FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

This 33rd issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin provides a comprehensive update on project implementation progress in brief. It highlights institutional activities and events from July 16, 2024, to 15th November 2024. During this period, we continued with six projects: "Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Village in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal-Phase II"; "The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal"; "USAID/Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub"; "Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal (YUVA)"; "Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promotors of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities"; and "Resilient Ecosystems (Climate Change Addressing Interventions) - Riverbed Farming." During this reporting period, many project concepts and proposals had been submitted to different donor agencies for support. A project proposal on Dairy and AI with ADRA Nepal and a livelihood project focused on Migration with AWO Internation are under discussion.

Highlights of this period include the celebration of the 28th FORWARD Day on 1st September 2024; a five-day TOT on Food system transformation strategic planning; a Province-Level Validation Workshop in the YUVA project; and Gender-up training for FORWARD Nepal Staff and collaborating partners from HIL from the South Asia Regional Hub. Additionally, project monitoring visits were conducted by head office staff and relevant project donors, and financial monitoring took place at both the central office and project offices.

Annual Audit of FORWARD Nepal conducted from September 24, 2024, to October 04, 2024, by a Chartered Audit Form Sushil and Associates. The annual institutional renewal process was completed on 11th October 2024.

Major project activities conducted

1. Regional Programme for Promoting a multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India – Phase II

Key activities of the project in this period are:

- **Malnutrition screening of children by health workers (in collaboration with GoN, Partners, and UNICEF)**

A total of 5,597 (Boys=2,989; Girls=2,608) children were screened. Among them, 1174 (Boys=601; Girls=573) children were identified as malnourished, which is 20.98 % of the total screened children. Among them, 252 (Boys=127; Girls=125) were identified as SAM cases which is 4.5% of the total screened children. Similarly, 922 (Boys=474; Girls=448) children were identified as MAM cases which is 16.47 % of the total screened children.

- **Mini/kit and sapling to households with identified malnourished children and seed collection center**

A total of 908 mini-kits (583 in Rautahat and 325 in Saptari) and 325 and 583 saplings of papaya and drumstick have been supported to households with severely malnourished children and moderately malnourished children in Saptariand Rautahat respectively. Each mini-kit contains seven varieties of vegetable seeds: Tomato (2gm), Rayo (5gm), Carrot (10gm), Brinjal (3gm), Green-pea (30gm), Spinach (30gm), and beetroot (20gm).

Additionally, local seed collection and conservation centers in both districts supported with various vegetables, cereals, and oilseeds, including 15 kg of black mustard, 60 kg of lentils, 15 kg of coriander, 15 kg of green peas, 30 kg of flaxseed, 30 kg of barley, 3 kg of spinach, 600 g each of Rayo seed, chili, and tomato, along with 6 kg of broad beans.

- **Training of Starting Entrepreneurs (TOSE) to five LANN+ self-help groups and two seed conservation centers**

The three days training of Starting Entrepreneurs was completed on 27 - 29th September 2024 to enhance business capabilities for local entrepreneurs (Nutri-mix producer and local seed conservation center) of Rajgadh Municipality, Saptari, and Paroha Municipality, Rautahat, in the Nutrition Smart Community Project. The training targeted women-led businesses focusing on self-employment opportunities through entrepreneurship.

- **Three days of technical training for the Seed Preservation Collection Center committee - 2 Group**

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The technical training for a local seed collection and conservation center was completed from 30 Sept. to 2nd Oct. 2024 with the objective of equipping participants with foundational knowledge and best practices for effective seed collection, conservation, and management/storage and ensuring the long-term sustainability of seed conservation centers.

- **Participation in Humanitarian capacity-building training**

A three-day humanitarian capacity-building training was organized by WHH from 13th to 15th November 2024, aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of WHH and partner staff to effectively respond to new emergencies in Nepal and Agriculture officer participated from FORWARD Nepal (NSC project). The training covered key topics such as Humanitarian Principles, Disaster Management Governance in Nepal, WHH's humanitarian priorities, MEAL in emergency needs assessments, and thematic program planning for WASH and food security.

2. Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticulture Interventions in Nepal - YUVA funded by USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, UC Davis and WHH

Key activities of the project in this period are:

- **Survey for mapping aspiration, income need, and livelihood assets:**

The study was carried out among youths (16-40 years) in the Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City of Dang, Sandhikharka Municipality of Arghakhanchi, and Buddhabhumi Municipality of Kapilvastu districts. The data were collected from 420 sample households (44% females) from peri-urban and rural areas during October 2023, and the study report was finalized in October 2024.

- **Provincial-level validation workshop:**

The YUVA project conducted a validation workshop for sharing three formative research studies: (i) a survey for mapping aspiration, income need, and livelihood assets; (ii) exploring the orchard leasing mechanisms and provision for agricultural land leasing; and (iii) market explorations of fruit and vegetables. The preliminary findings were analyzed, based on the data and information sources of those studies. This half-day validation workshop was conducted on September 27th, 2024, to share these formative research findings with the provincial, district, and local level stakeholders and to seek input from the stakeholders to confirm the insights, conclusions, and proposed actions aligned with the project goals.

- **Testing of different scales of enterprises**:

Testing different types of protective cultivation structures and cropping patterns for the winter season vegetables was underway in an Arghakhanchi district in a participatory research approach with the seven youth researchers in their research of all three project sites. Likely, open field tests for five major crops that are demanded by the market in lean season and were in the interest of producers were under split plot research design in Dang and Kapilvastu districts among 31 youths. PhD Scholar is being engaged in this research, and three agricultural diploma interns were supported to carry out the research in the field.

- **Study on effectiveness of chimney solar dryer:**

The UC Davis designed solar dryer is under experimentation in all three ecological zones by testing key vegetable crops that are called out after shorting and grading or having the least market price but surplus in the farmers' field for value addition. One of the MSc Agriculture students from Agriculture and Forestry University is leading this test with treatments on the efficiency of the dryer and the nutrient quality of the product after drying.

- **Training on production technologies of the selected commodities:**

Vegetable production training was organized from September 28 to October 2, 2024, at Kapilvastu among 27 youth farmers (50% of women), along with 3 agricultural technicians for technology transfer. The training focused on equipping participants with technical skills related to soil management, crop management, irrigation techniques, pest and disease management, and the use of communication technology in agriculture practices.

- **Sharing the findings of the study with USAID, DC:**

FORWARD Nepal presented the study findings of the aspiration mapping, income needs, and livelihood assets of youth virtually among the representatives from USAID, DC, University of California Davis (UC Davis), and the Regional Hub Manager South Asia on December 19, 2024. There was participation of Mr. Daniel Bailey, International Agricultural Research Advisor from USAID DC whereas the team of Horticulture Innovation Lab from UC Davis Erin Mcguire, Director, Archie Jarman, Associate Director, and Katheryn Gregerson, Project Coordinator participated in the sharing session. Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota facilitated FORWARD Nepal to connect with UC Davis thereof to the USAID DC to share the findings of this formative research. The YUVA project was the first project to present USAID DC from the Horticulture Innovation Lab.

3. Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promoters of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities funded by BMZ/WHH

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Key activities of the project in this period are:

- **Improvements in the Cattle shed**

A total of 22 cattle shed improvements were made in this period. Altogether 130 Shed improvements have been made so far. Improved cattle sheds are designed for collecting urine in a pit. The pit is protected from rain and runoff. This urine can be stored in a drum for fermentation to be used as liquid manure or organic pesticide. Cattle urine is a viable alternative to mineral fertilizer for crops and vegetables. The project will support up to NRs 12,500 for the purchase of cement, and bricks and beneficiaries will contribute local materials and labor. After completion of the structure and monitoring by the field technician, the project will reimburse the expenditures.

