

INGENAES

Trip Report – Nepal

Kathleen Earl Colverson, University of Florida

August 15-20, 2015

Purpose of Trip – To meet with potential collaborators and USAID Mission staff regarding bringing INGENAES to Nepal. During the trip there were two days of a “general strike” called by opposition groups to the government’s plan of revising the constitution which affected my ability to travel freely in the city.

Organizations, Contact Information and Individuals Met – See attached itinerary.

Summary of Meetings –

August 16th – met with *Prakash Sharma of The Master in International Cooperation and Development (MICD)* (www.micd.edu.np) program to discuss how INGENAES could work with their students. Shared INGENAES training materials, gender glossaries and brochures. I will present INGENAES to 25 students on 8.20.15 to gauge interest in participating in joint research and the mentoring program. The Master in International Cooperation and Development (MICD) in Kathmandu is similar to the Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) at UF. MICD trains students academically and provides them with necessary skills to lead and manage development projects. They participate with other organizations in a framework, called the Cooperation and Development Network - www.cdnpavia.net which has similar Master’s programs in Paiva, Italy, Palestine, Columbia, Nepal and Kenya. They share a core syllabus and also exchange faculties and students.

Next Steps: Connect Prakash with Dr. Muthusami Kumaran at UF regarding sharing classroom materials on NGO management. Connect him with Dr. Glenn Galloway at UF regarding the MDP program and having MDP students work with his students. Prakash is interested in his students attending any future INGENAES ToT’s or gender and nutrition trainings to use this information as a practicum for their future employment in the NGO sector.

August 17th – met with *Dr. Andy McDonald, Program Director of CSISA, and Cynthia Mathys, C.Mathys@cqiar.org, Project Manager of CSISA (both of CIMMYT)*. We discussed a variety of research possibilities that INGENAES might assist CSISA with – potentially overlapping in Bangladesh with Bill Collis, Program Director, CSISA, Bangladesh. He expressed interest in research on aflatoxins and postharvest from both a gender and nutrition perspective (similar to what Alyson Young has proposed in Zambia). They are working with the Nutrition Innovation Lab from Tufts University and could use assistance with this. He also expressed interest in having either a Ph.D. or Post-Doc work with them on econometric modelling of looking at

farmer incentives for commercializing in selected value chains from a gender perspective. I encouraged the addition of nutrition to this research, and he was willing to include it.

Next Steps: Contact Alyson Young about possibly extending her research to two INGENAES countries. Contact Bhwana Thapa at UF about working with CIMMYT on developing an econometric model from a gender and nutrition perspective to assist men and women farmers in deciding whether to grow at a commercial level.

Met with *Sulav Paudel, Agriculture and IPM Program Coordinator for International Development Enterprises (iDE)*. Luke Colavito, Director, was unable to join us due to the strike. iDE has been working in Nepal for multiple decades, and focuses on agricultural value chains in the FtF zone. iDE also works with Virginia Tech on iNOVATE (UF is a partner on this). They use a model to train better caliber farmers to be local entrepreneurs by selling agro-inputs and services. iDE provides initial seed money and training to set them up, and then encourages them to develop economically sustainable business practices to continue working after iDE leaves, ie. charge for their services once they have established a reliable reputation. They work with “Village Animal Health Workers”, “Community Business Facilitators” and “Collection Centers” to implement this model. We discussed where INGENAES might contribute either with capacity development, focused research or technical assistance and knowledge sharing. Sulav indicated they could use research assistance in the mid-west region around how women farmers are faring when their husbands migrate in search of work. Whether the women are managing the farms successfully and generating sufficient income to help feed the families. iDE is starting a number of new projects, and this would be a good time for INGENAES to assist with collecting baseline data that could help inform the best ways to improve gender and nutrition issues in the regions they work. They have staff in the regions they work who would be able to work with faculty and graduate students. There might be scope for testing the TA tool on the model they have developed.

Next Steps: Share above information with INGENAES consortium members to determine interest and available grad students and faculty.

August 18th - Met with *Indu Adhikary*, incoming graduate student to UC Davis to discuss possible involvement in INGENAES. She has a strong background working with Helen Keller International, and in public health and nutrition. She is interested in being involved in the project moving forward in Nepal.

Met with *Heifer International, Dr. Shubh Mahato, Country Director, Neena Joshi, Director of Programs and Dr. Krishna Paudel, Director of Resource Mobilization* to discuss possible collaboration with INGENAES. Heifer is working with women’s self-help groups who organize into local and regional cooperatives to increase sustainability. We discussed their Cornerstones model and the focus on gender, family focus and nutrition and how it could align with INGENAES. We discussed their need to do more impact evaluations around women’s

empowerment and nutritional impacts of Heifer's projects, and how this information would inform their approach— this could be a graduate student project. We also discussed their research needs in two areas – the dairy value chain and how can the effects of Heifer's capacity development on women farmers improve their dairy sanitation practices? What impacts does this have on the household and nutrition? The other area was how can Heifer increase women's income generating opportunities in the meat goat value chain?

