

# NEPAL UPDATES FEB. 2017



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## **INGENAES stands for Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services.**

We aim to assist partners in Feed the Future countries to build more gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive extension approaches and tools to improve agricultural livelihoods for women and men and enhance household nutrition.

[ingenaes.illinois.edu/about-us](http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/about-us)

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### **Relevant Resources**

[INGENAES Library](#)

[Technology Profiles, 2016](#)

[Nepal Landscape Study, 2015](#)

*"I felt that that was not simply a workshop, it become a motivational class as well. What I come to know is that if we have passion, dedication and concentration for the work, we can get our goal despite the challenges and hurdles we face in our journey. Once again, thank you so much for providing energy to the bud of philanthropy and charity captured in our soul. We will, of course, deliver the spirit we have now in future in the form of service to the people of Nepal and hopefully beyond." Comments from the Executive Director of PISC-Nepal (Philanthropic Initiative for Social Change) to the INGENAES team regarding participation in Dr. Kumaran's workshops.*

## **Second Round of Organizational Capacity-Building Workshops**

Dr. Muthusami Kumaran, Non-Government Organization (NGO) Capacity Enhancement Specialist of INGENAES, conducted the third workshop on organizational capacity building for project partner NGOs in Pokhara, Nepal in the final week of December 2016. Attended by 26 NGO leaders and two government extension officials, this workshop covered key management strategies for improving efficiency and effectiveness of partner NGOs and in promoting collaborative partnerships between them and extension services.

Dr. Kumaran also conducted a focus group meeting of selected NGO leaders who participated in his July 2016 workshops in Kathmandu. The purpose of this focus group was to ascertain intermediate outcomes of the workshops on INGENAES partner NGOs. Some of the key intermediate outcomes identified by the participants include: improved leadership and governance structure, incorporating various components of the workshop into their organizational capacity training (for example, a national NGO used 40% of the workshop material for seven training sessions conducted for their local chapters across the country), increased application of Monitoring & Evaluation for program improvements, and networking with government extension officials for collaboration. Focus group participants also expressed that they shared what they learned with their colleagues. Two NGOs mentioned that they are replicating workshop activities and using activity sheets to train their employees on a regular basis.

## INGENAES Holds Workshop: “Addressing Gender Issues in Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination”

INGENAES consortium partner, Cultural Practice, LLC (CP) led the workshop “Addressing Gender Issues in Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination” (December 5-15, 2016) in Nepal with participants from the Master in International Cooperation and Development (MICD) program. The workshop, based on the gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive technology assessment methodology developed under INGENAES, gave students from a wide range of backgrounds the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and skills around key gender issues in agricultural development, field-based qualitative research, and gender analysis.

Following a classroom component, this learning was facilitated by four days of field-based research on two agricultural technologies, the Multiple-Use Water System (promoted by iDE) and the Mini-tiller (promoted by CIMMYT). Students led interviews with a range of actors including technology experts, government and project-level extension workers, men and women technology users, and mechanics. Using a rapid data collection and analysis methodology, the students, with technical guidance from CP, completed the technology assessments exploring the differences between men’s and women’s access and use of the technologies, and the direct and indirect effects the technologies have on men’s and women’s livelihoods.

The finalized case studies called “Technology Profiles” on the Multiple-Use Water System and Mini-tiller will be made available soon on the INGENAES website. To learn more about the methodology and review completed Technology Profiles, visit:

<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/apply/technology-profiles/>

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MICD students with a mini-tiller.



MICD students interviewing women farmers on a multiple-use water system.



## Upcoming Workshop – Fostering Youth Engagement to Disseminate Nutrition-Sensitive Agricultural Messaging

Dr. Nancy Erbstein, from the University of California Davis, is now finalizing plans for a spring workshop on fostering youth engagement to disseminate nutrition-sensitive agriculture messaging in Nepal, with a particular focus on reaching potential and returning migrant workers and their families. The workshop will build upon the wealth of resources that have emerged in Nepal across multiple sectors, including Nepalese NGOs, youth social entrepreneurship efforts, youth leadership networks, agricultural extension, iNGOs and university campuses. She was pleased to recently meet with representatives of these sectors to collaborate on workshop design, as well as Ms. Kabita Devkota, in-country INGENAES coordinator who will handle local logistics.



Ms. Kabita Devkota and Dr. Nancy Erbstein enjoyed a productive planning meeting.  
*Photo © N. Erbstein 2016*

## Needs Assessment on Nutrition Training and Messaging for Agricultural Extension Services

Dr. Agata Kowalewska, RDN from the Food Sciences and Human Nutrition Department at the University of Florida, visited Nepal in December 2016 to assess existing resources and future needs of the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and partners of USAID/Feed the Future in the areas of nutrition and food safety messaging and training.

All visited organizations agreed that adequate nutrition and safe food supplies are very important for development in Nepal. However, they both experience barriers to attaining these goals. For example, the main barriers for MoAD include a lack of ability to develop messages and deliver them to remote locations of the country and to create strong support at all levels of government for nutrition initiatives. USAID/Feed the Future programs are collaborating to develop nutrition and food safety messages and educational programs with local NGOs, but also struggle with full saturation.

Dr. Kowalewska met with nutrition and dietetics faculty from the Padma Kanya Campus of Tribhuvan University and with graduates of a new nutrition and dietetics program at Purbanchan University. They compared and contrasted the curriculum required to become a nutritionist and a dietitian in both countries and content of some of the core courses. After the meetings it seems that the main difference is not in the depth of knowledge acquired by the graduates or the content of the curriculum, but in the certification process that exists in the U.S. and not in Nepal.



Dr. Manasa Thakurathi, Tribhuvan University, Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics (left) and Dr. Kowalewska, University of Florida.  
*Photo © A. Kowalewska 2016*



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We look forward to hearing from you!



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