and mental burdens faced by women in labor-intensive roles.

“The End”