

# Enhancing social sustainability and roles of women and youth in agricultural mechanization in Africa

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## 2 Steps taken to enhance women and youth's participation

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### Policy provisions (few examples)

**Constitution of Nepal:** food security, the right to food and food sovereignty and scientific land reform

**National Agriculture Policy:** commercialization and competitiveness of agriculture, **50% women participation**

**Agriculture Mechanization Promotion Policy:** identify and promote **women- and environment-friendly** agricultural machines and equipment that reduces women's drudgery

**Agriculture Business Promotion Policy:** support in appropriate machineries, supports for disadvantaged, women and dalit led agri-enterprises

**Agriculture Development Strategy:** need for increased mechanization specially to make **women friendly** tools and equipment

**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy:** with the spirit to respond GESI issues including Gender Responsive Budgeting (participation, capacity, employment and income with 20 scores each and benefits and control with 30 scores and quality control and reduce drudgery with 10 scores)

### Institutional mandates (examples only)

**NARC:** strengthen farm mechanization operations including conservation tillage

**Directorate of Agriculture:** Modernization of Agriculture

**Agri-business Promotion Support and Training Center:** facilitation of agri-enterprise and commercialization, capacity development

**Agriculture Knowledge Center:** technology transfer and capacity development, agri-inputs management



### 3 One of the examples to make it a success!

Results – elements for development of sector in Local Government system: agriculture

Elements	RESULTS
<p>Key elements of local government system using agriculture as entry-point</p> <p>Palikas at different stages in model</p> <p>Feedback</p>	<p><b>1</b> Legal/Policy process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal process to develop legal instruments - <u>Palika</u> local agriculture sector operation and management guideline - guides decision making &amp; resource allocation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>2</b> Institutional Mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established and strengthened <u>Palika</u> Agriculture Development Committee – inter-committee functioning, ensure political accountability</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3</b> Resource Mobilisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Mobilisation</u> of internal &amp; external fund sources for agriculture sector</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4</b> Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data for decision-making</li> <li>• Sector strategic plan</li> <li>• Annual Agriculture consolidated plan</li> </ul>
	<p><b>5</b> Effective service delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping service providers</li> <li>• Agreed standard norms, developing regulatory functions</li> <li>• Procurement systems</li> <li>• Building a broad-based &amp; diverse network of service provision (information, inputs, technical advice, training/coaching, finance, technologies, market link)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6</b> Fiscal system governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Palika</u> strengthened in understanding &amp; <u>operationalisation</u> of fiscal system - governance, fiduciary risk management, financial reporting</li> </ul>
	<p><b>7</b> Monitoring &amp; reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and reporting system of annual plan – database management and reporting , development of quality standards</li> </ul>

## 4 Enhancing role of private sectors and cooperatives

### **Agriculture Development Bank Limited Nepal:**

- Financial services to individual farmer, machinery entrepreneur, traders and processors;
- Credit for all types of agric. machineries;
- Targeting more to overseas returnees both youth and women;
- Credit for agric. machinery workshop (repair & maintenance);
- Collaboration with local governments and academic institutions

### **Civil Bank (private commercial bank):**

- Credit for commercial agriculture and livestock up to Npr. 50 millions;
- Women entrepreneurship up to 1.5 millions;
- Educated youth self-employment program up to 700,000;
- Returnee migrant's support scheme up to 1.5 millions

### **National Cooperative Federation of Nepal:**

- Cooperative farming;
- Cooperative Bank;
- Cooperative Business;
- Commodity specific cooperative business etc.

## 5 Experiences of women in use of machines!

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We are operating mini tillers, however.....

Finding difficult to start as the pulley is hard to rotate and needs enough strength.

It is very difficult to take a turn in smaller plots as it needs good level of practice, technique and ideas.

It is very difficult to transfer to another plots as it needs good level of muscular strength, or team work.

No additional training from the government offices and lack information about different policy provisions, incentives, training opportunities, machine supplies.

In addition, .....

When sprayers used for vegetable farming have small technical hitch such as nozzle fixing, in that case, we have to return with whole load of 16 liters and get it fixed by male members back at home.

We are operating different machines, but, facing some challenges to secure land to establish custom hiring center as women participation in the committees are less valued and or less heard.

## 6 Women in motion!



Photos in sequence:

1. Returnee migrant and wife working as Leader Farmer
2. Women operating mini-tiller
3. Women farmer raising question to the local elect about land for custom hiring center

## 7 How local government supporting agri-mechanization for youth and subsidy

Subsidy policies of palika  
Who receives?  
What level?

### **Hem Bahadur Maihi**

Member of a farmers cooperative. He was nominated to buy the tiller provided on a 50% subsidy (Rs 50,000) through the palika; with the understanding that he rents out to other farmers. He paid some of the Rs 50,000 of his contribution from savings & took a private loan at 3% per month (!) for the rest – which he paid back within a year.

Tiller is rented out @ 500 per hour (for which he can plough 1.5 katha); fuel costs Rs 115, and maintenance is quite costly. Hourly rate was agreed through the farmer cooperative.



Source: Hobley et. al., 2019

## 8 Multi-pronged interventions to make women and youth responsive agri-mechanization !

Consider local government as an entry point for agricultural development and plurality in partnerships

Continue promotion of machines/equipment/tools that are in use for priority crops

Identify machines/equipment/tools relevant to post-harvest activities that are beneficial to women

Adaptation of education/training curriculums to make it market demand responsive that are beneficial to women and youths

Policy adaptations for inclusive participation in decision making, purchase, operation and investments!

## 9 Achieving women and youth responsiveness!

### Three-pronged approach

Women/Youth to operate machines/equipment/tools;

Women/Youth to manage and decide use of machines/equipment/tools;

Women/Youth to benefit by mobilizing hired operator.

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# Thank you for this opportunity!

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