Each constructed structure was verified by project officers if they matched the design estimate provided prior. The aim is to utilize urine for Jhol mal preparation upon efficient collection. After the construction of 86 improved cattle sheds, farmers have started collecting urine and applying foliar spray as an inclusion in *Jholmal* preparation. This will ultimately facilitate organic crop production and aid in minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

- **Setting up model nutrition gardens**

Different types of winter season vegetable seeds, agriculture equipment, Yellow sticky traps, Blue sticky traps, Pheromone traps, organic fertilizers, effective microorganisms, and agriculture lime support were provided for 66 nutrition garden farmers to promote diverse and nutritious vegetable production throughout the year, promotion of organic vegetable farming and control of insect, pests, and diseases in nutrition garden.

- **Input and material support to leasehold fish and vegetable farmers**

12 landless farmers who received fish farming training were provided with different types of fish as start-up support. For this, project staff supported the search for a fallow pond for fish farming by the landless. A triparty agreement will be signed between the project, landless farmer, and land owner to lease the land for the landless, and 50% lease amount will be paid from the project in 1st year.

3 days of vegetable cultivation training was conducted in Kapilvastu for landless farmers where 36 (9 Men, 27 Women) participated. The major outcomes of training were Landless will lease at least 3 Kattha of land for commercial vegetable cultivation. Input supply will be provided by the project. The farming will be focused on mixed diverse vegetable cultivation. During training practical sessions were conducted via a field visit that provided in-depth learning of Nursery raising, field preparation, compost making, and *Jholmal* formation. This has provided an overall method for Vegetable farming as a commercial enterprise and high benefits can be obtained even from low areas of land.

- **Market-led agricultural production of Kala Namak rice**

Thirty-three farmers who were provided with seeds of *Kala Namak rice* were supported by different types of vegetable seeds, agriculture equipment, light traps, organic fertilizers, effective microorganisms, and agriculture lime support provided to promote and increase the production and productivity as well as to control insect, pests, and diseases. This not only promotes the farmers as an entrepreneur but also aids in the improvement in the quality of production of rice and improving the market value of the product to support income generation for farmers.

- **Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) sessions**

GAP (1 to 10 sessions) was conducted in 33 groups where (31 Men, and 818 Women) participated. The 1st session was the introductory session on GAP, 2nd session was based on cropping calendar, 3rd and 4th session was based on Nursery raising and IPNM on Rice farming, 5th session was based on organic farming, its introduction, importance, and opportunities, principles of organic farming and their practices. The 6th session focused on beneficial and harmful insects, identification, importance, and conservation methods. Beneficial insects like honey bees, ladybird beetles, and tiger beetles are useful because they consume harmful insects and protect plants from insect and disease infestation.

The 7th session was focused on the establishment of a nursery bed for winter vegetable farming. This includes the preparation of hotbeds, manure management, nursery bed preparation, and seed-sowing practices. In the 8th session, the farmers were trained on the transplantation of winter vegetables in the main field, manure management using local raw materials, and preparation of organic pesticides like *Jholmal* used to control insects, pests, and diseases.

Similarly, the 9th session was focused on record keeping and management of all the activities conducted during farming. This session has helped farmers for record maintenance and recording of all the income and expenses incurred in farming. The record-keeping will help with income measurement and financial transactions required during cultivation. The last (10th session) was majorly focused on gender quality, inclusion, and a review of all the previous GAP sessions conducted. In this session, the members of the group were recalled with 1-9 GAP sessions that were conducted during. Similarly, all the members were acquainted with gender quality and its

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importance in agriculture, as well as the importance of harmony and group for the maintenance of peace and prosperity in the community. In the end, the celebration was done and farmers were happy to share the experience they had during their GAP sessions.

- **Input support to farmers who attended GAP sessions**

12 different types of vegetable seed support were provided to 4491 farmers of 181 small landholder farmers groups to enhance productivity and profitability in agriculture and to promote vegetable diversification and Good Agricultural Practices. This will also support in nutrition provisioning hence reducing the malnutrition of children in the community. The seeds will help in the commercial production of vegetables resulting in income generation and livelihood improvement of farmers.

