FORWARD Nepal

Annual Report 2022

2021/22 (2078/79)

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Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
(FORWARD Nepal)

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Vision

FORWARD Nepal aims for a society where all women and men at all levels, the economically poor, vulnerable, and marginalized have prosperous and dignified lives.

Mission

FORWARD Nepal reaches and empowers vulnerable and marginalized communities for their improved livelihoods through a value chain approach, technology generation and adoption, advocacy, and social transformation.

Objectives

FORWARD Nepal has the following objectives, and its programmes/projects contribute to meet these objectives.

- Enhanced food and nutrition security, and increased income of disadvantaged people.
- Improved technical and managerial capability and resilience of vulnerable communities in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk management.
- Developed and validated agricultural technologies and innovations using participatory research and development approaches.
- Developed physical infrastructure and strengthened local institutions.
- Advocating and conducting capacity-building programmes to ensure the rights of people with different abilities, elders, indigenous/ethnic groups, Dalits, women, and children.

Foreword

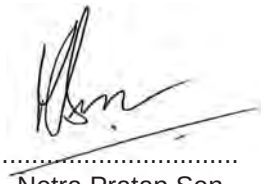
We are pleased to share FORWARD Nepal's Annual Report 2022. This Annual Report 2021-22 highlights the organization's efforts in building local capacities and resilience of rural communities to offset global threats like Climate Change, disasters, and the COVID pandemic. This year too, we were engaged in distribution of Food & Ration, and Hygiene kits support to 4,470 pregnant and lactating women and poor households, Supplementary food support to 1,400 malnourished children, and Vegetable Seeds to 3,164 COVID-19 affected–families. These supports were provided to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 at the household level in Rajgadh Rural Municipality, Saptari, and Paroha Municipality of Rautahat districts under the Nutrition Smart Village Project Phase II with financial support from WHH/BMZ. We also supported some sanitary, health materials, and equipment to the local health institutions (health posts in the above Municipalities.

During this reporting year "Piloting Climate Services for Agriculture and Tourism sectors in Chitwan, "Vegetable production demonstration in Nawalparasi and Nawalpur", "Urban DRR project in Bharatpur Metropolitan City" and "COVID-19 Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP) in Rautahat" were phased out. Nutrition Smart Village project Phase II in Saptari and Rautahat is continuing. Other newly initiated projects are; a Midterm Evaluation Study: "Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal II (SLVC II)" for Heifer Nepal; "Research Collaboration on Gender, Social Reproduction and Agricultural Innovations for a PhD scholar, Dawn Cheong from WUR", and "Training in Agricultural Value Chain project with supports from Sana Kishan Bikash Bittiya Sanstha Limited (SKBBL)/Asian Development Bank (ADB). Further details of these projects are highlighted in the subsequent sections of this report. There was a total of 66 regular staff, 13 professional consultants and 13 paid volunteers employed for the implementation of project activities undertaken by the organizations in various districts.

FORWARD Nepal is honored to receive appreciation certificates from the Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan, Rajgadh Rural Municipality, Saptari, and Paroha Municipality of Rautahat district. We thank Mayors and Municipalities for recognizing our work and are very grateful to the people and communities of the above Municipalities for all their love and support.

We would like to thank all the community people/members who have allowed us to work with them, and express gratitude to our donors, partners, board members, advisors, members, and staff for their constant and unwavering support.

Thank You !



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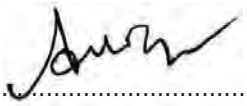
Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director



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Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota
Chairperson, FORWARD Nepal

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AKC	Agriculture Knowledge Center
BFI	Business and Financial Institutions
BMC	Bharatpur Municipality
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, Germany
CDRMP	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme
CFA	Cash for Assets
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CS	Climate Services
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTW	Deep Tube Well
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FFS	Farmers Field School
FOAB	Farmer owned Agriculture Business
FORWARD Nepal	Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GOs	Government Organization
GoN	Government of Nepal
Ha	Hectare
HHs	Households
I/NGOs	International/Non-governmental Organizations
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
IME	International Money Exchange
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRDN	Inclusive Rural Development Project in Nawalparasi
JOA	Jersey Overseas Aid
KECC	Korea Engineering Consultants Corporation
Kg	Kilogram
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LERP	Local Emergency Response Plan
LGs	Local groups
LRPs	Local Resource Person
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPC	Market Planning Committee
MSD	Market System Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Mt	Metric Ton
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NERP	Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Programme
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
NSV	Nutrition Smart Village
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PhD	Doctorate of Philosophy
PMEP	Prime Minister's Employment Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFACL	Small farmer's agricultural cooperatives Ltd
SIFS	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
SKBBL	Sana Kisan Bikas Bittiya Sanstha Ltd
SLVC	Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain
SMS	Short Message Service
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TLOs	Tole Lead Organizations
ToT	Training of Trainers
TWG	Technical working group
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VBHCD	Value Based Holistic Community Development
VCA	Vulnerability Capacity Assessment
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

Introduction to FORWARD Nepal

FORWARD Nepal is a non-profit making, service-oriented non-governmental organization established in 1997 in Chitwan, Nepal. The organization has its head office in Bharatpur, Chitwan, and a Liaison Office at Pulchowk, Lalitpur, and project offices in various working districts in Nepal. FORWARD Nepal is committed to contribute to the socioeconomic development of disadvantaged groups and rural/urban poor through integrated and sustainable development interventions. The organization provides a forum for researchers, development professionals, rural artisans, private sectors, academia, grass root level organizations, and funding agencies committed to changing the quality of lives of underprivileged people in Nepal. The organization emphasizes collaboration and partnership with government organizations (GOs), international/non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs), research institutions, academia, private sector, public media, and community-based organizations for greater impacts of its programmes, resource generation/ sharing, and sharing of work experience and learning. The organization has MOU with several institutions like GOs, universities, NGOs, /private sectors, at national, regional and international levels for project collaboration and partnership. Over the past 26 years, FORWARD Nepal has implemented 112 projects in 62 districts involving 0.586 million direct beneficiaries.

FORWARD Nepal has contributed to the promotion of several innovative technologies to increase agricultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged communities, including rural farmers. One of the major achievements of FORWARD is the facilitation for the establishment of a Private Seed Company “Global Agri-tech Private Limited” in Banke, which is running independently. In collaboration with national and international research institutions and farmer groups, FORWARD Nepal has released some crop varieties. It is a pioneer organization for the promotion of riverbed farming technology in Nepal. The organization has more than 22 years of experience in validating and disseminating riverbed farming technologies. It has considerable experience in the construction of productive infrastructures such as community resource centers, cooperative buildings, seed storage house, potato rustic stores, emergency shelter houses, improved livestock sheds, irrigation channels, access roads, rainwater harvesting ponds, fish ponds, school buildings, dam construction at the riverbanks, threshing floors and many others. FORWARD Nepal has contributed to the development and inclusion of climate change adaptation as a course/chapter in some of the school curriculums in Banke and Sunsari districts. Likewise, leasehold farming is practiced for the last 25 years for landless and ultra-poor communities and had positive results for their household income. The organization has also implemented several interventions on climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and has developed various training packages and conducted training on this at the district and community levels in different parts of the country. The organization has developed and implemented several interventions on the market system development (MSD) and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Programme Thematic Areas

FORWARD Nepal's programme development and implementation are multi-pronged, integrating key interventions both in horizontal and vertical dimensions to enhance sustainable livelihoods and ensure positive socio-economic impacts on the communities. The organization has five Program Thematic Areas with the following interventions.

1. **Food and Nutrition Security**
- Food crops and seed supply system
- High-value commodities
- Farm forestry and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)
- Productive infrastructure

2. **Business Promotion and Market Development**
- Enterprise development
- Value chain development
- Market promotion and networking

3. **Adaptive Research and Development**
- Participatory innovation, technology development, and verification.
- Development studies and technology dissemination

4. **Natural Resource Management**
- Biodiversity conservation, promotion, and optimum utilization
- Promotion of renewable energy
- Nutrient use efficiency and recycling

5. **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**
- Awareness raising and capacity building
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Disaster preparedness, emergency response, and recovery

6. **Cross-cutting themes**
- Gender and social inclusion
- Participatory planning, monitoring, and evaluation
- Rights-based approaches to development

Strategies/Approaches

FORWARD Nepal continues to be known as a respected, committed, and dynamic organization in alleviating poverty through these strategies/ Approaches:

- Devise a value chain approach for selected sub-sectors within agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and agro-forestry.
- Actively engage target communities in research, institutional strengthening, and development interventions to ensure the realization of their stakes and ownership.
- Utilize and promote local knowledge and skills in devising resource management solutions through participatory action research and development approach.
- Address gender and social inclusion issues by ensuring the participation of disadvantaged members of the community at every step of the development programmes.
- Facilitate employment opportunities through vocational training and income generation activities for targeted groups.
- Develop and institutionalize local resource persons, local resource centers, and community-based organizations for sustainable community development.
- Seek and promote collaboration with various stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, corporate, and funding agencies at local, national, and international levels as appropriate for institutional networking, sharing knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources.
- Promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) considering sustainable and judicious use of natural resources.

