Role of Family Farmers Organizations in Mainstreaming Gender in Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

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WHO WE ARE
Our UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION

“We need a corn sheller”

women corn farmers in Nepal’s far-west district, 2012
Women Farmers in Asia Pacific

- 90% of all farms globally are family farms
- 74% of these family farms are in Asia Pacific
- 80% of family farms in Asia Pacific are small-scale (2 ha average)
- 80% of the food consumed in Asia Pacific are from small scale family farmers
- Women comprise 43% of Asia-Pacific family farmers
- Women farmers do from 30-90% of the work in the farm ("feminization of agriculture"
- Women experience drudgery in their work
LEADING to

> LOWER INCOMES
> LOWER SELF ESTEEM
> UNFULFILLED POTENTIALS - for food security and nutrition

GENDER INEQUALITY EXIST

- Inadequate Access and control over natural resources
- Poor Recognition and valuation of the work they do (less pay, no identity cards)
- Lack of Access to opportunities (training, services, inputs, technologies)
- Inappropriate technologies
- Lack Access to finance
- Lack of Access to health care
- Domestic violence
HOW ARE WE RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEM?

- **ORGANIZE**
  - women spaces
- **Entry Point**: income generation
- **Build Capacities**
  > reflection
  > business management
  > proposal generation
  > negotiation
  > organizational management

- **Lanka Women Coffee Farmers**
  - SEWA Equipment Library
- coconut briquettes in Indonesia
- **Joint Certificate of Land Title Ownership – Nepal**
WITH WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS AND COOPERATIVES

- have established coordination, communication, social capital that reduces transaction cost and is able to customize it to the actual needs of its small-scale farmer member

  **SPEED** (Simple, quick, small-ticket; customized/fit for purpose (can retail bulk fund into smaller amount; availability of members date)

  **SCOPE** (multi-country operation; mechanism for reporting is easier – regionally coordinate; nationally implemented

  **SCALE** (many members with least cost of operation (salaries, less transportation cost due to proximity to location;)

  **SUSTAINABLE** (Cooperatives/FOs are natural exit strategy; FOs provide other services that reduces risks)

ADDRESSING GENDER GAPs IN SUSTAINABLE MECHANIZATION

- Ensure rights of women farmers to land, and waters
- design technologies for womens’ role in small scale farming agriculture: increased incomes, increased time, increased health
- Test machinery with women users
- Extension service to women farmers
- Financing for women farmers
- Technology training suited to availability and educational experience of women farmers
Thank you