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# Process Evaluation of Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Project (OPELIP)

Project Team

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# Overview of presentation

- Overview of process evaluations and methods
- Results
  - Nutrition education
  - Home gardens
  - Overall program management and challenges
- Recommendations
  - Second half of OPELIP
  - Future programs

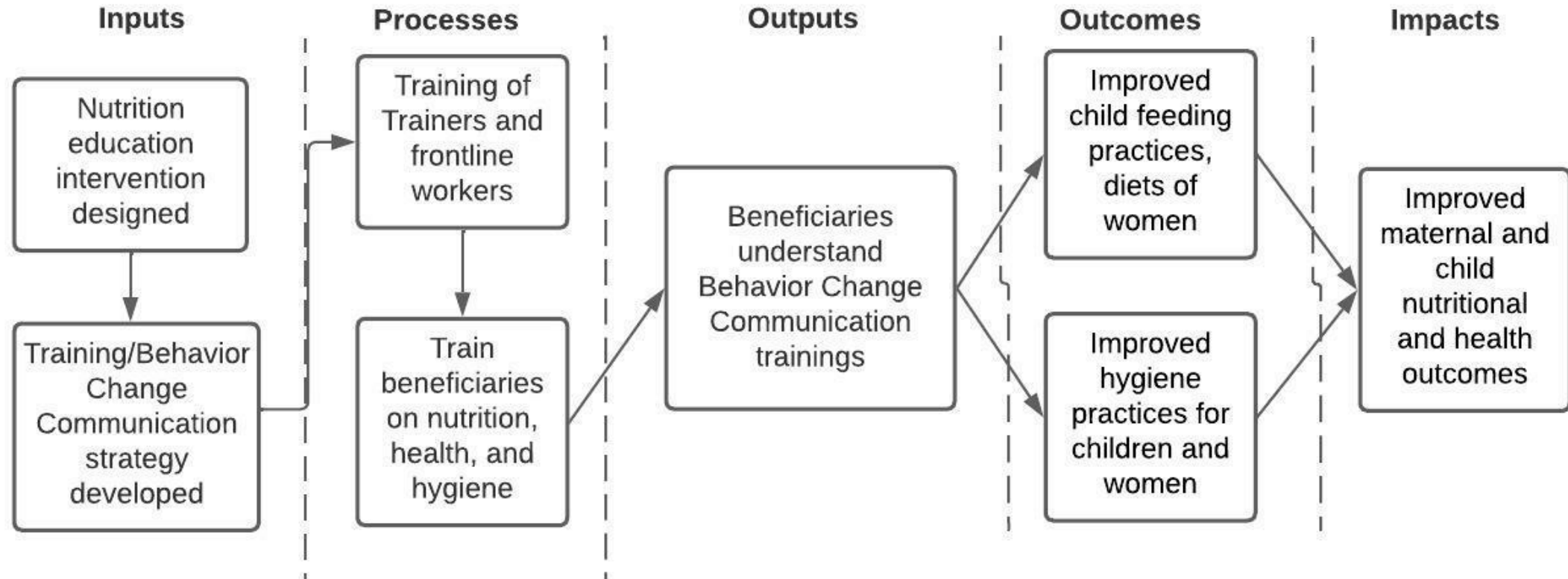


# Overview of process evaluations and methods

- Focuses on the program's operations and processes
- Dives into WHY and HOW the program was implemented
- Complements and provides insight into the impact assessment
- Results can be used to improve the second half of OPELIP and future programs
- Methods
  - Qualitative: focus group discussions, interviews, process net-mapping exercises
  - Quantitative: HH survey, knowledge-based questions with frontline workers
  - Document review



