FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

This 36th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin provides a comprehensive update on project implementation progress in brief. It highlights institutional activities and events from July 17, 2025, to 16th November 2025. During this period, we continued with three projects: "The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal"; "Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promotors of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities"; "Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal (YUVA)". 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 Goat & vegetable value chain in Madhesh Province with ILO are under discussion.

Highlights of this period include the celebration of the 29th FORWARD Day on 1st September 2025; a three-day MEAL data management training; a two-day semi-annual review and a two-day MEAL workshop. 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 15th September, 2025, to 25th September, 2025, by a Chartered Audit Form Sushil and Associates. The annual institutional renewal process (IRD, DAO, & Municipality Ward Office- 2) was completed on 7th November 2025.

Major project activities conducted

1. 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 on 24th and 25th July in Manigram, Rupandehi. Mr. Pustak Raj Ojha, the Chairperson; Prof. Dr. Nirajan Bhattarai, the Project Focal Person; Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, the Livestock Development Specialist; and Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu, the Senior Admin and Finance Officer participated in the workshop. The draft of the plan for year IV was drafted in the review.

- **Refresher training to the lead famers**

A two-day refresher training on improved cattle and buffalo husbandry for participants from two municipalities in Rupandehi district was organized on 29th and 30th October, while a similar training for participants from two municipalities in Kapilvastu district was organized on 3rd and 4th November. The training was facilitated by Peter Edmondson from the United Kingdom (UK). A total of 33 lead dairy farmers (7 men and 26 women) in Rupandehi and 35 lead farmers (12 men and 23 women) in Kapilvastu participated in the training. The training primarily focused on feed management, fodder and forage management, feed cost reduction strategy, hygienic milk production, mastitis prevention, and heat detection techniques.

- **Refresher training to the AI Technicians**

A one-day refresher training on artificial insemination (AI) for AI technicians from two municipalities each in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts was organized on 31 October and 2 November, respectively. The training was facilitated by Peter Edmondson from the United Kingdom (UK). A total of 12 technicians (10 men and 2 women) in Rupandehi and 13 technicians (all men) in Kapilvastu participated in the training. The inseminators shared the improvements they had implemented following last year's training and refreshed their knowledge on AI practices in cattle and buffalo.

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

Key activities of the project in this period are:

- **Setting up diverse nutrition gardens for 66 households**

Plastic vessels of variable size for multilayer farming in 3-layered iron stands were provided for all farmers to promote vegetable farming even in the rainy season. The diverse nutrition gardens offer great potential for improving household food and nutrition security on small, intensively used plots of land. This intervention is carried out in a proper layout ensuring all year-round production and acts as demonstrations of integrated and diverse farming for the groups.

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- **Input and material support to leasehold farmers for at least 50 households**

Support of fingerlings to 10 fish farming landless farmers (Mayadevi-4, Yashodhara-3, Suddhodhan-3) were provided. A total of 55 *kattha* of land were targeted and 22,000 fingerlings (400/*kattha*) were supported. The fish production will help them in income generation and nutrition maintenance.
Project has supported on a 50% cost-sharing basis for land utilization for landless farmers with agricultural skills.

- **Input support to GAP session for 4500 households**

Support of seeds has been provided to all 181 GAP farmers groups. Seeds include fava bean, fenugreek, broad leaf mustard, carrot, sugar beet, and onion. The seeds are targeted to be raised in winter season. The seeds will help in year-round production of green vegetables and support food diversity and nutrition maintenance.

- **Irrigation support for 4500 smallholder farmer groups**

In total 19 shallow borings and 1 deep boring irrigation scheme have been completed. Project has hired a sub-engineer for inspection and taking technical decisions. The project has planned to install and support 22 shallow bores across 22 working wards to support farmer groups with irrigation. In addition, pond restructuring will be done for water harvesting and improvement of groundwater table. This support will help farmers grow a variety of high-value vegetables round the year.

- **Market-led agricultural production for 110 households**

Support of winter season seeds and Agri materials has been provided to 66 farmers. Seeds include cabbage, onion, chickpea, pea, TPS potato, sugar beet, bio-pesticide, bio-fertilizer, and white plastic. These seeds and materials will help in commercial production of cash crops and help farmers develop as entrepreneurs.

- **Vocational training and material support for 500 off-farm livelihoods**

Project has targeted 500 landless communities who will be supported via on-farm and off-farm livelihood interventions. The skill will also help in developing resiliency in them and develop them as entrepreneurs.
A total of 14 N*atuwa* youth actively participated and received traditional music (band baja) sets in a month-long skill development training.
20 farmers (5 Men, 15 Women) received short term (3-days) poultry farming training along with poultry houses that can accommodate 40-50 birds. Similarly, five technical and vocational trainings on tailoring, beautician, and light driving were completed where 100 (20menand 80 Women) participated. Among them 60 women tailoring training graduates received business startup materials.
In addition, 80 participants (70 men and 10 women) have started 390 hours of skill development training following CTEVT guideline training on cooking, house-wiring, tile-marble, and welding and iron furniture have started from November and will continue till its completion in next year.
Three events of a five days Entrepreneurship Development Trainings (SIYB) were conducted where 82 participants (31 men and 51 women) attended. The training highlighted business concepts, types of business, identification of factors for conducting business, characteristics of successful enterprises, market and marketing, orientation and preparation of business plans, record keeping and maintenance, and two game models (basic business cycle; demand and supply).

