Mechanization for empowerment of rural women.

Bhutan Chapter

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Introduction

Rural women - active role in small-scale agriculture (43%)

- Productive
- Reproductive
- Social spheres

Disproportionate work burden - time poverty.

Restricts women’s well-being and their engagement in activities of value, including remunerative activities.

Labour-saving technologies & related services - freeing up time and improve their quality of life.
Barriers Women Farmer Face in adopting and accessing agriculture mechanization

01. Lack of customized machines and equipment for women piloted with male farmers
   - Lack of pre-consultation
   - Not scale appropriate

02. Limited access to finance
   - Unaffordable
   - Availed by men.
   - Limited ownership of land.

03. Restrictive social norms
   - Gender gaps

04. Little monitoring of the impacts of technology

05. Inadequate institutional support

Based on FAO (2015) report, and presentation made during the regional consultation meet.
**Agriculture in Bhutan**

**Agriculture Status**

- **66%** rural areas agriculture
- **Subsistence agriculture**
- Average landholding 3.4 acres
- **58.8%** of women work in agriculture
- Almost 70% of the land owned by women

**Farm Mechanization**

- Steep terrain
- Small land holding
- Gender friendly- default
- Mechanization level: **24.14%**
- >84% post harvest mechanization
- No commodity is fully mechanized.

**Migration and remittances**

- **48.7%** migrated to urban city. Unattractive agriculture
- 51% are male
- Men - Employment, education
- Women- family move, education and marriage
- Labor shortages
- Impact- women

Mountainous country

- Steep terrain
- Small land holding
- Gender friendly- default
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- No commodity is fully mechanized.

- Labor shortages
- Impact- women
Key Challenges of Bhutanese Women Farmers

**Migration & labor shortages**
- low and stagnant returns, low productivity, and damage to crops by wild animals
- labour shortages - rural areas
- 53% HH farm labor shortage (GNHC, 2019)
- impact women

**Less Access to Productive Resources**
- Low productivity
- limited technology adoption
- limited access to finance,
- poor market access.

vulnerable livelihoods and high drudgery for women farmers.
Government Policies and Strategies to promote mechanization among women farmers

- **Access to credit services.** Low interest credit
- **Access to minimum wages**
  - Subsidized hiring services by SOE on grant machines
- **Gender friendly & safe technologies**
  - R & D are focused on gender friendly technologies
  - Certificated of compliance
- **Incentive of Minimum daily allowances, free accommodations**
- **Awareness and hands on training at site**

**Land development**

- Land development (CMU, NSSC)
- Free training
Land preparation
Transplanting And weeding
Harvesting And post harvest machinery
Thank You