Overview of the FORWARD Nepal's work in the FY 2021-22

Major Achievements

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22, FORWARD Nepal implemented eight projects, employing 51 regular staff, 14 consultants, 13 paid volunteers, and an intern. Some consultants and research assistants/ enumerators also contributed to the projects, mainly on research activities, development of training manuals, and training as per the needs of the projects and the organization.

FORWARD Nepal has contributed to promote several technologies for increased agricultural productivity and maintain/enhance the quality in the agricultural production systems. Several projects had contributed to increase the resilience of communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters. Interventions regarding climate change and disaster risk management (DRM) include emergency shelter house cum market-sheds to protect communities from floods, promotion of the climate-resilient technologies, climate-smart agriculture, and emergency response training. Similarly, the organization also implemented several projects focused on social and economic empowerment of women, adolescents, and girls.

The notable achievements of FORWARD Nepal's implemented projects in the FY 2021/22 include Completion of Regional Workshop for Horticulture Innovation Lab at Kathmandu; Publication of manuals for ToT and farmers training; ToT to 17 LRPs; Completion of 37 major need-based community assets such as drinking water systems, river-bank embankment, irrigation canal repair, culvert construction, lift irrigation, plantation, wash facility at community school, road construction and maintenance, drainage scavenging and river slope protection in the selected LGs; Piloting of crop care application among beneficiaries of the climate information project at Chitwan and many more.

FORWARD Nepal's implemented projects in the FY 2021-22

SN	Projects	Locations	Donors	Beneficiaries
1	Vegetable Production Training and Demonstration Farm Operation using Deep Boring Tube Well facilities	Nawalparasi East and West	KECC/KOICA	500
2	Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi hazard risk prone urban areas of Nepal	Chitwan	UNDP	64,536
3	Piloting climate services for Agriculture and Tourism sectors in Chitwan district	Chitwan	ICIMOD/UKaid	500
4	COVID-19 Livelihoods and economic recovery project	Rautahat	WFP/UKaid	3,000
5	Procurement of services for Providing training on agricultural value chain to Small Farmers	Selected 32 districts across the Country	ADB/SKBBL	320
6	Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India – Phase II	Saptari and Rautahat	WHH/ BMZ	7,200
7	Mid-term evaluation on Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal (SLVC II)	18 Districts, Province 1, 2, Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali	Heifer International	NA
8	Gender, Social Reproduction, and Agricultural Innovations	Chitwan and Nawalparasi	Wageningen University and Netherlands and Nymph Foundation	550
Total				**Above 76,606**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECTS

REDUCING DISASTER RISKS AND ENHANCING EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITIES IN MULTI-HAZARD RISK PRONE AREAS OF NEPAL

Fire Control Training to Muslim women

ECHO III- Urban DRR project, entitled "Reducing Disaster Risks, and Enhancing Emergency Response Capacities in Multi-hazard Risk Prone Areas of Nepal" was implemented with financial support from ECHO, technical support from UNDP, and social mobilization support from FORWARD Nepal in two wards of Bharatpur Metropolitan City viz. 2 and 10 from January 2020 to October 2021. The project's overall goal was to develop a common understanding of urban disaster risk and resilience, as well as processes and procedures to address these threats and prepare for successful disaster response.

Project outputs:

Improved the capacities of communities and government for resilient recovery and reconstruction. The proposed output was achieved through three result indicators namely

i) Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk-prone urban areas
ii) Earthquake-affected communities empowered with self-determined resilient recovery plans and risk management for future disasters, and
iii) Enhanced disaster preparedness at the community and municipal level for effective emergency response and risk reduction

Lessons Learnt

- Flexibility in working structure and budget amendments made smooth functioning of the project activities during the COVID-19 context.
- Regular coordination with Bharatpur metropolitan city and ward members plays important role in implementing project activities.
- Administrative staff of the project is crucial, though it was lacking in the project.
- Basic firefighting, rescue, and hazmat (hazardous substances) handling training were considered shorter duration by the participants.

- Technical capacity building of the communities through community development workers plays a significant role in achieving the project results.
- Capacity building of the elected government authorities was important to understand the disaster perspective and mainstream it in the sectoral plan.
- Besides local-level stakeholders, the involvement of district-level stakeholders played a vital role in facilitating the tough conditions.
- COVID-19 hampered in smooth implementation of the majority of the project activities during the reporting period.
- Vulnerability tracking in urban sectors was a challenge due to multiple factors.
- Unlimited community demands structural/ non-structural mitigation measures, which were beyond the project's capacity.
- Disaster-related database management was poor in local government or Municipality office
- Dependence on ward authority to select and prioritize the Tole level organization's (TLOs'} demands was quite cumbersome and time-consuming process.
- Cost contribution by the community on mitigation structures was tough.
- Policy changes of the BMC for the removal of the flex boards or authorizing only digital boards caused modality of actions from flex boards in public locations to wall paintings.
- Staff turnover in the metropolitan city sometimes delayed the implementation of collaborative activities in the metropolitan city.
- Maps are installed in most vulnerable communities; these maps need to be installed in all communities by which community people may have quick access and information during the time of disasters

Recommendations

- Marginalized community needs and demands should be addressed for their active participation.
- Initially prepared guiding documents should be updated regularly with the needs.
- Mitigation works are just exemplary they need to be replicated in more places.
- Visibility of local partners in different public places, holding boards, and publications were important to encourage them in effective coordination and implementation of activities.

EU Ambassador, Mayor of the Bharatpur Metropolitan City, and the delegates observing the practical on LSAR training, urban disaster preparedness project, Bharatpur-10, Chitwan

Success story

Lakshmi Poudel, a housewife in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, ward no. 2, Milantole, Aamptari. This is a densely populated area where there are risks like lightning, wind, and fire due to its proximity to the forest area, and if there is an earthquake, most of the houses are more vulnerable due to weak structures.

Under the Urban Disaster Preparedness Project, she participated in a one-day awareness training for mothers' groups regarding the Covid-19 epidemic and other urban risk reduction. In that training, information on the current global spread of the Covid-19 epidemic, the Dengue epidemic that spreads in a cycle in 3-3 years, lightning, electrical fires, kitchen fires, and other places were trained. After the training, she taught the skills she learned in the training to her mother group and the other 3-4 mother groups in the community.

Lakshmi Poudel, Bharatpur

Before the training, she was very afraid of fire and gas. She used to think that if a gas cylinder caught fire, it would burst and she would die. If there was a fire, instead of going and extinguishing it, she used to go outside and plead for help, but after getting training, she learned that a gas cylinder needs a lot of heat to burn. The training has increased her courage and self-confidence to put out the fire in the regulator, frying pan, etc.

Some time ago, when she was going to a family event, she and her sisters were also cooking selroti and suddenly a fire broke out in the connection between the gas and the stove and all the sisters around there ran away in fear, but she managed to close the gas regulator without fear. At that time, everyone thanked her, and she informed them about the fire-related training that she received, which saved them from a huge loss of human wealth that could have been caused, by a small effort. She also told us that the Bharatpur Metropolitan City also praised this work and gave her a certificate and encouraged her to do social work.

PILOTING CLIMATE SERVICES AND TOURISM SECTORS IN CHITWAN, NEPAL

The project "Piloting Climate Services for Agriculture and Tourism Sectors in Chitwan" funded by UKAid was implemented by FORWARD Nepal in collaboration with ICIMOD and Agriculture Knowledge Center (AKC), Chitwan to increase the capacity of local institutions, extension workers, and farmers of Chitwan to integrate climate information services in their decision-making process. The project was successfully carried out in four Municipalities (Ratnanagar, Khairahani, Madi, and Kalika) with seven prioritized crops namely Rice, Maize, Tomato, Potato, Banana, Chilly, and Capsicum. The advisory generation process includes the advisory on field crops, and extension workers gathering real field data of farmer's field problems (cases) through the mobile application. The subject matter specialists or technical working group then reviewed the uploaded cases and weather information available in the advisory dashboard, and developed necessary advisories. The developed advisories were sent to the registered farmers via mobile SMS. Different need-based recommendations for rice, maize, tomato, and capsicum; and weather-based forecasts were delivered as mobile SMS.

