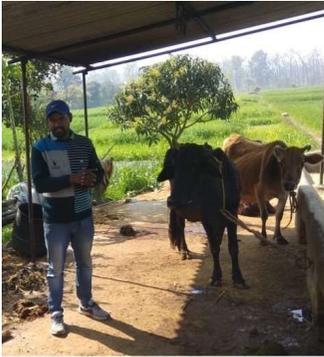


External Evaluation of
Vocational Skill Development of Youths in
Nainital District, Uttarakhand

Maitrayee Mukerji

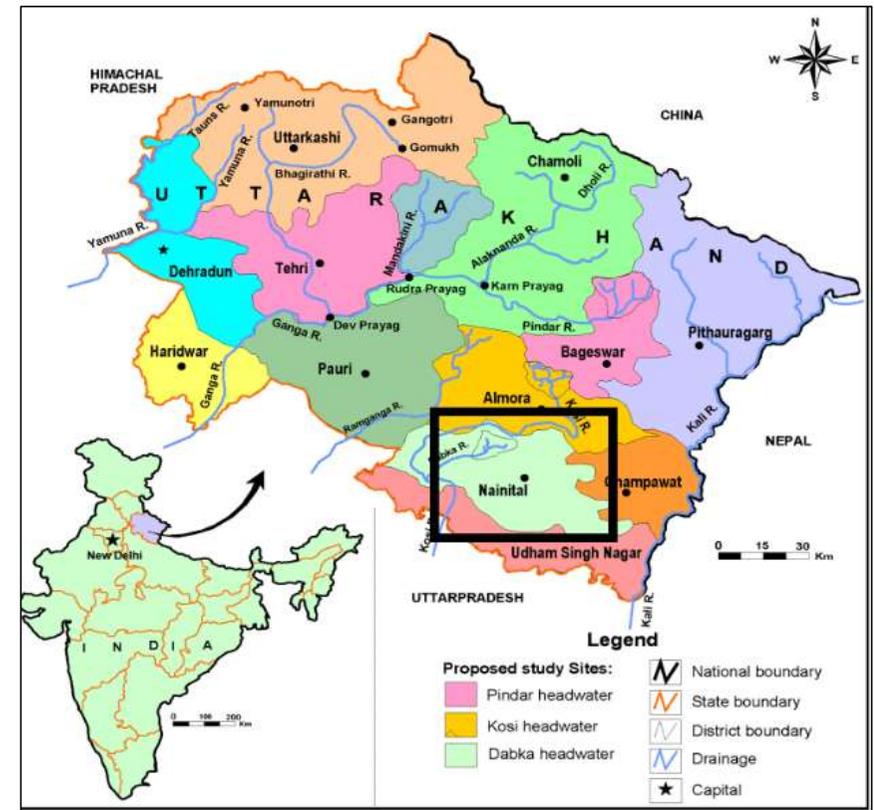


Outline

- About the Project
- Purpose of the Evaluation
- Data Collection
- Key Findings
- Recommendations

About the Project

- Vocational Skill Development of Youth in Nainital District, Uttarakhand, India (VSD) seeks to offer young people in Uttarakhand and Belgium opportunities for a successful future thru training, coaching and exchange programs.
- It is envisaged that such initiatives would enable youths to become leaders in their own sphere and some become entrepreneurs.
- Three year project (2019-2022) with funding from Collibri Foundation, Belgium



Objectives of the Project

Broad Objectives	Specific Outcomes
<p>I) To support education in developing countries thru training of young farmers in organic farming and other skills, and linking them to the rice value chain projects</p>	<p>a) Imparting techniques of organic rice farming to 180 youth</p> <p>b) Vocational training in farm equipment repairs and maintenance skills of 90 youth improving employability, particularly self-employment in rural areas</p> <p>c) Training in entrepreneurship development of 45 youth in the years 2019-22 on how to establish, and manage agri machine service centres</p>
<p>II) To connecting young people from the education project with those from Belgium.</p>	<p>a) Encourage exchange visits by youth from Belgium to the project area in Nainital district – 20 youth in the years 2020-22.</p>
<p>III) To consciously involving customers, co-workers, and partners, in particularly Colruyt IT Consultancy India Pvt Ltd</p>	<p>a) Colruyt customers, co-workers and associates bond well with producers and understand the value chain from farm to fork.</p>

Stakeholders and Ecosystem Partners

**Partners In Prosperity ,
Collibri Foundation**

**RMB Coop,
Colruyt Group,
Nature Bio Foods Limited,
Fair Farmers Foundation.**

**Individuals and
households in
Project Area**

**Training organizations
and knowledge
partners**

**State and National
Level Agencies**

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Purpose of the Evaluation



- Learning and accountability, to continually improve project effectiveness.
- Aid project management decisions by assessing the past and planning for the future
- The specific objective is to conduct a quick evaluation of the ongoing activities, output and outcome of the project before embarking on the third and final year work.

