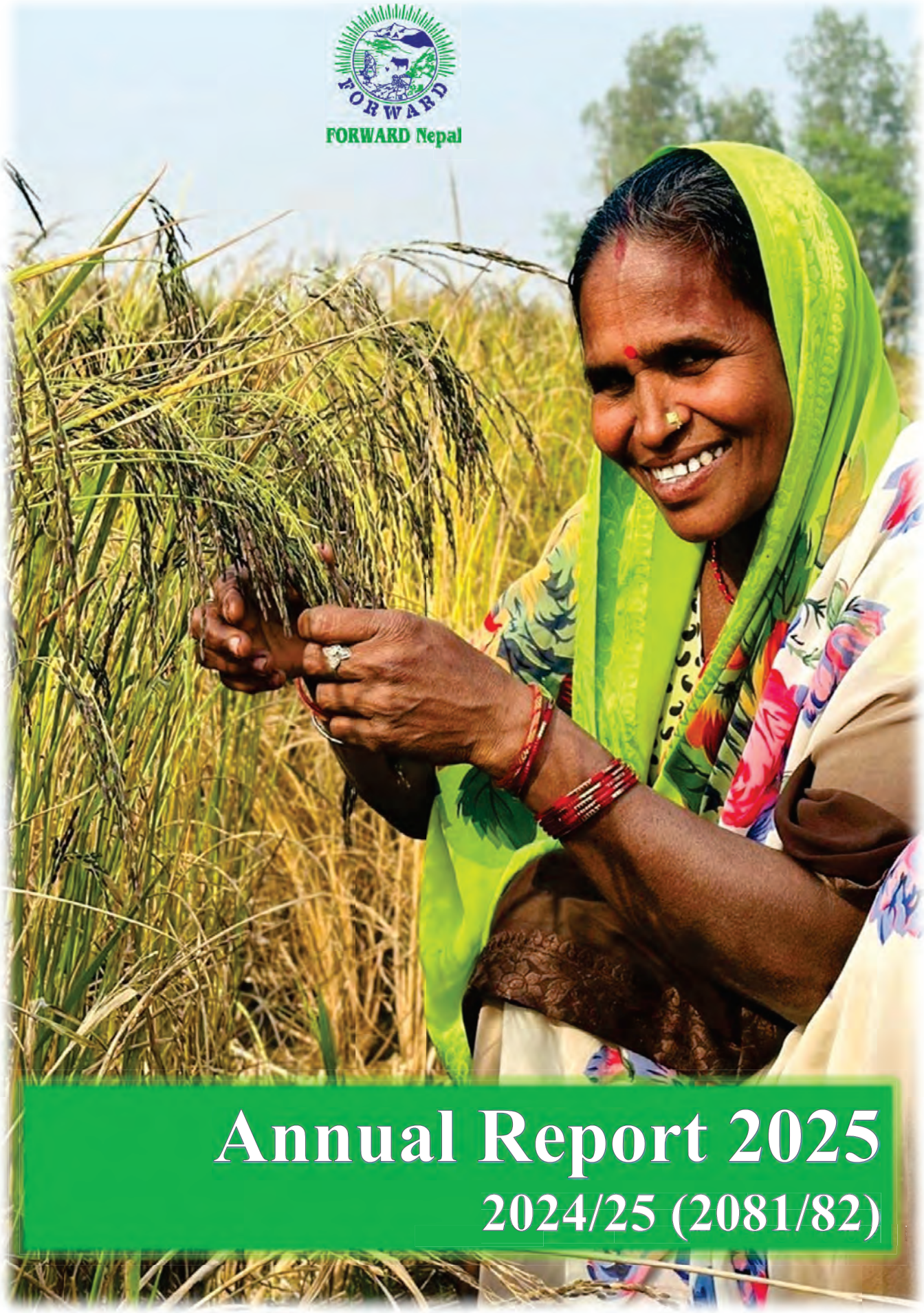
FORWARD Nepal



Annual Report 2025

2024/25 (2081/82)

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

Central Office
Bharatpur Metropolitan City-2, Chitwan, Nepal
P.O. Box 11 (Bhp)
Tel: +977 (0) 56 517623 / 517734
Email: info@forwardnepal.org; forward@ntc.net.np
Website: www.forwardnepal.org

Editorial Team:
Tirth Kumar Timsina, Toya Nath Gautam, Prabin Paudel, Ram Dayal Tharu

Photos:
FORWARD Nepal's Photo Bank

Vision

FORWARD Nepal aims for a society where all women and men at all levels, 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: its programmes/projects contribute to meeting 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

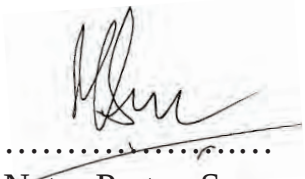
On behalf of FORWARD Nepal, we are pleased to present our Annual Report 2025 (2081/82). This report highlights the major programs and achievements from 16th July 2024 to 16th July 2025. Since 1997, we are committed to materialize its vision has been actively engaged in food and nutrition security, livelihood, and natural resource management together with its other social and developmental interventions to support economically poor, disadvantaged, smallholder farmers, and vulnerable groups and communities.

During this reporting year apart from organizational social activities, FORWARD Nepal implemented eight projects employing 47 regular staff, some paid volunteers and consultants.

The Annual Report 2025 is a testament to the collaboration and resilience demonstrated across all our programs. Our ongoing initiatives in nutrition, agriculture, and climate-resilient livelihoods have continued to deliver strong progress despite an increasingly complex operating environment. Community institutions, municipal partners, civil society actors, and global networks have worked hand in hand with us, ensuring that our shared efforts translate into meaningful improvements in people's lives. Across regions, we are seeing encouraging momentum, from strengthened community mobilization to deeper government ownership, affirming that our integrated approach is not only working but steadily shaping more sustainable local systems.

This year, our Nutrition Smart CommUNITY Project continued to ensure its impact even after the closure by mobilizing thousands of women, mothers' groups, and adolescent girls, while sustainably changing the behavior through PLA-LANN+ platforms, household counseling, and food-based learning events. Municipal governments took decisive steps by endorsing multiple plans supported by the project, and engaging actively in regional and national dialogues. Similarly, our work through the HIL South Asian Regional Hub brought universities and research institutions together in Nepal and Bangladesh, harmonizing methodologies, amplifying South Asia's voice in global conversations on horticultural research and development, and strengthening regional ownership of innovations. Projects such as YUVA, TERAI, and Riverbed Farming further showcased how youth, cooperatives, and smallholder farmers can drive local food system transformation when supported with skills, need based research, locally implemented innovation, and market linkages.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of a new project 'Empowering Migrants for Sustainable Economic Development' (MEED) in Ichchhyakamana Rural Municipality, implemented in partnership with AWO International. This initiative integrates livelihood strengthening, commercial agriculture, dignified migration pathways, and vocational skills development to support mountain communities with limited economic opportunities. By building diversified income sources and equipping youth and households with practical skills, we aim to create safer migration choices, improve local employment prospects, and foster resilience in a region particularly vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks.



……

Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

However, the year was not without its challenges. The sudden USAID shutdown impacted four of our running and newly initiated projects, resulting in abrupt halts that affected both communities and our organization. Despite these disruptions, we have remained fully committed to our responsibilities: maintaining transparency, safeguarding community trust, and ensuring continuity wherever possible. Our teams have responded with remarkable resilience, adjusting workflows, safeguarding essential services, and upholding accountability to all stakeholders. As we move forward, we remain steady in our mission and confident that our collective strength, rooted in partnership, local ownership, and innovation, will continue to guide us through uncertainty and toward lasting impact.

……

Pustak Raj Ojha
Chairperson, FORWARD Nepal

Contents

Foreword IV
Abbreviations and Acronyms IX
Introduction to FORWARD Nepal 1
Programme Thematic Areas 2
Strategies/Approaches 3
Overview of the FORWARD Nepal's work in the FY 2024/25 4
Major Achievements 4
Description of the Projects 5
Regional programme for scaling up the multisectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India Phase II 5
Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture - South Asia Regional Hub 8
Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal (YUVA) 11
The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal 18
Resilient Ecosystems (Climate Change Addressing Interventions) – Riverbed Farming 21
Effect of Male Out Migration, and Environmental Changes on Women Involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal 23
Feed The Future Nepal Agricultural Transformation funded by USAID/Winrock International .. 23
Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promotors of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities 24
Institutional activities 30
Visitors 31
Collaboration and Linkage with Funding agencies and Partner Organizations in FY 2024/25 32
List of Publications 33
- बगर खेती प्रवर्द्धनका लागि प्राविधिक हाते पुस्तिका २०८१ भाद्र 33

Board Members, Honorary Members, Founder Members, Advisors, FORWARD Nepal's Professional, and Auditors – 2024/25 33
FORWARD Nepal Staff in the FY 2024/25 (July 16, 2024 - July 16, 2025) 35
Financial Report 2024/25 (2081/82 B.S.) 38
Geographical Coverage 44