Project Accomplishments

- Registration of 500 farmers in the dashboard.
- Formation of 8 CS user network groups in each ward of the project-implemented municipalities.
- Formation of the Technical Advisory Group.
- Establishment of the LED monitors in the project implemented municipalities offices for the timely display of the agro-advisory by the TAG.
- Formation of the Project Steering Committee for providing review and feedback on the project, scaling up the learnings of the project, and contribute to the process of incorporating climate information in plans and policies.
- Development of the Crop-Care mobile app for field data collection and Dashboard development for the generation of agro-

advisory after the analysis of field-based data and climate data.
- Organization of awareness campaign on climate services in each of the project-implemented wards.
- Generation of agro-advisory bulletins and SMS.
- Enhancement of the technical capacities of the extension workers in the agro-advisory dashboard and use of the mobile application.
- Generation and distribution of leaflet for climate services user's manual.

Challenges

- Lack of synchronization of agro-advisory and field conditions due to delay in the agro-advisory generation process.
- Unavailability of the off–line version of the Crop-care application.
- Lack of accuracy of the weather forecast.
- Need for season-based vegetable crops advisory.

Conclusion

The pilot project was successfully carried out in four municipalities of the Chitwan district (Ratnanagar, Khairahani, Kalika, and Madi) with its seven prioritized crops (Rice, Maize, Tomato, Potato, Banana, Chilly, and Capsicum). The Project was successful in delivering its output to 1003 beneficiaries during the project period. Multiple SMS advisories were sent to farmers about the issues related to field situations and forecasting related to weather conditions. This project was successful in localized agro-advisory dissemination and capacity building of concerned stakeholders. The project sent the advisory through mobile SMS, radio jingle, and Facebook page. Despite COVID-19, the project was successful in implementing the agro-advisory generated by TWG in the decision-making process of the farmers.

Recommendations:

After looking at the enthusiasm and feedback of farmers of the project area, it would be quite impactful to upscale the project in other districts as well with added seasonal crops for an advisory. As the idea of digitalization and modernization in agriculture is rising sharply, with more than 90% of Nepalese households owning mobile phones at present, quick and effective field problems-related recommendations being delivered through mobile phones are the type of advancement in agriculture that modern farmers are seeking.

If the app becomes farmers friendly, capable farmers will send the cases by themselves and thus the effectiveness of the system will increase. The 15-day interval for agro-advisory generation after field data collection is long. Therefore, the gap should be reduced to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the advisory sent to the farmers.

Target Group discussion at Kalika Municapality

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR PROVIDING TRAINING ON THE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN TO SMALL FARMERS

Agriculture technician giving livestock management training to farmers

Introduction

Substantial proportion of farming in Nepal is carried out solely for subsistence with little surplus going to market. Subsistence farmers with 0.5-1-hectare land holding size comprise 27 % of rural families. Transformation of traditional agriculture into viable enterprise is essential to uplift the economic status of smallholder farmers and to contribute to poverty alleviation. Insufficient knowledge among farmers to increase production, access to finance, business development services and marketing are major constraints behind lack of commercialization of agricultural sector in Nepal. To support for commercialization of agriculture activities the Government of Nepal (GON) has entered into loan agreement of USD 50 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 10th December 2019 for the implementation of Rural Enterprise Financing (REF) Project through SKBBL. The main objective of the REF Project is to increase incomes of small farmers by helping them engage in rural enterprises and commercial agricultural activities. In this context, FORWARD Nepal as a service provider entered into an agreement with SKBBL on 09 November 2021 to provide training service to small farmers in the selected agricultural sectors and provide support for transforming / upgrading agricultural activities as a profitable venture by upgrading technical skill of farmers through training and technical assistance (TA).

Preparation of training manuals

As per the contract with SKBBL, FORWARD Nepal contracted and hired Experts and prepared manuals in the seven sectors: 1. Livestock for Milk and Meat Production, 2. Poultry, 3. Dairy (milk and milk products), 4. Cereals, Legumes, Ginger, Turmeric, Tea, Cardamom and Oilseed production, 5. Vegetable Farming (Tunnel farming), 6. Fishery and Aquaculture, 7. Beekeeping.

The training manuals were prepared for TOT for LRPs and farmers.

ToT Training

The residential TOT for Local Resource Persons (LRPs) was organized at RRN Resource Center

Dhusera, Parsa, Chitwan since 22 February and completed on 6th March 2022. Prior to the training, 7 trainees each from agriculture and livestock sector were selected through a competitive process of written and interviews of the shortlisted candidates. Taking into consideration of the importance of both livestock and agriculture knowledge for farmers, technicians from both streams were included in the TOT. This allowed all of them to understand both livestock and agriculture technologies and their value chains.

On the spot training to farmers

The concerned cooperatives helped LRPs in the selection of suitable trainee farmers. All the farmers selected for training were the members of the concerned SFACL.

Therefore, all the trainees were engaged in crop and or livestock farming on their own. LRPs visited the selected farmers and conducted on-the-spot training in farmer's field, homestead or farm as per convenience of the farmers. In few cases, group level training was organized in collaboration with SFACL. LRPs conducted training and visits regularly to selected farmers or farm households to impart technical knowledge from production to the marketing of agriculture produce to them gradually. Thus, the training was intermittent and longitudinal as per need of the farmers. To achieve the task, the date of visits and training to each farmer was fixed jointly by farmers and the LRPs to allow farmers in performing their regular farming operations and other household duties without any interference.

On the spot training on mushroom farming, Kanchanpur

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION FARM OPERATION USING DEEP BORING TUBE WELL (DTW) FACILITIES UNDER KOICA INCLUSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN NAWALPARASI (IRDN)

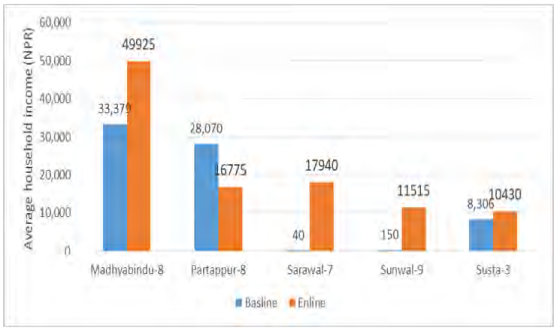
Introduction

FORWARD Nepal completed the project entitled "Vegetable Production Training and Demonstration Farm Operation using Deep Boring Tube Well (DTW) facilities under KOICA Inclusive Rural Development Project in Nawalparasi (IRDN)", from April 2021 to December 2021. The project was carried out in 2 Municipalities (Madhyabindu-8, and Sunwal-9) and 3 Rural Municipalities (Pratappur-8, Susta-3, and Sarawal-7) of Nawalparasi district. The project was able to serve 434 households through improved vegetable cultivation and marketing.

Project Accomplishments

The project was able to serve 434 households through improved vegetable cultivation and marketing. All farmers got technical advisories and inputs support of minimum two times in the project period. The project demonstrated improved vegetable farming technologies in like storey nurseries, plastic tray nurseries, plastic mulching, topping, and improved netting systems for the nurseries. The climate-friendly insect and pest management options such as IPMs tools and preparation of botanical pesticides were also exhibited. The project also demonstrated vermicomposting and cattle shed improvement. In spite of COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown, erratic rainfall, and flood across the project sites and nation, our initiative was successful in increasing household income, farmers' adoption of new technologies, and reducing vegetable reliance on the Indian market. The project had successfully imparted skill and knowledge to farmers, resulting in a reduction in vegetable dependency from 60% to 6% and a rise in vegetable productivity from an average of 4.78 t/ha to 8.78 t/ha when compared to baseline data. This suggests that we still have a long way to go in terms of achieving the national average of 14 t/ha and changing farmers' behavior.

The project's end-line survey took place between the 10th and 15th of December. After project intervention in the project site, individual income, productivity, technology adoption, and market dependency all improved significantly. Mandybindu-8 was found to be advanced in all aspects of the project's outcome. Individual household income increased dramatically.



