

**IMPACT OF RURAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
WORKS PROGRAMME IN RURAL FOOD SECURITY
(A Case Study of Tallo-Mathillo Dungeshwor of Dailekh District)**

A Thesis

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RECOMMENDATION

This dissertation entitled **Impact of Rural Community Infrastructure Works Programme in Rural Food Security: A Case Study of Tallo-Mathillo Dungeshwor of Dailekh District** has been prepared by Mr. Thaneshwar Bhandari under my guidance and supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that this thesis entitled **Impact of Rural Community Infrastructure Works Programme in Rural Food Security: A Case Study of Tallo-Mathillo Dungeshwor of Dailekh District** has been prepared and submitted by Mr. Thaneshwar Bhandari to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. This thesis has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of requirements of the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ABSTRACT

This survey research was conducted on: "Impact of Rural Community Infrastructure Works Programme (RCIW) in Rural Food Security: A Case Study of Tallo-Mathillo Dungeshwor of Dailekh District" in January to April 2006. RCIW Programme is priority based pro-poor focused food security programme. Food security impact of this programme in beneficiaries level was not assessed before this study.

This study focused to fulfill the objectives as; to assess the change in food availability by the support of project activities, to assess the people's participation in different activities of the programme, to find out the major changes in food and market access realized by the people, to assess intra-household food distribution, to determine the major changes of RCIW programme and to examine the sustainability of programme.

Dandaparajul, Malika, Khadkawada, Gauri and Baraha VDCs were selected purposively and household survey was conducted in hundred households by simple random sampling and interview schedule was conducted by structured questionnaires. Focus group discussions were done in seven self-help groups and information was collected by semi-structured checklist. Both primary and secondary data were collected, tabulated, and interpretation was done through M.S. Excel, 2003 Version. The analytical frameworks were adopted to measure impact level.

Majority of the respondents prioritized to produce cereal based food and no food items by their own production were sufficient to year round consumption. Total of 97% households were found food deficient by their production. The food sufficiency level of the survey area was 9.33 months and maximum food deficient months were found January 15 to April 15. The total share of food sufficiency for cereals was nearly 63 by their production. Other two sources were local traders (26.56%) and RCIW programme (10.84%) for searching cereal foods

Cause of people's participation in RCIW programmes were; due to the limited job in village areas, compelled due to food insufficiency and proximity to their residence. Women's participation in the programme was found 22%. RCIW assisted additionally to cope food insecurity by employing as wage labourer in Food-for-Work activities and promoting cash crops selling. Average of 1.4 participants was employed in an average of 59 days in FfW projects and received 133 kg rice and NRs. 172.0 cash annually. The role of Tallo-Mathillo rural road for market access was found in the beginning stage. It linkage in two ways reduced porter fare by 38%, and transportation fare by 5% per kilogram.

Regarding RCIW's coverage for food access support: 65% fruit farming was supported in appropriate size of 0.15-0.3ha land. Fruits plants had insufficiently producing and are in growing stage. Intercropping supports and income generating activities assisted to receive average of NRs 850.0 income per household. The share of RCIW on food accessibility was analysed as 16%. Saving rate per month at the beginning and with programme was increased significantly by 130% however, 55% household collecting savings by working as daily wage. 86% participants found involved in integrated activities of the programme. Majority of community members demanded to implement marketing related infrastructures and sales promotion skill.

One third of households used optimum balance food. Preference was found for cereal food security rather than nutrition security. The role of RCIW in household food utilization was reported insufficient. The respondent's expectations and project estimation on future income security from economic promotion activities meets the objectives for micro project beneficiaries but insufficient for other road beneficiaries. Major problems in rural food security were: lack of irrigated land, insufficient land, technological insufficiencies, low income, lack of awareness, available of poor nutritious food items and geographical locality.

Majority of respondents were committed to continue programme activities even after the phase over. Registration, linkage, and coordination of SHG and CBO are in starting phase. The SHGs were found insufficient to fulfill technical expertise in economic promotion sectors. RCIW's impact level was found encouraging in three dimensions: food availability, food accessibility and stability, however, it was limiting in food utilization. The impacts of the programmes in food security were found cumulative efforts of aggregated outcomes of district based organizations and depended still in future outcomes. In overall, RCIW efforts were people centred and pro-poor focused.

Major recommendations to achieve food and nutrition security significantly were: increasing women's participation, intensive support at short duration on-farm and off-farm enterprises focusing one village one product, implementation of production supportive, food utilization, and marketing activities, increase rice and cash support for at least one hundred days of minimum guaranteed employment days, and prolong at least two additional phases to complete all the dimensions of food security.

(Key words: Food security, Impact, Nutrition Security, Sustainability)

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Anne Domino
ARS	Agriculture Research Station
BC	Before Christ
BMZ	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BNI	Basic Needs Income
CA	Complementary Activities
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CfW	Cash -for -Work
CP	Core Project
CPSU	Central Program Support Unit
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DANIDA	Danish International Development Assistance
DDC	District Development Committee
DEB	Detail Environmental Baseline
DFID	Development Fund for International Development
DFO	District Forestry Office
DLSO	District Livestock Service Office
DPSU	District Program Support Unit
DSCO	District Soil Conservation Office
DTMP	District Transport Master Plan
EDP	Extended Delivery Point
FAN	Food and Nutrition
FANS	Food and Nutrition Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCAD	Food and Cash Aid Development
FfW	Food -for -Work
FSVIMS	Food Security Vulnerability Information and Mapping System
FSI	Food Security Index
FSL	Food Security Level
FY	Fiscal Year
GO/N	Government of Nepal
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
IFPRI	Integrated Food Policy Research Institute
IFSP	Integrated Food Security Programme
ITSH	Internal Transportation Storage and Handlings
LEO	Literacy, Empowerment and Organization
LRUC	Local Resource Users Committee
MD	Man Day
MEDEP	Micro Enterprise Development Programme
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MP	Micro Project
NFC	Nepal Food Corporation
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NHDR	Nepal Human Development Report
NLA	Nepal Labour Academy

NLSS	Nepal Living Standard Survey
PDDP	Participatory District Development Programme
PLC	Participatory Learning Centre
PMU	Poverty Monitoring Unit
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
QUIP	Quick Impact Programme
RAP	Rural Access Programme
RBG	Road Building Group
RBM	Result Based Monitoring
RCIW	Rural Community Infrastructure Works
RPN	Rural Programme Nepal
RR	Rural Road
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SHG	Self -Help Group
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
TA	Technical Assistance
TMD	Tallo-Mathillo Dungeshwor
UC	Users Community
UG	Users Group
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nation's Economic, Social & Cultural Organization
USA	United State of America
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VDC	Village Development Committee
WFP	World Food Programme
ZOPP	Goal Oriented Project Planning

Symbols and Local Terminologies

%	Percent
Bhramin	Elite cast, the highest ranked cast of Nepal.
Coop	Cooperative
Dalit	Recognized as untouchable cast of Nepal
Dhindo	Locally prepared food items made from millet floor.
°C	Degree Centigrade
Ha	Hectare
Hali	A bounded labour who plough oxen in farm
Janajati	Recognized as the third ranked cast
Jand	Locally prepared alcohol
Kcal	Kilo calorie
Kg	Kilogram
Km	Kilo meter
Lt	Litre
No	Number
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
Mt	Metric Tons
Ropani	0.05 Hectare
S/C	Savings and Credit