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AFU	Agriculture and Forestry University
AI	Artificial Insemination
ARDL	Agriculture and Rural Development Lab
AWO	*Arbeiterwohlfahrt*
BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDO	Chief District Officer
CePeaS	Center for Peace and Sustainable Future
COP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOREX	Department of research and extension
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ET	Embryo Transfer
FHCV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FORWARD Nepal	Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
FTF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GOs	Government Organization
GYEO	Global Youth Economic Opportunities
HIL	Horticulture Innovation lab
I/NGOs	International/non-governmental Organizations
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
JOA	Jersey Overseas Aid
LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security Management
M.Sc.Ag	Master of Science in Agriculture
MCDC	Multipurpose Cooperative Development Center
MEED	Empowering Migrants for Sustainable Economic Development
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSD	Market System Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NERP	The Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Program
NFGF	Nepal Farmers Group Federation
NSC	Nutrition Smart Community
NSMP	Nutrition Sensitive Microplanning
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
RM	Rural Municipality
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIFS	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
TERAI	The Enhanced Rural AI
TU	Tribhuvan University
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UC	University of California
YUVA	Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticulture Interventions in Nepal
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

Introduction to FORWARD Nepal

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (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 project offices in various working districts in Nepal. FORWARD Nepal is committed to contributing 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, grassroots 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. We make active efforts to collaborate with the government on every project, building partnerships that range from small-scale support to extensive cooperation. The organization has MOU with several institutions like GOs, universities, NGOs, and private sectors at national, regional, and international levels for project collaboration and partnership. One notable partnership we began was with the Agriculture and Forestry University, with whom we signed the MOU for the YUVA project. Over the past 28 years, FORWARD Nepal has implemented 114 projects in 64 districts involving 0.6 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. 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 24 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 houses, potato rustic stores, emergency shelter houses, improved livestock sheds, irrigation channels, access roads, rainwater

harvesting ponds, fishponds, 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, we have tested and practiced leasehold farming for 26 years, achieving positive results in improving household income for landless and ultra-poor communities. 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 market system development (MSD) and promotion of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). We also have extensive experience in artificial insemination and embryo transfer in cattle, achieving advancements in livestock productivity.

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 a 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, private agri-business sector, academia, corporate, and funding agencies at local, national, and international levels as appropriate for institutional networking, sharing knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources.
- Promote Climate friendly agricultural practices considering sustainable and judicious use of natural resources.

Overview of the FORWARD Nepal's work in the FY 2024/25

Major Achievements

This year has been marked by strong collaboration across communities, municipalities, research institutions, and global partners. The Nutrition Smart Villages initiative advanced community mobilization and nutrition behavior change, engaging thousands of women and adolescent girls through PLA-LANN+ groups, food festivals, and household counseling. Municipal governments endorsed community-led micro-plans and allocated resources for breastfeeding corners, screenings, and hygiene promotion, while regional and national workshops showcased climate-resilient crops and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. These efforts demonstrated how local level, civil society, and international partners can align to involve nutrition into planning and budgeting cycles, ensuring sustainability beyond the project's closure.

The HIL South Asian Regional Hub catalyzed regional ownership of horticultural innovation by convening universities and research centers in Nepal and Bangladesh. Through inception workshops, team meetings, and global exchanges, the Hub harmonized research approaches, strengthened institutional linkages, and amplified South Asia's voice in international dialogues on climate resilience and localization. Similarly, the YUVA project empowered youth entrepreneurs in vegetable farming, conducting municipal workshops, baseline surveys, and crop trials across open fields and protected structures. Despite funding disruptions, youth farmers continued trials, supported by academic engagement and global visibility, proving the resilience of locally led innovation.

Parallelly, the TERAI dairy project and Riverbed Farming interventions reinforced multi-stakeholder ties by mobilizing municipalities, cooperatives, and farmers to improve livestock genetics, cooperative governance, and climate-resilient livelihoods. Advanced trainings in artificial insemination and embryo transfer, exposure visits, and farmer group formation strengthened institutional ownership and value-chain competitiveness. The Improved food system has been working on multiple dimensions like livelihood, dietary diversity, policy making, irrigation access and much more to ensure all round food and nutrition security via a robust food system. Across all initiatives, the common thread has been collaboration, between communities, governments, academia, and even global networks, driving sustainable outcomes in nutrition, agriculture, and resilience. We will continue multi-aspect tackling of problems, building on these partnerships to ensure integrated progress in food security, health, research and livelihoods.

Description of the Projects

Regional programme for scaling up the multisectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India Phase II

The "Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multisectoral Approach of Smart Nutrition Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India - Phase II" is a collaborative initiative co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Welthungerhilfe in partnership with FORWARD Nepal. This regional nutrition endeavor specifically targets the issue of acute and chronic malnutrition in underprivileged areas of Nepal. Operating through a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, the project is being implemented in the Rautahat and Saptari districts of Madhesh Pradesh, Nepal. Some of the major activities in 2024/25 are as follows:

- **Strengthening Community Mobilization and Nutrition Behavior Change**

  During the reporting year, the NSC project deepened community mobilization and nutrition behavior change through the PLA-LANN+ approach, engaging more than 3,600 women and adolescent girls across over 200 groups in Rautahat and Saptari districts. Over 1,000 sessions helped communities identify food and nutrition challenges, promote complementary feeding, dietary diversity, and establish home-based nutrition gardens. Outreach activities such as street dramas based on the “Manjari” story, Nutrition and Food Festivals, Healthy Baby Competitions, and Iodine Month campaigns reached more than 5,000 people, while interpersonal counseling and household follow-up with 1,623 families led to a 43.3% recovery rate among malnourished children. Women and adolescent girls emerged as catalysts for change, encouraging households to adopt nutrient-dense local foods and improved hygiene practices.

Figure 1: Figure: Demonstration of handwashing by LANN Plus group member of Rautahat

- **Improving Nutrition and Health Outcomes**

  Municipal collaboration strengthened health outcomes by training health workers in anthropometric assessment and conducting mass screening of 5,088 children aged 6–59 months. The screening identified 229 severely and 684 moderately malnourished children, with severe cases referred to Outpatient Therapeutic Care and

moderate cases supported through household counseling. Community volunteers ensured continuous follow-up, and NERP camps achieved an 80% recovery rate. Breastfeeding corners continued to operate with municipal support, while nutrition education sessions introduced caregivers to local recipes such as Poshilo Jaulo and Poshilo Kheer, linking improved feeding practices with home gardening. These efforts strengthened the connection between community screening and clinical referral systems and improved household understanding of the link between feeding, hygiene, and child growth.

- **Enhancing Local Governance and Multi-Sectoral Coordination**
  Governance and multi-sectoral coordination advanced significantly through the institutionalization of nutrition-sensitive micro-planning in 103 villages, resulting in 232 community-led plans across health, agriculture, and infrastructure. Of these, 46 plans were endorsed by municipalities, demonstrating alignment between community priorities and local government systems. Municipalities such as Rajgadh Rural Municipality and Paroha Municipality allocated over NPR 7.5 lakh for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, including breastfeeding corners, mass screenings, and FCHV mobilization. The Planning Workshop held in March 2024 in the presence of the WHH Regional Coordinator facilitated reflection on achievements and participatory impact assessments, while the National Consultation Workshop in Kathmandu, chaired by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, showcased successful practices on nutrient-dense crops and climate resilience at the national level. Nutrition is now increasingly embedded in municipal planning and budgeting cycles, with stronger linkages across agriculture, health, and WASH.
- **Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Local Innovation**
  Nutrition-sensitive agriculture remained a cornerstone of the project's integrated approach. Two-day trainings on seed preservation were conducted for 36 participants, leading to the establishment of seed preservation centers supported with five local varieties including paddy, bitter gourd, okra, cowpea, and millet. These centers enhanced genetic diversity and household access to nutritious crops. LANN Entrepreneur Groups began producing Nutri-mix flour blends, while farmer groups initiated revolving funds and adopted improved tools such as hermetic bags and kitchen scales. The project's innovation was recognized regionally when the Nutrition Smart Community Nepal team presented its abstract on promoting nutrition-sensitive sustainable integrated farming

systems at the IFPRI/CGIAR South Asia Conference, highlighting contributions to equitable and climate-resilient food systems. Households are now diversifying crops, improving food self-reliance, and women's groups are moving from awareness to enterprise, linking income generation with nutrition outcomes.

Figure 2: Project team at a food fair

- **Building Capacity and Knowledge Exchange**

Capacity building and knowledge exchange enriched project quality and visibility. The LANN+ Practitioner's Learning-Sharing Workshop in Madhesh Pradesh promoted cross-learning among implementers from multiple districts, strengthening the Community of Practice for evidence-based advocacy. Project and partner staff enhanced storytelling and documentation skills through the WHH Communication and Photography Workshop in Lalitpur. At the NSC Global Exchange meeting, Nepal's success story "Ful Jahan's Diversified Nutrition Garden: A Pathway to Year-Round Sustainable and Nutritious Food" was showcased internationally, contributing to global peer learning. These initiatives strengthened facilitation, documentation, and communication competencies among field staff and ensured that community stories of change are effectively used for advocacy and replication.

- **Key Outcome Trends and Expected Pathway of Change**

Overall, the NSC project demonstrated that sustained community engagement, local government leadership, and cross-sector collaboration can effectively address the root causes of malnutrition. With most targets achieved, the project successfully closed out, leaving empowered communities, trained volunteers, and institutionalized structures ready to sustain progress. Local governments and civil society organizations are now equipped to continue interventions such as household counseling, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and social behavior change communication using their own resources. After its closure after March 2025, the Nutrition Smart Village approach has been internalized through micro-planning, budget allocation, and community-driven enterprises, ensuring that the collective momentum toward improved nutrition, health, and food security will continue to grow beyond the life of the project.