Next Steps: Share above information with INGENAES consortium members to determine interest and available grad students and faculty.

Met with Dr. Rajendra Adikhari, Chief of Policy and International Cooperation Coordination Division, the Ministry of Agricultural Development, and Anita Mahat-Rana, Economic Specialist and INGENAES point of contact, USAID.

We started the meeting with an overview of the recent history of the new Nepal Agriculture Strategy (a 20 year plan) that has recently been endorsed by the cabinet and farmer organizations. USAID contributed by providing technical assistance to the Strategy. One of the four pillars in the Strategy is Food and Nutrition Security (FNS). They have developed a "Plan of Excellence" to implement this pillar which included gender mainstreaming. FAO facilitated the development of this plan. Anita will send me the contact person for this. Any INGENAES activities should align with this plan, and focus on subsistence farmers as well as building capacity of the government and community level workers. There is a strong focus on strengthening government systems through USAID programs and using in country implementing partners such as Heifer International and Winrock International. Rajendra indicated he would connect us with the Gender Equity division in the Forestry department of the Ministry so that we could work with them. Anita will send me the contact person for this.

We discussed where Rajendra would like INGENAES to focus geographically. He indicated the Feed the Future ZOI had many projects and we should consider that regions as well as other regions nearby. He also discussed the Ministry of Finance's new "Development Cooperation Policy" which indicates that all new and funded projects (over \$5 Million) must work through the government system. Anita and I discussed this afterwards, and she indicated that since INGENAES was not a new project for Nepal, and was going to have few funds dedicated to Nepal, we would not need to comply with those regulations. Rajendra indicated he was in support of INGENAES and the proposed project in Nepal and that they could use assistance specifically with measuring and evaluating their gender impact with the Department of Agriculture.

Next Steps: Work with Anita to contact the FAO staff who facilitated the "Plan of Excellence" and get a copy for INGENAES. Get contact info of the Gender Equity division in the Ministry's Forestry division. Follow up as needed with Rajendra's staff to keep them apprised of INGENAES work with the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture.

August 19th – Met with USAID Mission staff *Danielle Knueppel Knueppel, Team Leader, Food Security; Anita Mahat-Rana, Economic Specialist; Navin Hada, AID Project Development Specialist; Hari Koirala, Senior Nutrition Specialist; Debendra (didn't get his last name); Amy Prevatt, M&E Specialist*. I gave an overview of INGENAES since its inception and the core areas in which we work: technical assistance and research; capacity development and knowledge sharing. Danielle described the key USAID projects in Nepal that might be interested in working with INGENAES. These include: Suaahara (Hari is the USAID contact, Save the Children and Helen Keller are implementing partners); KISAN (Navin is the USAID contact, Winrock International is the implementing partner); and possibly a couple of new Food for Peace projects, PAHAL (Mercy Corps is implementing partner) and SABAL (Save the Children is implementing partner). All these projects are included in the Nepal Landscape Study completed earlier by UF. Danielle also the Nepal program for training agricultural technicians, CTEVT, and suggested we contact them to determine their gaps and needs for capacity development. We also discussed their work with Tufts University and the Nutrition Innovation Lab around aflatoxins and how it might align with our work in Zambia. The following were suggested areas of focus for INGENAES with the above projects, and the CTEVT and the Department of Agriculture: A) in KISAN the private sector partners and local service providers (LSP's) could use capacity development around integrating gender and nutrition into their work. B) In Suaahara, the ag extension agents and Women Health Volunteers could use capacity development – particularly around linking them to private sector partners. INGENAES would need to do a gap assessment in both projects to determine capacity development and research needs related to gender and nutrition. C) With the Department of Agriculture (who oversee the Ag Extension system) INGENAES would need to meet with them, do a gaps assessment and engage them in capacity development around gaps. D) With the CTEVT, INGENAES would need to meet with them, do a gaps assessment and engage them in capacity development around gaps.

Navin also suggested that we speak with the Agriculture and Forestry University, USAID has helped to support, to determine their needs related to capacity development in gender and nutrition and assist where possible.

Next Steps: Share Nepal trip report with USAID staff. Share above information with INGENAES consortium. Identify key consortium individuals with appropriate skills to return to Nepal to contact USAID projects mentioned above, and conduct gap assessments. Conduct planning workshop with all organizations in this report, and identify additional potential partners for workshop.

August 20th – Met with *Gopal Nakami, Groundswell International*, (<http://www.groundswellinternational.org/>) to discuss their possible involvement in INGENAES. Gopal has been working in Nepal for 25 years with another NGO (name forthcoming) and is a member of the Groundswell consortium. They work with women's groups in many of the earthquake affected areas on homestead gardens, small livestock and improved health and

nutrition for families. We discussed their work in gender issues and the possible alignment with INGENAES.

Next Steps: Connect Gopal with Prakash and invite him and appropriate staff to INGENAES trainings on integrating gender and nutrition.