

International Year of Family Farming

Topic: State of Family Farming in South Asia

Duration: 11 minutes

Language of production: Nepali

Subject: Role of community radio in promoting family farming in South Asia

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Brief description: This radio program is about community radio and family farming in South Asia presented through the story of the story of farmer Man Bahadur from a remote village of Nepal.

1. Presenter:

Hello and welcome to the program. On today's episode we are going to talk about the situation of family farming in our region. Family Farming is about small scale farming managed and operated by a family. Family farming is based on the labor of men and women of a family. It is usually carried out without modern tools and techniques of agriculture. However, you will be surprised to know that 70% of the world's food production is provided by family farmers. This is more true in our part of the world.

2. SFX:

Mountain music in flute mixed with early morning sounds in a village

3. Presenter:

Its early morning in the this far western district of Jumla in Nepal. Seventy year old farmer Man Bahadur Shahi is leaving for his fields. With his tiffin and tools, he carries his little transistor radio so that he can listen to the 'Krishi karyakram.' 'Krishi karyakram' is a special program by the local community broadcaster, Radio Jumla. For the people of Manma village, an isolated and remote village in Jumla, the community radio is the only to keep in touch with the rest of the country and the world.

4. Audio 1:

Fade in to sound of 'Krishi karyakram' by Radio Jumla

5. Presenter:

Man Bahadur tills his ancestral land, handed down generation after generation. The way farming is done in this remote village hasn't changed much. However, some positive changes have occurred in the last 3 years since Radio Jumla was started to broadcast. Manma does not receive television broadcast. Most of its youngsters have left the village in search of work in faraway lands. Elders like Man Bahadur, that are left in the village are not literate. Radio Jumla is the only source of information. And the Krishi Karyakram, which translates as the Farmer's Program delivers important information to Man Bahadur and the rest of the small family farmers of Jumla important information required for their farming. They depend on the radio to tell them when seeds and manure is

available, to tell them about the time to weed, or to call meetings of the farming community to discuss community issues. The radio also talks about use of chemicals in the fields and the harm it does, about efficient farming methods, and pesticide free farming.

6. Audio:

Fade in to sound of 'Krishi karyakram' by Radio Jumla and interview of Man Bahadur about his life as a farmer and why the radio is important for him.

7. Presenter:

South Asia is the most populated region in the entire continent of Asia. It is a continent where half of the world's population lives. Most people in this part of the world live on subsistence farming. Most of these farmers live in remote villages and communities and semi urban areas. In order to understand the situation of family farming in South Asia, we met Gerard Sylvester. Gerard is the Knowledge and Information Management Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We asked him about Family Farming in South Asia and the main challenges faced by the family farmers.

8. Interview:

Interview with Gerard Sylvester, Knowledge and Information Management Officer (FAORAP) on the general situation about Family Farming in South Asia specifically and in Asia Pacific generally.

9. Presenter:

While the small family farmers are responsible for feeding everyone, they suffer from lack of access to information about modern farming and markets. The current number of community and local radios is far from being sufficient in addressing needs of the farmers at the community level. There are just about 400 community radios in South Asia which barely covers a small section of the population. Most family farmers do not have access of sources of information to help them improve their farming or top access markets of sustenance. The information and communication gap is huge and its impact on the local and national economy is bigger. We spoke to Min Bahadur Shahi, a community radio advocate and communication policy expert. We asked him why there were so few community and local radios in the region and if the situation could be improved.

10. Interview:

Min Bahadur Shahi, Deputy President of AMARC Asia Pacific

11. SFX:

South Indian music mixed with women and men speaking in the background at a radio station.

12. Presenter:

Let me take you to another small village in South Asia. This time it is in South of India where the Sangham Radio is the located. It calls itself the first community radio in India supporting rural family farming. Sangham radio has relentlessly reflected the concerns of the small farmers. It is particularly the voice of women. Deccan Development Society (DDS), a civil society organisation which started Sangham Radio has been working with small and marginal women farmers from the excluded sections of the society. The Sangham Radio was an effort of the DDS to provide a media platform for these women.

Women of DDS have been farming for generations. They have tended their tiny farm lands to produce a wealth of food crops. The objective of Sangham Radio is to celebrate agriculture and the deep ecological knowledge embedded in those communities. Lets listen to one of eh active members of Sangham radio about how the radio is connected to the lives of the farmers and especially the womenfolk in the village:

13. Presenter:

The Sangham Radio story is truly inspiring. Now lets listen once again to Gerard from FAO about why communication is important for family farming and what the main topics that local radios can address to enhance family farming.

14. Interview:

Gerard Sylvester, Knowledge and Information Management Officer (FAORAP).

15. Presenter:

Where knowledge flows, food grows. And knowledge flows when there is communication. Nothing epitomizes this better than community radios working with family farmers in small hamlets and villages.

More and more community radio stations are needed to serve family farmers and rural communities.

16. Closing music mixed with the following announcement:

This is an initiative of FAO and AMARC on the occasion of the International Year of Family Farming 2014.