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## Bridging the Gender Digital Gap in Nepal

Snapshot

Project Period: May 2021 – August 2022

Target Beneficiaries: 1 Million smallholder women farmers

Budget: \$500,000

Digital Technology Partner: Pathways Technologies

Location: 30 Project Districts of Heifer

Project Goal: To enable one million Nepalese rural smallholder women farmers/ agriculture-based micro entrepreneurs to have a better access to and use of digital technology for enhancing their agricultural practices.

### Project Background

Majority of Nepalese farmers are women. Due to increasing outmigration of young men the feminization of agriculture is further increasing. However, women perceived as 'weak actors' in decision making are excluded while making key decisions related to their farming practice and from much of its benefits due to systemic barriers that arise from socio-cultural perceptions rooted in male-dominant gender biases. Women are further marginalized in digital connectivity that could provide them information on improved agriculture practices, access to market and access to financial services required for expanding their enterprise. Most common constraints in accessing and using digital technology reported by women are social/cultural restrictions, illiteracy (including mobile apps not being in local language) and lack of training to use the technology, lack of internet connection, and lack of finance to pay for service.

'Bridging the Gender Digital Gap in Nepal' project, funded by USAID's Center for Digital Development in partnership with DAI, is designed by HPIN to bridge smallholder women farmers' and agriculture entrepreneurs' digital gap and strengthen their economic empowerment. For this purpose, HPIN in partnership with Pathway Technologies will establish 600+ community-based digital hubs called 'e-Chautari' and will utilize an online agriculture and livestock data-based platform called 'GeoKrishi'. One million smallholder women farmers/agriculture-based micro entrepreneurs are expected to benefit from this project.



### Project Components:

Agriculture and Livestock based mobile applications (GeoKrishi Farm, GeoKrishi Enterprise, GeoKrishi Extension, Samuhik Bazar) will be developed and/or enhanced.

Best practices of livestock farming (Goat, Dairy, Poultry, Piggery) will be digitized for GeoKrishi App.

17 Digital Agriculture Officers will be trained in the concept of e-Chautari and GeoKrishi App.

About 1000 Digital Agriculture Facilitators will be trained who will organize around 6000 events to train smallholder women farmers on services of e-Chautari and GeoKrishi App.

More than 600 e-Chautaris will be established at ward level and cooperative level in 99 municipalities by leveraging resources from the local government.

GeoKrishi Help Desk and Call Center will be established to provide interactive support to the farmers on issues of their farm and digital technology use.

### Expected Outcome:

Smallholder rural women farmers will improve their income by increasing their farm production, productivity, and access to market using e-Chautari and GeoKrishi.

Smallholder rural women farmers will improve their say in household and farm-based decision making due to better access to information.

A sustainable business model on agriculture based digital technology partnered by Pathway Technology and Local Government/ Cooperative will be developed

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