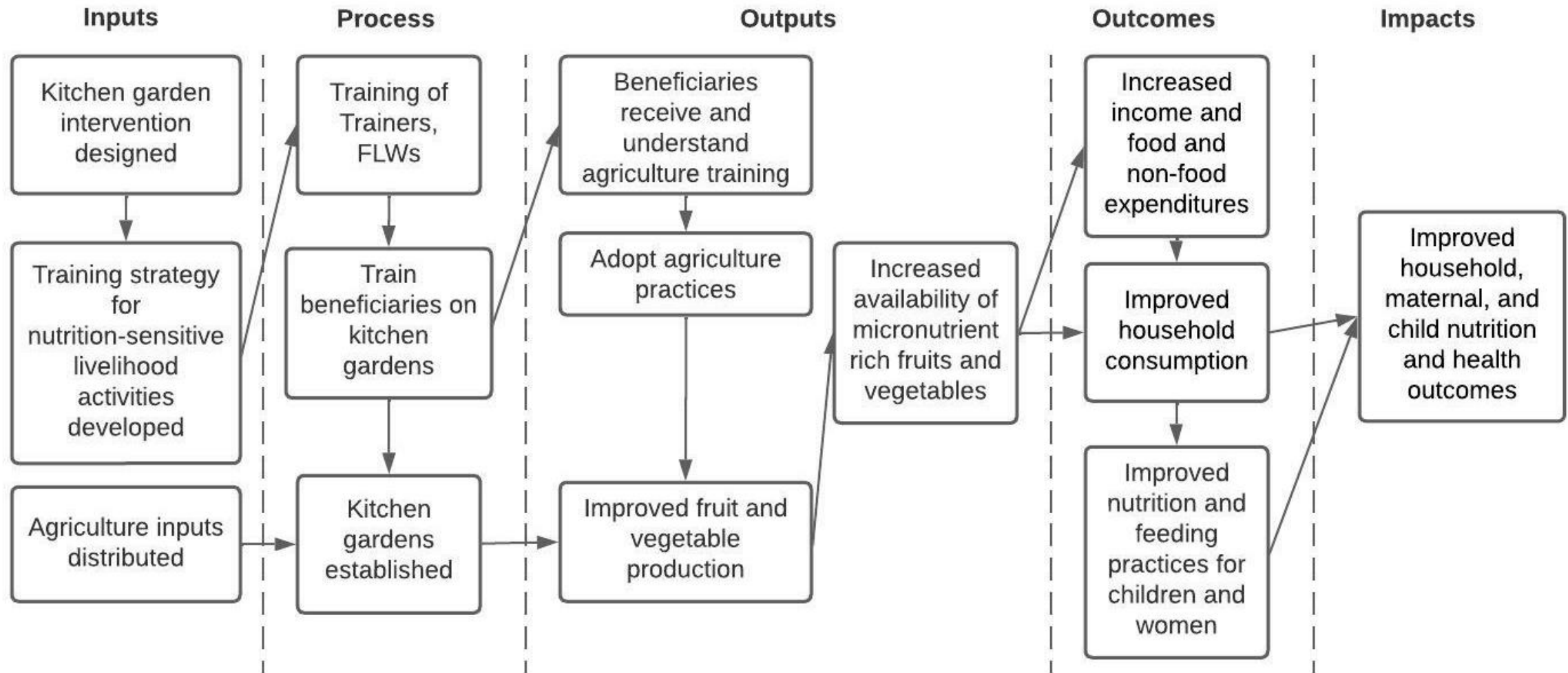
# Nutrition education: Program impact pathway



# Results: Nutrition Education

- Unclear design, especially regarding training and content
- PMU was unable to hire an agency for training using Learning By Conversation
- It was not implemented as its own separate intervention
- It morphed into a new intervention (daycare and meals for young children)
- Just 7 Nutrition Resource Centers were built and only 2 are operational
- Positive outcomes and impacts reported from the new intervention:
  - “We found positive changes in their food consumption habit and physical growth.”  
– A frontline worker.
  - “If you see, we are maintaining hygiene, cleaning our hands whenever is required.” – A beneficiary

# Home gardens: Program impact pathway



# Results: Home gardens

- Not implemented as an entry point activity
- All promised inputs were not delivered to beneficiaries
  - Design planned for 10 different vegetables/season, but it provided just 4-5 types of vegetable seed per beneficiary
  - Fencing and irrigation are needed
- Intervention adapted to include fruit trees, natural fertilizer, and some nutrition education
- Some frontline workers received only a few hours of training and/or just classroom-based
- No model home gardens



# Results: Home gardens (cont.)

- Outputs
  - Videos (when used) helped beneficiary's retention of information
  - Beneficiaries reported increasing their knowledge:
    - “We have learned new methods of cultivation, improved the knowledge on vegetable cultivation, the practice of fertilizer application and modern technology to grow and consume vegetables from home gardens.” – A beneficiary.
- Outcomes
  - Vegetable consumption among beneficiaries reportedly increased
    - “Due to home garden program, they are getting sufficient vegetables for home consumption, which was difficult because they are poor. Even they were not able to buy vegetables whenever they wanted. Now they are able to eat vegetables whenever they want.” – A frontline worker.
  - Some households sold surplus vegetables