Comparison of vegetable production before and after completion of the project in the project area

Challenges

- Nursery raising in coco-peat and tray wiring was done summer season. It was difficult to manage the field due to the lockdown. We handled the nursery-raised bed by line sowing in the field.
- Plastic mulching was done during the summer but it was difficult to manage in the field due to the lockdown.
- Due to heavy rainfall and submerged condition, it was not possible to conduct post-harvest training among the input-output actors during the exposure visit to Sarawal. However, we suggested some post-harvest management ideas to the farmers informally.
- COVID-19 and lockdown imposed by local and federal governments restricted the public as well as project staff's movement in the field. In Sarawal Municipality, the local government had not permitted to conduct field activities. All proposed activities were delayed due to increasing COVID-19 cases and restrictions by the municipal authority to conduct field activities.
- Family members and their community suffered from COVID-19 in Madhybindu area.
- Majority of crops in Sarawal and Sunwal municipalities were destroyed due to flooding caused by excessive rain, which lasted until late September.
- Shortage of inorganic fertilizer in the project area during the peak vegetable demonstration and establishment period.
- Floods had damaged the nursery and transplanted vegetables in Madhyabindu, Susta, and Pratappur.
- Farmers of Madhyabindu and other areas were unable to sell their surplus vegetable in the market due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Success Story

I became an agri-entrepreneur

Mr. Motilal Pokharel, (Madhyabindu)

Mr. Motilal Pokharel (Madhyabindu) sold 574 kg of different types of vegetables during the summer season with a sale value of NPR 26,400 from two katthas of land. Mr Pokharel shared that before project intervention, he cultivated maize in this land whose monetary value was hardly about NPR 2,000. He added, "I have been engaged in farming since my childhood but I never sold the vegetable with this much amount, however, I used to provide vegetables free of cost to my neighbor, if they asked. Now, I became an agri- entrepreneur because I produce and sell many types of vegetables". One day Mr Pokharel's wife asked him to cultivate mustard after harvesting summer season vegetables; she used to produce about 50 kg of mustard grain with a monetary value of about NPR 6,000. Mr. Motilal Pokharel added, "I calculated the possible income from mustard and vegetables and found that vegetables give 6 times more income than mustard, I also promised her to bring 50 kg mustard after the winter season vegetable harvest". Now, Mr. Motilal has about 900 seedlings of tomato which will be ready to transplant within a week. He had already transplanted the cauliflower, chili, and other under plastic mulching. By this winter season, he had successfully sold the 140 kg cauliflower and 210 kg tomato (Still harvesting and expected 300 kg more) worth Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 11,550 respectively. Other crops were also in the harvesting stage.

COVID-19 LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECT (LERP) PROVINCE-2, RAUTAHAT DISTRICT

Closing Meeting at Yemunamai rural municipality

FORWARD Nepal completed the UKAid/UN-WFP funded project entitled, "COVID-19 Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP)" in four municipalities of Rautahat district from 15 Nov 2020 to 15 Aug 2021. In total, 2742 beneficiaries (1945 conditional and 797 unconditional beneficiaries) of Yemunamai rural municipality, Gujara municipality, Ishanath municipality, and Brindaban municipality benefitted from the project. The main objective of LERP was to create wage employment opportunities for unskilled daily workers, unemployed returnee migrants, and poor/food insecure people temporarily as well as develop resilient livelihoods through the creation of productive community assets.

Project Accomplishments

The major achievements of the COVID-19 Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP) Rautahat during the project period are summarized below:

i. The project intervention created temporary wage employment for 1,945 unskilled daily workers and provided financial support for 797 vulnerable HHs as unconditional beneficiaries.
ii. Completed 37 major need-based community assets such as drinking water systems, river-bank embankment, irrigation canal repair, culvert construction, lift irrigation, plantation, wash facility at community school, road construction and maintenance, drainage scavenging and river slope protection in the selected LGs.

iii. The irrigation canal rehabilitation serves at least 1,072 hectares of agricultural land for irrigation and is anticipated to increase production by 25 percent above the baseline.
iv. Females who are always busy with their household chores got an opportunity to involve in wage generation activities. The project covered about 60 percent of females as direct beneficiaries and they were paid equally as their male counterparts.

After Action Review/ Project Review and Closing Meeting

The project team had auspiciously conducted the project review and closing meeting in concerned LGs and the mayor, deputy mayor, LGs' staff, ward chairperson, user committee members, UN-WFP field office team and FORWARD Nepal staff participated. During the programme, the participants illustrated the overall progress achievements and expenditures and discussed about the challenges and learning from the project. The programme adjourned with schemes handover to concerned LGs. Besides, the project team took part in a virtual meeting (After Action Review) organized by WFP in presence of donors with all cooperating partners to share achievements, issues and challenges, and outcomes of the project.

Major Challenges

- Less number of beneficiaries were registered by Prime Ministers Employment Programme (PMEP) mainly because beneficiaries didn't get any job opportunities through PMEP in previous years. The required numbers of beneficiaries were selected in close coordination with the ward office.
- The concerned LGs initially prioritized several schemes but due to the limitation of labor-intensive works, some of the sub-schemes were added to consume the targeted man-days later on.
- Implementation of the project activities at the field level was a challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For this, precautionary measures such as social distancing, the use of masks, and the washing of hands were prioritized.
- Fraudulent cases during the cash withdrawal were found in some of the wards of targeted LGs, which were identified after post-distribution monitoring from the field and with the help of the WFP country office. The financial institutions were requested to provide the amount only in the presence of the concerned person during cash withdrawal. Furthermore, the presence of ward representatives and user committees ensured beneficiaries during control number (IME code) distribution with regular monitoring by the WFP team.

Lessons Learned

- Strong coordination with LGs is necessary for the smooth operation of the activities for better outcomes of the project.
- Fund contribution from the local government/ community is helpful to ensure the sustainability of community assets.
- Identification and prioritizing of productive need-based CFA creates a larger impact in the concerned community.
- Trustful coordination and high motivation are prerequisites while working in the field during adverse situation like COVID-19 pandemic.

Tree Plantation on streets of Brindaban, Rautahat

Success Story

LERP Supported Marginalized Family

"I was a pregnant of nine months and after Covid-19 hit the country it was difficult to maintain a balanced diet, as my husband is a daily wage worker," says Lalita. Lalita Devi, 20 is the permanent residence of Ishanath Municipality-2, Auraiya. With the two children and mother-in-law staying together, it was very difficult for her husband to provide balanced diet for the whole family. As family did not have other sources of income, the family was completely devastated during the COVID-19 Lockdown.

Lalita Devi, Ishanath Municipality

"We had nothing to eat moreover I became pregnant", added Lalita. Lalita has never gone to school in her life though she have desire to study. Her elder son is already fours of age and used to go to school before the lockdown. However, as they ran out of money, they decided to drop their son from the school, so that the expenditure could be used to join their hand and mouth daily. On Nov 2020, WFP Nepal in partnership with FORWARD Nepal launched COVID-19 Livelihood and Economic Recovery project (LERP) targeting to support 3000 HHs of poor and marginalized family with NPR. 24000per HH. In this context, through the recommendation of ward chair, Lalita's family was selected for the support and she received the amount of NPR. 24,000 on 6 April, with a smile on her face.

"Now I can have some nutritious food, that I haven't since the lockdown", said Lalita with the happy smile and a glow in her eyes." she further added that she will again send her son to the school with the money received and will buy him necessary stuffs to send him to school, i.e. school uniform, bag and copies. While returning to her house, she looked back and said, "I would really like to thank WFP and FORWARD Nepal for the support. This will really be helpful to my family," smiled Lalita.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SCALING UP THE MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH FOR NUTRITION SMART VILLAGE IN BANGLADESH, INDIA, AND NEPAL PHASE - II

"Regional programme for scaling up Multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India", Phase-II, is being implemented in two municipalities of Nepal, Rajgadh Municipality in Saptari and Paroha Municipality in Rautahat district of Madhesh Province since 2021. FORWARD Nepal as an implementing partner of BMZ/WHH for the NSV project implements the field activities with target to reach 13,382 HHs direct beneficiaries of the project, equal to 66,912 individuals.

The targeted program area are prone to heavily flood-affected zones with a critical situation in terms of food and nutrition security. Both implementing districts belongs to the Madhesh Province where malnutrition especially wasting spikes upward compared to the other six provinces of the country, with restricted productivity capacity and therefore limited economic gain of the province. The project works with multiple stakeholders such as local government at the ward and municipality level, agriculture stakeholders, lead farmers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), local leaders, LANN+ group members, Farmer Field School (FFS) group members, and model farmers to promote food and nutrition security of vulnerable population groups such as highly poor, pregnant women, smallholder farmers and children below five years of age.

