



GREEN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Context

Inclusion of people with disabilities in the agriculture sector poses several challenges.

Firstly, there is a lack of appropriate infrastructure and equipment to enable people with disabilities to work. This makes it difficult for people with disabilities to fully participate in agricultural activities, hindering their productivity and efficiency.

Secondly, the societal mindset often hinders people from working. Generally, society, including their own family members, considers people with disabilities unproductive.

Thirdly, there is a lack of awareness and supportive measures from the broader community, including policymakers and peers. This means that while solutions for the integration of people with disabilities may be available, appropriate action is not taken.

In the GRAPE working areas, an average of one percent of the total population has permanent disabilities, varying from 0.5% in Cluster II to 2.0% in Cluster I. Furthermore, on average, the female population (1.4%)

has a higher disability ratio than their male counterparts (0.8%).

The GRAPE programme aims to support the inclusion of people with disabilities in agriculture value chains. As the challenges for value chain development are multiple and complex, the team is utilising various approaches.

Key approaches



Identifying possibilities for disability inclusion in ongoing value chain work



Capacity development of people with disabilities



Increase access to tools and equipment



Processes followed in designing activities

- Analysis of issues related to disabilities in the agriculture sector during cluster-level planning;
- Support from the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) to identify disability issues in the selected agriculture value chains; and identify activities to address the issues; and
- Orientation to GRAPE staff and other stakeholders on looking at the value chain activities through a disability lens.

Ongoing discussions:

- Possibility of organising exposure to highly inclusive VC projects; and
- Possibility of conducting a disability innovation lab together with UNDP.



Main processes and activities supported

- Supporting municipalities to make their agriculture plans and policies disability friendly;
- Targeting households that include persons with disabilities when implementing GRAPE activities;
- Engaging people with disabilities throughout the value chain wherever possible, particularly in processing; and
- Providing customised tools and equipment to persons with disabilities and training them to use the.



Challenges

- Officially, the share of people with disabilities in the project areas is very low, which makes it difficult to include them (not all people with disabilities are interested to be engaged in agriculture); and
- Agriculture work, particularly production, in rural areas demands a lot of physical input which is hindering the participation of people with disabilities.

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