- **Training on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Exposure visit of the PGS committee and Member**

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) training was conducted in Yashodhara Rural Municipality. 38 (4 males, 34 females) participated in the training facilitated by the project staff. The training was for two days and on the second day a PGS monitoring committee was formed, which will be capacitated, and ensure the organic farming organic agriculture production in the 181 small farmers' agriculture groups that the project has established in the first year. A 3-day exposure visit of the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) committee was conducted in the Chitwan district. A total of 40 participants (19 Men, 21 Women) consisting of farmers, project staff, and agriculture technicians visited multiple PGS-implemented areas and interacted with organic agriculture farmers of the Chitwan district. The visit helped in the capacity development of the PGS committee and farmers and increased the motivation of the farmers for the implementation of organic farming practices.

- **Vocational training for landless youths**

190 hours of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) on Bike Repairing at Mayadevi Rural Municipality and Plumbing Training has been initiated at Suddhodhan Rural Municipality. The training was facilitated by Public Technical College, a consulting firm, and followed CTEVT guidelines. The training was conducted for 5 hours a day with theory and practical classes. There are 20 landless Male youths each training is projected to be completed in September.

Completion of 190 hours of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) on Bike Repairing at Mayadevi Rural Municipality and Plumbing Training initiated at Suddhodhan Rural Municipality. The training was facilitated by Public Technical College, a consulting firm, and followed CTEVT guidelines. The training was conducted for 5 hours a day with theory and practical classes. There were 20 landless Male youths in each training.

Completion and closing session of 190 hours of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) on Bike Repair at Mayadevi Rural Municipality and Plumbing Training at Suddhodhan Rural Municipality was conducted. The training was facilitated by Public Technical College, a consulting firm, and followed CTEVT guidelines. The training was conducted for 5 hours a day with theory and practical classes. There were 20 landless Male youths in each training. The training was started in August 2024.

Major Activity Plan for the next three Months

- Vocational training TVET for off-farm livelihoods 450 HHs: especially focusing 100 landless during this period on Light Driving, Beauty parlor, Advance Trailering, Meson, and Food and Snack making. Similarly support the necessary items for business creation.
- Support business start-up working materials for 40 landless youth who have training in Bike repair and Plumbing.
- Capacity building training on the Staff.
- Seeds, seedlings, agric. Tools and equipment for 66 Nutrition Gardens.
- One Deep Boring installation in Suddhodhan RM with the collaboration of Local Government. And 22 shallow boring installations in 22 wards of project working areas.

4. USAID/FtF Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub

The key project activities during the period are:

- Regional Hub Manager was invited as a panelist on celebrating Global Ag Day 2024 by the University of California Davis on 24 October 2024 wherein he shared his perspectives on Social and youth prospects and social considerations in agribusiness and agriculture research in marking the Global Agriculture Day 2024 at UC Davis while the team (ME and RHM) also took the opportunity to have few days to dive deeper into the regional portfolio figuring out the innovations coming out and discussing the strategies for wider impacts with scaling of the innovations contributing to the better people and planet as the regional leaders in horticulture. On the same occasion, HIL managed to have a capacity-building session on the RBET framework and observe the post-harvest center, brewery, etc.
- Participated in the International seed conference organized by Nepal Seed and Fertilizer Project/CIMMYT together with MoALD, SQCC,

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and Seed Entrepreneurs Association Nepal (SEAN) from 22-23 August 2024 at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu. The conference had participants, professionals, and experts from seed companies in different countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Thailand, Singapore, Switzerland, USA, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, etc.

