



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Integrating Gender-responsive & Nutrition-sensitive Approaches when Working with Farmer Groups Engaged in Markets in Mid-west & Far-west Regions of Nepal

Activity Sheet

June 2016

Using the Problem Tree

Time:

1 – 2 hours

Materials Needed:

- Flipchart papers – 1 to 2 pieces for each group
- Flipchart with title of activity and objectives listed and with instructions: red for women, blue for men, green for both
- Flipchart with example problem tree illustrating at least one primary and secondary cause and effect of the problem
- Markers or crayons
- Masking/scotch tape



Introduction

The Problem Tree technique is a practical participatory planning tool to analyze the root causes and effects of complex problems facing any community. The tree trunk represents the core problem. The roots of the tree represent underlying causes to the key problem, while the leaves and branches represent the effects or consequences of the key problem. Once the key problem has been analyzed by identifying the various contributing factors and the associated effects, the local community can determine which factors are actionable and develop their own solutions to address the problem. A sex-disaggregated identification of problems and their causes and effects is important because it allows effective planning, implementation, and monitoring to respond to gendered problems and needs. Furthermore, understanding these complex factors and relationships can help us develop better targeted policies, extension programs and trainings. For instance, in order to address the problem of high female farmer drop-out rates in the Market Planning Committees, one obvious solution might be to contractually require female administrative staff to serve for a certain number of years in exchange for receiving training.

Objectives

- ✓ To explore root causes of and practical solutions to problems facing the farm community by creating a detailed problem tree
- ✓ To “unpack” a bigger complex issue by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable sub-problems and their effects on the different actors involved, so that they are easier to solve by the farm community themselves.
- ✓ To identify the chain of causes and/or consequences of the problem that are gender- and/or nutrition-related.

Steps



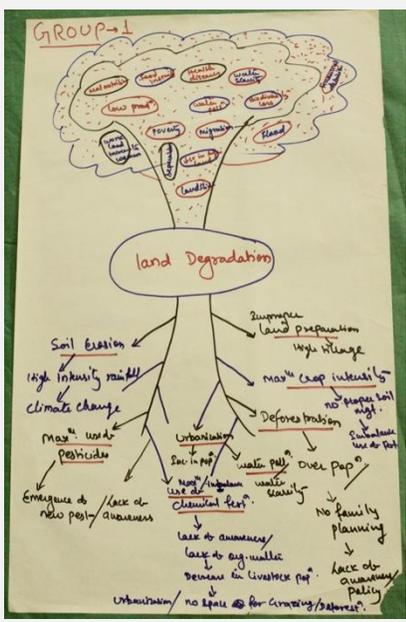
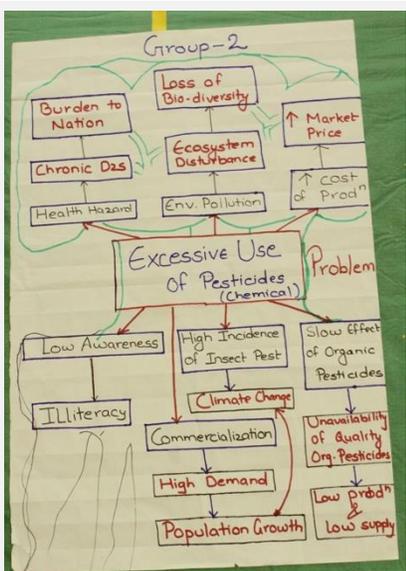
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Integrating Gender-responsive & Nutrition-sensitive Approaches when Working with Farmer Groups Engaged in Markets



- 1) Review title of activity, objectives, and brief introduction. **(5 minutes)**
- 2) Divide participants into six groups by having each participant take a number from one to six, and assign each group a separate work station. Make adjustments as needed to have fairly equal number of participants in each group. **(5 minutes)**
- 3) Give each group one to two sheets of flipchart paper and markers or crayons.
- 4) Ask group members to note down individually, on separate pieces of paper, two or three problems a rural farm community they have worked with are facing at present. Check whether these problems are commonly understood by all group members. **(10 minutes)**
- 5) Ask the group to identify a core problem from the list and prepare a problem tree to explore the inter-relationships between problems. For example: one person may note low vegetable yields as a problem, while another may note a lack of fertilizer or poor soil fertility. List the principal causes, the factors that give rise to those causes and, ultimately, the root causes. For example, if one of the causes is “lack of education among women,” then the group should think about what causes lack of education among women (such as social norms, insufficient trainings etc.). Similarly, note both the immediate effects of the core problem and their linkages to subsequent effects. **(30 minutes)**
- 6) Upon completion of the problem tree, ask the group members to use a different colored marker and circle the causes and consequences of their assigned problem that are in any way related to gender and nutrition. **(5 minutes)**
- 7) Have each group display their problem tree on the floor or taped to the wall. Ask each group to present their completed problem trees in the plenary session through a member nominated by the group. **(5 minutes)** Participants from other groups are given the opportunity to ask for clarifications and comment on the presentations. **(20 minutes)**
- 8) After each group has presented their problem tree, ask the participants the following questions. **(30 minutes)**

How many of the causes and/or consequences were gender-related and nutrition-related?

As an organization, what gender-related causes and consequences could you address?

As an organization, what nutrition-related causes and consequences



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Integrating Gender-responsive & Nutrition-sensitive Approaches when Working with Farmer Groups Engaged in Markets could you address?

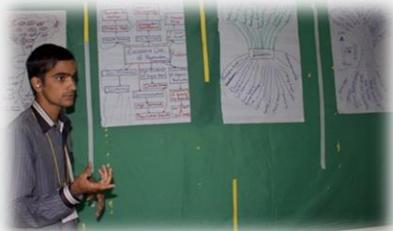


In order to identify marketing intervention strategies, what is the focal points (or entry points), that are derived from roots/causes in the problem tree?

Identify an easy to change cause which when tackled can have maximum impact in resolving the problem;

Once a doable cause has been identified, what are the suitable interventions? Who would be responsible for implementing them? Which organization/agency and what are the roles of men and women farmers in implementing this change?

What are the possible solutions at the community level that may not require external assistance to be implemented?



Now What?

Putting the activity into practice. Ask the participants to return to their small groups and discuss how they see themselves using this activity in the field by responding to the following questions, ensuring that every group member has the opportunity to provide his or her response:

- *As the trainer, in what **ways** and with what **audiences** could you implement this activity?*
- *What **changes** might you need to make to the activity?*

Ask each small group to share **one idea** from their discussion with the whole group. **(20 minutes)**



References

IFAD (2002). "Gender and Poverty Targeting in Market Linkage Operations. Toolkit for Practitioners". International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome, Italy.

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/a0a52e39-ec33-4118-b8c5-aa99b5a23be3>

IGWG (2012). "Facilitator Guide: Problem Trees". Washington DC: Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) of USAID

<http://www.igwg.org/training/GenderAnalysisIntegration/ProblemTrees.aspx>



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