Indicators of Nutrition Smart Village

1 There is no hunger and food insecurity.	2 All families are aware about the importance of 'First 1000 days- window of opportunities', for healthy children and healthy mothers.	3. Community is aware of the linkages between agriculture, natural resources, WASH, income and nutrition education with nutrition.	4. Every woman in the reproductive age group and adolescent children consume at least 5 food groups out of 10 on a regular basis.
5. Every child receives home cooked balanced diet in appropriate frequency and consistency.	6. An active village committee promote interconnections between agriculture, natural resources, WASH, nutrition, and the protection of natural habitats.	7. Families grow and buy safe, seasonal and local produce. Communities drive the local 'Haat' or market by creating the demand for safe and environment-friendly products.	8. The community value uncultivated foods and traditional recipes.
9. Every family has access to safe drinking water.	10. Every family maintains safe sanitation and hand washing practices.	11. Communities are aware of government schemes and entitlements and can make service providers accountable.	INDICATORS OF NUTRITION SMART VILLAGE

The project focuses on multi-sectoral approaches to address the numerous issues that leads acute malnutrition. The overall objective of the project is to contribute food and nutrition security (SDG 2) of women of reproductive age and young children from vulnerable and food-insecure families in Nepal. Further, the project aims to transform 60 villages into nutrition-smart villages by involving 13,382 households (a total population of 66,912 individuals) with a focus on 10,000 women of the age group of 15-49 years and 6000 children of the age group of 0-5 years. 6180 farmers and mothers of reproductive age groups benefits from various project approaches/activities such as Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) on Linking Agriculture, WASH, and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security (LANN+), Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Similarly, 6606 children under five years were reached through nutrition assessment and identified malnourished children were rehabilitated with Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Program (NERP) camp and further linked with nutrition-sensitive micro planning at household level. Likewise, project thrust to develop 515 SIFS model farm with five subsystem and low cost irrigation techniques to improve food security through rigorous trainings, technical support and onsite coaching by agriculture experts in both municipalities.

Fruit sapling support to Farmers and malnourished children

FFS member learning to prepare bio- manure

NERP CAMP at field level

PLA LANN+ Meeting at community with Mothers

Major Accomplishments:

- Early identification of prompt treatment of Malnourished children on annual basis
- Establishment of Kitchen Garden at household level and improvement in food diversity consumption
- Local government adopts the best practices of NSV Project and invests around 14 Lakh to address nutrition sensitive and specific issues
- Community engagement in preparing nutrition sensitive village/tole and ward level annual plans
- 156 malnourished (84.7%) children recovered through NERP camps through nutritious food recipe demonstration and nutrition educations
- Implementation of CGM Project where 361 children scanned through Child Growth Monitor (CGM) mobile base app with purpose to identify the nutritional status of the children

Lesson learned

- Political transition such as election decelerates the project progress, as the elected body needs to orient on project objectivities, approaches and activities through frequent follow-ups.

STRENGTHENING SMALLHOLDER ENTERPRISES OF LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NEPAL (SLVC II)

A goat farm of managed by beneficiary of SLVC II project

'Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal (SLVC II)' is a signature program of Heifer International Nepal. It aimed to support the efforts of GoN to achieve poverty reduction and food security-related targets of Sustainable Development Goals by supporting households toward a sustainable living income. The project started in October 2017 and was supposed to end in September 2022, which recently has been extended until June 2023.

A mid-term evaluation of 'Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal (SLVC II) from 2018 to June 2021 was conducted by FORWARD Nepal to assess the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the project interventions in the program sites. The mid-term evaluation aimed to provide recommendations to Heifer International Nepal regarding the need, if any, for adjustments in the approach and strategies to be undertaken in the remaining implementation period of the project, based on the achievements made so far, lessons learned, and/or corrections needed to achieve the desired results.

Methodology

This mid-term evaluation used mixed methods approaches for assessing the impact. The evaluation used the participatory and interactive approaches. The evaluation involved an approach that used a range of data and information collection methods, which mainly covered institutional survey and qualitative part. The household level data was referred from outcome monitoring survey conducted by the HPIN. The mid-term evaluation primarily focused on primary sources of information from the project sites. However, the study also thoroughly used secondary sources of information, particularly of data for project progress as per the project targets indicators and for other relevant requirements.

Although the project is being implemented in 29 districts and covers 154 cooperatives, the evaluation study covered 31 cooperatives of 18 districts for fieldwork through a multi-stage purposive sampling technique. Moreover, 37 private sectors and 11 Palikas were also consulted during the evaluation.

Lessons Learnt

The following lessons were of further importance to the SLVC II project.

- Development of farmers' institutions is essential to successfully commercialize smallholder Agri-livestock enterprises
- Cooperative business operation depends on the availability of working capital which was considered one of the constraints in some cases.
- Provision of free and fee-based services at FOABs is effective to link producers and producers' groups with the market system. Cooperative as a business hub model for inclusive market development has proved effective to strengthen the capacity of FOABs, enhance efficiency in supply chains and increase farm income in a sustainable manner in a short period.
- Cooperative market chain approach is effective to increase farmers' additional income through their engagement in different value chain nodes. It also enhances their stake in other value chain nodes.
- Sustainability of cooperative business operations depends on the commitment of cooperative leadership.
- Approach of the 4P (public-private-producer partnership) model is effective to leverage resources from local/provincial governments but the political transition and potential non-compliance from changing Palika leadership pose uncertainty for the continuation of resource leveraging.
- BFIs may not be willing to provide concessional loans to smallholders beyond their minimum mandatory requirements to invest in agriculture.
- Consumer awareness and preferences are crucial for the success of some initiatives such as the consumption of processed and frozen meat.
- Strong partnership with competent organizations is pivotal to support implementation progress and to provide for part of the exit strategy for sustainability and replication of programme results.
- Engagement of project stakeholders in coordination and monitoring system is effective to link smallholders to the value chains. Such mechanisms help to establish a pricing mechanism and business relationship with VCAs.
- VBHCD approach for community mobilization is crucial to implement the programme on time with an expected result.

Data Collection from Agrovet Owner

List of Sampled Cooperatives

Cluster	District	Cooperatives
Janakpur	Morang	Digopan Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Mahottari	Pashupatinagar Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Sindhuli	Pushpanjali Samajik Mahila Bahu-Uddeshyiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Rautahat	Parishramik Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Dhrubatara Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
Chitwan	Chitwan	Laganshil Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Shree Utthan Dugdha Utpadak Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Dhading	Aadharshila Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Diyalo Sana Kisan Krishi Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Tanahun	Chakrabarti Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Atipriya Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Kaski	Prativa Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Baglung	Bhagyodaya Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Parbat	Mahashila Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Sakriya Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Harabhara Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
Butwal	Palpa	Milansar Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Galdaha Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Nawalparasi East	Lekbesi Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Banke	Sangharshashil Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Deeplagan Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Bardiya	Digopan Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Lakshyadip Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Bastawik Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Surkhet	Safal Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Upahar Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Dang	Nilkamal Smajik Udhayami Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Karmath Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Arghakhanchi	Jaluke Krishi Tatha Pashu Bikash Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
		Gangajal Krishi Tatha Pashu Bikash Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Kapilvastu	Bihani Samajik Udhyami Mahila Sahakari Sanstha Ltd

GENDER, SOCIAL REPRODUCTION, AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS

Interactive gender training session

Surveyor collecting data from survey

FORWARD Nepal assisted Ms. Dawn Cheong in conducting the project "Gender, Social Reproduction and Agricultural Innovations", as part of her PhD study at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands. The project funded by Wageningen University and the Netherlands and Nymph Foundation, run for 16 months. In the course of this study, FORWARD Nepal helped the PhD student in data collection, data analysis, and facilitation among the local community. Data was collected from 550 farmers of Chitwan (Khairahani Municipality), Nawalpur Bardaghat Susta East (Madhyabindu Municiaplity), and Nawalpur Bardaghat Susta West (Susta Rural Municipality) districts.

Major Activities

- Identification of suitable areas for research
- Assistance in preparing questionnaires for PhD research
- Data collection related to research
- Basic analysis of collected data
- Seed distribution of different vegetables according to the season for each farmer who participated in the survey
- Conducted two-day training on research and data collection for enumerators

Achievements and outcomes

- Collected primary data on gender roles in the modern farming systems from 550 farmers through direct interviews
- Distributed seeds of different varieties of vegetable crops to 550 farmers during primary data collection
- It was learned that regular communication between researchers, data collectors, and organizations in research work helps to minimize potential problems.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of collected data made it easy to identify errors.
- In the future, a detailed study of the area is necessary to identify the appropriate area to collect data related to the research.

Institutional activities

Along with the ongoing projects, different institutional events also being carried out. A short recollection of those events throughout this FY are described here.

- Celebration of the FORWARD Day was done as in the previous years, on 1st September 2021. 25th FORWARD Day was celebrated in the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson and in the presence of chief guest ward chairperson Purna Bahadur Shrestha, along with special guest advocate Jagannath Bhandari, Legal Advisor of FORWARD Nepal. This event was conducted both physically and virtually with the participation of founder members, board members, general members, and staff at the Head Office.

- FORWARD Nepal's 25th Annual General Assembly Meeting (AGM) and 11th General Convention were held on January 8, 2021, at the FORWARD Nepal Head office. The AGM was chaired by Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, while Bharatpur Ward no 2 ward Chairperson was the chief guest of this program. The secretary of FORWARD Nepal presented the general progress. This program was held in the hybrid model, as some of the participants joined online (ZOOM). The board meeting also approved the audit report.

- The AGM formed FORWARD Nepal's new executive committee in the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota for the period of 2078/79 to 2080/81. The newly formed executive committee compromise of nine members with 33% women members.