- Participated in the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit 2024 (GYEO-2024) organized by Making Cents International on September 9-12, 2024 in Washington DC together with PhD fellow of YUVA Mr. Nagendra Bastakoti, International advisory board member Kushal Naharki and Program Officer of UC Davis Ms. Lydiah Maranga whereby there was participation of youths from around 45 countries. The Summit is the flagship learning and evidence-generation convening of the YEO 2030 initiative, anchored in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8. GYEOS brings together more than 500 global stakeholders from 75+ countries each year to learn, advance evidence generation, share best practices, and forge partnerships in the Youth Economic Opportunity (YEO) space. The GYEOS helps to inform the YEO 2030 initiative's year-round activities and offers an annual benchmark for evidence and best practices. Our community uses the Summit to launch new initiatives and forecast changes in the youth economic opportunities landscape. Making Cents hosted the 2024 GYEO Summit in Washington D.C. on September 9- 12, 2024. The Summit opened with its Youth Leadership Accelerator program on September 9-10 focused on the capacity strengthening of young professionals and leaders, building their peer-to-peer networks and connections with adult allies.
- Participated and facilitated the Lumbini Provincial validation workshop of the formative research of aspiration mapping, market exploration, and orchard leashing mechanism at Deukhuri Dang together with the Palika officials from Buddhabhumi of Kapilvastu, Sandhikharka of Arghakhanchi and Tulsipur of Dang. There was participation from the provincial cooperative division, Provincial Agriculture Directorate, Provincial Youth Ministry etc.

5. The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal funded by JOA/ADRA

The key project activities during the period are:

- **Annual Review and Planning Workshop**

The annual review and planning workshop was organized from 24 to 26 July. Dr. Tapendra Bohora from MoALD (Ktm), Dr. Sudhir Singh from Dept. of Livestock Services, and Dr. Uddhav Paneru from the National Cattle Research Program, Chitwan visited the field of TERAI Project and observed the field activities.

- **Artificial Insemination (AI) Technician Training by Peter Edmondson**

Peter Edmondson from UdderWise (UK) trained the artificial insemination (AI) technicians of the project areas from 11 to 13 September on the proper method of handling and thawing frozen semen for enhanced conception rates.

- **Statutory Audit of TERAI Project**

An Audit team from RajMS & Co., Chartered Accountants visited FORWARD Nepal for a Statutory audit of the TERAI Project's accounts from 6th & 7th September 2024.

- **SWC Monitoring Visit**

A team deployed by the Social Welfare Council (SWC) visited the field of the TERAI Project on 29th and 30th October 2024 and observed the field activities.

6. Resilient Ecosystems (Climate Change Addressing Interventions)- Riverbed Farming

FORWARD Nepal is implementing a riverbed farming project in Rajapur, Lamkichuha, and Godawari Municipalities as an economic resilience activity for poor and vulnerable people affected by floods. The Key activities during this reporting period were:

- **Post-Harvest Promotion and Market Linkage Activity**

On July 21, 2024, FORWARD Nepal organized a post-harvest promotion and market linkage activity at Lamki Bazar, Lamkichuha Municipality, Kailali. The event was attended by 19 beneficiaries (15 female, 4 male) from three municipalities, four project staff, one resource person, and representatives from Lamkichuha Municipality and USAID's Tayar Nepal. The training provided both theoretical and practical knowledge on post-harvest management, covering topics like quality control, grading, processing, packaging, storage, and market information. A practical session on pickle making, led by resource person Sunita Rana, offered valuable insights into drying methods, ingredient preparation, and storage.

- **Development and Distribution of Riverbed Farming Materials**

FORWARD Nepal prepared a riverbed farming booklet and factsheet based on practices and experiences in the Kailali and Bardiya districts. A total

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of 250 booklets and 500 factsheets, authored by Tirth Kumar Timsina and Ravi Prakash Rauniyar, were distributed to farmer groups and the agriculture development sections of municipalities. The materials covered topics such as riverbed farming history, land preparation techniques, crop cultivation methods, nursery management, plant protection measures, bio-pesticide preparation, and post-harvest management.

- **Riverbed Farming Policy development**

From August 6–8, 2024, FORWARD Nepal facilitated riverbed farming policy discussions in Rajapur, Lamkichuha, and Godawari Municipalities, with 52 participants (41 male, 11 female), including municipal officials, farmers, and other stakeholders. The discussions aimed to refine draft policies on riverbed farming, ensuring alignment with local needs. On August 20, 2024, the draft policies were officially handed over to the respective municipalities for further review and adoption.

