

Strategy for Addressing Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and HIV in Agriculture: A Comprehensive Approach by Farmer's Pride International (FPI)

Introduction

Agriculture is a key pillar of the economy, especially in rural areas, where livelihoods are primarily based on farming. However, various socio-cultural challenges, including **gender-based violence (GBV)**, **limited access to sexual and reproductive health services**, and the **impact of HIV/AIDS**, have detrimental effects on agricultural productivity. Gender inequality in agricultural communities, alongside health-related issues, has been identified as a significant barrier to economic growth and sustainable agricultural development. Women, in particular, face multiple obstacles in accessing resources, decision-making power, and healthcare, which limits their ability to contribute effectively to agriculture.

Farmer's Pride International (FPI) recognizes the urgency of addressing these issues in order to unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector. By providing targeted interventions, FPI aims to promote gender equity, enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights, and address the HIV crisis in agricultural communities. This strategy outlines how FPI will collaborate with local, national, and international partners to implement a multifaceted approach that will ensure improved health outcomes, empowerment, and increased agricultural productivity.

Vision

FPI envisions an agricultural sector where all individuals, regardless of gender, have equitable access to resources, opportunities, and healthcare services. By reducing the impact of gender-based violence, improving sexual and reproductive health, and combating the HIV epidemic, we will create a more resilient and productive agricultural workforce, ultimately contributing to food security, economic growth, and social equity.

SMART Goals

1. Specific:

- Roll out training modules for **5,000 agricultural extension workers** and **1,000 lead farmers** on **sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence (GBV)** prevention, and **HIV/AIDS awareness** by 2026.
- Establish **community outreach programs** to raise awareness on the importance of **gender equality** and **sexual health services** for farmers in rural areas, reaching at least **50,000 farmers** across **5 regions** in the next three years.

2. Measurable:

- Achieve a **20% increase** in awareness of **sexual and reproductive health** and **HIV prevention** within farming communities within the first two years of the initiative.
- Decrease the reported cases of **gender-based violence** in agricultural communities by **15%** by 2026 through community-based interventions and empowerment programs.

3. Achievable:

- Collaborate with **local health authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders** to leverage existing networks and resources.
 - Utilize FPI's established relationships with agricultural stakeholders to engage farmers and extension workers effectively.
4. **Relevant:**
- Addressing gender inequalities and health issues directly contributes to FPI's mission of promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
 - By improving the health and empowerment of farming communities, FPI will foster better agricultural productivity and strengthen local economies.
5. **Time-bound:**
- Launch the first round of training modules for **1,000 agricultural extension workers** and **300 lead farmers** by **end of 2025**, and complete nationwide outreach to **50,000 farmers** by **2026**.

Objectives

1. **Promote Gender Equality in Agriculture**
 - Empower women and men in rural agricultural communities by providing education on gender equality and women's rights.
 - Encourage equitable access to land, resources, training, and decision-making in farming households.
2. **Enhance Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services**
 - Partner with local health services and organizations to ensure accessible reproductive health services, family planning resources, and maternal care for rural farmers.
 - Educate farmers on the importance of reproductive health and family planning, ensuring both men and women understand and access these services.
3. **Combat HIV and AIDS in Agricultural Communities**
 - Raise awareness and provide education on HIV prevention, testing, and treatment.
 - Work with healthcare providers to create mobile health services that deliver HIV/AIDS care and awareness to remote farming communities.
4. **Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Agriculture**
 - Implement community education campaigns to prevent gender-based violence in farming households.
 - Establish safe spaces and support systems for survivors of GBV, particularly focusing on rural women.

Pathways

Pathway 1: Community-Based Outreach and Training

1. **Targeted Training Programs**
 - Develop and distribute comprehensive training materials on **sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention, and HIV awareness** for agricultural extension workers and lead farmers.
 - Train **1000 lead farmers** and **5000 agricultural extension workers** to become community advocates, capable of leading workshops and information dissemination at the grassroots level.

2. Collaborative Partnerships

- Partner with **NGOs, health organizations, and local governments** to conduct joint workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns.
- Engage **local influencers and community leaders** to foster trust and credibility in the training process.

Pathway 2: Health and Wellness Integration

1. Access to Healthcare Services

- Collaborate with **local clinics and healthcare providers** to ensure that mobile health services can reach remote agricultural communities, offering sexual and reproductive health services, family planning options, and HIV/AIDS testing.
- Establish **health fairs and mobile clinics** to improve access to healthcare for farmers, especially for women and children.

2. Healthcare Awareness Campaigns

- Launch awareness campaigns that focus on **HIV prevention**, the importance of **safe sexual practices**, and **early detection of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)**, leveraging agricultural events and gatherings as platforms for information dissemination.

Pathway 3: Economic Empowerment through Gender Equality

1. Inclusive Economic Participation

- Ensure women have equal access to agricultural resources and training, providing them with the tools to increase their participation in decision-making at the household and community levels.
- Promote **gender-responsive budgeting** in agriculture to ensure women are financially supported and incentivized to participate fully in agricultural projects.

2. Support Programs for Victims of Gender-Based Violence

- Provide victims of GBV with access to legal aid, medical care, and psychological support services.
- Create **safe spaces** within agricultural communities to discuss and address issues of gender violence, working with local leaders to provide ongoing support.

Pathway 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Feedback Mechanism

1. Data Collection and Impact Assessment

- Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the programs and initiatives. This includes tracking progress against key performance indicators (KPIs) such as the number of individuals trained, awareness levels, and reduction in GBV.
- Conduct surveys and feedback sessions with **farmers, community leaders, and health professionals** to continuously improve the programs.

2. Sustainability and Scaling

- Ensure that successful interventions are scaled across different regions, adjusting for the specific needs of each locality.
- Engage with **donors, investors, and government agencies** to secure long-term funding and support for the sustainability of these initiatives.

Conclusion

Farmer's Pride International (FPI) recognizes that health and gender equality are central to achieving sustainable agricultural development. By implementing this strategy, FPI will provide critical support to farming communities, particularly women and vulnerable populations, to improve health outcomes, prevent gender-based violence, and increase agricultural productivity. Through targeted training, partnerships, and access to resources, FPI will ensure that agricultural communities not only thrive but do so in a socially equitable and health-conscious environment. This comprehensive approach will empower farmers to contribute to a more prosperous and resilient agricultural sector, ultimately improving food security and economic stability.