- Silver Jubilee was held on 12 March 2021 in Hotel Narayani Resort, Gaidakot; the former chairperson and chairperson of FORWARD Nepal chaired the event, whereas Prof. Dr. Nawaraj Devkota was the chief guest. FORWARD Nepal executive committee provided the appreciation letter to staff who contribute to achieving the organization's goal and maintaining donor relationships. Similarly, founder members also received souvenir from the executive committee of FORWARD Nepal.

- Apart from this, several project concept papers and proposals have been submitted to various donor agencies for project partnerships/funding. Participation in meetings, seminars, and training with different donors and development agencies and internal regular meetings at both project and institutional levels were held.

Congratulations Message

FORWARD Nepal is pleased to congratulate Ms Anjana Sharma, Project Manager of FORWARD Nepal on her admission to the degree of PhD. We are very much proud of her and we hope this serves as a launching pad for her future ventures.

COLLABORATION AND LINKAGE WITH DONORS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN FY 2020-21

FORWARD Nepal emphasizes programme implementing in collaboration and partnership with GOs, I/NGOs, research institutions, academia, private sectors, and community based organizations as appropriate for greater impacts of its programmes, resource generation/sharing, and sharing of knowledge and learning. The organization also has MoUs signed with some institutions. In the FY 2020/21, FORWARD Nepal has worked with several donors and development partners as given below:

List of Publications

- स्थानीय श्रोत व्यक्तिका लागि पशुपालन सम्बन्धि प्रशिक्षक प्रशिक्षण पुस्तिका २०७८
- स्थानीय श्रोत व्यक्तिका लागि कृषि सम्बन्धि प्रशिक्षक प्रशिक्षण पुस्तिका २०७८

- Improved nutrient management in cereals using Nutrient Expert and machine learning tools: Productivity, profitability and nutrient-use efficiency. Agricultural Systems 192(2021) 103181. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X21001347
- Assessment of nutrient management in major cereals: Yield prediction, energy-use efficiency and greenhouse gas emission. Current Research in Environmental Sustainability 4 (2022) 100147. Elsevier. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666049022000251

Trainings, workshops, conferences, Meetings and Visits

Title of Trainings/ workshop / conference / meeting	Organizer	Place	Date	Participant/s
Orientation on Monitoring Dash Board	WHH	MS Teams	29 June-1 July, 2021	Archana Kumari Gupta/ Dip Narayan Thakur
RNP Review Workshop	WHH	MS Teams	6-8 July, 2021	Archana Kumari Gupta; Dip Narayan Thakur; Bihari Kushwaha; Deepak Mandal, Smita Pal
TOT on crop and livestock production for LRPs	FORWARD Nepal /SKBBL	RRN Resource enter Parsa	22 Feb-6 Mar 2022	17 Selected LRPs from SKBBL Area Offices
PLA- LANN + Training	WHH	MS Teams	20-22 July, 2021	Archana Kumari Gupta; Dip Narayan Thakur; Bihari Kushwaha; Deepak Mandal
SIFS Training	WHH/Aasaman Nepal	Mirchaiya	12-16 Dec, 2021	Smita Kumari Pal
CGM Annual Review and Planning	WHH	Ms. Teams	15 Feb, 2022	Archana Kumari Gupta, Amitraj Shah, Deepak Mandal
Orientation on PDM Survey	FORWARD/ NSV Project Phase II	Project Office	11 March 2022	Enumerators
GESI Training	FORWARD Nepal Centre Office	Project Office	3-5 April 2022	All Project Staff
Child Growth Monitoring mobile application anthropometry training to partner staff	FORWARD/ NSV Project Phase II	Hotel Welcome Janakpur	18-21 April, 2022	Archana Kumari Gupta, Amitraj Shah, Deepak Kumar Mandal, Smita Kumari Pal and Saroj Kumar Patel
Nutrition Sensitive Micro Planning training (NSMP)	FORWARD/ NSV Project Phase II	Hotel Garden, Rajbiraj Saptari	17 -20 May 2022	All Project staff and two Excellent Group leader including Government staff
QR code Generation for CGM standardization test	Action Against Hunger	MS Teams	2 June, 2022	Archana Kumari Gupta, Deepak Mandal
Training on stakeholder's capacity building	ICIMOD, AKC-Chitwan FORWARD Nepal	Hotel Wildlife Camp, Sauraha	1-2 June, 2022	Agriculture Extension Officers
Community Training on Basic First Aid	CDRMP	Bharatpur	7-10 July, 2021	Mr. Uttam Aryal, Rashu Thakali, Manju Regmi

Board Members, Honorary Members, Founder Members, Advisors, FORWARD

Nepal's Affiliated Professional and Auditors – 2021/22

Executive Board Members of FORWARD Nepal 2078/079 to 2080/081 (2021/22 to 2023/024)

S.N.	Name	Position
1	Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota	Chairperson
2	Dr. Ujjal Tiwari	Vice-Chairperson
3	Mr. Toyanath Gautam	Secretary
4	Ms. Rashu Thakali	Joint-Secretary
4	Mr. Shreeram Chaudhary	Treasurer
5	Mr. Prabin Poudel	Member
7	Ms. Sabita Chepang	Member
8	Mr. Krishna Prasad Gupta	Member
9	Mr. Krishna Bahadur B. K.	Member(Farmer Representative)

FORWARD Nepal's Honorary Members

S.N.	Name	Address	Email
1	Prof. Dr. John R. Witcombe	Centre for Advanced Research in International Agriculture Development (CARIAD), Bangor University, UK	j.r.witcombe@bangor.ac. ukjrwitcombe@yahoo.com
2	Dr. Dave Harris	Principal Scientist (Agro-ecosystems/ Climate Change), ICRISAT-Nairobi (Regional hub ESA) PO Box 39063, Nairobi, Kenya	daveh548@gmail.com
3	Dr. Krishna Dev Joshi	Wheat Improvement Specialist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), NARC CSI Complex, Park Road, Islamabad, Pakistan	kdjoshi@mos.com.np

Founder Members of FORWARD Nepal

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen	FORWARD Nepal	Management
2	Mr. Gam Bahadur Gurung	FORWARD Nepal (Part time)	Soil Science
3	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	FORWARD Nepal (Part time)	Natural Resource Management
4	Dr. Ramesh Raj Pokharel	Currently in USA	Plant Science
5	Dr. Dinesh Neupane	Currently in Denmark	Livestock
6	Mr. Ram Mani Poudel	Vocational Education and Technology Academy (VCTA), Palingtar-10, Gorkha	Livestock & Dairy Production and Management
7	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari	FORWARD Nepal	Management

FORWARD Nepal's Advisory Board

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota	Gandaki University, Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal	Vice-Chancellor, Gandaki University, Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal
2	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	Bharatpur-12, Chitwan	Natural Resource Management
3	Dr. Shyam Prakash Chand	Department for Communities and Local Government , London, UK	ERDF and RGF Fund Manager, Department for Communities and Local Government, (DCLG), UK
4	Mr. Jagannath Bhandari	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan	Advocate/Notary Public Pairabi Legal Office, Bharatpur, Chitwan

FORWARD Affiliated Professionals

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Dr. Tejendra Chapagain	Currently at Department of Plant Agriculture University of Guelph, Canada	Plant Science
2	Dr. Ram Chandra Bastakoti	Freelancer	Agri-economics
3	Dr. Luni Piya	Associate Professor, Hiroshima University	Rural Economics
4	Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi,	Hiroshima University, Japan	Agri. Economics
5	Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel	Bagdol, Lalitpur-44	Animal Science
6	Prof. Dr. Sunila Rai	Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan	Aquaculture & Fisheries

FORWARD's Statutory Auditor (2021/22)

S.N.	Name	Engagement Partner	Address	Contact Phone & Email
1	CA. Santosh Regmi	SHA & Associates	MinBhawan, Kathmandu Branch Office: Bharatpur	O56522250 info@sha.com.np

FORWARD Nepal Staff in the FY 2021-22 (July 17, 2021- July 16, 2022)

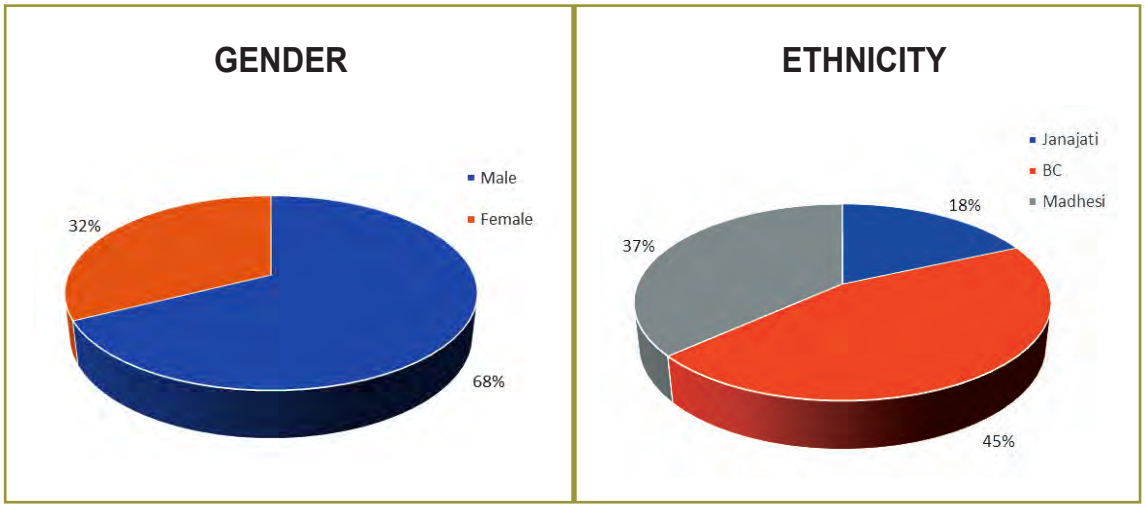
A list of regular staff who worked for FORWARD Nepal in FY 2021/22.

