

EMPOWERING WOMEN to drive the rural economy

Benefiting all of the community

More **businesses**

Better **nutrition**

Better **family wealth**

Dignity and **empowerment**

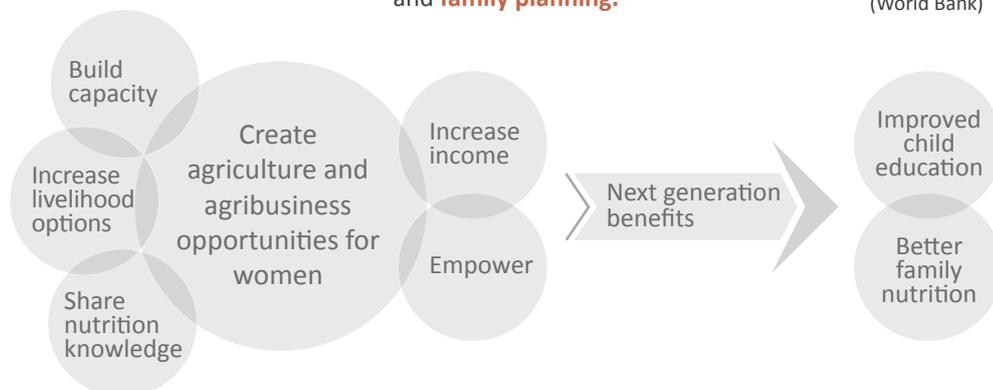


Issues

- Women are far more likely than men to channel their income from agriculture into the **nutrition, health** and **education** of their children.
- Women farmers in developing countries are **20-30% less productive** than men. This is because women do not have the same **access to key assets**.
- Health is typically treated as a separate issue and is not integrated into agriculture and rural livelihood options.
- Women are more vulnerable to discrimination and social mistreatment.

So how do we change things - the **impact pathway**

We can make change now through livelihood options that:



Opportunities

If we can close the gender gap in rural areas we can:

- Have **4% more food produced** each year
- Bring **100 million people out of hunger** in the world
- Build more businesses**
- Have **healthier future generations** (UN-FAO)
- Women's control over resources has shown to improve **family health and nutrition, agriculture development and family planning.** (World Bank)

The approach

1 Participatory analysis and solution building at village level

- Bring together the women and the broader community in a village, the players along the whole value chain (eg, traders and processors) and scientific and business experts
- Analyse the barriers and opportunities
- Develop solutions together that are science backed and owned by the community.

2 Implement the solutions

- This can include:
- Providing training
 - Giving access to needed assets
 - Creating/strengthening self-help groups
 - Building knowledge on nutrition and health. This will include understanding cultural norms and how to manage these, food options and social interventions to overcome malnutrition and other practices such as water, sanitation and healthcare.

3 Continually monitor the approach, developments and impacts

Key for this approach:

- It is based on sound diagnostic research and incorporates strong scientific knowledge to develop solutions and continues with scientific backing in implementing and monitoring the solutions
- It brings together health, education, livelihoods and food security in a new and powerful way.

How you can be involved

- Sponsor the whole program and be a global leader OR
- Partner in a village program
- Partner for a women's Self Help Group
- Partner for a group of potential woman entrepreneurs to run a business (through training and providing assets)



Mrs Sardai Bai

Sardai Bai lives in a village on the forest edge. In her life journey she started off as a laborer and is now a businesswoman and proud farmer. A fine example of how lives can be transformed through agriculture.

<http://www.icrisat.org/womenleaders-sardabai.htm>



“Earlier only male farmers were given importance in agriculture, but now women work shoulder to shoulder with the men.”

Ms Muruheshwari, Tamil Nadu



“With the help of the ICRISAT watershed project, our self help group has established a nursery which is giving us good return. We are able to create employment for some of the villagers. We are producing some good quality crops and now we are living a healthy life.”

Ms Shivalaxmi, Telangana



“When ICRISAT visited our village we were properly guided with lots of useful information and better farming practices. We got motivation from their work and have benefited after using their improved seed varieties. For me, Food is life. We are not living to eat but are eating food to live.”

Ms Sunita Aurykant Nanaware, Maharashtra

A first time entrepreneur, *Dibyaihothi Borgohain*, talks about her help from ICRISAT for her agribusiness start-up,

“With guidance and technical support from AIP (ICRISAT) we created a product which we tested in schools, exhibitions and carnivals. It took us 8 months to work out a product. My partners and I are homemakers and first-time entrepreneurs. After managing our homes for years we felt we could manage anything! And we did it with ICRISAT’s support.”



International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics



About ICRISAT: www.icrisat.org



ICRISAT’s scientific information: EXPLOREit.icrisat.org