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TH3.1: Women empowerment among ethnic minority communities in Northern Vietnam: Lessons from a seed system for nutrition intervention

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CGIAR GENDER Science Exchange, Nairobi, 12-14 October 2022

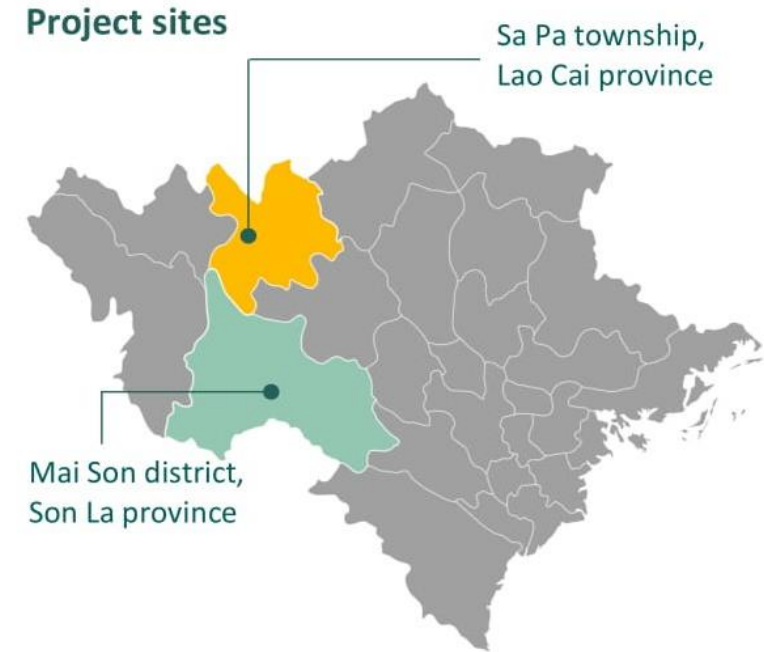
Introduction

- Vegetables are important for nutrition and income in Northern Vietnam
- Important source of off-season vegetables for lowland areas and big cities like Hanoi
- For communities with poor market access, vegetable consumption is linked to production
 - Implications on diet quality of farming households
- Potential of vegetable production is affected by limited access to:
 - Seed, inputs, infrastructure, knowledge and inadequate value chain linkages



Introduction

- A Netherlands-CGIAR partnership: Explored how increased access and use of high-quality seed can enhance smallholder **nutrition and income** security
- **3 minority ethnic groups**: H'mong, Thai and Dao
- RCT assessing impact pathways from seeds to nutrition of vegetables:
 1. Nutrition, seed & vegetable production training (randomized at village level)
 2. Vegetable seed provision (randomized household level)
- **Reach women** with knowledge & skills: seed & vegetable production and access, and nutrition
- **Benefit women** by improving their **dietary diversity**
- **WEAI-Nutrition learning grant** to explore women empowerment



Methodology

Pro-WEAI

1. Quantitative household survey
 - Pro-WEAI questions part of RCT endline
 - Men and women from treated and control groups
 - Total sample: 611 women; 572 men
2. Qualitative survey
 - Community profile key informant interviews (14)
 - Project implementers key informant interviews (7)
 - FGDs on local understanding of empowerment (28)