# Results: Home gardens (cont.)

- Impacts
  - Positive impacts on health and nutrition reported
    - “Before this program, pregnant women were eating only rice and salt. Due to this intervention, children and pregnant women are now getting leafy vegetables and other vegetables, which are very good for their health.” - A beneficiary.
- Challenges with implementation:
  - Lack of available and suitable land in some areas
  - Animals destroyed home gardens
    - “(There is a) lack of fencing to protect gardens from stray animals because there is no practice of keeping animals like cattle and goats in sheds in our village. Provision of wire fencing is important to protect the garden from cattle and goats ... permanent fencing should be there because there is budget for fencing for a year.” – A beneficiary.
  - Irrigation is needed
  - Self-help groups do not want to establish model plots

# Results: Overall program management challenges

- No documentation for some interventions according to a PMU official... a bigger issue?
  - *We are not able to give special attention to monitoring – it is not happening. The main reason is that OPELIP is a program which has everything. This has been very problematic. There is no such item or activity which is not in this program.... It is a good project as per design, but adding so many activities within the framework of one project cannot be done. It is a very difficult thing and it is neglected on our part. According to IFAD, our major focus is nutrition, but we are not able to give so much attention to it. – A PMU-level official*
  - Complex program with lots of interventions
- Challenging area to implement interventions
- Modifications along the way based on feedback is working for some interventions



# Key recommendations for second half of OPELIP

- Improve training of frontline workers and beneficiaries
- Rely more heavily on self-help groups to implement interventions and get buy-in from Mission Shakti
- Nutrition education:
  - Implement it as its own intervention and with complementary interventions
  - Ensure funding for training and operational costs
  - Address sustainability of Nutrition Resource Centers
- Home gardens:
  - Establish model home gardens in each village
  - Provide all promised inputs (especially fencing & irrigation)



# Key recommendations for future programs

- Provide detailed design and implementation plans
- Re-align the program's fiscal year and documentation requirements with the Gov. of India
- Check-in about the implementation of specific interventions
- Restructure targets to include harder-to-reach areas
- Have fewer interventions
- Promote the implementation of interventions together that are complementary
- Require a foundational set of interventions with additional optional interventions





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# Thank you! Questions? Comments?

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# Products from this process evaluation

- Process evaluation report
- Academic articles
  - Home garden intervention: providing a source of income and vegetables
  - Nutrition education: hurdles early on led to adaptations in the intervention
- Impact story on home gardens
- Blogs
  - Local alternatives to chemical fertilizers (*Jeevamruta* and vermicast)
  - Importance of conducting a process evaluation together with an impact evaluation
  - Process net mapping exercise on the home garden intervention



# Methods

- Qualitative:
  - 11 focus group discussions with beneficiaries, 4 with frontline workers, and 1 with PMU
  - 118 semi-structured interviews with frontline workers, 23 with MPA-level staff, 3 with PMU
  - 2 process net-mapping exercises with PMU
- Quantitative
  - 962 beneficiary households in villages where OPELIP interventions were implemented about participation in various interventions
  - Knowledge-based questions with 60 nutrition education frontline workers
- Document review
  - Internal and external documents on OPELIP



# Results: Nutrition-sensitive interventions

Intervention	Household participation in interventions in treatment villages based on household survey (N = 962)	PVTG household participation in interventions in treatment villages (N = 408)	OPELIP target according to Design Report (and % of all 62,356 beneficiary households)
Nutrition education	30 (3.2%)	25 (6.1%)	31,000 households (49.7%)
Home gardens	147 (15.3%)	98 (24.0%)	32,000 households (51.3%)
Poultry rearing	164 (17.0%)	96 (23.5%)	5,000 households (8.0%)
Goat rearing	32 (3.3%)	23 (5.6%)	4,000 households (6.4%)
Growing spice and/or fruit crops on podu land	368 (38.9%)	209 (51.2%)	6,250 households for spice (10.0%) and 12,000 households for fruit (19.2%)
Land development	27 (2.8%)	15 (3.7%)	43,500 households (69.8%)
Land title	11 (1.2%)	8 (2.0%)	27,308 PVTG households (43.8%)
Processing units to mill grain	23 (2.4%)	16 (3.9%)	250 processing units (N/A)



# Results: Slow rollout of most “entry point” activities

- Successful early formation of local governing institutions
- Slow implementation of other entry point activities