S.N	Name	Position
1	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen	Executive Director
2	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane	Programme Director
3	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	NRM Specialist (Part-time)
4	Ms. Anjana Sharma	Programme Manager
5	Mr. Pramod Gautam	Project Manager
6	Mr. Himalaya Subedi	Programme Manager
7	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari	Project Monitoring & Internal Audit Officer
8	Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu	Sr. Admin & Procurement Officer
9	Mr. Subhash Neupane	Project Coordinator
10	Mr. Binod Raj Timilsina	Agriculture Extension Officer
11	Ms. Shirisa Acharya	Agriculture Extension Officer
12	Ms. Sakchha Timilsina Subedi	Admin Associate
13	Mr. Uttam Aryal	Project Support Officer
14	Ms. Manju Regmi	Community Development Worker
15	Ms. Rashu Thakali	Community Development Worker
16	Mr. Jaya Prakash Chaudhary	Project Coordinator
17	Ms. Archana Kumari Gupta	Project Coordinator
18	Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya	Project cum Advocacy Officer
19	Mr. Dip Narayan Thakur	Project cum Advocacy Officer
20	Mr. Amritraj Shah	Project cum Advocacy Officer

S.N	Name	Position
21	Mr. Bihari Prasad Kushwaha	Nutrition & WASH Officer
22	Mr. Smita Kumari Pal	Agriculture Officer
23	Mr. Ram Chandra Pandit	Agriculture Officer
24	Mr. Dipak Kumar Mandal	Nutrition & WASH Officer
25	Mr. Krishna Prasad Gupta	Agriculture Officer
26	Er. Prakash Khadka	Engineer
27	Mr. Dig Bijay Dhakal	Project Finance Officer
28	Ms. Sushma Banjara	Documentation & Reporting Officer
29	Mr. Subid Ghimire	Site Supervisor (Civil)
30	Mr. Prem Lal Prasad Jaiswal	Site Supervisor (Civil)
31	Mr. Firoj Thapa	Site Supervisor (Civil)
32	Mr. Ram Pukar Prasad Jaiswal	Site Supervisor (Civil)
33	Mr. Prabindra Prasad Patel	Social Mobilizer
34	Ms. Guddi Kumari Chaudhary	Social Mobilizer
35	Ms. Kumari Susmita	Social Mobilizer
36	Ms. Nitu Kumar Chaudhary	Social Mobilizer
37	Mr. Dipendra Tharu	Office Assistant
38	Ms. Shristi Kandel	Receptionist
39	Mr. Raju Tharu	Project Assistant
40	Mr. Hari Narayan Yadav	Nutrition Promoter
41	Ms. Ranjita Kumari Sharma	Nutrition Promoter
42	Ms. Sunita Kumari Sah	Nutrition Promoter
43	Mr. Chhotelal Patel	Nutrition Promoter
44	Mr. Mukesh Kumar Yadav	Nutrition Promoter

S.N	Name	Position
45	Ms. Nurenaj Begum	Nutrition Promoter
46	Mr. Pawan Kumar Mahato	Nutrition Promoter
47	Mr. Pravin Kumar Yadav	Nutrition Promoter
48	Mr. Nirgun Kumar Mahato	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
49	Mr. Mohit Kumar Sah Teli	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
50	Ms. Rigi Limbu	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
51	Ms. Bhagarathi Bohara	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
52	Ms. Tara Kumari Khadka	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
53	Mr. Karna Bahadur Rana	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
54	Mr. Dan Bahadur Ramtel	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
55	Mr. Sabin Khatri KC	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
56	Ms. Rita Rai	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
57	Ms. Shreejana Regmi	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
58	Ms. Parbati Kafle	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
59	Ms. Anjana Rai	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
60	Mr Jitendra Mahato	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
61	Liladhar Pant	Local Resource Person (LRP - Agriculture Technician)
62	Sudarshan Bista	Local Resource Person (LRP - Livestock Technician)
63	Mr. Jenish Shrestha	Intern
64	Mr. Ramesh Bhattarai	Enumerator
65	Ms. Mona Joshi	Enumerator
66	Mr. Saurav Lamichhane	Enumerator
67	Mr. Anirud Ahir	Social Mobilizer (LRP)
68	Mr. Munesh Bhedihar	Social Mobilizer (LRP)
69	Ms. Basanti Devi Chaudhary	Social Mobilizer (LRP)
70	Mr. Raj Kishor Gupta	Social Mobilizer (LRP)
71	Mr. Sher Bahadur Mahato	Social Mobilizer (LRP)

FORWARD Nepal's staff by gender and ethnicity in FY 2021/22



Financial Report 2021/22 (2078/79 B.S.)

The following Chattered Audit firms and institutions were involved in auditing of FY 2020/21 (2077/78) FORWARD Nepal's account.

Period of audit	Project audited	Audit firm of institution
25 Feb -28 Feb,2022	NPL 1066-19 (NSV II) (account from December 2020 to December 2021	PKF TR Upadhaya and Co
28 Aug, 2021	NSV II Project	SWC audit team, Mr. Shree Prasad Devkota (Mid-term evaluation Team Leader), Subhrat Dhakal (Finance Specialist)
28 & 30 May, 2022	NSV II Project	SWC audit team, Sudarshan Banjare, Ramraj Bhattarai
14 December, 2021	Dairy for Development in Nepal Project	SWC audit team (Mr. Chandra Bahadur Karki, Team leader and Mr. Bharat Nepal, Study Cooodinator; Mr. Sumit Shrestha-Finance Manager, Practical Action)
September 12, 2022 to October 03, 2022	Statutory audit of FORWARD Nepal for FY 2021/22	SHA & Associates

S.H.A. & Associates
Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS' OF

M/S Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD) Nepal

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FORWARD Nepal which comprise of Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Income & Expenditure, Statement of Changes in Fund balances, and Notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial statements of the project for the period from Shrawan 1, 2078(July 16, 2021) to Ashad 32, 2079(July 16, 2022) in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ICAN's *Handbook of Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statement in Nepal, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAN's Handbook of Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We draw your attention to audit findings, as included in the 'Management Letter' section of our report which identify internal control weaknesses and audit recommendations to address them, which we came across during the course of our audit. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

Management is responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Report of Board of Directors, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Head Office : 5th Floor, Gorkha Complex, Minbhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal, Telephone : +977-01-4106678
Branch Office : Bharatpur-10, Chitwan, Nepal, Opposite to Metropolitan Office, Telephone : +977-056-522250
e-mail : info@sha.com.np website : www.sha.com.np

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the NSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As a part of an audit in accordance with NSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, international omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

  We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Santosh Regmi, FCA
Partner,
For,
SHA & Associates, Chartered Accountants
Place: Kathmandu
Date: 12th October, 2022
UDIN: 221012CA010108WAai

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
(FORWARD Nepal)

Bharatpur-2 Chitwan

Statement of Financial Position

As on 32nd Asadh, 2079 (16 July 2022)

In NRs.