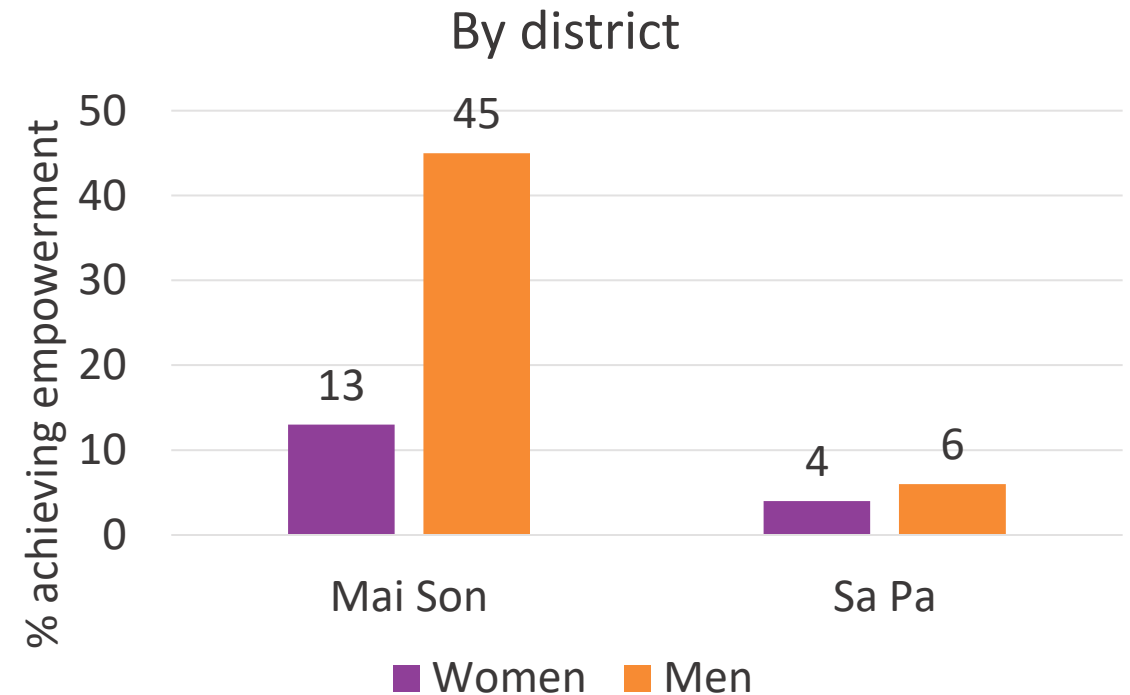
Methodology: Study sample

District	Mai Son		Sa Pa	
Commune	Co Noi	Chieng Chan	Sa Pa	Ngu Chi Son
Ethnic group	H'mong (1) Thai (2)	H'mong (3) Thai (4)	H'mong (5)	H'mong (7) Dao (6)
Villages	3 (H'mong) 10 (Thai)	4 (H'mong) 4 (Thai)	6	4 (H'mong) 5 (Dao)
Market access	Near	Far	Near	Moderate (Dao) Far (H'mong)

- 1-7: groups sampled for data collection

Results: By district

- Empowerment was higher in Mai Son & among men
- Gender parity among women:
 - Mai Son 39%
 - Sa Pa 53%



Results: By ethnic group

- Empowerment highest among Thai men in Mai Son (48%); Hmong men in Sa Pa (36%)
- Gender parity among women
 - Dao in Sa Pa 69%
 - Hmong in Mai Son 32%

District	Mai Son				Sa Pa			
Ethnic group	Hmong		Thai		Hmong		Dao	
Gender	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
N	102	91	206	201	231	210	72	70
% achieving empowerment	4	36	18	48	3	6	6	6
Mean disempowerment score (1 – 3DE)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Gender Parity Index	0.8		0.9		0.8		0.8	
% achieving gender parity	32		42		48		69	
Pro-WEAI score	0.6		0.7		0.5		0.6	

- Main drivers of disempowerment:
 - Control over use of income
 - Visiting important locations
 - Work balance
 - Group membership
 - Self efficacy



Results: Qualitative

Driver	Implication
<p>Control over use of income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men key decision makers • Women can manage certain amounts of income (e.g., \$10-300) • If woman's income source is known, positive perception of her high income • Buying food differs with ethnic group: In Mai Son - Thai women, H'mong men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts farmer group/ cooperative engagement as income is earned, • Impacts income allocation and food purchase • Target both men and women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm business skills • Financial skills • Nutrition education
<p>Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions mainly related to language, driving skills & distance • Requiring permission from husbands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts access to quality and diverse seeds, markets, information • Intervene through groups & cooperatives • Ensure adequate information/ invitations to husband and wife

Results: Qualitative

Driver	Implication
Work balance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women's workload related to existing gender norms and stereotypes• Both men and women negatively views "husbands helping with housework"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts participation and adoption of practices• Take care not to further to increase women's workload• Focus on innovations that help reduce workload

Conclusion

- Empowerment likely more related to location and ethnic group than the intervention
- Better understanding of project experiences, findings and impact
- Even more valuable if Pro-WEAI had been applied in baseline or initial data collection
- Impact of seed system and nutrition interventions can be strengthened by innovations that:
 - Are labor-sensitive
 - Accessible
 - Address the location/ethnic specific barriers



Acknowledgements

- **Co-authors:** Nguyen Thi Thuy Lan, Hoang The Ky, Berber Kramer, Marrit van den Berg, Ngo Thi Hanh, TjeerdJan Stomph, Kees Swaans
- **Local support:** Leaders, Women Union, Extension, Respondents

- **Partners:**



- **Funders:**



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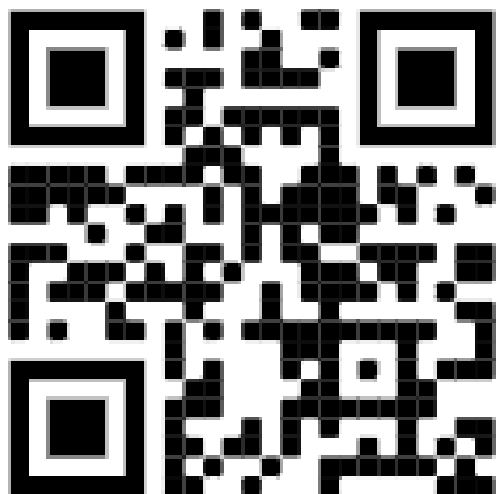
Thank you!

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Video: Seed of change – Journey with ethnic minority communities in Northwest Vietnam