

IWMI Nepal Conducts Field Visits to Explore GESI Impact of SIPs

IWMI Nepal researchers conducted a 6-day field trip to explore the GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) impact of SIP models from November 12-17, 2021. These models are implemented by [AEPC](#) (Alternative Energy Promotion Centre), [ICIMOD](#) (International Center for Integrated Mountain Development) and IWMI-ACIAR-iDE (International Water Management Institute, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, iDE) in Saptari district in Eastern Nepal. The first phase of qualitative data collection in the Saptari district was completed in October 2021 but needed an in-depth nuanced probing and understanding of gender and social inequalities in access, adoption, use and benefits from SIP.

To fill the data gaps, IWMI researchers planned a quick second round of fieldwork focused on investigating the SIP impact on unequal gender relations and smallholders. A total of 28 interviews were conducted targeting 14 males and 14 female farmers. A representative sample in terms of caste, age and religion was selected using snowball and purposive sampling and covered SIP and non-SIP farmers, including sharecropper farmers who are using SIP water from the SIP recipients. The researchers also visited Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC), Rajbiraj. They conducted conversational interaction with AKC head, officer-level staff, and farmers about existing irrigation programs, distribution modality, challenges, and opportunities. Gitta Shrestha, National Researcher, and Labisha Uprety, Senior Research Officer, conducted the fieldwork.

Photos from the field:



*A male and a female farmer irrigating a field using an electric pump
Photo: Gitta Shrestha/IWMI*



*IWMI researchers with a female farmer
Photo: Gitta Shrestha/IWMI*



*IWMI researchers at Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Rajbiraj Saptari with AKC head, officers and farmers
Photo: Gitta Shrestha/IWMI*