

Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia



With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Investing in food safety, nutrition & women empowerment can play a key role to accelerate agro-ecological transitions

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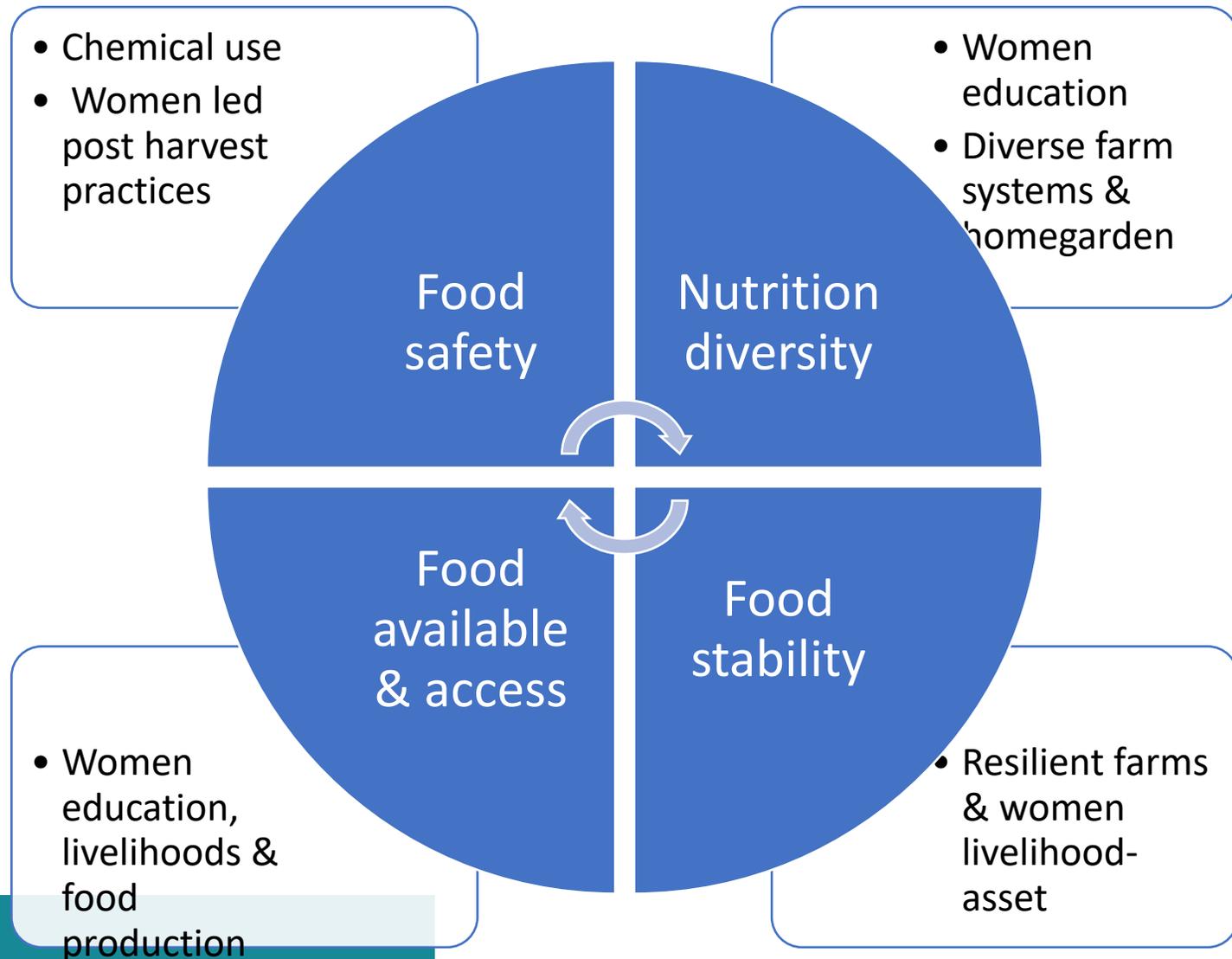
Building on papers with contributions from Joyce Njoro, Steven Jonckheere , Elizabeth Ssendiwala, Nestorovic Strezov Andrijana, Fernanda Thomaz Da Rocha, Graciela

