

# Indigenous Women, Climate Change and REDD+

**Khasur Village, Banjhakhet VDC, Ward No-1, Lamjung District**



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# Food Security

## Indigenous Knowledge and Skills, and Food Security:

- About 64% of indigenous women work in agriculture
- **Traditional Responsibility:** Collecting seeds, weeding and harvesting
- In Moist place: Indigenous barley seeds called *laate*
- In Warmer place: *larfaree and dalle*
- Increasing migrating for earning
- 42% of women prepare organic manure-dung, kitchen waste, agricultural residue and fodder from the forest
- Staple food: Paddy, Barley, wheat, maize
- More than 50% consumption is met by their production
- Food from forests:
  - *Wild Vegetable: Sisnu, Taamaa, Niuro, Kurilo, Bhyakur, Gittha*
  - *Nuts, berries and spices (Katush, Asiselu, Daalchini, Timur)*

# Food Security

## **Adaptive Strategies Adopted by Indigenous Women in Climate Change Scenario**

- Irregular rainfall pattern-Declining food production
- New grasses seen-More time for weeding
- Started to plant new species of rice that need less amount of water-*Aryan, Makwanpur*
- Started to use improved seeds of maize for fast and higher production
- Water their fields by collecting running water during rainy season through small canals

# Food Security

## Adaptive Strategies Adopted by Indigenous Women in Climate Change Scenario

- Utsahi Krishak Samuha (Energetic Farmers Group):
  - 13 Women and & 7 Men
  - Vegetables (Cabbage, Tomato, Chilly, Lady's finger, Cauliflower) are grown inside the plastic tunnel-Plastic tunnel protects vegetable from unseasonal and heavy rains



# Sustainable Forest Management and Governance

## Indigenous Women and Community Forestry

- Women depend more on forest: Primarily responsible for cooking, feeding livestock and preparing compost manure

## Traditional Forest Management Practice

- **Riti Badhne System**-Exercised through the council of village leaders
- **Udhauli**: Herders bring their animal to lower area during winter season
- **Ubhauli**: Going up in the high area during summer season
- Worship forest god, **Shime Bhume** during **Ubhauli**
- Traditionally, the participation of women isn't safeguarded in the decision of law related to forest resource and society
- Spiritual sites: *Kanyathan, Devithan, Bhuwanithan*

# Sustainable Forest Management and Governance

## Khasur Community Forest

- 337 hectare; 182 households rely on forest
- Members of users group-510 women and 539 men
- Forest area is divided into 8 subgroups for effective and efficient management and benefit sharing of the forest
- Users committee of 21 members is formed in every 5 years



# Sustainable Forest Management and Governance

- Indigenous women possess traditional knowledge regarding the medicinal value of some plants found in the forest and they have been preserving so long.
- More men migrating to cities for work-More women participation is increasing in the forest management
- **Pragati Naari Samuha** (Progressive Women's Group)-Undertaken the task of guarding the forest whenever it's necessary
  - Forest Fire during summer season
  - Possible illegal activities in the forest

# Women Security

## **Gender based Inequalities and the impact of climate change**

- Patriarchal social structure –contributes to the vulnerability of indigenous women
- Indigenous women who have direct relation with nature and natural resources are affected the most by the impacts of climate change
- Production declined due to the impacts of climate change. So indigenous women of Kalleri village have started to work as labor in the city area.
- Every day they walk about one and half hours to reach the city area to find work.
- Indigenous women do not have access to education and information

# Land Tenure and Security

## **Secure Land Tenure and Sustainability of Resources, Traditional Roles and Empowerment of Indigenous Women**

- The nationalization of forest area deprived indigenous peoples from their rights to manage and get benefit from the forests.
- This contributed to the heavy deforestation of the forest as the people started losing their stewardship towards their forests.
- Indigenous women-Limited rights to land, the ownership of the land is on the hands of male member of the family.
- A daughter is not entitled to her paternal property, simply because once married her status will change.

# Land Tenure and Security

## **Secure Land Tenure and Sustainability of Resources, Traditional Roles and Empowerment of Indigenous Women**

- Mangali Bhujel (43 years) is compelled to become a labor to sustain herself and a 8 years old daughter as her husband married with another women and stopped sending the money from India.
- All the properties, land, house are still in her husband's name. So she has no option to choose except to work as a labor.



# Land Tenure and Security

Therefore to empower indigenous women land ownership and secured tenure is essential.

- It is necessary to address power differences between men and women, and improve women's access to decision making.

# Energy

## Indigenous Women and Sustainable use of Energy

- In Nepal, most energy comes from forest-collecting and managing this fuel for household is strictly women's job.
- About 52% households of Khasur have started using improved wood burning stoves because:
  - It needs less amount of wood
  - It emits less smoke



# Energy

- The users of Gobar Gas are quite low as they use dung for manure production.
- Due to the use of improved wood burning stoves, the frequency of going to forest for firewood has reduced.
- As a mitigation initiative to the climate change through reducing the utility of firewood, the indigenous women are playing vital role through the adoption of sustainable energy generation.



# Conclusion

- Indigenous peoples' of Khasur Village has already started experiencing the impacts of climate change.
- Indigenous women have been developing various adaptation and mitigation strategies against the ongoing climate change.
- However, it seems necessary to explore whether the adaptation strategies adopted by these indigenous women are sufficient or not and what more can be done to strengthen these strategies.
- Indigenous women are the one who constantly work hard for the survival of her family and community with her eco-friendly hands but they are one to become the severe victim of climate change.
- As women, as an indigenous peoples and as indigenous women they are facing discriminations in their society and out of their society.

# Recommendation

- Enhance women's adaptive capacities and livelihoods including alternative agricultural practices, access to credit, inputs such as improved seed varieties, as well as supported and promoted
- Increase access to education, health services, food security and improve the overall situation of indigenous women
- Participation and representation of indigenous women in decision making must be secured
- The contribution made by indigenous women to forest conservation must be acknowledged and they must be empowered to participate actively in planning and decision making in community forestry programmes
- Enable indigenous women to participate actively in decision making within climate change policy making at different levels in terms of mitigation and adaptation.
- Carry further research to explore the impact of climate change on indigenous women and the adaptation and mitigation strategies taken by them.

Thank You!!!

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