

Women Empowerment and Intra-household Nutritious Food Distribution and Consumption in Crop-livestock Production Systems: Empirical Evidence from Bangladesh



Fatema Sarker, Thomas Daum and Regina Birner
Hans-Ruthenberg institute of Agricultural Science in the Tropics
University of Hohenheim, Germany

Background

- Despite world leaders' commitment to end hunger by 2030, **malnourishment remains high** in many developing countries.
- Studies posit that empowering rural women through **livestock interventions** can set them on the path to better achieve nutritional outcomes within their households
- However, it is unclear how **'the triple linkage'** of livestock-empowerment-nutrition unfolds in reality and how it shapes the intra-household nutritious food consumption where discriminations against females in food allocation are set mainly in literature



Photo source: ACDI/VOCA Feed the Future LPIN Project

Impact on meat and fish intake

- The level of women empowerment has no impact on the distribution and consumption of meat and fish equally among the household members
- Empowered women distributed meat and fish equally among the boys and girls but the women consume less than their spouses

Impact on egg intake

- In case of egg intake empowered women distribute among boys and girls equally but they consume less than their husband.

Findings from qualitative data

- Households with empowered women are conscious about the outcome of taking nutritious foods
- Also at the same time they are profit motivated so try to save milk or eggs to sell or hatch not consuming themselves
- The male household head paid attention the distribution of meat/fish were almost close to equal but only a few of them did the supervision

Methods of data collection and analysis

- **This study** explores 'the triple linkage' within villages in rural Bangladesh that have adopted livestock rearing as a means to their empowerment, adopting a mixed-method study approach with **23 focus group discussions** and structured interview with **275 women**
- To measure the impact of women empowerment on gender differentiated nutritious food intake OLS has been conducted

Findings from quantitative data

Impact on milk intake

- The livestock farming has contributed to the milk intake of every household member considerably
- Empowered women consume and distribute milk equally among the members without gender discrimination.



Photo source: Own picture

Conclusions

- The girls' protein food intake from the household with higher empowerment level of women is much equal than to the others.
- The socio-cultural norms, patriarchal influence, poor economic conditions, a large number of family members, poor participation in training or social groups are the reasons for unequal food distribution

Contact:

Email:fatema.sau@gmail.com

Phone:+4915738195916

