

Electric Cooking Promotion and Women's Empowerment Experience of Practical Action in Nepal

**Practical
ACTION**



About Practical Action

- An international development organisation registered in UK
- Established in **1966** as **ITDG**, **2005** as **Practical Action**
- Globally **operates** in **11 countries**
- **In Nepal since 1979**
- We work in **four** thematic areas (Energy, Agriculture, Climate and Resilience, Urban WASH & Waste).



History

1979

Technology transfer and capacity building to promote micro-hydro in Nepal

1996

Technical support to the government to establish the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC)

2002

Research was done on the possibilities of Wind Energy in Nepal

2009

Started works on wind energy

2011

Initiated works on Wind-Solar Hybrid for energy supply

2015-2018

Introduced solar water lifting in rural communities of Nepal.

2016

Wind-Solar Hybrid was introduced in India.

1988

Introduced Bijuli Chulo, a low wattage electric cooker

2000

Started working on Mud Improved Cook Stoves (Mud ICS)

2002

Initiated works on Smokehood stoves (Tier 1 stoves)

2015

Initiated works with market actors and communities for increased use of Tier 2 stoves
**Discontinued in 2019*

2018

Initiated works with market actors and communities for increased use of Tier 3 stoves

2019

Initiated works with market actors and communities for increased use of Electric Cooktops

2021

Initiated works on digital innovations to promote electrical cooking appliances.

Electric Cooking Promotion by Practical Action in Nepal

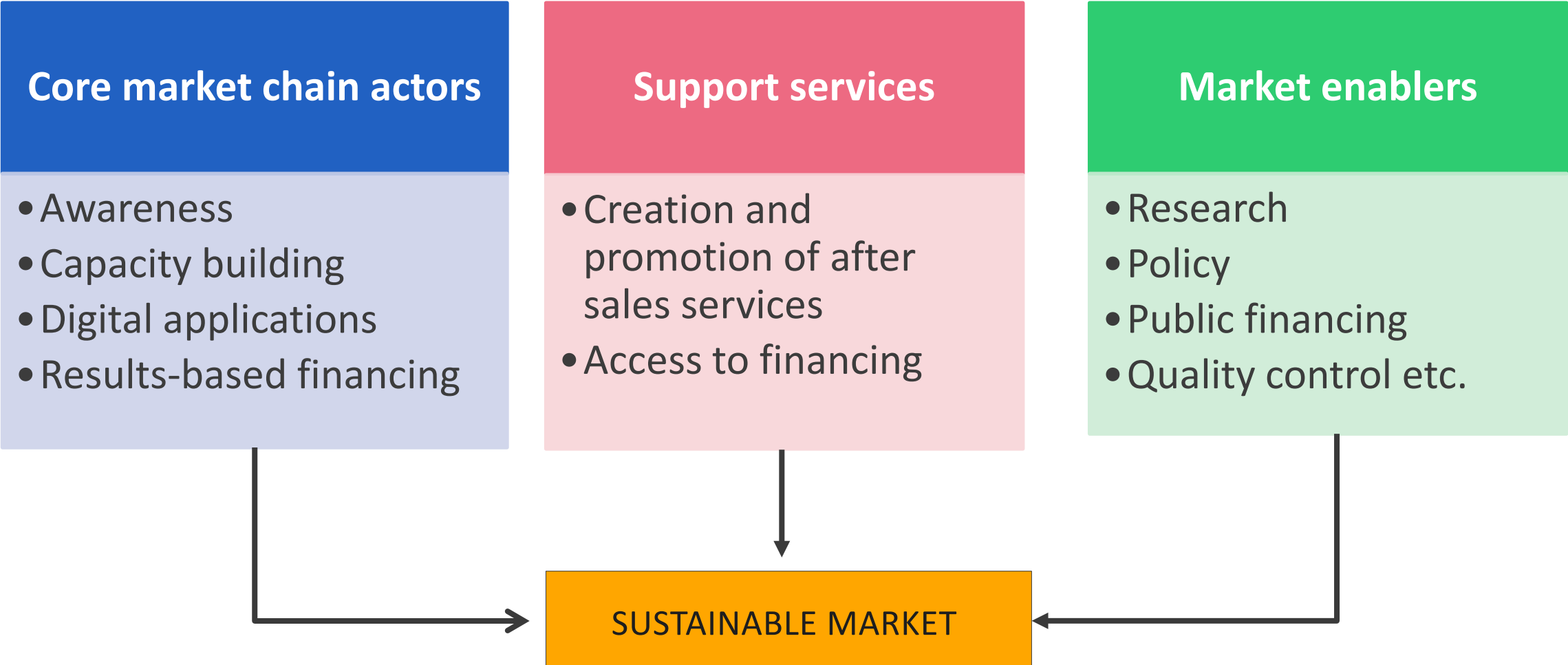
- Promoting eCooking since 2018
- Supported 17,000 households to adopt eCooking
- Target to benefit an additional 20,000 (total 37,000) HHs by June 2025
- Active in eCooking market system development, research and advocacy works. Women's empowerment is the cross-cutting theme
- Main donors: EnDev programme (financed by four donor countries: the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Sweden); RVO Netherlands, MECS.