Data Collection

- Field visit to Ramnagar, Kotabagh and Patkot in Nainital District
- Discussion with Participants and Farmers
- Meeting with training partner at MSME centre Kaniya
- Interview with PnP officials and field staff
- Desk Research / Secondary Data on the Project



Findings

Broad Objectives	Specific Objectives	Outcomes
To support education in developing countries thru training of young farmers in organic farming and other skills, and linking them to the rice value chain projects	Imparting techniques of organic rice farming to 180 youth	81
	Vocational training in farm equipment repairs and maintenance skills of 90 youth improving employability, particularly self-employment in rural areas	45
	Training in entrepreneurship development of 45 youth in the years 2019-22 on how to establish, and manage agri machine service centres	2
	Tractor Driving Training for Women	32
	BioFloc Online Training	15

- Planned for three years: 315 ;
- Till Date:
 - 175 (Age < 30);
 - 233 (total in project area);
 - 466 (including online participants from non-project area)

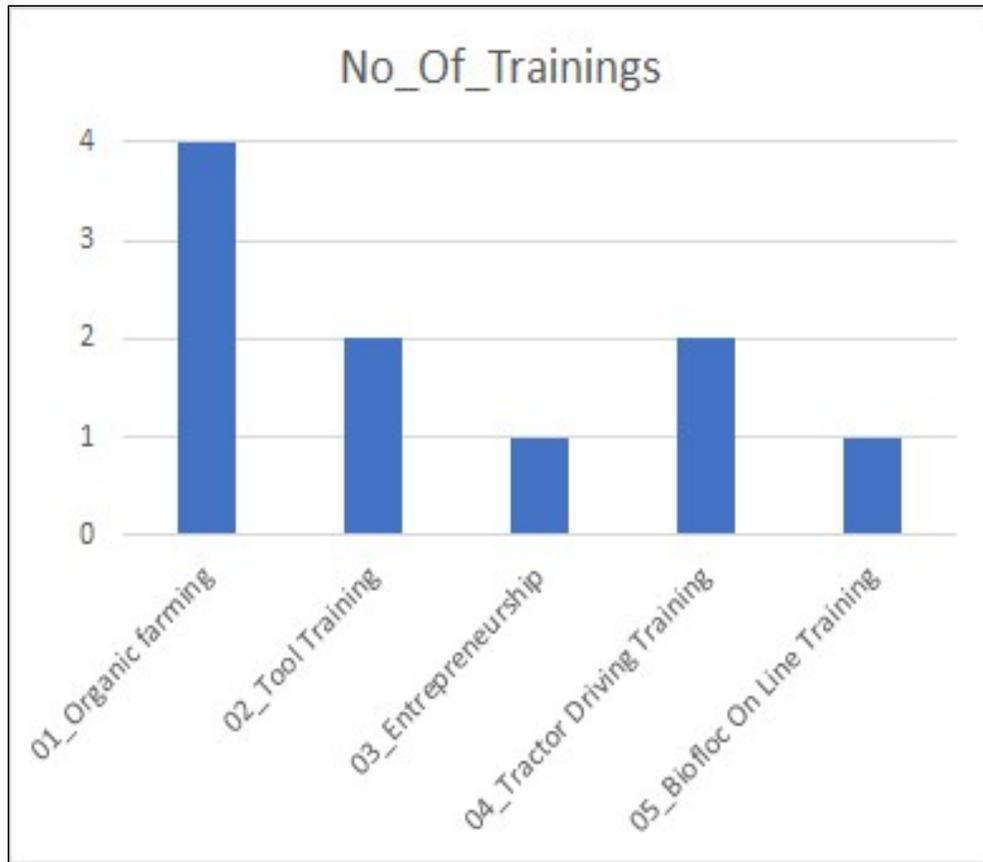
Findings

Broad Objectives	Specific Objectives	Outcomes
To connecting young people from the education project with those from Belgium.	Encourage exchange visits by youth from Belgium to the project area in Nainital district – 20 youth in the years 2020-22.	Online interaction
To consciously involving customers, co-workers, and partners, in particularly Colruyt IT Consultancy India Pvt Ltd	Colruyt customers, co-workers and associates bond well with producers and understand the value chain from farm to fork.	-

