

Women in High Value Horticulture

ISSUES

Involvement of rural women in HV Hort

Value addition (products)

Developing/using better seeds/germplasm/genotypes Integrated postharvest management systems (for smallholders) Adoption of new technologies by smallholders (extension) Seed quality improvement technologies Low cost postharvest technologies for smallholders Pre and postharvest effects on food nutrition and food safety Education on food nutrition Access to technology (e.g hybrid seeds) - generation and extension Review national priorities Regulatory framework for production of HV Hort/food safety Capacity building of young scientists extension staff etc.

Credit

Scalability of development interventions/Big picture Postharvest Water use efficiency Capacity building Integrated production/sustainability Seed production/seed availability Integration of domestic science/extension system (organisations) Malnutrition/nutritional balance

TOP ISSUES

1. Produce for health/nutrition
2. Integrated postharvest management (including value added and processing)
3. Sustainable production and marketing

STRATEGIES

1. Produce for health/nutrition
 - educate general public about health benefits of F&V
 - developing an interdisciplinary program to identify the nutritional value of underutilised F&V (includes promotion)
 - food safety assurance (including capacity building and GAPS)
2. Integrated postharvest management (including value added and processing)
 - identifying appropriate technologies for value-added processing
 - capacity building for postharvest management to maintain quality and safety of produce
 - extension of existing and new technologies to target groups
3. Sustainable production and marketing
 - improved access to high quality seed/germplasm
 - efficient use of inputs/resources (e.g. water, soil and fertilizer)
 - capacity building in research and extension

Issues related to gender

1. Difficulty of availability of high quality indigenous vegetable seed
2. Appropriate use of water in dry seasons
3. Access to resources - credit, information and infrastructure for postharvest
4. Maintaining soil fertility
5. How to maintain nutritional food security - indigenous fruit and vegetables should be priority
6. Education of women and access to resources - mentoring women scientists in developing countries; positions of influence in policy
7. Training in advanced technologies for vegetable production, increase utilization of these foods
8. How to encourage women to use indigenous knowledge in identifying processing equipment for various products
9. Access to resources

Priorities

1. Access to resources - finances (micro-credit); irrigation; integrated crop management suitable for smallholders; indigenous "seeds" of fruit and vegetable crops

Challenges

- a. Access to finance - women have no collateral
 - b. Limited knowledge of nutritive foods
 - c. No access to land
- a. Support or create women cooperatives
 - b. Provide more information and dissemination of nutritive foods
 - c. Develop appropriate

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policies

2. Go local and think globally - maintaining nutritional food security of local food resources; acquisition and dissemination of indigenous knowledge

Challenges

a. Lack of intergenerational transfer of knowledge b. Profitable or marketable activities
Strategies a. Community level training in local languages - community asset mapping; tapping information from elders; blend traditional and new practices
b. To blend scientific and local knowledge to ensure integrated cropping systems are profitable and environmentally sustainable and of high nutrition value

3. Equitable opportunities for women (empowerment) - increased participation in extension (providing and receiving); women in leadership positions at community level/cooperatives; horticulture capacity building of women

Challenges

a. Few role models in agricultural research and extension b. Limited knowledge of business plan formulation c. Few women in leadership position

Strategies

a. Horticultural education, mentoring and provide funds b. Training in agri-business, agronomy, value added processing and extension c. Set targets to for inclusion of women, elderly and young in project management

GHA

1. Main emphasis on export