OUTLINE

1. Overview paper and IFAD examples
2. Nepal Asha experience on gender in community driven adaptation
3. Learning from agro-ecological stock take
Brazil experience on seed & AE logbook



Food safety & nutrition links to AE & gender



FSN closely linked to women empowerment & AE practices

Food safety, nutrition and health awareness played a key role to convince HH to adopt such agro-ecological practices (field survey India & Bangladesh)

Women empowerment and adoption of AE

- **Addressing gender gap is key to enable** women influence HH decision and get engaged in AE -value chain

- **Women leaders & groups can spearhead extension of AE**

- Women agro-entrepreneurs
(*i.e. APDMP case*)
- Women lead farmers
(*Nepal & India*)
- Women networks can scale innovations
(*SHG networks in India transitions to natural farming*)

Women in Natural Farming: Our biggest Strength

#COP26

Programme Management, transparency

Collective Action

Peer Learning

Farming Plans, and, consumption plans

Inclusive of the poorest

123,122 women SHGs and their 4740 Federations are in charge

IIFAD
Investing in rural people

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LAPA as Tools for Scaling CDD Climate Adaptation: Experience from ASHA Project in Nepal

Guided Process:

- vulnerable HHs and community
- Guiding plan: Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA)



+ HH approach

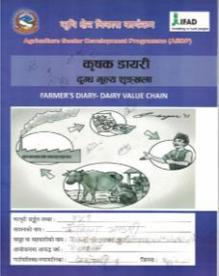
Climate resilient Households and Community

+ Farmer diary



CSA tested in CSV & FFS

Identified investments



LAPA

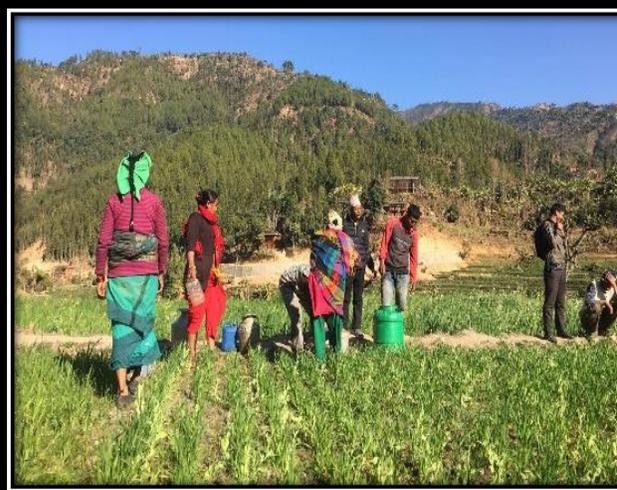
GIS mapping

Vulnerable ward

Participatory scenario development

- ### Lessons for scale
- LAPA, 200 wards, 114,000 HH, 50% women beneficiaries
 - 316,679.54 ton CO2e avoided
 - Blending of local knowledge with scientific knowledge
 - Local implementation: LF, groups
 - Policy engagement & convergence

Participatory Sub-watershed assessments



Inter-linkages of women, agro-ecological practices (CSA), food safety and nutrition

Role of women in nutrition

- 100% bread makers are women & concerned by nutrition and food safety
- ASHA has a goal level objective: 15% reduction in the child malnutrition compare to baseline

Strong links between nutrition, health and agro-ecology

- ⇒ Climate resilient, agri-livestock-forest based farming practices increase resilient food system/**food stability**
- ⇒ Improved use of bio-input & more diversified production (permaculture–agro-forestry) contribute in the **nutrition diversity and food safety**
- ⇒ Case study & field discussion says that the **health and nutrition is an important argument to adopt agro-ecology**



Women empowerment helps women adopt agro-ecology

>80% agriculture workers are women, and they face constraints:

- Lack/inadequate information access
- No/low paid work and income
- Low productivity of farming system
- Increased workload

Project empowers women along GAP :

- 48% of the project beneficiaries are women
- Involved in CSA , including kitchen gardening using no/low chemical inputs; efficient water use practices
- **Dedicated investments :**
 - Gender sensitive local social mobilizer;
 - 29% (429) Women Lead farmers trained and capacitated;
 - Water access & involvement in O&M;
 - Women friendly drudgery reduction agri-tool kits
 - Establishment of Permaculture and demo farms
 - Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)/Permaculture FFS
 - Improved Cook Stoves and Improved water mills
 - Establishment/strengthening of CCA GESI network