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture - South Asia Regional Hub

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture had made an agreement with FORWARD Nepal to coordinate the project activities of all the projects being implemented in the South Asia Region (Bangladesh and Nepal). FORWARD Nepal, as the regional hub for the South Asia region was a part of the Management Entity of the Feed the Future Horticulture Innovation Lab led by the University of California, Davis. The regional hub coordinating and monitoring awarded projects, and maintaining in-country networks, including USAID mission relationships. To coordinate the efforts with those of the host government(s), other partners, and other U.S. Government interagency partners active in the region. The regional hub was established on October 1, 2022, and will run up to 2026. The major activities carried out by the Regional Hub in 2024/25 are as follows:

The South Asia Regional Hub played a catalytic role in fostering regional ownership of horticultural innovation by convening key academic and research institutions from Nepal and Bangladesh. Through the Regional Inception Workshop at Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), the Hub Manager facilitated alignment between national priorities and regional objectives, laying the groundwork for sustained South-South collaboration. This approach promoted mutual learning in climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive horticulture, strengthening the foundation for long-term regional leadership in agricultural innovation

- **International visits of the Regional Hub Manager**
  The Regional Hub Manager served as a panelist during Global Ag Day 2024 at UC Davis, where he highlighted youth prospects and social dimensions in agribusiness and agricultural research while also engaging in strategic discussions on scaling regional horticulture innovations for wider community and environmental impact. During the visit, the Hub team further strengthened its technical capacity through exposure to the RBET framework and hands-on observation of post-harvest and value-addition facilities. The Hub also participated in the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit (GYEO 2024) in Washington D.C., joining a diverse global cohort of young professionals, researchers, and practitioners from more than 45 countries. The Summit provided a platform to exchange best practices, deepen evidence generation, and build strategic partnerships aligned with the YEO 2030 vision and SDG 8. Engagement in the Youth Leadership Accelerator program further enhanced the team's leadership skills and global networks,

reinforcing the Hub's commitment to elevating youth-led innovation in the horticulture sector.

Figure 3: Regional Hub Manager as panelist sharing prospects on social and youth consideration in agricultural research at UC Davis Global AG Day Celebration

- **Strengthening Institutional Linkages and Efficiency**
  The in-person South Asia Team Meeting at FORWARD Nepal brought together partners from both countries to harmonize research approaches and communication strategies. This coordination reinforced a shared vision for horticulture innovation across the region and created a cascading effect that improved project efficiency, enhanced data sharing, and deepened institutional linkages between AFU, NARC, and BAU. These strengthened networks are expected to continue driving collaborative research and innovation beyond the life of the Hub.

- **Global Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange**
  By representing the South Asia portfolio at the Innovation Lab Council Meeting 2024, the Hub amplified the region's voice in international dialogue on localization, climate resilience, and innovation scaling. The Hub Manager's active participation connected South Asian research initiatives with global thought leaders, enabling downstream adoption of best practices within national research systems. Similarly, the Annual Innovation Lab Meeting in Guatemala positioned South Asia as a proactive region within the global horticulture innovation network. Lessons shared from regional implementation contributed to shaping future strategies for localization, gender inclusion, and sustainable scaling across the Innovation Lab portfolio.

- **Building Communication Capacity and Visibility**
  The Social Media and Communication Workshop, organized in collaboration with UC Davis and the University of Ghana, enhanced the digital communication capacity of project partners. This strengthened project visibility and empowered local institutions to independently disseminate success stories, ensuring continued engagement and recognition even beyond project funding. The ability of institutions to communicate their achievements effectively has become a critical tool for sustaining momentum and attracting future collaboration.

- **Long-Term Outcomes and Sustainability**
  Throughout the year, the Hub functioned as a bridge between local research actors and global innovation systems, nurturing regional leadership and long-term collaboration. Its initiatives triggered a ripple effect, enhancing institutional capabilities, promoting regional self-reliance, and embedding innovation practices across national systems. Although the Hub's formal role concluded following USAID restructuring under the Trump administration, the foundation it built continues to influence horticultural research and development in South Asia. Empowered institutions now carry forward the spirit of locally led innovation, ensuring that the gains in climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive horticulture and global partnerships will endure as part of the region's sustainable development pathway.

Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal (YUVA)

The YUVA project, initiated on April 2023 with a planned duration of 40 months, focuses on empowering youth in horticulture across three distinct geographical locations of Lumbini Province: Buddhabhumi Municipality, Kapilvastu; Sandhikharka Municipality, Arghakhanchi; and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, Dang. Led by FORWARD Nepal in consortium with WHH, the initiative, funded by USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture via UC-Davis, seeks to promote employment and income opportunities. It aimed to establish 24 youth-centered horticulture enterprises, ensuring sustained employment and income while exploring optimal funding mechanisms to support such ventures. The project's key objectives were identifying potential horticultural enterprises for youth, determining parcel size and cropping for sustainable income, and creating a youth-friendly agricultural policy for local government.

- **Advancing Youth Commercial vegetable farming**
  The YUVA project continued to advance its mission of empowering young agri-entrepreneurs engaged in vegetable farming through evidence-based horticulture interventions and strong multi-stakeholder engagement. Over the year, it deepened its research, strengthened institutional collaboration, and built the capacity of youth farmers and researchers. Despite funding disruptions, the project has sustained its activities, demonstrating commitment to areas' agricultural future.

Figure 4: Province Level Validation Workshop of YUVA formative research in Lumbini Province, Deukhuri Valley, Dang

- **Municipal Inception Workshops and baseline surveys**
  Municipal-level inception workshops were organized in Buddhabhumi, Sandhikharka, and Tulsipur, mobilizing elected representatives, youth farmers, and technical officials. These meetings laid the foundation for participatory implementation, ensuring municipal alignment and stakeholder ownership that continues to facilitate multi-level collaboration and integration of local resources. Comprehensive surveys of 420 youth across project municipalities mapped aspirations, income needs, and livelihood assets. The findings are informing targeted interventions and municipal planning processes, while involvement of PhD and Master's students from AFU ensures academic

continuity and a new generation of data-driven development researchers. Results were shared at a provincial workshop attended by the Agriculture Ministry Secretary, and the Annual Review and Planning Workshop brought together experts, municipal officials, youth farmers and field teams to reflect on lessons and strategize for scaling successful interventions.

- **Academic Engagement and Research Capacity Building**
  The project supported one PhD scholar and two Master's students from AFU, who completed project-aligned research and submitted their theses, while four agriculture diploma interns gained field experience through placements. This academic engagement builds a strong pipeline of youth researchers and practitioners in horticultural enterprise development. The PhD research continues in limited capacity with support from UC Davis and WHH, ensuring that knowledge production essential for Nepal's agricultural future is sustained.

- **Global Linkages and Visibility**
  The Hub Manager and Principal Investigator represented YUVA at the Feed the Future Innovation Lab Council Meeting in Kathmandu, contributing insights on inclusive youth commercial vegetable farming. Visits by Innovation Lab Core staff to YUVA sites amplified visibility and strengthened linkages with national and international research networks, embedding Nepal's youth-led horticulture innovation within global dialogues.

Figure 5: M.Sc. Ag. research student under the YUVA project carrying out his research in a Solar Chimney dryer

The YUVA project has fostered a generation of skilled youth vegetable farmers equipped with both scientific and entrepreneurial capabilities. Its cascading influence extends beyond immediate beneficiaries, enhancing local governance participation, enriching university research curricula, and inspiring climate-smart enterprise models in the horticulture sector. Joint contributions by FORWARD Nepal, WHH, AFU, and NFGF reinforced transparency, learning, and co-creation among

partners and beneficiaries. Even after USAID's funding shutdown, the continuation of activities reflects the resilience of the team and the strength of partner support. The project's collaborative, research-based, and inclusive approach has established a foundation for sustainable youth-led agricultural transformation in Nepal, ensuring that research knowledge products remain vital for the nation's agricultural future.

From Part-Time Farmer with a Service Job to Thriving Commercial Vegetable Farmer: Binod Chaudhary's Journey

By Prabin Paudel, Bandana Regmi

Binod Chaudhary, 36, from Ratgain in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, Ward 16, has redefined his livelihood through innovative farming techniques. A father of four, Binod transitioned from a stable service job to full-time agriculture, driven by a vision to improve his family's quality of life.

With 15 Katha (5,325 square meters) of farmland, his annual farming income initially stood at Rs. 350,000 (approximately $2,550), while his expenses reached Rs. 60,000 (around $437). Despite the modest earnings, Binod's commitment to farming led him to join the YUVA Project in 2023, a research-driven initiative focused on enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Before his involvement with YUVA, Binod grappled with challenges such as fluctuating market prices and limited access to markets due to his farm's remote location. His belief in the revenue potential of vegetable farming, coupled with his understanding of the importance of timely harvesting and strategic crop selection, inspired him to seize the opportunity to turn his aspirations into reality.

Under the YUVA Project, Binod was allocated 2,500 square meters of research plot to evaluate the viability of five vegetable crops: bitter gourd, cucumber, long beans, tomato, and capsicum. The project provided him with crucial resources, including seeds, mulching materials, nylon threads, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools such as sticky traps, pheromone traps, and lures. Additionally, Binod underwent extensive training in agricultural practices. This training covered integrated soil management, seed management, crop rotation, irrigation, disease control, pesticide application, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Through the initiative, Binod was empowered to adopt sustainable farming techniques while assessing

which crops could thrive in local conditions and deliver maximum profitability.

