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Government of Nepal

Poster Title: Nutrition Sensitive Poultry Programming and Egg Consumption Behavior

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Introduction

In Nepal, maternal and young child diets lack diversity and micro nutrient quality and thus contribute to undernutrition

Suaahara, a large-scale multi-sectoral nutrition program funded by USAID, aims to improve maternal and child diets, and specifically to increase consumption of animal source foods in 42 of Nepal's 77 districts

Interventions-increased production and consumption of eggs, particularly among poor households, because eggs are rich in micro-nutrients and a cheap source of animal protein



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Study objectives

To assess EHFP related progress to date in *Suaahara* intervention areas, linkages between uptake of EHFP interventions and egg consumption, and barriers and facilitators to egg consumption, including variation by context



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Methods used

Quantitative data from *Suaahara's* 2017 and 2018 annual monitoring surveys

Descriptive analysis of changes in intervention coverage, outcomes and outputs over time

Changes seen over time are tested for statistical significance and P values are report if $P < 0.05$

thematic analysis conducted in Atlas.ti generated findings on barriers and facilitators for maternal and child egg consumption



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Results

The percentage of surveyed EHFP households (N=796) rearing above 10 chickens increased from 24 % to 34 % between 2017 and 2018

maternal and child egg consumption also increased from 6% to 10% and 11% to 18% respectively

low chicken ownership and egg production; perceived high costs of purchasing eggs; limited availability of eggs in markets; and cultural and religious taboos and restrictions are barriers to egg consumption



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Conclusions

Our findings highlight the potential for poultry programming to be used as an avenue to improve maternal and child dietary diversity. However, we found the adoption of good rearing practices and consumption of eggs is still low and that the barriers are quite diverse. These factors must now be considered to improve uptake of intended behaviors while programming in diverse agro - ecosystem and socio-economic context



Suaahara II would like to thank the Government of Nepal for their leadership.



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Thank you!

For more information

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