

Facilitating earthquake-affected rural women communities toward sustainable livelihoods and agriculture

Abstract:

Women open school participatory learning approach was used to build up the capacity of 1055 rural women of selected earthquake-affected areas of Balakot, district Mansehra, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province of Pakistan in kitchen gardening and off-season vegetable cultivation, integrated pest management, pesticide risk reduction, poultry and livestock management, health and hygiene, and income-generating approaches. Community-based collective learning was found to be effective for changing rural women's perception about pesticides, role in agriculture, home, and contribution to household income as well as in decision making. It also improved knowledge, awareness, confidence, self-awareness, agricultural practices, social interactions, and enhanced motivation for revival of livelihood.