Impact of MUS Intervention on Women's Empowerment in Doti District, Nepal

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Introduction

- Exploring linkages between women’s empowerment, access to water technologies and vegetable production and marketing (MAWTW)

Research Question

- How has the MAWTW intervention increased women’s empowerment and influenced the power relations in the household and in the wider community?
- Do these changes in power support increased individual and collective well-being?
Market Access and Water Technology for Women

- Improve women's access to and utilization of technology to increase agriculture productivity and income
- Increase women’s leadership in agriculture and resource politics
- Implemented by iDE along with IWMI, NTAG, Samjhauta Nepal and SAPPROS Nepal
- A total of 10,000 households in Kailali, Doti, Dadeldhura in Far Western Nepal
- MUS, classes on empowerment, nutrition and training on vegetable farming
Conceptual Framework

Power Framework (Clement, 2015)
Lukes and Gaventa’s Power Cube
Kabeer’s concept of Empowerment
Methodology

- Study villages – Panetola and Panebata, Khatiwada VDC, Doti
- Qualitative Research using Participatory Research Appraisal
- Village Mapping, Wealth Ranking, Venn Diagram
- HH interviews, Key Informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions
## MUS beneficiaries in Panetola and Panebata

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village Name</th>
<th>Total HHs</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Dalits</th>
<th>Chetris</th>
<th>Total beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panetola (Sellepani MUS)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panebata (Kharukhola MUS)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improved water access

Thai jar

Communal Taps
**Water Access**

- Improved drinking water access
- Communal taps shared by 6-8 hh
- Many have private pipes
- Natural ponds for irrigation
Women in Agriculture in Panetola and Panebata

- Many female headed households due to high rate of male out migration
- Farmers group managed by women
- Many women growing and selling vegetables prior MAWTW
- Income spent on children’s education, buying basic household supplies
- Vegetables sold in Depail, Silgadi, Rajpur
- Collection center not in use
View from Khatiwada VDC
Women’s Empowerment

- Women manage community groups providing credit and savings facility
- Income generated from selling vegetables kept by the women
- Greater participation in community meetings
- Women make decisions regarding children’s education, farming
- Participation in nutrition and empowerment classes by young mothers
- Female headed households more independent
- Collective action – alcohol ban
Discussion

- MUS only provides water to some members of the community
- MUS recently installed, will it be sustainable?
- Vegetable farming – mostly done by women, prior to MAWTW
- Market Access – nearest market an hour away on foot, men too embarrassed to go sell vegetables
- Women still rely on men for book keeping; women not educated
- The village elders, mostly men, are consulted to resolve disputes
Conclusion

- Improved drinking water access, increased food security
- Training programme – nutrition, empowerment classes, vegetable farming
- Women’s empowerment - outside interventions and male out migration have led to a gradual shift
- Lack of education hindering women
- Market access is a concern
Recommendations

- Integrated training programmes focused on empowerment
- Market Access – Collection center usage
- MUS – wider coverage in the villages
Thank you!