Among the tested crops, cucumber and long beans emerged as Binod's most successful ventures, each excelling for distinct reasons. On a 500-square-meter plot dedicated to the Beli cucumber variety, Binod harvested 3,150 kilograms, generating Rs. 101,171 (approximately $737) in revenue. This performance underscored the cucumber's potential as a high-value crop, with prices ranging between NPR 25 and 60 (about $0.18 to $0.44) per kilogram based on market demand.

Figure 6: Binod Chaudhary proudly displays his fresh cucumber harvest. (Photo by Bandana Adhikari)

Similarly, long beans demonstrated their reliability as a low-maintenance crop with consistent returns and minimal production costs per kilogram, further solidifying Binod's success as a commercial vegetable farmer under the YUVA Project.

Both cucumber and long beans required significantly less care compared to bitter gourd, tomato, and capsicum, which posed challenges in pest control, soil management, and irrigation. The adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices streamlined Binod's efforts and reduced costs. These practices not only minimized pesticide use but also curbed pest severity early in the season, enhancing overall sustainability.

The benefits of these sustainable methods extended beyond the farm. With increased disposable income, Binod's family now enjoys an improved standard of living. His success has also inspired neighboring farmers to embrace IPM practices, highlighting the health and environmental advantages of reducing chemical usage. As a result, Binod has earned respect within his community, with fellow farmers seeking his advice and valuing his insights.

Looking to the future, Binod plans to expand the cultivation of cucumbers and long beans, emphasizing off-season harvests to capitalize on higher market prices. Additionally, he aims to incorporate more pest-resistant and low-maintenance crops during peak

growing seasons to further reduce costs. By maintaining a market-oriented approach and continuously gathering information, Binod is determined to maximize his farm's profitability while continuing to set an example of sustainable farming in his community.

Figure 7: Binod Chaudhary and a fellow farmer prepare to transport their fresh harvest to the market on a motorbike. (Photo by Bandana Adhikari)

Reflecting on his journey, Binod expressed optimism about the future of vegetable farming. "I am hopeful about the prospects of vegetable farming and want to see if I can make a bigger income by dedicating every minute of my time to agriculture. That's why I decided to leave my old job," he shared.

Binod also acknowledged the contributions of the YUVA Project to his success. "Of course, we would want more assistance, but what the project has done for us so far regarding inputs, we are extremely grateful," he remarked. He urged other farmers to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, emphasizing their dual benefits of cost savings and positive impacts on health and the environment.

Binod's success story highlights the transformative potential of targeted agricultural interventions. His journey demonstrates how access to essential resources, training, and sustainable practices can empower farmers to overcome challenges and achieve remarkable results. With growing confidence and unwavering determination, Binod exemplifies the power of innovation in agriculture to create sustainable livelihoods. His experience serves as a replicable model for farmers, showcasing how modern farming techniques can enhance income, improve community well-being, and inspire others to embrace sustainable agriculture.

Winning an Uphill Battle: Krishna's Tomato Farming Success Despite Pest, Disease Infestations

By Prabin Paudel, Bamdev Regmi

Krishna Mohan Kewat, a 34-year-old farmer from Buddhabhumi 10, Lohraula, located 4 km north of Taulihawa in Kapilvastu, Nepal, owns 54 kattha of land, with 44 kattha leased. In early spring of 2024, he successfully grew tomatoes on a 1,752-square-meter plot. Kewat also worked as a research farmer under the YUVA project, funded by the Feed

the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, conducting trials on 2,500 square meters of land. Additionally, he served as the president of Ramghat Krishi Sahakari Sastha.

Figure 8: Tomato damage in farmer's field at Lohraula

Krishna Mohan Kewat, a 34-year-old farmer from Buddhabhumi 10, Lohraula, located 4 km north of Taulihawa in Kapilvastu, Nepal, owns 54 kattha of land, with 44 kattha leased. In early spring of 2024, he successfully grew tomatoes on a 1,752-square-meter plot. Kewat also worked as a research farmer under the YUVA project, funded by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, conducting trials on 2,500 square meters of land. Additionally, he served as the president of Ramghat Krishi Sahakari Sastha.

Krishna and many other farmers faced significant challenges, particularly pest infestations like Tuta absoluta, along with other fungal and bacterial infections, and physiological disorders like blossom end rot from calcium deficiency, sunscald, and flower and fruit drops due to high temperatures. Despite these issues, Krishna managed them effectively and succeeded. To combat pests, he used yellow sticky traps to control whiteflies and leaf miners, along with pheromone traps to attract male pests. He also applied neem-based biopesticides and chemical pesticides like emamectin benzoate and mancozeb. To extend the shelf life of his produce, Krishna utilized a 5-ton capacity cold storage unit, which could store up to 50 quintals of tomatoes.

"Lures are not only very effective against Tuta but also not poisonous like chemical fertilizer," he added.

From his experiences, Krishna learned the importance of coordinating pest control with neighboring farmers to prevent the spread of diseases. "It is my duty to teach my neighbor farmers about proper pest management as if they have less pest in their field, mine will also be safer," Krishna said. He also found that early transplanting in the

first week of Phalgun helped reduce flower drop and insect infestations, which increased as temperatures rose. Late-sown tomatoes faced more pest and disease issues compared to winter crops. However, the price of tomatoes was higher in spring, providing a financial incentive despite the challenges. High temperatures also shortened the shelf life of flowers, making spring cultivation more difficult. Windy conditions affected pollination and fruit sets, so Krishna recommended using bamboo mats or trees as windbreaks to mitigate this problem. He planned to expand his tomato cultivation to nearly one bigha of land next spring. With the income he earned, he added more leased land. Krishna is always eager to learn new techniques and remain innovative, which has contributed to his continued success.

Krishna's story demonstrates that careful planning, modern farming techniques, and effective use of resources can help overcome significant agricultural challenges. His success highlights how innovative practices can lead to profitability and improved farming standards, offering valuable insights for other farmers in similar situations. By adopting Krishna's integrated pest management practices, cold storage solutions, and precise transplanting schedules, other farmers can also achieve success. His emphasis on collaborating with neighboring farmers and using windbreaks can help others improve their tomato cultivation.

Figure 9: Tomato harvesting by Krishna Mohan

The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal

The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project funded by Jersey Overseas Aid and ADRA UK, implemented by ADRA Nepal in partnership with FORWARD Nepal and IRDC Nepal aims to transform the lives of 3,600 smallholder dairy farmers in two districts in southwestern Nepal. It aims to significantly strengthen the existing dairy market, extension services, and infrastructure by providing capacity building (of both farmers and technicians), breeding support, organizational management support, and the introduction of appropriate genetics.

This will impact the livelihood and resilience of smallholder farmers by increasing incomes from dairy products, enhancing household nutrition through increased consumption of livestock-derived protein, benefiting the environment and reducing the climate vulnerability of smallholders. The activities in the TERAI project are discusses below:

- **Strengthening Dairy Productivity and Value Chain Competitiveness**
  The TERAI Project continued to strengthen Nepal's smallholder dairy sector through enhanced artificial insemination (AI) services, farmer capacity development, and local institutional linkages. During the reporting period, the project advanced its mission of improving dairy productivity, genetic merit, and value-chain competitiveness through a coordinated, systems-based approach that mobilized municipalities, cooperatives, and farmers toward a common goal of sustainable dairy enterprise growth.

- **Local-Level Project Advisory Committee Meetings**
  The project team facilitated municipal-level advisory committee meetings in Sainamaina (Rupandehi) and Banganga & Buddhabhumi (Kapilvastu), ensuring alignment of local livestock programs with project objectives. These meetings fostered joint accountability and embedded project priorities into local livestock service planning, strengthening the institutional foundation for sustained AI and dairy development efforts.

- **Annual Review and Planning Workshop**

Figure 10: Joint stakeholder monitoring, annual review, and forward-looking for the TERAI Project

  The project team's participation in the annual workshop and subsequent capacity-building program in Chitwan

strengthened analytical, managerial, and technical capacities. The sessions created a learning culture that improved adaptive management and enhanced collaboration among field teams, government partners, and implementing organizations. Data-driven livestock improvement was emphasized by enhancing staff ability to use Interherd+ software for herd performance monitoring and decision-making. Simultaneously, Business Induction Training of Trainers built entrepreneurial and advisory capacities, enabling project teams to mentor dairy cooperatives in enterprise planning and profitability analysis.

- **AI Training for Livestock Technicians**
  Through collaboration with the National Livestock Breeding Office (Pokhara), the project equipped livestock technicians with in-depth AI and reproductive management knowledge, thereby expanding the pool of skilled inseminators at the community level. This effort ensures a long-term multiplier effect as these technicians continue to provide quality breeding services to dairy farmers beyond project support.

- **Training for Dairy Cooperatives on Business Planning**
  The project organized targeted business planning training for cooperative managers and executives in Kapilvastu, enabling 14 cooperatives to draft actionable strategic and business plans. This process strengthened organizational governance and market orientation, empowering cooperatives to function as self-sustaining local enterprises in the dairy value chain.