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
Assets:			
Non Current Assets			
Non Expendable Assets	1	7,117,682.75	6,912,607.25
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank	2	4,277,522.63	3,885,817.18
Advances	3	16,394,943.50	17,098,581.77
Total		**27,790,148.88**	**27,897,006.20**
Funds and Liabilities:			
Funds			
Restricted Fund		2,596,627.54	817,291.10
Capital Assets Fund		539,632.56	303,557.12
Unrestricted Fund			
Unrestricted Fund		15,457,714.52	17,712,800.21
Gratuity Fund		3,431,081.00	3,613,878.00
Current Liabilities			
Payables	4	5,765,093.26	5,449,479.77
Total		**27,790,148.88**	**27,897,006.20**

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts 7

As per our report of even date

Ram Dayal Tharu
Finance Officer

Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

FCA. Santosh Regmi
Partner
SHA & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota
Chairperson

Date: October 12, 2022

Place: Bharatpur

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal)

Bharatpur-2 Chitwan

Statement of Income & Expenditure

For the period 01 Shrawan 2078 to 32 Ashadh 2079 (16 July 2021 to 16 July 2022)

In NRs.

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
Income:			
From Unrestricted Funds		4,708,938.94	3,885,769.54
From Restricted Funds		71,178,757.95	74,515,879.16
Total		**75,887,696.89**	**78,401,648.70**
Expenditure:			
From Unrestricted Funds	5		
FORWARD Nepal - Core Fund		4,708,938.94	3,735,769.54
Staff Welfare Fund		-	150,000.00
From Restricted Funds	6		
Urban DRR Project (UNDP)		4,907,022.00	11,004,080.00
Climate Service Initiative (ICIMOD)		5,131,411.00	868,589.00
Nutrition Project - II (WHH)		47,826,822.99	3,701,527.00
Promotion of Vegetable (IRDN-KECC/KOICA)		2,794,911.00	1,203,153.00
COVID 19 LERP (WFP)		3,207,335.34	14,484,151.64
REFP Project (ADB/SKBBL)		4,628,176.00	-
Research Collaboration (WU/Dawn)		1,006,716.00	-
Midterm Evaluation - SLVC-II Project (Heifer)		1,676,363.62	-
Dairy Project (Practical Action)		-	10,593,469.00
Livelihood Project (WHH)		-	10,744,005.11
Nutrition Project (WHH)		-	2,292,107.00
SCRSSI Project (Plan International)		-	18,881,339.71
Legums Promotion Phase - II (IFAD/ICARDA)		-	743,457.70
Total		**75,887,696.89**	**78,401,648.70**

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts 7

As per our report of even date

Ram Dayal Tharu
Finance Officer

Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

FCA. Santosh Regmi
Partner
SHA & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota
Chairperson

Date: October 12, 2022

Place: Bharatpur

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal)

Bharatpur-2 Chitwan

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the period 01 Shrawan 2078 to 32 Ashadh 2079 (16 July 2021 to 16 July 2022)

In NRs.

Particulars	Opening Balance	Transfers	Adjustment	Fund After Adjustment	Funds Received During the Year	Funds transferred to Income	Closing Balance
Restricted Fund Balances				-			
Urban DRR Project (UNDP)	381,027.00	-	-	381,027.00	4,525,995.00	4,907,022.00	-
Climate Service Initiative (ICIMOD)	2,131,411.00	-	-	2,131,411.00	2,400,000.00	5,131,411.00	(600,000.00)
Nutrition Project Phase - II (WHH)	853,710.09	-	-	853,710.09	47,458,259.24	47,826,822.99	485,146.34
Promotion of Vegetable (IRDN -KECC/KOICA)	14,806.05		-	14,806.05	2,780,104.95	2,794,911.00	-
COVID-19 LERP (WFP)	(2,565,049.78)	-	-	(2,565,049.78)	5,772,385.12	3,207,335.34	-
REFP Project (ADB/SKBBL)	-	-	-	-	6,950,835.00	4,628,176.00	2,322,659.00
Research Collaboration (WU/Dawn)	-	-	-	-	1,395,538.20	1,006,716.00	388,822.20
Midterm Evaluation - SLVC-II Project (Heifer)		-	-	-	1,676,363.62	1,676,363.62	-
Livelihood Project (WHH)	1,386.74		-	1,386.74	(1,386.74)	-	-
Total Restricted Fund - Current Year	**817,291.10**	-	-	**817,291.10**	**72,958,094.39**	**71,178,757.95**	**2,596,627.54**
Unrestricted Fund Balances				-			-
FORWARD - Core Fund	16,898,910.87	-	-	16,898,910.87	2,451,146.97	4,708,938.94	14,641,118.90
Staff welfare Fund	619,298.95	-	-	619,298.95	817.48	-	620,116.43
Community Welfare Fund FORWARD	194,590.39	-	-	194,590.39	1,888.80	-	196,479.19
Total Unrestricted Fund - Current Year	**17,712,800.21**	-	-	**17,712,800.21**	**2,453,853.25**	**4,708,938.94**	**15,457,714.52**
Total Fund - Current Year	**18,530,091.31**	-		**18,530,091.31**	**75,411,947.64**	**75,887,696.89**	**18,054,342.06**

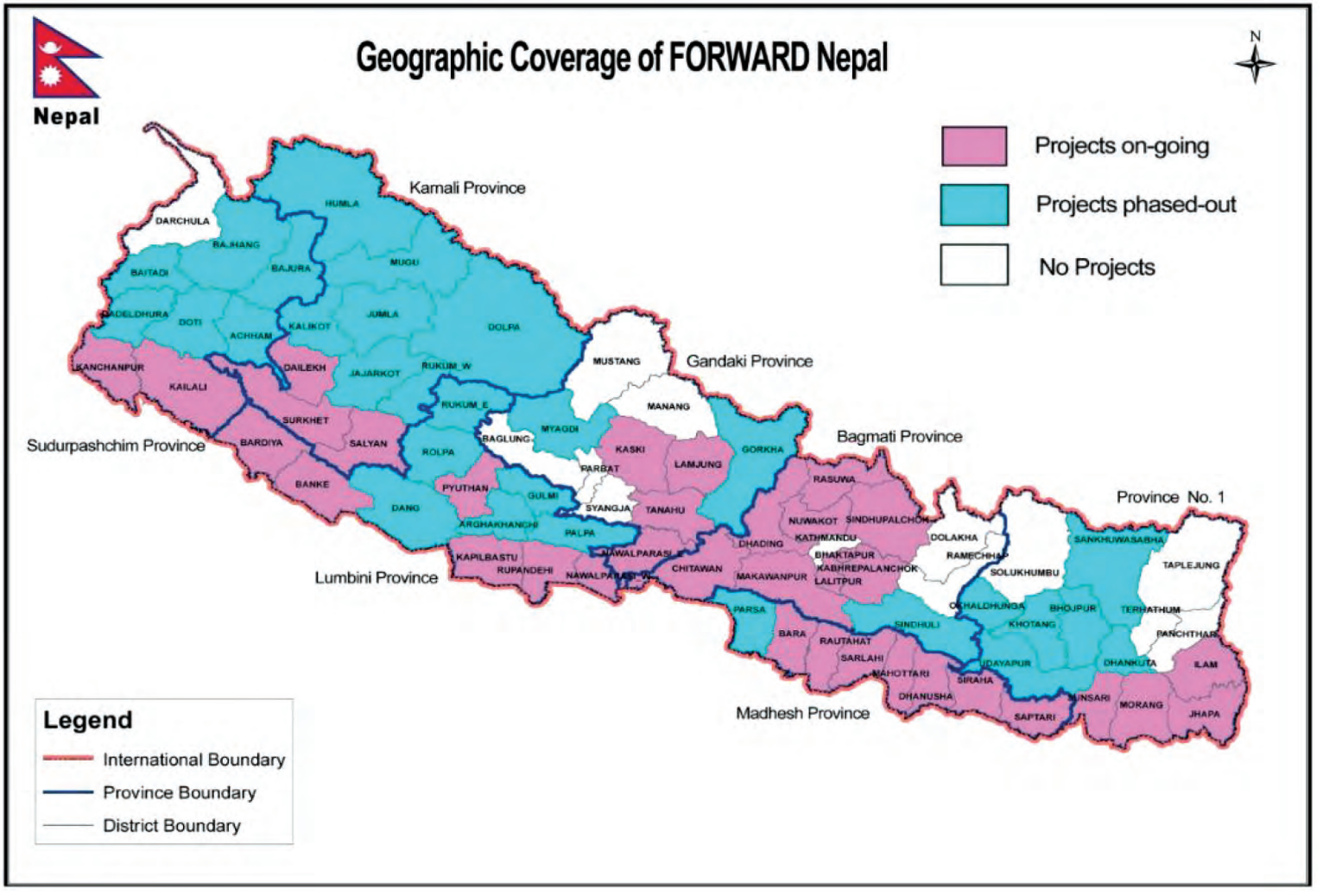
Ram Dayal Tharu
Finance Officer

Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota
Chairperson
Date: October 12, 2022
Place: Bharatpur

FCA. Santosh Regmi
Partner
SHA & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Geographical Coverage



FORWARD Nepal

Silver Jubilee celebration of FORWARD Nepal