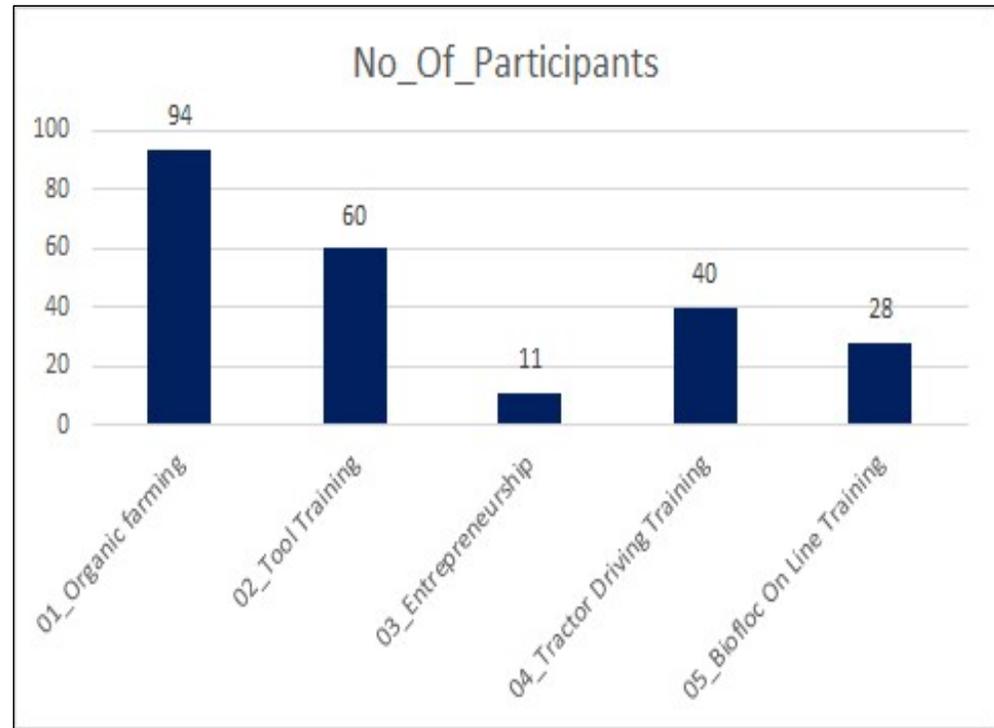
Findings

Name of Training	Objective	Duration	Training Institution	Methodology	No of Training
Organic farming	Imparting techniques of organic rice farming to farm youth	7 days	Uttarakhand State Training Center of Organic Farming, Majkhali, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand	Institutional (Theory + Practical)	4
Plumbing & Welding Tools	Vocational training of youth in farm equipment repair and maintenance skills	45 days	MSME Center, Government of India, Kaniya, Ramnagar, Uttarakhand	Institutional (Theory + Practical)	2
Agri-Entrepreneurship	Training in entrepreneurship development	-	For BOB-RSETI trained candidates	Post Training Support (Scholarship + Facilitation)	1
Tractor Driving	To promote women led agriculture by imparting tractor driving training to young girls	15 days	Kumaon Motor Driving Training School, Haldwani, Uttarakhand	On Ground / Onsite (Theory + Practical)	2
Biofloc	On line Training on Biofloc Fish Farming	14 days	Partners in Prosperity	On Line Training + Assessment	1

Findings....