- **Interaction Programs and Exposure Visits**
  Structured dialogues among farmers, collectors, and processors across four municipalities fostered trust and collaboration, leading to stronger local milk marketing systems. These engagements bridged gaps in information, logistics, and quality assurance, paving the way for more integrated and equitable value chain coordination. Thirty-five dairy farmers were exposed to advanced cooperative models in Chitwan and Nawalpur, including feed plants and milk diversification enterprises. The exposure visits inspired participants to replicate successful practices locally, initiating peer learning that strengthens cooperative resilience and innovation across districts.

- **Embryo Transfer Training and Demonstration**
  The project team led a six-day advanced training in collaboration with the National Cattle Research Program, transferring critical embryo

transfer skills to national researchers and technicians. Forty-four embryos of high genetic merit were successfully transferred to recipient animals, marking a major step in disseminating improved genetics to smallholder herds and laying the groundwork for long-term genetic gain in Nepal's dairy cattle population.

Figure 11: She calf born to a farmer in Sainamaina using sexed semen technology

- **Animal Health Camps and Refresher AI Training**
  In collaboration with Agriculture and Forestry University, door-to-door animal health services reached dozens of farmers in Rupandehi with direct treatment and fertility counseling. Refresher AI training at the National Livestock Breeding Office upgraded the technical skills of 13 AI technicians, ensuring service quality, ethical practices, and sustainability of breeding interventions at the grassroots level.

- **Long-Term Outcomes and Sustainability**
  The TERAI Project, guided by Nepal's technical oversight, has created a self-reinforcing ecosystem of skilled technicians, empowered cooperatives, and capable municipal livestock services. Its cascading impact extends from improved animal genetics and productivity to enhanced household income, food security, and local institutional ownership. The project's integrated approach, linking science, entrepreneurship, and governance, ensures that even after completion, strengthened networks of farmers, cooperatives, and municipal agencies will continue to advance the cause of resilient and profitable smallholder dairy systems in Nepal.

Resilient Ecosystems (Climate Change Addressing Interventions) – Riverbed Farming

FORWARD Nepal, in collaboration with USAID's Tayar Nepal, implemented riverbed farming initiatives in Rajapur, Lamkichuha, and Godawari municipalities to boost the economic resilience of flood-affected communities. Inception meetings with 45 participants, including local government representatives and farmers, were held in all three municipalities to ensure effective coordination and beneficiary selection. The project engaged 17 socially inclusive riverbed farming groups with 319 beneficiaries (282 female, 37 male), including Dalits, Muslims, Janjati, Brahmin/Chhetri, and others, and selected 18 lead farmers, 12 of whom were women. The various activities carried in project are described below in brief:

- **Formation and Empowerment of Farmers' Groups**
  The Riverbed Farming Project in Rajapur, Lamkichuha, and Godawari Municipalities was designed as a climate-resilient livelihood intervention to enhance the economic resilience of poor and flood-affected households. Through participatory implementation, capacity building, and institutional collaboration, the project fostered a self-sustaining ecosystem of empowered farmers, informed local governments, and market-linked agricultural systems. It successfully organized 20 farmer groups across the three municipalities, directly engaging 377 beneficiaries (48 males and 329 females) and an additional 23 individual farmers. These organized groups became functional platforms for collective learning, input access, and market negotiation, laying the social foundation for sustained climate-resilient farming practices.

- **Farmer Field School (FFS) Training and Climate-Smart Demonstration**
  Using a comprehensive Farmer Field School approach, the project trained lead farmers and staff in participatory and experiential learning techniques. This led to the institutionalization of 18 active FFS groups where 348 farmers (310 female and 38 male) continuously practice climate-smart farming, pest management, and soil health improvement. Cascading knowledge transfer from lead to peer farmers has established a durable system of local extension and innovation.

Three demonstration sites, one in each municipality, were established to showcase climate-smart technologies such as plastic houses, drip and sprinkler irrigation, pheromone traps, organic biopesticides (Jholmol), and mulching. These sites now serve as community learning hubs where farmers, municipal staff, and extension agents can observe, adapt, and replicate innovations that

enhance productivity while conserving natural resources.

- **Exposure Visits and Farmer Exchange Learning**
  Exposure visits between municipalities and neighboring districts enabled over 60 farmers to interact with successful practitioners of riverbed farming and diversified vegetable cultivation. This exchange nurtured a culture of peer learning and inspired replication of improved production, marketing, and irrigation methods, broadening the local innovation ecosystem. Linkage events among farmers, vendors, market committees, and municipal representatives fostered stronger vertical and horizontal coordination within the value chain.

- **Joint Monitoring and Local Government Engagement**
  Active involvement of mayors, deputy mayors, ward chairs, and municipal staff during joint field monitoring cultivated strong government ownership. Their on-site interactions with farmers reinforced the legitimacy of the intervention and motivated municipalities to continue riverbed farming as part of their annual local development plans, ensuring institutional continuity.

- **Policy Development for Sustainability**
  A consultant-supported process led to the drafting of a municipal-level Riverbed Farming Policy, based on both primary and secondary data. This policy framework will guide integration of riverbed farming into local planning, budget allocation, and resource mobilization, anchoring project outcomes within formal governance mechanisms.

As the project concluded in August 2024, strengthened collaboration among community groups, local governments, and market actors ensures that riverbed farming will persist as a self-sustaining, climate-smart livelihood option. Municipalities have expressed commitment to allocate resources for continued support, while trained lead farmers and cooperatives will carry forward knowledge-sharing and demonstration activities. The project leaves behind a functioning ecosystem, empowered farmers with improved adaptive capacity, supportive municipal systems, and resilient agricultural practices, that will continue to drive climate adaptation and economic resilience in the flood-prone riverine areas of Bardiya and Kailali.

Effect of Male Out Migration, and Environmental Changes on Women Involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal

A presentation on the preliminary results of the household survey for the research titled "Effect of Male Out Migration and Environmental Changes on Women Involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal" was conducted at the seminar hall of the Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality building. The session was facilitated by FORWARD Nepal and was led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi of Hiroshima University. The atmosphere was described as highly engaging, as questions were raised and perspectives were shared by local leaders and Agriculture Department staff. It was felt that the discussion created a space where community voices were heard and valued, allowing the research process to be seen not only as academic but also as participatory.

The program included an interactive exchange in which suggestions were welcomed and possibilities for practical application were envisioned. The research was perceived as a continuation of FORWARD Nepal's longstanding presence in Ichchhakamana, and the event was regarded as a step toward strengthening trust and collaboration with the community. It was hoped that the findings would be embraced as a guide for positive transformation, with stakeholders feeling included in shaping outcomes that could resonate beyond the immediate project site.

Feed The Future Nepal Agricultural Transformation funded by USAID/Winrock International

A letter contract was signed between Winrock International and FORWARD Nepal on 17th November 2024 to start work immediately, mobilize personnel, conduct project start-up for consultation and organise project planning and coordination meetings/workshops at the Federal and Province levels. The Program Director from FORWARD Nepal was involved in these events.

However, the initiative was halted in its preliminary stage when USAID shut down the project before any substantial activities could be undertaken. As a result, the planned transformation efforts could not progress beyond early consultations and preparatory steps.

Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promotors of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities

FORWARD Nepal and KSSC-Nepal in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and under financial support of BMZ/WHH have started implementing "Grassroots Civil Society Organisations as Promoters of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities (NPL 1083-22)" in three rural municipalities of Kapilvastu district, Lumbini Province namely: Suddhodhan, Yashodhara and Mayadevi rural municipality from June 2023. The project's objective is to enhance livelihoods for improved food and nutrition security of 5,000 targeted households (4500 small holder farming households and 500 landless households) with a special focus on nutritionally vulnerable groups (Infants, young children, pregnant / breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls, civil society organizations have strengthened capacities for community engagement and advocacy and governance systems are strengthened to address food and nutrition security at all levels.

The project has completed the following major activities throughout the year:

- **Strengthening Local Capacity and CSO Mobilization**
  The project in Mayadevi, Sudhodhan, and Yasodhara Rural Municipalities promotes resilient, equitable food systems and enhanced livelihoods for smallholder and landless households. Twenty-two female Change Agents were oriented on organizational policies, nutrition, hygiene, and health practices, empowering them to serve as educators and advocates. Palika- and ward-level inception meetings formalized collaboration with local governments and CSOs, establishing MOUs that enable joint planning, coordination, and sustainability of project activities.

Figure 12: Field staff orienting insect trap use

- **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training**
  The project has strengthened farmers' technical capacity by providing hands-on training in Good Agricultural Practices, including the use of biopesticides, organic fertilizers, Integrated Pest Management, crop cycling, and mixed cropping. These practices are helping farmers improve soil health, reduce production risks, and adopt more sustainable and climate-resilient farming systems. As a result, communities are gradually shifting toward safer, more

productive, and environmentally friendly agricultural methods.

The adoption of integrated farming systems has also improved household consumption patterns, with families now eating a greater diversity of vegetables and animal-source foods produced on their own farms. This shift is contributing to better nutrition, reduced food expenses, and healthier diets across participating communities.

- **Livestock, Agriculture, and Nutrition-Sensitive Practices**
  Support was provided to 170 landless households with local poultry breeds, promoting income diversification and food security. Eighty-six cattle sheds were upgraded to improve livestock management, hygiene, and organic Jholmal-based farming. Thirty-three farmer groups received GAP training, while 66 smallholders received improved seeds, saplings, biopesticides, and tools to establish Model Nutrition Gardens. These interventions strengthened dietary diversity and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, including promotion of climate-friendly Kalanamak rice.

