



PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE GINGER EXPORTS AND RURAL INCOMES IN NEPAL



The safe trade gap

Ginger is a treasured cash crop for small-scale farmers, many of them women, in remote mountain areas of Nepal with few income-generating opportunities. However, farmers struggled with low yields and pests and diseases, and post-harvest losses as high as 90%. At the same time, demonstrating the safety and quality of production was a challenge. Most fresh ginger was sold unwashed to India at low prices, via informal channels. Farmers and traders had no way to add value to their products. As a result, they were unable to access higher-value markets in Bangladesh, Europe, Japan and the Middle East.

Partnership approach

Public and private sector came together to revitalize and add value in the ginger value chain, and address food safety and phytosanitary challenges, with support from the STDF and the EIF. Strong partnerships were built with local authorities, ginger producers and traders. Farmer field schools boosted practical knowledge and skills on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and post-harvest handling. Demonstration plots showed how new methods and techniques could be used to improve productivity and manage pests and diseases. Training of trainers scaled up the knowledge shared. Drama, video and visual aids increased uptake of messages in communities with low literacy levels. Farmers and cooperatives worked with the Nepal Ginger Producers Traders Association (NGPTA) to add value to ginger and increase productivity.

Beneficiary

Ginger farmers and other value chain stakeholders in Nepal

Led by

FAO with the Ministry of Agricultural Development, Ministry of Commerce and Supply, the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the NGPTA

Time-frame

June 2012 – September 2015

STDF funding

US\$462,144 (total project value US\$1,262,144)

Results

- Post-harvest losses dropped by 30%. The farm gate price for fresh ginger increased, profit margins rose and farmers saw their incomes grow by more than 60%.
- Close to 2,000 farmers – most of them women – were trained on GAPs, post-harvest handling and improved techniques to control pests and diseases.
- Promotion of GAPs lowered pesticide use and reduced residues. A new system for farm inventory management, certification and traceability has raised confidence about food safety.
- A new ginger washing facility supports up to 8,000 ginger-producing households, with the creation of 200 seasonal jobs.
- Local cooperatives grew stronger and new farmer groups started up. The NGPTA set up new district chapters.
- Government reached out to trading partners to find solutions to SPS challenges affecting ginger exports. Washed ginger is now being exported to Bangladesh and India.

Sustaining impact

- Most farmer field schools continue to operate with their own resources. Demonstration plots have become seed resource centres, with higher-quality planting materials available.
- Training materials are being used by government extension services and by programmes run by the NGPTA and NGOs, reaching more farmers.
- Public and private sector are working together to operate the ginger washing facility. Income generated goes into a trust fund that will benefit local communities.
- Options exist to share training materials nationwide and to use the project to leverage investments to promote agribusiness development.

“Our women’s group produces a truckload of ginger. Ginger farming has supported us to save for the future of our children. Field schools helped us reduce losses and increase our incomes. Now with the washing plant, we are so happy”.

Chandra Kala Rai,
Ginger Cooperative
Female Group,
Nepal

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