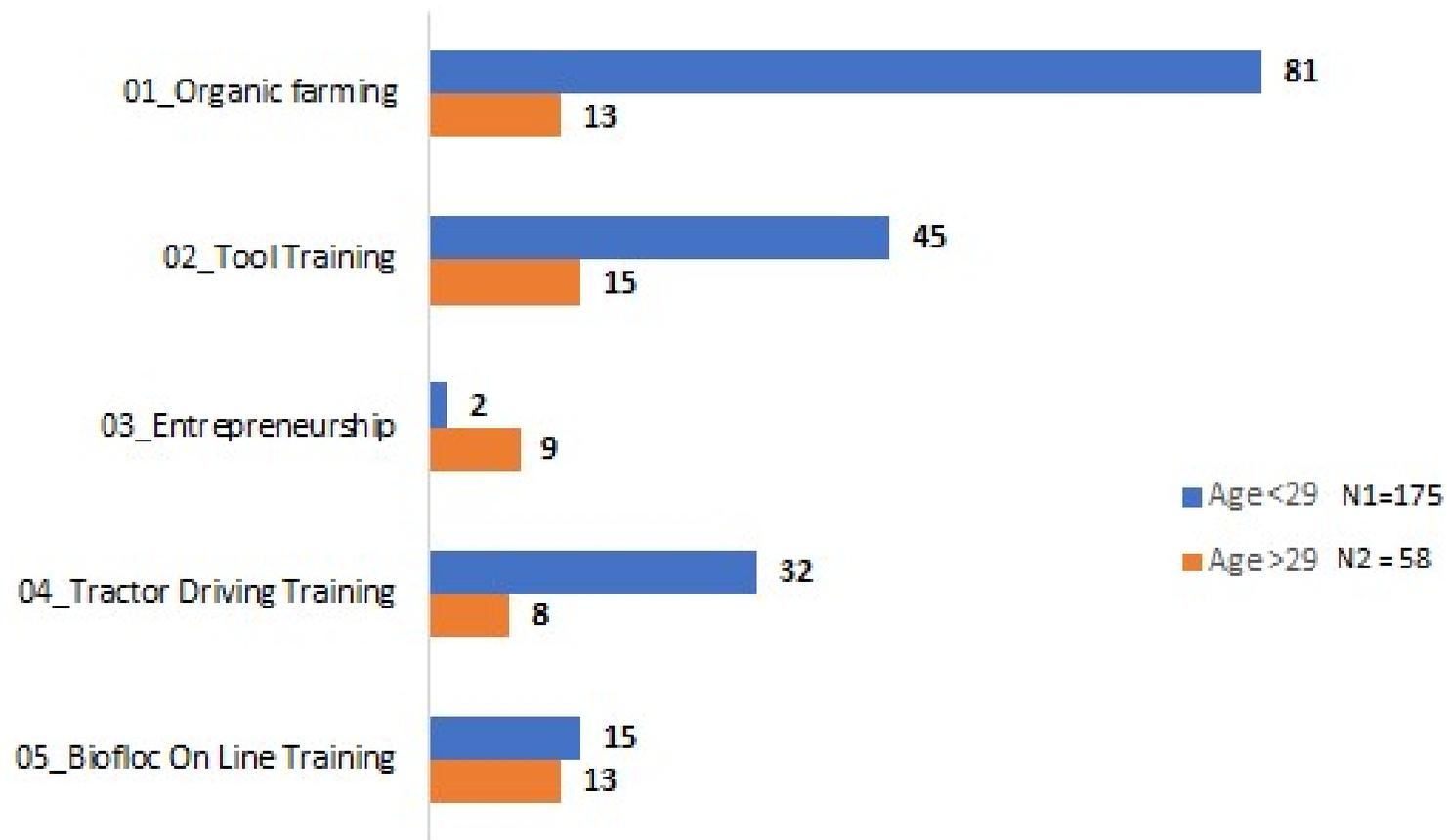


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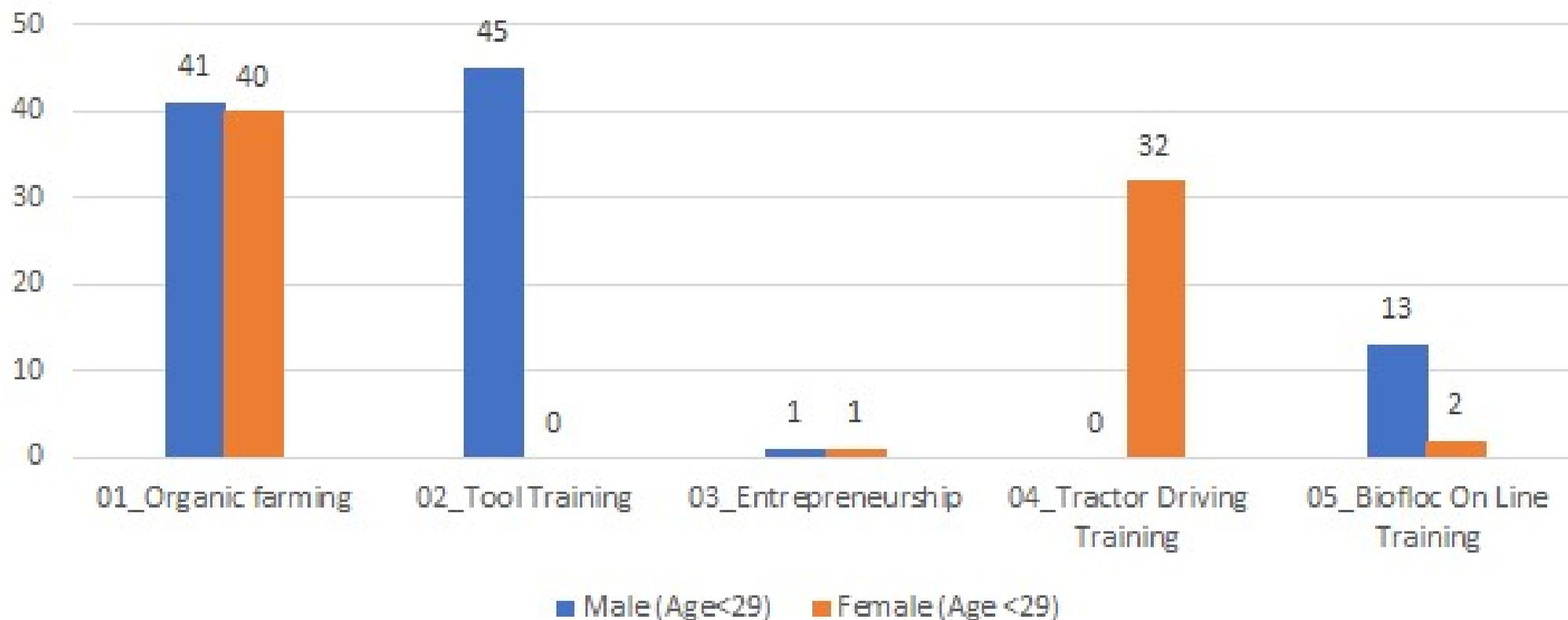


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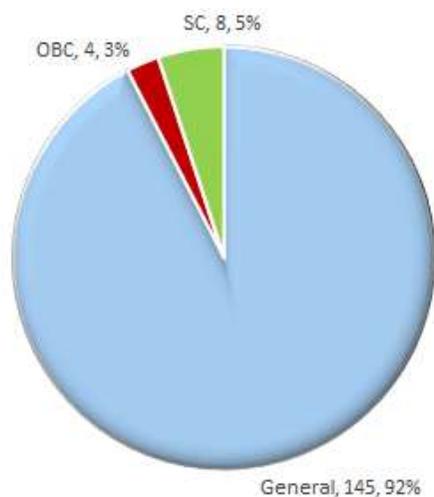
Distribution of Participants by Age (N=233)



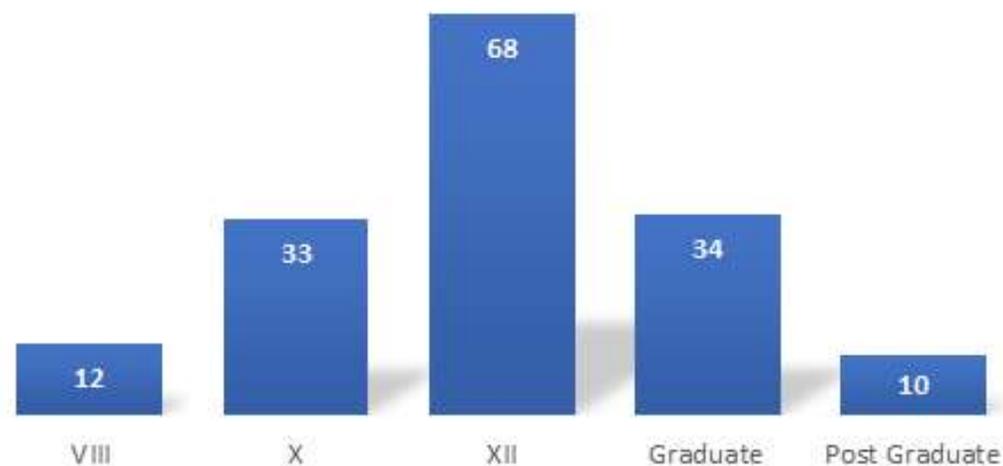
Participants Distribution by Gender (N= 100+75 = 175)



Distribution of Participants by Social Category (N= 157)



Distribution of Participants by Education (N=157)



Training	Social Category			Education					Total
	General	OBC	SC	VIII	X	XII	Graduate	Post Graduate	
01_ Organic farming	74	1	3	6	20	32	17	3	78
02_ Tool Training	38	2	5	5	13	27			45
03_ Entrepreneurship	2			1		1			2
04_ Tractor Driving Training	31	1				8	17	7	32
Total	145	4	8	12	33	68	34	10	157

OECD/Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?

