



ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

Actor-centric Value Chain Development

Introducing solutions to improve climate resilience and sustainability of agroecosystems

What is actor-centric VC development?

Actor-centric value chain development has the potential to play a critical role in enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural value chains in Western Nepal while also supporting adaptation to climate change.

It is a methodology used to enhance the competitiveness of value chains. It focuses on understanding the different actors involved in a particular value chain, such as producers, processors, distributors, and retailers, and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each actor. The aim is to improve the overall functioning of the value chain by enhancing the competitiveness of individual actors.

Approach

The process begins with an analysis of the value chain, which helps identify the key actors and their relationships, as well as the challenges and opportunities within the chain. This analysis is used to develop a strategy for strengthening the value chain, which may involve improving production processes, increasing efficiency, or developing new products or services.

The approach is “actor-centric” because it places the actors themselves at the centre of the value chain development process. The focus is on empowering these actors rather than imposing external solutions by helping them identify and overcome the constraints that limit their competitiveness. This approach requires collaboration among all actors in the value chain as well as support from other stakeholders, such as government agencies and development organisations.



Objective

GRAPE builds upon functioning value chains that can further increase productivity, efficiency, resilience, and a socially equal payoff. Actor-centric value chain development requires the identification and recognition of the key factors that can trigger positive effects by the actors. Therefore, the approach of GRAPE is to enable the actors and improve their interaction in order to work on the key factors. Wherever possible, GRAPE reduces limiting barriers and supports potential.



Our Activities

Analysis

GRAPE conducted a rapid value chain analysis of a predefined list of value chains. The value chains were selected based on discussions with stakeholders in the GRAPE partner municipalities. The rapid value chain analysis used primary and secondary data and assessed the value chains in various categories (e.g. contribution to GRAPE objectives, outreach, opportunities, challenges, actors involved, etc.). Subsequently, an informed decision was made on which value chains would be prioritised for GRAPE.

Value Chain Assessment Workshops

To identify activities and strategies based on challenges and opportunities, GRAPE conducted VC assessment workshops with stakeholders. The workshops were conducted at cluster-level, inviting a representative set of value chain actors according to the prioritised value chains. The participants jointly formulated their goals for developing the value chains and identified suitable activities. The workshops also formed the basis for establishing Value Chain Committees.

Implementation

Value Chain Development Strategies involve multiple actors and multiple activities along the value chain. Foremost, the actors are empowered to work on the identified activities themselves. Value Chain Committees, a loose network, are formed where the need arises to serve as governing bodies for implementing activities. Depending on the specific value chain function, activities are supported by various mechanisms. E.g. producer trainings are conducted by local resource persons; cooperatives and farmers groups are supported in raising investments in production material; infrastructure and market linkages are created by digital tools; and sellers/buyers



meetings are organised. Municipalities are capacitated to create enabling environments, and wherever possible, export opportunities are followed up.

VC Development Strategies

Value Chain Development Strategies, for each value chain of each cluster, were drafted, taking into consideration the prioritisation of jointly developed activities in the context of GRAPE objectives.

Adjustment

Activities are monitored and evaluated. Depending on local opportunities or challenges, activities can be adjusted either after evaluation or “on the go”. Value Chain Committees or other forums are used to decide upon changes.

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