Approach to Project
Implementation and

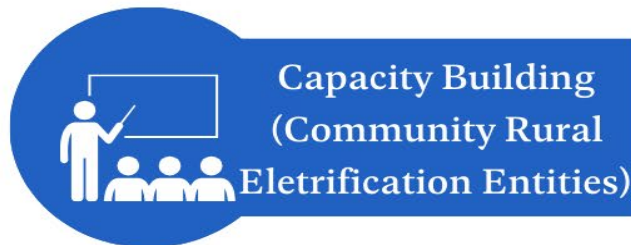
WOMEN'S

EMPOWERMENT

Our approach for sustainable market development of eCooking



Our Key Interventions



Why women's participation and empowerment?

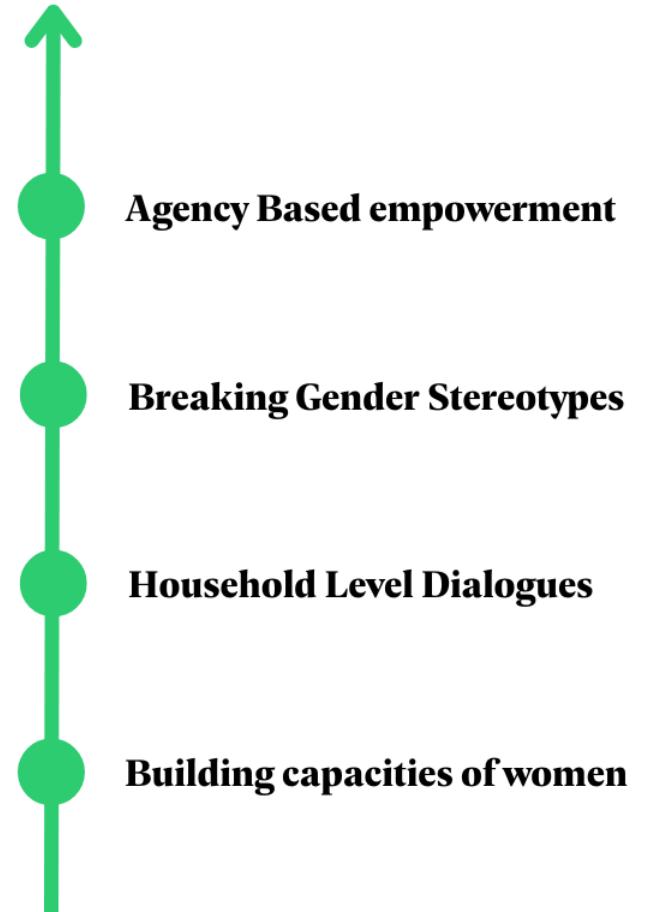
- Women have little influence on household decision making (despite them being most impacted by indoor air pollution and increased workload)
- Less involvement of women in roles such as marketing, repair and maintenance, etc.
- Increasing male migration in the context of Nepal



Gender transformative Approach

- **Agency based Empowerment Training** to Gender Champions and mobilisation to empower other community members
- **Breaking gender stereotypes** by promoting women cookstoves distributors, retailers, marketing agents and repair & maintenance
- **Household dialogues** involving men, family members and the larger community to improve household dynamics by encouraging joint decision-making and discouraging gender biases
- **Building capacities of women**

Gender Transformation



Success Story

- Sabina Shrestha
- Duipiple Kitchen Appliances Sales Centre in Lamjung
- Active since 2022
- Sold around 800 induction cooktops.



Challenges and Our Solutions

Challenges	Our Solutions
1.1 Limited mobility and safety concerns (need to move a lot to create enough demand as electricity infrastructures were designed to cater lighting need only – adoption rate is quite low)	Development and promotion of digital applications for marketing and cookstoves sales
1.2. Difficult to access finance due to lack of asset ownership and decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Agency-building training;-Training and mentoring support to access loan, do marketing and manage business-Coordination with BFIs

Challenges and Mitigation Measures Taken

Challenges	Our Solutions
1.3. Low risk bearing capacity so not interested to start business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provision of result-based incentives (RBF)- Provide business planning and management training and mentoring support- Engage in participatory market system development (PMSD) workshops
1.4. Lack of technical skills and training	Provide targeted technical training

Challenges and Mitigation Measures Taken

Challenges	Our Solutions
2.1. It is a low priority for men who are the main decisionmakers of the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure participation of both men and women in different awareness creation campaigns
2.2 Low capacity and willingness to pay of woman headed and disadvantaged families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provision of additional incentives for house wiring
2.3 No timely repair and maintenance services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishment of a repair centre among 500 user households.- Priority to women technician
2.4 Unreliability of electricity supply and voltage fluctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Advocating for increased investment- Capacity building of CREEs

Practical **ACTION**

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Thank
YOU