



Is GAFSP reaching
small-scale food
producers in Nepal?

years (2013-2017), including approximately 150,000 of the regions' poorest farmers, 50,000 young mothers, children and adolescent girls, and 25,000 agricultural workers.

The total funding for the project was US\$58 million, with a US\$46.5 million contribution from the GAFSP3 (9f)-3.9 (s)8.6 (, a)-10.1oii16.8 millio (i)-5.5 (o)-6-7 (n)1.1 (t)4.2 (r)-10.9 (i)-4 (b).7 (A(u)-9 (t)4.6 (i)-5.5 (o)-6.9 (n f)-10.9 (r)5.



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ActionAid and AFA (the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development) are both members of the GAFSP Steering Committee, representing Northern CSOs and

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The project has successfully reached the most vulnerable women and small-scale producers in remote districts that are hardest hit by poverty. In some of the project locations, most of the households are food secure for only three months of the year, and many men have to look for paid work outside the village or abroad. The district-based NGOs recruited to assist

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_gYlk— Khima, member of the Farmer Field School, in Doti

Our field research showed that women farmers used the additional crop or livestock production to improve food availability at the household level, while men preferred to sell it. In some instances, the distance to the market played a role in limiting the potential income increase from increased agricultural production.

While the AFSP successfully supports livelihood development of small-scale food producers, some concerns were raised about the sustainability and the distribution of the resulting increase in income. It remains to be seen whether, in the long run, all small-scale producers will be willing and able to afford the additional production costs (medicines, plastic sheets, seeds) of more input-intensive improved varieties and breeds, and if the market opportunities for Boer goats created by the project will be sustained when the project ends.

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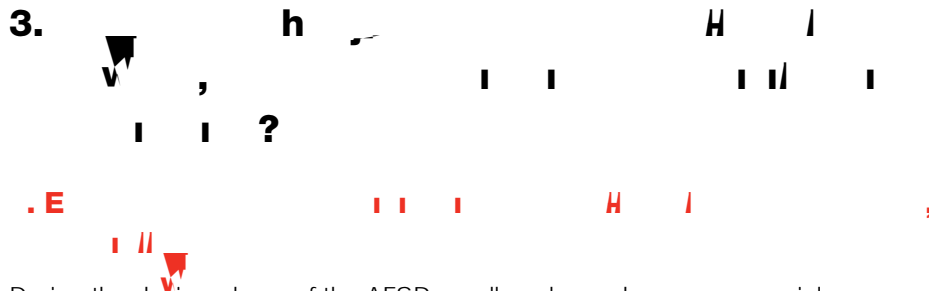
breastfeeding, young child feeding practices and maternal health, as well as technical assistance, equipment and seeds to grow diversified food at the household level.

Dr Kaushal Ali, Department of Health Office, Kalikot District

Before the project, FCHVs used to be mostly supported through health kits and trainings. Receiving more inputs (seeds, chickens, grants to build hen houses, training in agriculture and livestock) increased enthusiasm among farmers and increased their legitimacy as role models. The nutrition activities on the Village Model Farms did not only benefit the mothers of the young children targeted by the project, as other women became interested in changing

The FFS and VMF approach has been successful in terms of farmer mobilization, technical assistance, awareness raising and other support for farmers. However, it remains to be seen how the autonomy and strength of farmer groups will be sustained in the future when the service and input delivery of the project ends. The project included space for farmer representation (see below), but could have provided more support to strengthen farmer organizations and enable them to build effective representation and influence at all levels of the project, including at the district level, where significant project management was taking place.

Chandra Bahadur Buda, Plant Protection Officer, Jumla
 focal person of AFSP



During the design phase of the AFSP, small-scale producers were mainly represented by national and regional level farmer representatives. Consultation workshops were held in regional venues, but given the time constraints and the remoteness of the project areas, most of the farmer participants came from the main town in the region with few from the remote project locations. The farmers interviewed reported that the consultations did not allow for an in-depth exchange on local indigenous food habits and knowledge, and that farmers' knowledge and concerns were not always reflected in decisions taken with regards to the project.

During the implementation phase of the project, farmers were consulted by the local NGOs in charge of the implementation, including for the identification of the program participants. They were also mobilized to participate in Village Model Farm or Farmer Field School groups. Investigation in the field showed women and men farmers were satisfied with their participation in VMFs and FFSs. In all activities, both women and men farmers had space and scope to decide to develop proposals to apply for funding support. They implemented the activities themselves through collective decisions, with the support of NGO facilitators and

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 kmf` 'äfgnYlæfk`ä`]']f]pl`h`Yk]— Jagat Deuja, Executive Director of Community
 Self Reliant Centre (CSRC), leader of the national campaign on smallholders' land rights

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The AFSV is clearly a women-focused project. It has successfully targeted and reached women as a priority throughout most activities. It is estimated that almost 70 percent of the participants in the Farmer FHV

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o]] 'n]jq'k'qZ] 'g] 'Zm'fgo 'o] 'Yf'kh] Yc'f'hmZd'— Women members of Tatopani Village Model Farm group, Jumla District

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POLYTUNNELS IN TATOPANI MEAN THAT FARMERS CAN NOW GROW A WIDE RANGE OF NUTRITIOUS GREEN VEGETABLES
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Women's workloads have been substantially reduced thanks to the introduction of equipment such as corn shellers, seed grading machines, processing mills, and improved cooking stoves. Before, it took them at least four hours to travel to a mill to get their grains processed, and another six to eight hours every three days to collect rewood from the forests.

The AFSP has clearly benefited a high number of women and improved their position and livelihoods, but it could have been more systematic in supporting women's empowerment. A gender analysis of the agriculture, food security and nutrition activities could have been conducted, and a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) action plan integrated in the project. This could have allowed for an analysis on how the activities address the gender gap in strategic power relationships and decision-making with regards to household productive assets and benefits. This lack of strategic analysis of the gender context has led to some shortcomings in the project implementation with regards to gender. There is a high proportion of men among the project's technical experts, and a lack of options to manage women's household responsibilities in order to increase their participation in consultation meetings, and in meetings with government offices and other stakeholders.



A more ambitious gender dimension for the AFSP in the future could include dealing with the issue of women's rights, especially the right to access natural resources. Land ownership is a major determinant factor of decision-making power in the Nepali society. The opportunity of promoting the implementation of the joint land ownership policy for men and women has not been explored by the project. One example of the impact of the limited work on the issue of women's access to productive resources was raised during the field study. The project has been installing improved cooking stoves to increase the efficiency of wood use, but community access to forests through the Community Forestry Program, including to gather wood for domestic use, is not formalized and protected in all the project locations.

FARMERS IN JUMLA RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE AFSP TO IMPROVE WHEAT PRODUCTION

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 <] न] ढे] फ'] ; ge e' ढ']] — Tulsi Shahi, Project facilitator of the Nagma Village
 Development Committee and Fui Mahadev Village Development Community, Kalikot
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Nepal has a high exposure to climate change and poverty, and a low adaptive capacity. It is the fourth most at-risk country according to the Climate Vulnerability Index.¹⁰

Climate resilience is formally taken into account in the AFSP as all activities need to go through an assessment of potential impacts on climate change vulnerability.

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