- **Riverbed Farming Learning and Sharing Workshops**

Three learning and sharing workshops were held in Lamkichuha, Godawari, and Rajapur Municipalities on August 18, 21, and 23, 2024, respectively. A total of 54 participants (36 male, 18 female), including municipal officials, farmers, and representatives from various sectors, attended. Farmers shared their achievements and challenges, while local government representatives encouraged continued collaboration. Discussions highlighted the need for expanded farming resources, irrigation support, and improved market linkages to sustain riverbed farming practices.

- **Riverbed Farming Implementation and Outcomes**

FORWARD Nepal united 401 marginalized farmers from riverbank areas into 20 farmer groups, covering 22 hectares of land for riverbed farming. This initiative produced approximately 29 tons of vegetables (e.g., cucumber, pumpkin, bitter gourd) and generated a total income of NPR 950,000. Farmers received training on climate-smart technologies and technical skills, while the development of riverbed farming policy and materials ensured long-term sustainability. Both local governments and communities expressed commitment to continuing riverbed farming for the betterment of marginalized farmers.

7. Effect of male outmigration, and environmental changes on women involved in livestock production in rural Nepal

This research project, funded by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Japan, is led by faculty member Niraj Prakash Joshi from Hiroshima University. FORWARD Nepal is a collaborative partner in the project, alongside Associate Professor Shanker Raj Barsila of Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan. The project's objective is to examine the impact of male outmigration and environmental changes on the work of left-behind female members in the hilly wards of Ichchhakaamana Rural Municipality, Chitwan. FORWARD Nepal employed six short-term enumerators, all master's level students from Agriculture and Forestry University, who were trained in questionnaire orientation, field procedures, Qualtrics, and survey techniques. A field survey was then conducted in five hilly wards of the municipality—Ward Numbers 1, 2, 3, and the hilly settlements of Wards 4 and 5—using Qualtrics. Data was collected from 284 households. Preliminary findings will be shared with stakeholders at a dissemination workshop scheduled for mid-August 2024.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

- On 16 August 2024, a GenderUp facilitator's training was held in Kathmandu, the Horticulture Innovation Lab, and attended by the YUVA project team, along with the Project Director (PD) and HIL Regional Hub Manager.
- On 22 August 2024, an NSC Learning and Sharing Workshop was held in Chapur, Rautahat, organized by FORWARD Nepal. The workshop was attended by FORWARD Nepal's Executive Director, WHH representatives (RNA, RD, CD, PM, MEAL, PA), and NSC project staff from both districts.
- On 23–24 August 2024, a Learning and Sharing session on LANN+ PLA was held in Chapur, Rautahat, organized by FORWARD Nepal. The session was attended by LANN+ PLA facilitators of Rautahat and NSC project staff from both districts.
- On 25–27 August 2024, an Orientation on the CommCare system was conducted in Chapur, Rautahat, organized by FORWARD Nepal. The event was attended by the Regional Coordinator, MEAL Expert, Partner Advisor, and MEAL Officer from WHH, along with community volunteers of Rautahat and NSC project staff from both districts.
- On 25–29 August 2024, a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Food System Transformation was organized under the Food System Project. The training was attended by Improved Food System Project Officers and the HIL Regional Hub Manager.
- On 27–29 September 2024, a 3-day Training of Starting Entrepreneurs (TOSE) was held in Rajbiraj, Saptari, organized by FORWARD Nepal. The training was attended by LANN+ PLA self-help group members, seed conservation center members, and NSC project staff from both districts.
- On 30 September–2 October 2024, a 3-day Technical Training for the Seed Preservation Center was conducted in Rajbiraj, Saptari, organized by FORWARD Nepal. The training was attended by

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seed conservation center members and NSC project staff from both districts.

