



Raising awareness on inclusion of persons with disabilities in agricultural and agribusiness trainings

(1) Familiarising with inclusion and disabilities

- Familiarise with the definition of inclusion and disability, including with facts and figures, and different types of disabilities.
- Understand that everyone has the same rights. Special laws and conventions protect the rights of People with Disabilities (PwD) and promote their inclusion.
- Familiarise with the various barriers for inclusion faced by PwD (institutional, attitudinal, environmental, and cultural) and consider how these barriers could be removed.
- Understand the reciprocal link between poverty and disability, and the challenges of PwD in rural areas.

(2) Addressing inclusion and disability during groundwork

During groundwork for agricultural and agribusiness trainings, such as the preparation phase or discussions in rural communities:

- Create an understanding of inclusion and disability, building on the definition as well as numbers and different types of disabilities.

- Discuss the topics of disability and (barriers for) inclusion in rural areas. Consider making the link between poverty and disability.
- Emphasise that the inclusion of PwD also bring along opportunities, e.g., enriching the diversity of opinions and ideas, or contributing new talents.
- Inform that, in general, the agricultural / agribusiness training is open to all participants that meet the general requirements, regardless of gender, age, or disability (i.e., women and men, young and old, persons with or without disabilities).
- See if and what barriers to the participation of people with disabilities can be removed.

(3) Opening minds – Create an open, unprejudiced training atmosphere

In the context of the opening / warming-up / introduction part of the training:

- Emphasise the importance of an open atmosphere for the needs of all participants.
- Agree on respect and equality for all participants as part of the basic rules of the training, including discussing and working together in a gender and inclusion sensitive way, and thematise prejudices in general.

- Encourage participants to mention any special need for support, e.g., during the mutual presentation or the exchange on motivations, aspirations, and expectations, or bilaterally to the trainer in a more confidential way.
- Jointly with participants explore whether determining an agent of inclusion who ensures that everyone is included during the sessions can be beneficial.

During the training:

- If feasible in the context of the curriculum, create an understanding of inclusion and disability, building on the definition as well as numbers and different types of disabilities.
- Discuss the topic of disability in rural areas. Consider making the link between poverty and disability.
- See if and what barriers to the participation of people with disabilities can be removed.

(4) Sharing experiences and success stories

During groundwork and/or implementation of agricultural and agribusiness trainings:

- Explore the possibility to let PwD share their experiences if they wish to do so.
- Avoid telling stories of dependency and failures, as these far too often shape the social image of disability and PwD.
- Instead, find positive examples of successful inclusion of PwD and share them during groundwork or the training.

Example: Persons with Disabilities Village and Savings group in Gbengbee, Upper West Region, Ghana GIZ AgriBiz project

The Persons with Disability Songzel Group at Eremon Gbengbee in the Lawra District of the Upper West Region, was formed early 2019 to bring together all PwDs in the community in order to foster unity, advocate for their rights and promote their welfare. Members have different forms of disability and comprise 7 males and 47 females. The group is anchored on the belief that 'Disability is Not Inability'. The group members are into sorghum and groundnut production.

In July 2019, the group was enrolled into the EU co-funded Market Oriented Agriculture Programme in North-West Ghana, which is part of the GIZ-implemented Sustainable

Employment through Agribusiness (AgriBiz) Programme in Ghana. AgriBiz works towards improving the conditions for creating productive and sustainable employment in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the agribusiness sector, especially for young people and women.

In 2020, the PwD group benefitted from being able to host a community demonstration plot on Sorghum – the first of its kind in the community – while in 2021, an additional one-acre demonstration plot was established on groundnut which eventually turned into a business venture for the group. Since then, the group has established an acre of groundnut farm every year where proceeds are sold and used to run other activities of the group, including promoting the welfare of members.

In addition, the group was trained on the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology and divided into two groups: Songzel and Tietaa, as a VSLA requirement for easy management.

Through the group, members were able to access training on Good Agricultural Practises (GAP), as it was selected and trained as an Agriculture Radio Listenership Club. Moreover, they were able to secure a loan to buy a planter, which they use on their group farm.

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