Impact on women adoption of agro-ecology

- Increase information access and knowledge
- Targeted drudgery reduction activities save time
- Improved fresh water access: saves 2-3 hours labor
- Saved time: hygiene, food preparation & homegarden
- +15% production and income from CSA & homegarden

Impact on women empowerment, dissemination of agro-ecology & nutrition

- Women (LF) actively approaching government planning process to include more ASHA/government investments in agro-ecological practices etc.
- Women Lead Farmers: change agent; very dedicated; feel dignified & empowered; key for sustainability

⇒ Project's ambition to become gender transformative

⇒ Further survey and action to connect gender, nutrition and climate resilient practices



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OUTLINE

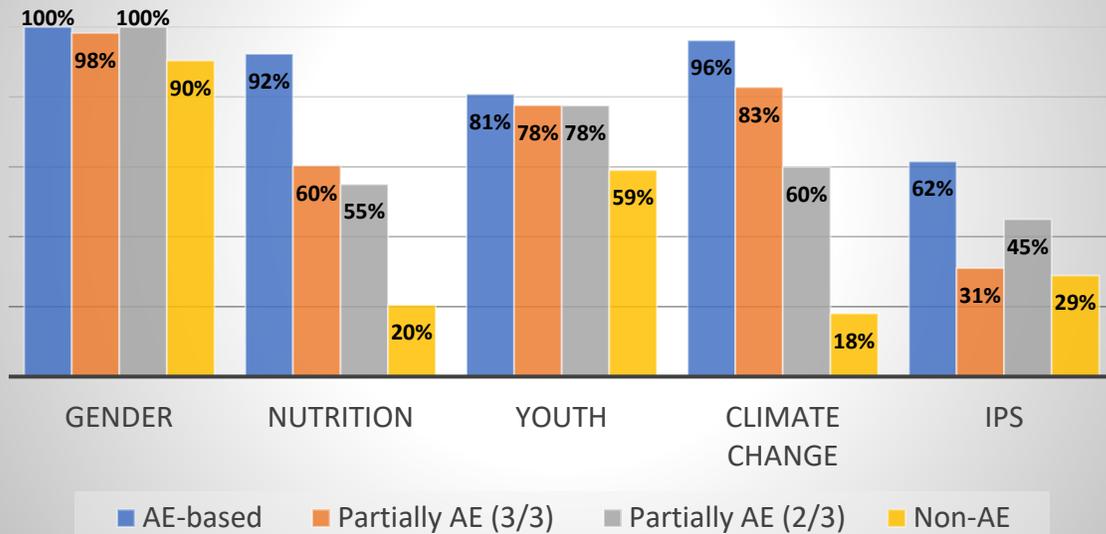
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IFAD AE Stock-take: how holistic approaches to sustainable food systems benefit small-scale producers while promoting gender and nutrition

Screening 207 projects across the IFAD portfolio along an integrated AE framework
77% of production projects include AE practices

Support for IFAD mainstreaming priorities by project type



➤ IFAD is an early adopter of gender empowerment

➤ Nutrition is highly promoted in agroecology-related projects, through:

- Diversification and integration of sectors in crop-livestock-fish systems
- Sustainable food processing and safe storage, enhancing access to differentiated markets and innovations organizing demand and supply
- Community seed systems and community gardens
- Regulations on agrochemicals and animal drugs

Community Seed Systems



CSS Video: <https://kapwi.ng/c/jsQ7CjZikH>



- ❖ **Community Seed Banks** conserving local species adapted to the semi-arid climate, preserving genetic diversity and traditional practices
- ❖ **Seed Guardians** – mainly women, custodians of genetic and cultural heritage
- ❖ **Increased climate resilience and food security and nutrition**

Conclusion

- Nutrition, CC, bio-diversity and gender nexus : IFAD priorities
- ARI to further invest in analysing such nexus and its implications on how we organize & implement extension activities

Ex: FAO-FFS and SDHS dedicated pages / webinar on such thematic

- Call for contributions for joint paper & webinar