- On 1–4 October 2024, a MEAL and Data Management Training was held in Kathmandu. The agenda focused on learning advanced Excel and was attended by the MDRO of the Food System Project and the MEAL Officer of the NSC Project.
- On 20–24 October 2024, a Staff Capacity Building training was organized by the YUVA Project and held at the FORWARD Nepal head office. The training was attended by the YUVA Project field team, the Project Coordinator (PC), and the MDRO from the Food System Project.
- On 14 November 2024, an FCRM (Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanism) Orientation was organized by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and attended by the Improved Food System Project team. Mr. Prabin Paudel and Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu from the head office also attended the training.

Staff Turnover

- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal was appointed as Principal Investigator (PI) /Project Manager in place of Dr. Bishnu Kumar Bishwakarma for the " Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticulture Interventions in Nepal – YUVA Project" from 9th August 2024.
- Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pandit was appointed as the Project Advocacy Officer (PAO) from 27th September 2024 in place of Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya in the Nutrition Smart Community (NSC-II) Project (NPL 1066-19).
- Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya left the job on 15th September 2024 for the NSC-II (NPL 1066-19) Project.
- Mr. Ravi Prakash Rauniyar - Project Coordinator, Mr. Pramod Sah Sudi, Ms. Nirmala Budha (Ayer), and Ms. Maahima Dahit, Field Technicians left the job after the project phased out on 31st August 2024 "Resilient Ecosystems (Climate Change Addressing Interventions) - Riverbed Farming" project.

Visitors

- On 26th July 2024, Surendra Gautam, Regional Director of AWO International, visited FORWARD Nepal to learn about the organization's current initiatives and ongoing programs.
- On 18th August 2024, Katheryn Gregerson from the Horticulture Innovation Lab visited the FORWARD Nepal office to meet with the team and discuss collaborative opportunities.
- On 25 August 2024, Shakib Nabi, Country Director of Welthungerhilfe (WHH), visited the FORWARD Nepal head office to discuss organizational challenges and explore the way forward.
- On 31 August 2024, Kerstin Grimm from AWO International Berlin, Surendra Gautam, Regional Director of AWO International, and Kusum Kumar Bhatta visited the FORWARD Nepal head office to discuss future networking and collaboration opportunities.
- Mr. Chiranjeevi Sharma, Assistant Chief District Officer, Chitwan paid a visit to FORWARD Nepal in connection to organization activities monitoring and took an update from the management team about FORWARD Nepal's programs.

Institutional activities/events:

- On September 01, 2024, FORWARD Nepal celebrated among other founder members, general members, staff, and well-wishers of FORWARD Nepal. The meeting included an annual review of all projects, updates on past, current, and upcoming projects, and concluded with a dinner party in the evening.
- Submission of project proposal: During this reporting period, many project concepts and proposals were submitted to different donor agencies for support. A project proposal on Dairy and AI with ADRA Nepal and a livelihood project focused on Migration with AWO Internation are under discussion.
- Acceptance of Project Proposal: The USAID Agricultural Transformation (AgT) Project will be carried out by FORWARD Nepal in a total of 13 districts of Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki province, focusing on 5 commodities; rice, maize, lentils, vegetables, and goat.

Upcoming institutional major events:

- Recruitment of Field Officers for the YUVA project and Enterprise Development Officer for the Local Food System Project (NPL 1083-22)
- Organize Annual Program and 28th AGM

Some Glimpses

YUVA project research field (along with the personal field of research farmer) being irrigated

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Day 1 of 5-day Staff capacity building training carried out by YUVA Project. The training of the day was led by Prof. Dr, Arjun Shrestha, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, AFU.

Onsite discussion on pest and disease management during technical Training to Youth Entrepreneurs of the YUVA Project

Capacity Building on Food System Transformation of Local Food System Project including FORWARD Staff

Regional Hub Manager as panelist sharing prospects on social and youth consideration in agricultural research at UC Davis Global AG Day Celebration

Province Level Validation Workshop of YUVA formative research in Lumbini Province, Deukhuri Valley, Dang

Carrying out his research in a Solar Chimney dryer

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