- **TVET and Off-Farm Livelihoods**
  Over 400 landless households participated in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs in trades such as plumbing, beautician services, cooking, welding, electrical repair, and appliance servicing. Many participants have since started self-employment or secured jobs locally and abroad, achieving dignified livelihoods and improved household income. The project also supported the semi nomadic Natuwa community by providing training in traditional band baja performance and musical instruments, helping revive ancestral skills and strengthen livelihood opportunities.

- **Irrigation and Market Access**
  A deep boring installation was initiated in Sudhodhan RM to enhance irrigation access, supported by a user and management committee and municipal co-funding. Around 30 shallow tubewells were installed, and platforms were built around existing tubewells to improve water drainage and collection. These measures strengthened local ownership and sustainability of water resources while improving market access for farmers.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness**
  Forty-nine community events, including food demonstrations, storytelling, and quizzes, engaged participants in nutrition, hygiene, and sustainable agricultural practices. Paddy Day celebrations raised awareness on climate-friendly rice production and good agricultural practices among farmers and local stakeholders.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Strategic Planning**
  The Annual Review & Planning Workshop facilitated knowledge-sharing, progress tracking, and strategic alignment across agriculture, nutrition, civil society mobilization, and advocacy interventions. This strengthened internal coordination and provided a roadmap for continued project implementation.

- **Multi-Step Endorsement of Food System Strategic Plans**

Figure 13: Five-year Food Rights and Food System Strategic Plans (2082–2086 BS) being recommended for endorsement at local level

From March 24–26, 2025, the Improved Food System Project (NPL-1083-22) team conducted a workshop at Lumbini Buddha Garden Resort to develop a food system transformation plan for Yasodhara Rural Municipality. Local leaders analyzed strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for sustainable food systems, aligning with Nepal's six action tracks for food transformation. Following this, three rural municipalities, Yasodhara, Sudhodhan, and Mayadevi, recommended their five-year Food Rights and Food System Strategic Plans (2082–2086 BS) for endorsement by their executive bodies, with technical facilitation by Sahayatri Consult Pvt. Ltd. and full ownership by local taskforces. Municipal leaders are committed to approving the plans and incorporating key actions into their fiscal year 2082/83 budgets. The project team firmly believes that achieving resilient and inclusive food systems is only possible through active leadership and partnership with local governments, and this multi-step endorsement process ensures sustainability throughout the project lifetime.

From Undignified Life in India to a Proud Entrepreneur in Nepal: The Journey of Baliram Pasi

Baliram Pasi, a 28-year-old resident of Yasodhara-3, West Basantapur in Kapilvastu District, is a shining example of resilience and determination. Born into a landless family, Baliram's early life was defined by struggle. At the age of 13, he migrated to Punjab, India, in search of work. Over the years, he engaged in various forms of hard labor, including scrap metal collection, wage labor, and portering, eventually moving to Mumbai. Despite earning INR 25,000–30,000 per month, his life was marked by extreme living conditions, cramped accommodations, poor sanitation, and a lack of respect and dignity as a foreign laborer.

Figure 14: Baliram during his TVET training (yellow full sleeves)

Baliram's longing for family and a better quality of life brought him back to Nepal. However, he faced significant challenges, including limited opportunities and lacking skills to establish himself. His turning point came when he joined the Civil Society Organisations as Promoters of Improved Food Systems and Equal Livelihood Opportunities project, implemented by FORWARD Nepal and KSSC Nepal.

As part of the project's initiative to support off-farm livelihoods, Baliram underwent a comprehensive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program focused on electric appliance repair. Over the course of 40 days, he acquired skills to repair a wide range of appliances, including fans, washing machines, coolers, lights, speakers, and refrigerators. He was also provided repair equipment worth approximately NPR 25,000 from the project and has access to ongoing contact with trainers.

Figure 15: Baliram and his partner showing their shop and their work to project team

In December, Baliram and a fellow trainee launched a small electric appliance repair business in a modest wooden chamber, locally known as a tanki, near a school in Yasodhara-3. His services include appliance repairs and home visits, a valuable offering for villagers who previously had to travel 10 kilometers to Taulihawa city for similar services. The business served a dozen clients in just 20 days of operation, generating close to NPR 5,000 in income. Though his earnings are modest compared to his income in India, Baliram feels a sense of dignity and optimism that was absent during his years as a laborer abroad.

Baliram's personal life has also improved significantly. Living with his wife, he is now able to support her emotionally and be with her in her time of need. Together, they are planning to start a family, and he takes pride in being present for them.

Figure 16: Baliram with his fellow trainees after training completion

Looking to the future, Baliram envisions expanding his services to include mobile phone repairs and photocopying/printing, especially since the ward office is nearby. His goal is to build trust within the community by providing reliable, affordable, and at-home services,

ensuring that residents no longer need to travel far for their repair needs.

Figure 17: Sandhya During Rice Planting

Reflecting on his journey, Baliram shared, “I was living an undignified life in India, and though I earn less right now in Nepal, I have the potential to grow, something I could never achieve by working as unskilled labor in India. I am optimistic that in summer, my business will boom with repairs of fans, coolers, and fridges. I won’t leave Nepal for anything now.”

Baliram’s story is a testament to the power of training, perseverance, and the pursuit of dignity. He serves as an inspiration for others in his community, proving that with the right skills and determination, it is possible to build a sustainable livelihood and a fulfilling life at home.

Rediscovering a Lost Aroma: The Inspiring Journey of Sandhya Yadav

For Sandhya Yadav of Hardewa village in Kapilvastu, farming is more than a livelihood, it is a living tradition and a marker of identity. Responsible for a household of 15, she has dedicated herself to bridging traditional farming practices with modern methods. As chairperson of the Shree Sagarmatha Small Farmers’ Group, Yadav has become a driving force in encouraging her community to embrace sustainable and heritage-based agriculture.

Generations ago, Kapilvastu’s famed Kalanamak rice was a staple at weddings, religious ceremonies, and family celebrations. Dishes like pulao, kheer, and other delicacies carried the distinct aroma of this indigenous grain. But over time, production dwindled, availability shrank, and the rice became little more than a memory.

Figure 18: Sandhya with her harvest

Through the Improved Food Systems Project, Yadav joined a 10 day training on good agricultural practices. When she received five kilograms of Kalanamak seed, she saw an opportunity to revive a fading tradition. Planting the seed on five

kattha of land, she chose to rely on farmyard manure instead of chemical fertilizers. Months of careful labor yielded 3.5 quintals of rice, a harvest she proudly cut and carried home herself. For Yadav, the crop was not just food, but a reclamation of heritage.

“When guests come to our home now, I feel proud to serve rice from Kalanamak,” she said. “We have revived our tradition. The lost flavor has returned, and it fills my heart with joy. I am grateful to the Improved Food Systems Project and to all efforts to preserve our indigenous crops.”

Her story is one of resilience and renewal, a farmer reclaiming identity through heritage grains. Yadav’s journey is not only about restoring rice cultivation, but about bringing back the rituals, flavors, and pride that once defined her community.

Institutional activities

- The 28th FORWARD Day was celebrated on 1st September 2024, chaired virtually by Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Chairperson, with the presence of chief guest Manoj Ranabhat, Chairperson of Bharatpur Metropolitan City-2 Ward, and special guest Advocate Jagannath Bhandari, Legal Advisor of FORWARD Nepal. As in previous years, the FORWARD Nepal team also visited senior citizens at Devghat dham, where they shared a meal and presented gifts to the residents.

- On February 01, 2025, FORWARD Nepal celebrated its 28th Annual General Meeting and 12th Convention at the Jaldevi Forestry Users Group, Aaptari, Chitwan. The event was chaired by chairperson Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota and had the presence of Prof. Dr. Sharada Thapaliya, Vice-chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan as chief guest. Annual reviews of all projects, updates on past, current, and pipeline projects.

- Additionally, several project concepts and proposals were submitted to various donor agencies for project partnerships/funding. Other engagements included participation in meetings, seminars, and training sessions with various donors and development agencies, as well as regular internal meetings conducted at both project and institutional levels.

Visitors

- On 26 July 2024, Surendra Gautam, Regional Director of AWO International, visited FORWARD Nepal to learn about the organization's current initiatives and ongoing programs.
- On 18 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.
- On 9 September 2024, Chiranjibi Sharma, Assistant Chief District Officer (ACDO), visited the FORWARD Nepal office for a project briefing and an overview of the organization's activities.
- On 28 November 2024, Kushum Kishor Bhatta and Rajendra Rajbhandari (AWO International) visited FORWARD Nepal to provide an overview of the financial guidelines for the project proposal.
- On 20 December 2024, Prem Raj Neupane, Biswas Bastola, and Bijaya Dallakoti (NTNC) visited the FORWARD Nepal office to discuss a potential partnership between FORWARD Nepal and the National Trust for Nature Conservation.
- On 23 January 2025, Alexis Elicott (Chief of Party), Deputy COPs Menila Kharel and Praveen Baidya from Winrock International, and Navin Hada, USAID Feed the Future Coordinator, visited FORWARD Nepal for discussions on the way forward and planning for the Agriculture Transformation Project.
- On 19 February 2025, Sujit Kumar Sah, Dev Raj Chaudhary, and Sharad Adhikari from ADRA Nepal visited for a partner assessment on technical, financial, and MEAL aspects.
- On 9 March 2025, Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi, Associate Professor at Hiroshima University and in charge of ARDL, Center for Peace and Sustainable Future (CePeaS), visited FORWARD Nepal and shared that a new project on "Climate Justice for Southeast and South Asia - Health Impacts of Climate Change in Mountainous Areas of Vietnam and Nepal" had been approved, with FORWARD Nepal as the implementing partner for Nepal.
- On 16 May 2025, Prof. Dr. Nirajan Bhattarai, Director of DOREX, AFU, visited the FORWARD Nepal head office regarding his affiliation as a Professional Advisor/Expert for Livestock and Dairy.

