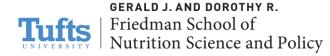


A qualitative study to understand sustained activities of Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture (AAMA) project - an integrated rural nutrition intervention in Nepal

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNERS





















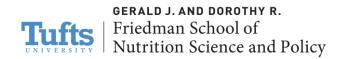




INTRODUCTION TO AAMA

- Implemented by the Helen Keller International (HKI) and its partners in the three districts of Far Western Nepal (Kailali, Baitadi and Bajura) between 2008-2012
- Used an integrated nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive program model, called Enhanced Homestead Food Production, EHFP; (Homestead Food Production, HFP + Essential Nutrition Action, ENA)
- ❖ Approximately covered 12,000 DAG households as Village Model Farmers (VMFs), Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and Homestead food garden beneficiaries (HFPBs)







STUDY OBJECTIVE AND METHODS

- To report what AAMA activities are still being retained, and, at what intensity;
- Explore any growth and opportunities generated by the AAMA project
- Qualitative method- Focus group and in-depth interviews
- Participants VMFs, HFPBs, FCHVs, District and Community Leaders, Program Implementers

19 Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) in 3 districts (n= 98)

1 district – 4 VDCs – 6 Focus groups

❖ 2 FGDs amongst VMFs

2 FGD amongst FCHVs 2 FGD amongst HFPBs

9 Key Informant Interviews in 3 districts (n= 9)

1 district – 3 Key Informant Interviews

- ❖1 Community leader
- ❖1 district/VDC official
- ❖1 Implementing partner







DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- Approved by Nepal Health Research Council and Tufts IRB
- ❖ Each focus group and key informant lasted 1 1.5 hours
- Conducted by 3 teams of trained supervisor, facilitator and note takers (VaRG)
- Interviews were audiotaped, transcribed and translated into English
- ATLAS.ti software
- Inductive methods were used to code and identify themes from the transcripts





Key Informant Interview



Focus Group Discussion

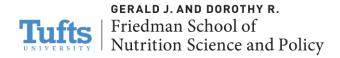


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RESULTS



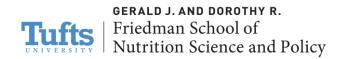




AAMA ACTIVITIES REPORTED TO HAVE RETAINED OR SCALED UP

- ❖ Homestead Food Production (Home gardens) in all three districts
 - ❖Before "...planted one crop haphazardly"
 - ❖During AAMA program "..trained on planting, making plots and fertilizers"
 - ❖Now- "..Planting vegetables and fruits separately"
- ❖ Nutrition Education and BCC (exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and immunization) in all three districts
 - "...Pregnant women consume eggs and green leafy vegetables"



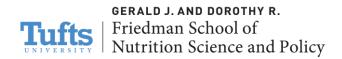




AAMA ACTIVITIES REPORTED TO HAVE RETAINED OR SCALED UP

- Small Animal Husbandry (Chicken Rearing) Mostly among VMFs in Kailali and Baitadi districts
 - ❖ Before AAMA "...did not have chickens or roosters"
 - ❖ Now "...rearing 20-30 local chickens and layers. Selling eggs too!"
- Opportunities and growth Commercial vegetable and poultry farming in Kailali district, overlapped and reinforced by other ongoing activities (SUAAHARA)
 - ❖ Now "....running commercial poultry farm"
 - ❖ "... Suaahara program also gave me chicks and also gave me 50,000 rupees to continue my business"



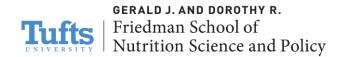




AAMA ACTIVITIES REPORTED TO HAVE DISCONTINUED OR PHASED OUT

- Small Animal Husbandry (Chicken Rearing) in all three districts, especially HFPBs
 - * "..chickens died due to disease...no support from local vet. Now no one rearing chickens in the community"
- Multi-sectoral governance component (VMFs and local government offices) lacked coordination with VMFs, local governance capacity
 - ❖ "...Some VMFs would do nothing at all, and that remained a challenge"
 - *....did not get support, so left the group registered at the agriculture office"





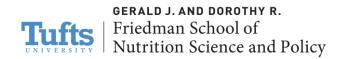


LESSON LEARNED

- Most AAMA activities (especially home gardens, nutrition education) were reported to have self-sustained and/or scaled up
- Sustainability/scaling up also depended on other ongoing programs
- Suggestion to continue strengthening of capacity of local resource persons (VMFs) and governance for sustainability of major AAMA activities

Measuring impact over 4-5 years is good, but understanding what sustains impact beyond that time matters even more!



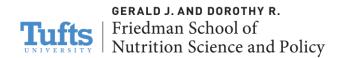




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