- All trainings align with the overall mission of both CF / PnP : Embeddedness in rice project and area, Sustainability, Communities, Education, Youth
- Uttarakhand recently passed the act of making certain districts organic, the project contributes to the developmental imperatives at the state level. And also aligns with the larger paradigm of development discourse on skills.
- Increased relevance post-Pandemic: agriculture as a cushion against economic shocks, focus on organic, growing concern for health and immunity, building the market linkage / youth based enterprise development
- Welding / Plumbing/Agri-services – allied, includes non-landed people
- Tractor – response to a latent need, especially of women beneficiaries
- BioFloc – demonstrates the possibilities of interventions new normal

OECD/Effectiveness: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?

- Reached 55% of 315 individuals in the age group of 15 to 29 years at mid-term seem to indicate that its on track, with almost equal female representation (43%).
 - Agri-Entrepreneurship – needs to be re-imagined; building on what has been already achieved; maybe weaving in the other two objectives
- Travel restrictions and other constraints hinder work towards other two objectives

OECD/Efficiency: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?

- Since the impact of the interventions are not measurable in monetary terms, it is difficult to look at the efficiency of the program numerically.
- In terms of inputs, the program has one project manager and a field assistant.
- The average cost for one training, including organizational level expenses are around two lakhs per batch.

OECD/ Impact: What difference does the intervention make?

- The number of individuals trained gives one direct measure of impact, its difficult to measure specific impact of skill training.
- **Increase in employability** – certifications strengthen candidature of youth while applying for government jobs and tendering for government contract.
- Some observable instances of emerging **leadership and enterprise development** – informal network (online and offline)
- For PnP / CF, the trainings kind of re-enforce existing relationship, thru one more transactional linkage – extended reach to next generation.



Impact...

- Women participation around , mainly thru training in organic farming and tractor driving
- Observable sense of achievement and confidence
- While the organic training did not challenge much of the status quo, the tractor training is creating ripples by breaking gender norms related to work.
- Women perceived it as an opportunity to do something which traditionally boys are allowed
- For those who are hands-on farming, it actually generates tangible benefits – not having to wait for the tractor driver to clear their patches; remove physical labour to some extent
- Some reservations regarding emphasis on girls, when they are going to get married and go away; the benefit will not occur to the village; real issue might be the facilitation for the driving license
- Trainings help to generate interest among youths into farming; re-orient their children to the work



OECD/ Sustainability: Will the benefit lasts?

- Sustainability of the project in terms of the net benefit over a longer duration, will depend to a large extent on the continued interest of the beneficiary households to be engaged in cultivation of organic rice and allied activities. Currently rice project assures good and guaranteed remuneration for rice
- Steps to work on some of the emerging/ existing capabilities – collectivizing young for product / service enterprises; handhold couple of people for enterprise development

Recommendations

(I) Increasing Programme Effectiveness

- Reaching out to non-farm people, special drives for SC/OBC communities - opens space for other kind of ventures
- Increasing the age to 35 for more sustainable outcome
- Re-look and realign training on agri-entrepreneurship with objectives to build on new and emerging capabilities
- Build relationships with other local institutions for reach and relationships - Leadership training for women – SHG and panchayat
- Increasing the visibility of organizational work to increase recall value among state and national level stakeholders

Recommendations

(II) Skills for enterprise development

- Consider introducing training programs that are useful to the young and also helps in building support capabilities for small organizations - website, app development, basic forms of digital/ social marketing via whatsapp, youtube
- Business Development Support – packaging, marketing to couple of enterprising ones – and linking them to few others
- Collectivise young people to start product or service enterprises in organic chain - Inputs for organic farming / organic product outlet / keeping animals off / Green skills – solar, water harvesting

(III) Towards fulfilling the other two objectives of project,

- Consider exploring virtual internships for Belgium students
- Use of digital tools to connect customers, co-workers and partners with rice farmers - digital tours, virtual training and direct marketing.



Thank You