.

Collaboration and Linkage with Funding agencies and Partner Organizations in FY 2024/25

FORWARD Nepal emphasizes programme implementation 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 2024/25, FORWARD Nepal has worked with several donors and development partners as given below:

List of Publications

- बगर खेती प्रवर्द्धनका लागि प्राविधिक हाते पुस्तिका २०८१ भाद्र

Board Members, Honorary Members, Founder Members, Advisors, FORWARD Nepal's Professional, and Auditors – 2024/25

Executive Board Members of FORWARD Nepal 2081/82 to 2083/84 (2024/25 to 2026/27)

S.N.	Name	Position
1	Dr. Ujjal Tiwari	Chairperson (2081.10.19 to 2081.12.09)
1	Mr. Pustak Raj Ojha	Chairperson
2	Ms. Rashu Thakali	Vice-Chairperson
3	Mr. Toyanath Gautam	Secretary
4	Ms. Archana Kumari Gupta	Joint-Secretary
4	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari	Treasurer
5	Prof. Dr. Sunila Rai	Member
7	Mr. Prabin Poudel	Member
8	Ms. Maiya Giri	Member
9	Ms. Manju Regmi	Member

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	Bharatpur, Chitwan	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	Finance

FORWARD Nepal's Advisory Board

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota	Vice Chancellor, Gandaki University, Pokhara	Vice-Chancellor, Gandaki University, Pokhara
2	Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha	Kathar, Chitwan	Fisheries & Aquaculture
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	Prof. Dr. Nirajan Bhattarai	Director, Directorate of Agriculture Research and Extension, Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur	Professor of Animal Science (Animal Breeding)
2	Dr. Luni Piya	Associate Professor, Hiroshima University	Rural Economics
3	Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi,	Hiroshima University, Japan	Agri. Economics
4	Mr. Kirty Sushil Joshi	MEAL Specialist, Australian Himalayan Foundation, Sydney, Australia	IT Expert

FORWARD's Statutory Auditor (2024/25)

S.N.	Name	Engagement Partner	Address	Contact Phone & Email
1	CA. Sushil Ghimire	Sushil & Associates	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan, Bagmati Province, Nepal	056532022 ca.sghimire@gmail.com

FORWARD Nepal Staff in the FY 2024/25 (July 16, 2024 - July 16, 2025)

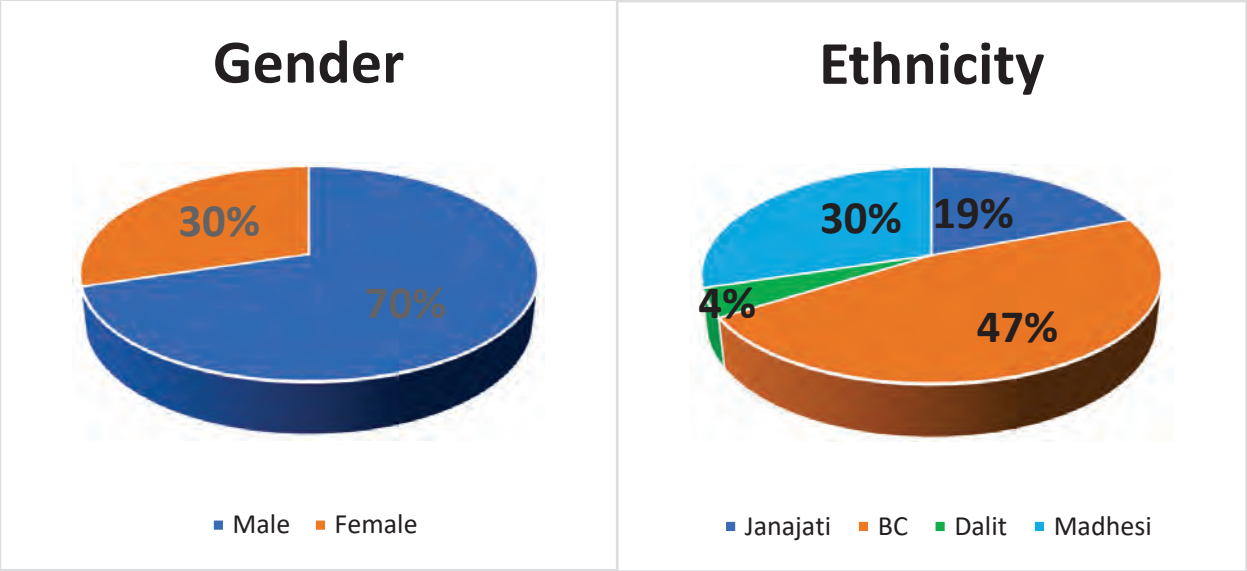
A list of regular staff who worked for FORWARD Nepal in FY 2024/25.

S.N	Name	Position
1	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen	Executive Director
2	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane	Business Development Director
3	Mr. Tirth Kumar Timsina	Program Director
4	Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota	Regional Hub Manager
5	Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal	Project Manager/Principal Investigator
6	Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu	Sr. Admin & Finance Officer
7	Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary	Livestock Development Specialist
8	Mr. Prabin Paudel	MEAL Manager
9	Mr. Nagendra Bastakoti	PhD Scholar
10	Ms. Kaushila Devi Tamang	Account Officer
11	Ms. Sakchha Timilsina Subedi	Asst. Admin Officer

S.N	Name	Position
12	Mr. Dipendra Tharu	Office Assistant
13	Mr. Nomraj Sharma	Field Officer
14	Ms. Bandana Adhikari	Field Officer
15	Mr. Bamdev Regmi	Field Officer
16	Ms. Bhawana Regmi	Field Officer
17	Mr. Anish Gyawali	Field Officer
18	Mr. Ravi Prakash Rauniyar	Project Coordinator
19	Mr. Pramod Sah Sudi	Field Technician
20	Ms. Nirmala Budha Ayer	Field Technician
21	Ms. Mahima Dahit	Field Technician
22	Mr. Amitraj Shah	Project Coordinator
23	Mr. Dig Bijay Dhakal	Project Finance Officer
24	Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya	Project cum Advocacy Officer
25	Mr. Dipak Kumar Mandal	Project Advocacy Officer (Nutrition & WASH)
26	Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pandit	Project cum Advocacy Officer
27	Mr. Ram Chandra Pandit	Agriculture Officer
28	Ms. Manisha Darnal	Field Officer (Nutrition and MEAL)
29	Ms. Sweety Gupta	Agriculture Officer
30	Mr. Suman Neupane	Program Officer - Agriculture & Livelihood
31	Mr. Bikash Acharya	Monitoring, Documentation & Reporting Officer
32	Mr. Jhalak Bahadur Thapa	Enterprise Development Officer
33	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav	Project Admin & Finance Officer
34	Mr. Sunil Kumar BK	Project Admin & Finance Officer
35	Ms. Brinda Kumari Linkha	Sr. Agriculture Technician (Community Facilitator)
36	Ms. Shreejana Regmi	Agriculture Technician (Community Facilitator)
37	Ms. Sabina Palpali	Agriculture Technician (Community Facilitator)
38	Mr. Subhash Khanal	Agriculture Technician (Community Facilitator)
39	Mr. Om Prakash Baniya	Community Facilitator
40	Mr. Sudama Mishra	Agriculture Technician (Community Facilitator)
41	Mr. Hanuman Prasad Yadav	Community Facilitator
42	Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Karki	Office Assistant/Logistic

S.N	Name	Position
43	Mr. Chhotelal Patel	Nutrition Promoter
44	Mr. Bidhyakanta Patel	Nutrition Promoter
45	Mr. Hari Narayan Yadav	Nutrition Promoter
46	Ms. Sunita Kumari Shah	Nutrition Promoter
47	Ms. Ananda Devi Gurung	Cook

FORWARD Nepal's staff by gender and ethnicity in FY 2024/25



List of Interns in 2024/25

SN	Name of Intern	Address	Designated Project
1	Mr. Santosh Paudel (M.Sc.)	Phungling – 8, Taplejung	YUVA
2	Mr. Sushil Dhungana (M.Sc.)	Pokhara -19, Puranchaur, Kaski	YUVA
3	Ms. Binita Basnet	Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan city Ward No.12, Dang	YUVA
4	Ms. Ganga Devi Bhandari	Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan city Ward No.1, Dang	YUVA
5	Ms. Mamata Chaudhary	Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan city Ward No. 11, Dang	YUVA
6	Mr. Bishal Tharu Chaudhary	Banganga Municipality-05, Kapilvastu	YUVA
7	Ms. Anisha Gaire	Sandhikharka Ward No.02 Arghakhanchi,	YUVA

Financial Report 2024/25 (2081/82 B.S.)

