



Farmers' Identity Card With Categorisation



Women Farmer receiving Farmers Identity Card at Belaka Municipality, Udayapur District.

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1. Status of piloting and scaling of the model:

National Farmer Groups' Federation (NFGF), which piloted this model in Belaka municipality, also led the initial model scaling process. However, with several other local governments (LGs) and provinces initiating model scaling by incorporating categorisation-based farmer identity (FID) card schemes into their recurrent

annual policies and programmes, the role of model scaling is gradually shifting from NFGF to them.

2. Collaboration with boundary partners:

Belaka led the model roll out process and made policy arrangements for the model's institutionalisation. NFGF led the model piloting and initial scaling,



A household survey conducted for information collection on categorization based Farmers ID Card. Sakhuwanankarkatti RM, Siraha.

and supported the municipality for development of agricultural development act for adopting farmers' ID card scheme. NFGF constituencies contributed to further scaling the model through effective advocacy work. Several LGs and provinces have taken policy initiatives for model scaling, while others are in consultation process for the same purpose. As the federal Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) decided to pilot land management initiative in about a dozen LGs including Belaka, NFGF took the opportunity to pilot this model in Belaka. Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) shared resources and contributed towards questionnaire development. National Lands Rights Forum (NLRF) shared resources in the initial phase, while UN Habitat developed the data entry and analysis software.

3. Model scaling phase:

Belaka has already institutionalised the model by enacting agricultural development act and guidelines. It is currently in the process of distributing farmer ID cards. NFGF constituencies have continued advocacy

for further scaling of the model. The model is gradually reaching the critical mass with several LGs and provinces initiating policy measures to scale it out. They include Sakhuwanankarkatti and Nawarajpur, Siraha; Siddhicharan and Sunkoshi, Okhaldhunga; Siranchok RM, Gorkha; Kanakai, Jhapa; and province 2 and 5 governments. Some other LGs in Surkhet, Bajura, Kalikot and Illam have also initiated consultations with NFGF.

4. Process adopted in model scaling:

Inception meetings with LGs introducing the model, its roll out process, responsibilities of diverse actors, etc. led to signing of agreement among LGs, NFGF and other key actors; selection of wards; preparation of work plan; orientation on model scaling to LG elects and staff, and settlement development committees. This was followed by preparation of household survey questionnaire; selection and training of candidates for data collection and entry; formation of facilitation committees at rural/municipality and ward levels; household survey and discussions on work progress, challenges and solutions. Discussions were held with farmers on categorization

criteria and ID cards. Sample ID card was finalized, printed and distributed to farmers (Belaka).

5. The model's added value and key outcomes
Recognition of genuine farmers' identity and departure from flawed traditional practices:

The model's key value addition is the government recognition of genuine farmers' identity and their contributions to the country. The category-based FID that has provisioned access to specific government services for different categories of farmers has become an effective tool for marginalised farmers to claim public services and hold the LGs to account as equal and active citizens. This model marks a departure from flawed traditional practices of treating all farmers as a homogenous group, and distributing public services benefitting a few and leaving out the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, NFGF's successful leadership and facilitative role in piloting and scaling out this model across large number of LGs has earned the organisation a reputation as a resource organisation in the areas of farmers' rights.

Policy development:

Successful piloting and institutionalisation of the model in Belaka through the enactment of agricultural development act led to several LGs (Sakhuwanankarkatti of Siraha, Siddhicharan of Okhaldhunga, Kankai of Jhapa) and provinces (2 and 5) taking policy and programmatic measures for adopting this model.

Extension work:

Effective engagement and advocacy of NFGF and farmer groups at different levels resulted in extension and implementation of farmers ID card scheme in four LGs. A total of 11,998 farmers received the ID cards from Belaka municipality, while about USD 27,000 was leveraged from the LGs for implementation of the FID model in 2020. Several other LGs (Nabrajpur RM of Siraha, Sunkoshi RM of Okhaldhunga, Katari municipality of Udayapur, Siranchowk RM of Gorkha and Sandakpur RM of Ilam) are all set to adopt the FID model in 2021.

Data and information management:

This model has been a breakthrough in collection and documentation of genuine and comprehensive data on farmers, which serves as crucial input for overall LG initiatives. Belaka has linked this data base to its production control system and using it for development and planning purposes. It has decided to use the data

for negotiations with external development partners to invest in the areas prioritised by the municipality focusing on the wellbeing of the highly climate vulnerable marginalised, small and women farmers.

Improved access to services:

Based on their categories the ID card holders (farmers) are now eligible to demand specific government services as mentioned in the ID cards. Belaka has started aligning its subsidy and social security provisions with the data base created as part of this model. The marginalised farmers (category D - red card) become eligible to receive 100%, the small farmers (category C - white card) receive 75%, the medium farmers (category B - yellow card) receive 50% and the big farmers (category A - blue card) receive 25% of subsidies to be provided by the LGs to farmers.



Categorization based Farmers Identity Card

Model's contribution to building climate resilience of landless and marginalised farmers:

Inclusion of farmers' climate vulnerability and adaptability as one of the categorisation criteria has facilitated their access to appropriate public services and subsidies. Climate vulnerable farmers and agriculture labour in Belaka have started accessing 100% of the subsidy for climate resilient leasehold farming. LGs have started including climate considerations in policies and programmes. Belaka and Kanakai have included resilience building in their periodic plans.

Model's contribution to promoting inclusion and governance:

Climate vulnerable landless and marginalised women and small holder farmers are the model's impact population. Identification of four categories of farmers (marginalised, small, medium and big) against realistic indicators--status of land tenure; income from agriculture and livestock; and vulnerability to climate and disaster risk--and providing them ID cards accordingly is under way. LGs that have already adopted the model have reflected the impact group's rights in their policies, programmes and budgets. Engagement of multiple stakeholders- government, impact group, NFGF constituencies, local print and broadcast media, etc. made the model roll out and scaling inclusive and consensus oriented. This resulted in shared ownership of the model, improved accountability i.e. development of implementation of policy and guidelines for model roll out and equitable distribution of subsidies and services to different categories of farmers, thereby, enhancing the efficacy of service delivery and meaningfulness of such services.

6. Good practices and learning

Good practice:

The model's multi-stakeholder approach significantly contributed to building enabling environment for effective model roll out. This approach led to diverse stakeholders' ownership of the model and shared responsibility for its scaling. This helped develop and administer the data collection questionnaire, collect realistic data and information, resolve issues that arose at field level engaging ward level elected representatives, effectively complete the complicated process of categorising the farmers based on the data and pave the way for fulfillment of the most marginalized and vulnerable farmers' rights.

Learning:

- It is highly crucial to first inform the people in the entire communities about the benefits and process



A farmer receiving Farmers' Identity Card (category B - yellow card).
Belaka Municipality, Udayapur

of model roll out and dispel all their doubts well before surveyors knock at their doors seeking data and information. The community members need to know the objective of the model, how it will benefit them and what is expected of them, so that they are well informed and prepared to provide authentic information.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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