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

GAP 8th to 10th session was conducted in 66 groups where 1,570 participants (55 men and 1,515 women) attended. The 8th session focused on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in rice, conservation of beneficial insects, and reduction of harmful insects. 9th session was focused on nursery management of winter vegetables. The 10th session was focused on Integrated Pest Management in vegetables, identification of different insects, pests, diseases, and their management using locally available and organic pesticides. The session also included the concept of GESI and their importance. This marks the end of GAP session in 66 groups. Till date, 1,320 GAP sessions have been completed in 132 groups where more than 3,300 farmers have participated.
The new cycle of 10th GAP session was started in 49 groups from November where 1,220 participants (16 men and 1,204 women) attended. The 1st session was an introductory session which highlighted the importance of GAP practices and safe food production.

- **Partner NGO capacity assessment and development by external consultant**

A two-day workshop on MEAL strategy and Framework preparation was conducted in Chitwan where board members and senior project officers participated. The major objective of the training was to prepare MEAL strategy and Framework. The framework will be a major MEAL document for FORWARD Nepal.

- **Exposure visits of local government for 15 participants**

Project stakeholders and local government members comprising of 23 personnel (21 men and 2 women) visited KVK Deoghar and Agroecology & Green College Program in India for 7 days with the objective of joint learning, project sharing, exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices. The team

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also visited SIFS model village and other landscape development model villages under the GE program.

- **Joint monitoring field visits with district and municipal stakeholders**

Joint monitoring visit was conducted monthly from different local and district project stakeholders on different project sites focusing on TVET entrepreneurs, irrigation schemes, and other project activities. The main objective was reviewing and analyzing the progress and achievements of the project's activities, including resource utilization status, policy, and operational feedback from stakeholders, to achieve the targeted goals and objectives by the end of the project period.

- **Accountability and project visibility**

A total of 24 different types of banners generating various awareness were developed and installed at all stakeholder locations and during program conduction.

- **Capacity building for project staff and events for sharing of knowledge**

A capacity-building event was conducted for project staff to enhance their understanding and facilitation skills related to the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training package. The session focused on strengthening staff competencies in delivering entrepreneurship development activities, improving training methodologies, and effectively supporting participants throughout the business development process. Through interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, and group exercises, staff gained increased confidence in applying SIYB tools and approaches in the field. This capacity-building initiative has equipped the team with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve the quality and impact of SIYB training within the project. In this event, a total of 23 staff from NPL 1083-22 project and 2 staff from NPL 1084-22 project participated.

3. Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticulture Interventions in Nepal - YUVA funded by UC Davis and WHH

Key activities of the project in this period are:

- **Improvement of cattle shed**

A total of 11 cattle sheds were constructed. Farmers improved cattle shed with a proper urine drainage system. The project supported technical services and materials. Contract was signed with farmers for the construction of FYM & urine management. The vendors were identified for the construction of the structure.

- **Bio-Pesticide training and material distribution**

One-day training practical session & materials distribution were carried out on 9th December, 2025. A total of 15 farmers participated in the training and each farmer were provided with 2 drums for the preparation of *Jholmal*.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

- On 13th to 14th August, 2025 MEAL workshop was held on Sauraha, Chitwan. The workshop was attended by board of directors and senior program team.
- On 3rd to 4th September, 2025 semi-annual review of NPL 1083-22 project was conducted in Lumbini, Rupandehi.
- On 4th to 7th November, 2025 MEAL data management and Power BI workshop was held on Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The workshop was attended by MDR officer of NPL 1083-22 program.

Visitors

- On 21st July 2025, 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.
- On 23rd to 24th July 2025, Federal level government stakeholders of Lumbini Province visited at Banganga Municipality, a project site of TERAI project.
- On 12th August 2025, Food System Project Team from the Kalika Self-reliance Social Centre (KSSC) visited FORWARD, Nepal and had introductory program with executive committee members.
- On 14th and 15th August 2025, the donor audit and statutory audit of the TERAI Project, funded by JOA/ADRA, were conducted by the Chartered Audit Firm RajMS, Kathmandu, covering the period from July 2024 to August 2025.
- On 13th September 2025, Prof. Saori Kashima, Associate Prof. Niraj Prakash Joshi, and Nguyen Thi Hue from Hiroshima University visited the FORWARD Nepal office to discuss about ongoing collaborative research activities.
- On 11th to 13th November, 2025 senior members of BMZ, Bengo, and members of German embassy visited project office and field sites of NPL 1083-22 project programs.

Institutional activities/events:

- On 1st September, 2025, 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, project concepts and proposals

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were submitted to different donor agencies for support. A project proposal on Dairy and AI with ADRA Nepal and Goat & vegetable value chain in Madhesh Province with ILO were submitted.

Upcoming institutional major events:

- Starting of Livelihood project focused on Migration with AWO International from January 2026.
- Organize Annual Program and 29th AGM

Some Glimpses

BMZ, Bengo, and German embassy representative visit to NPL 1083-22 project Kapilvastu

Board members and project staffs participation in MEAL workshop at Sauraha, Chitwan

390 hours of cooking TVET training at NPL 1083-22 project Kapilvastu

Celebration of 29th FORWARD Day at Devghatdham, Tanahu.

Support of traditional music startup materials to *Natuwa* community

Members of NGO federation visit to FORWARD office

MEAL workshop and data visualization training attended at Lalitpur.

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