The following Chattered Audit firms and institutions were involved in auditing of FY 2024/25 (2081/82) FORWARD Nepal's account.

Period of audit	Project audited	Audit firm of institution
September 06 & 07, 2024	TERAI Project	RajMS & Co.
September 25, 2024 to October 04, 2024	Statutory audit of FORWARD Nepal for FY 2023/024	Sushil & Associates
Feb 04 to 07, 2025	NPL 1083-22 (account from January 2024 to December 2024)	PP Pradhan & Co.
March 25 to 28, 2025	NPL 1066-19 (NSV II) (account from January 2024 to February 2025)	PKF TR Upadhaya & Co.

Annual Audit Report 2024/25 (2081/82)

सुशील एण्ड एसोसिएट्स
चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट्स
Sushil & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Bharatpur-10, Bagmati Province, Nepal
Contact: 056-523022, 9855051315
E-mail: ca.sghimire@gmail.com

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 Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD) Nepal which comprise of Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Income & Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Reserves, 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 position and performance of the Entity for the period from Shrawan1, 2081 (July 16, 2024) to Ashad 32, 2082(July 16, 2025) in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standards for Non-Profit Organizations (NAS for NPOs).

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 Entity 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.

Sushil & Associates ★ Chartered Accountants ★ Firm No. 513

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 Entity'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 Entity or to cease operations, or has realistic alternative but to do so.

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

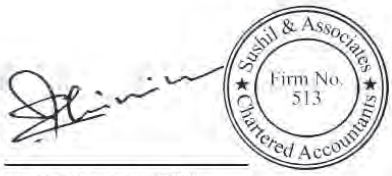
Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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 Entity'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 Entity'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 Entity 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.



Sushil Ghimire, FCA
Proprietor,
For,
Sushil & Associates, Chartered Accountants
Place: Bharatpur, Chitwan
Date:30th October,2025
UDIN: 251030CA00729Uu2Mz

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
(FORWARD Nepal)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 32 Ashadh 2082(July 16,2025)

Amount in NPR

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
ASSETS			
Non - Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4.1	6,562,465	6,729,483
Intangible Assets	4.2	-	-
Long term investments	4.3	-	-
Deferred Tax Assets	4.4	-	-
Total Non - Current Assets		**6,562,465**	**6,729,483**
Current Assets			
Inventories	4.5	-	-
Accouns Receivable	4.6	18,337,883	21,935,668
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.7	11,063,112	6,371,463
Total Current Assets		**29,400,995**	**28,307,131**
Total Assets		**35,963,460**	**35,036,615**
LIABILITIES & RESERVES			
Accumulated Reserves			
Unrestricted Funds/ accumulated surplus	4.8	12,923,312	10,707,285
Designated Funds	4.9	-	-
Restricted Funds	4.1	9,927,931	3,149,102
Endowment Fund	4.11	-	-
Other Capital reserves	4.12	250,813	335,938
Total Accumulated Reserves		**23,102,056**	**14,192,325**
Non - Current Liabilities			
Deferred Tax Liabilities	4.13	-	-
Total Non - Current Liabilities		-	-
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	4.14	9,430,323	17,413,208
Short Term Borrowing			
Provisions	4.15	3,431,081	3,431,081
Bank overdrafts			
Total Current Liabilities		**12,861,404**	**20,844,289**
Total Liabilities		**12,861,404**	**20,844,289**
Total Liabilities and Reserves		**35,963,460**	**35,036,615**

The notes on accounts form an integral part of the financial statement.
In term of our report of even date attached

For and on Behalf of Board

Ram Dayal Tharu
Finance Officer

Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

Pustak Raj Ojha
Chairperson

Date: 2082.07.01
Place:Bhartpur-10,Chitwan

For and on Behalf of the Firm

Sushil & Associates ★ Chartered Accountants ★ Firm No. 513

FCA. Sushil Ghimire
Propritor
Sushil & Associates
Chartered Accountants

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

Statement of Income & Expenditure
For the year ended on 32 Ashadh 2082 (July 16,2025)

Amount in NPR

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
INCOME			
Incoming Resources	4.17	79,427,617	63,197,179
Financial Income	4.18	8,579	16,692
Other Income	4.19	5,466,906	1,753,688
Total Income		**84,903,102**	**64,967,559**
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Cost	4.20	2,774,213	2,616,562
Programme Expenses	4.21	76,725,378	62,388,691
General Administrative Expenditure	4.22	3,020,466	3,190,314
Depreciation & Amortization	4.10	167,018	188,314
Total expenditure		**82,687,076**	**68,383,881**
Net surplus/(deficit) before Taxation		**2,216,027**	**(3,416,322)**
Adjustment of loss upto last year			
Deffered Income/(Expenses)			
Current Tax Expenses			-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		**2,216,027**	**(3,416,322)**
Prior Period Adjustment		-	-
Closing Surplus/(Deficit)		**2,216,027**	**(3,416,322)**
APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
Allocation to Reserves		-	-
Allocation to Endowment Fund		-	-

The notes on accounts form an integral part of the financial statement.
In term of our report of even date attached

For and on Behalf of Board

Ram Dayal Tharu
Finance Officer

Pustak Raj Ojha
Chairperson

Date: 2082.07.01
Place:Bhartpur-10,Chitwan

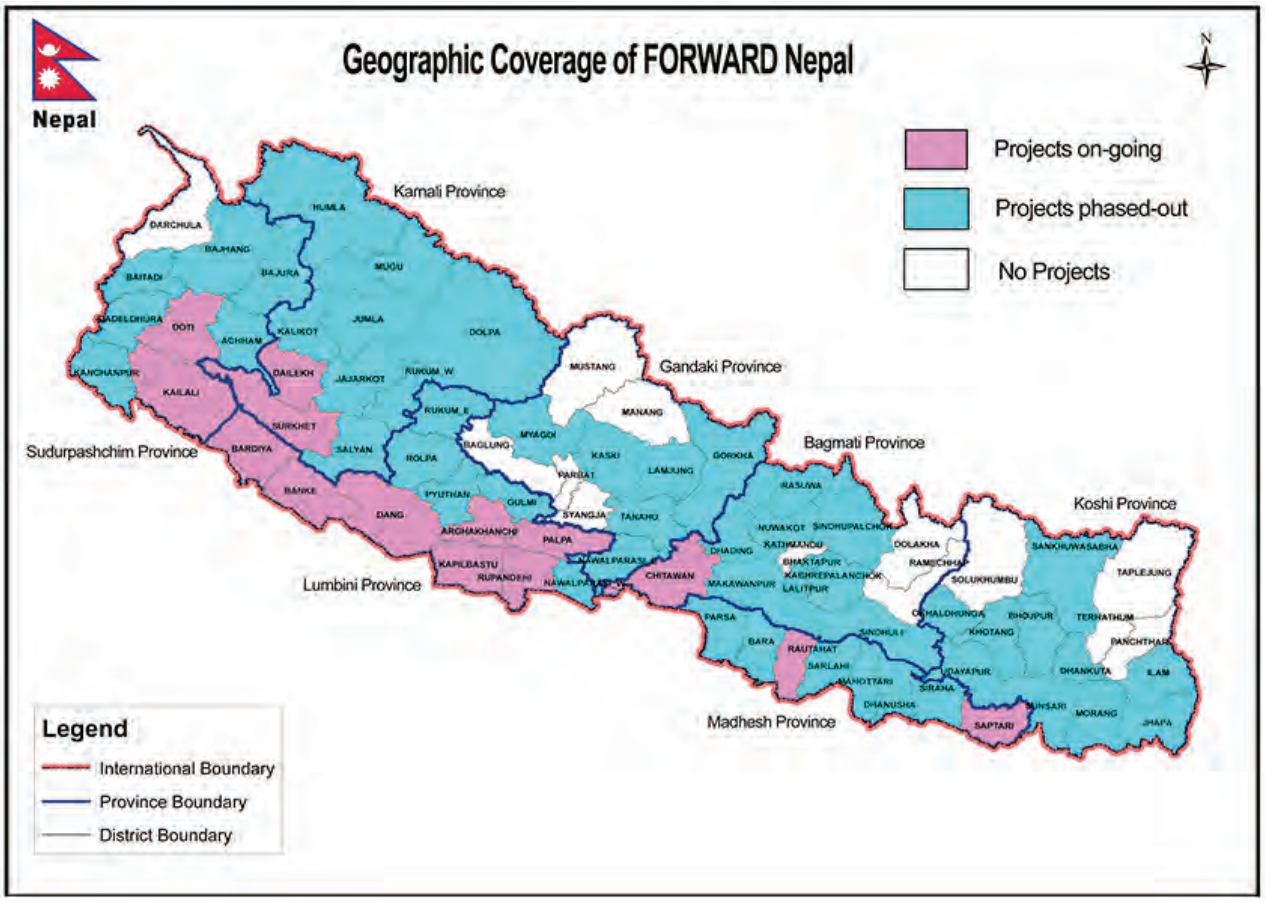
Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

For and on Behalf of the Firm

Sushil & Associates ★ Chartered Accountants ★ Firm No. 513

FCA. Sushil Ghimire
Proprietor
Sushil & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Geographical Coverage



FORWARD Nepal

28th AGM