

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

INNOVATION SUMMARY: DISTANCE LEARNING PLATFORM FOR COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS

This innovation is a tablet-based, virtual training platform for female community animal health workers. Using tablets reduces the required time for in-person instruction, which is particularly beneficial for women in rural areas as it allows them to access the course material without having to travel to a training site. The materials can be accessed off-line and information can be uploaded once the tablet is brought to a location with mobile network connectivity.



INNOVATION QUICK FACTS

Lead Implementing Institution: University of Florida



Category: Extension



Applied in: Nepal



Innovation Type: Technology



New/Adapted: Adapted



Created for: Women



Nutrition Linkage: Women's Empowerment

THE PROBLEM & ITS IMPORTANCE

Livestock diseases cause significant economic loss in Nepal. Improved access to animal health services will help reduce these losses, however, such services are limited in remote areas. In these areas, community animal health workers play a critical role in service provision to livestock keepers. However, while livestock keepers are overwhelmingly female, few community animal health workers are. An important reason for this situation is that because of their many responsibilities in the household, women cannot leave their families for extended periods of time to attend a training course.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

By replacing some of the in-person instruction with a tablet-based learning system, the training course to become a community animal health worker may be more accessible for livestock keepers in rural areas, including women facing time and other constraints to traveling to training sites. This can increase availability of community animal health workers and improve animal service delivery in remote areas. This increased access will improve the overall animal health status of an area. The innovation also results in additional income for the women who become community animal health workers.

APPLICATION OF THE INNOVATION

With increased internet access globally, this innovation can be applied in many countries. This innovation will increase women's participation in animal health service delivery. In many countries, women are heavily involved in animal husbandry, are very knowledgeable about livestock diseases but miss out on training opportunities because of other family responsibilities. The resources needed to apply this innovation are a community animal health worker training curriculum and availability of tablets, and internet access. This innovation can be used by public or private extension service providers with an approved training curriculum and it should entail subsequent certification. In person training is still needed to ensure the participants acquire the necessary practical skills, but this can be done in significantly less time than with the full in person training course.