



FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

This 21st issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin provides a general cumulative brief update on project implementation progress with some of the institutional activities/events for the first trimester of the fiscal year 2076/77 B.S. i.e. 15th July to 15th November 2020. During this period we continued with seven projects in eight districts. Of these seven projects, two projects namely; a) "Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal" and India and b) "Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha district, Nepal" were the no cost extended project for up to November and December 2020 respectively. These projects were funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)/ Welthungerhilfe (WHH) for two years from September 2018.

Very recently a contract agreement has been signed between The World Food Programme ("WFP") and FORWARD Nepal for the implementation of a project entitled "COVID-19 Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Project (LERP) in Rautahat District" for seven months from November 2020. Apart from this, a number of project concept papers and proposals have been submitted to various donor agencies for project partnerships/funding. Participation in virtual meetings, seminars and trainings with different donors and development agencies and our project based staff were held. FORWARD Nepal's Table Calendar published and distributed, and Annual Report 2076/77 in Nepali for DAO and SWC was prepared and submitted.

Accomplishments of 2076/77 annual audit reports, tax clearance with IRD, renewal of FORWARD Nepal's registration with DAO, Chitwan and celebration of 24th FORWARD DAY were other major events in this reporting period.

Congratulations!

FORWARD Nepal would like to congratulate Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota, Advisor of FORWARD Nepal on his new appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Gandaki University. We are very much proud of you and wish you all the best for your successful tenure.



Major project activities conducted

1. Dairy for Development in Nepal project:

Survey on impact of COVID-19: In July, Dairy project carried out telephone survey with dairy farmers, milk producer cooperatives, bank and financial institutions, Livestock Service Sections to gather information about the impact of COVID-19 on them.

Support of forage seeds: The project provided Super Napier sets, Badahar (*Artocarpus lacucha*) forage seeds of forages like Stylo (*Stylosanthes*) and Velvet Bean (*Mucuna pruriens*) to the leader farmers for demonstration of improved technologies in August and September. Similarly, they were provided the seeds of forage like Vetch (*Vicia*), Oat (*Avena sativa*), Berseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum*), and Ryegrass (*Lolium*) in October.

Machinery support: Since people were stuck into their home during the lockdown period, there was a sharp decrease in the consumption of milk and milk products as a result of which a huge volume of milk was stagnant in the milk producer cooperatives. The project, therefore, supported the milk producer cooperatives with milk processing and storing equipment like cream separator (4 in nos.) and deep freeze (8 in nos.). Full set of milk analyzer machines (stirrer, analyzer, computer monitor, CPU, keyboard, mouse, printer, display board, digital weighing balance, battery and inverter) were supported to three milk producer cooperatives in 50% subsidy.

Support of equipment for artificial insemination: Six animal health technicians of the project areas were supported with artificial insemination (AI) equipment like AI referee, AI gun, AI sheath, disposable gloves.

Support on construction materials: Construction materials like iron pipes for truss, CGI sheets, bricks, sand, cement, aggregate, soling stone, etc. worth Rs. 600,000.00 (in words: Six lakhs rupees only) were supported to Nepal Gai-Bhaisi Farm, Hetauda – 17, Babu Chowk, Makwanpur for construction of a cattle shed for accommodating sixteen cattle.

2. Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative (SCRSSI) Project in Sunsari district

Joint Monitoring visit: Three events of joint monitoring visit were conducted in Ramdhuni

Municipality-7, 8 & 9 Barhakshetra Municipality-4 of Sunsari district. In the monitoring visit, Mayor, Deputy-mayor, Chief Administrative officer, DRR focal person, ward chair person, engineer were present. They visited at the culvert of Ramdhuni-7, Chandrakamal School at Ramdhuni-9, new site for culvert & railing at Putodhara river Ramdhuni-9, culvert of Barhakshetra-4, Jamtoki, Sarsswati Secondary School Barhakshetra-4, Dhanpuri, Aulia Secondary School- Barhakshetra-1, Janak Secondary School Barhakshetra-8 and Bandanda railing at Putodhara River Ramdhuni-9. After the visit, strong coordination with local government & stakeholders was built. Through this monitoring visit, new construction site for culvert was finalized at Ramdhuni-8, Bandanda. They had suggested to install sanitary pad disposal at girls toilet which are incorporated in the construction plan accordingly.

Gender Responsive education sector contingency plan sharing meeting: The project plan sharing meeting was conducted on 14th October 2020, at Barhakshetra Municipality meeting hall. In the meeting, mayor, municipality education committee, municipality education head were present. During the meeting, participants have suggested that disaster management committee should be formed in all school of municipality, DRR component should be incorporated in all school of Municipality and additional budget should be allocated for school disaster management.

3. Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk prone areas in Ward No. 2 and 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan

Post disaster need assessment (PDNA) training: FORWARD Nepal organized three events of PDNA / IRA training at ward level and municipal level to develop technical capacities of the volunteers on IRA by outsourcing consultants from Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) Head Office, Kathmandu. Two-day long event were organized in Ward No. 2 and Ward No. 10 and one-day long training event at Municipal level in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan. There was the participation of Ward Level DMC members, TLOs, vulnerable groups / communities, ward secretary, and computer operators of the respective wards. Likely, Municipal level training was organized among the participants of the different sections of the Bharatpur Metropolitan City, and the vulnerable wards of the municipality.

Gap data collection for risk assessment: Fire risk assessment in Bharatpur metropolitan city: Urban DRR project utilized the capacity of the In-Charge of Fire Brigade, Bharatpur Metropolitan City to assess

the fire risks of public and private hospitals, high-rise complexes, petroleum stations, schools, and some public buildings in Bharatpur. The report provided findings and recommendations most applicable for fire protection to the Palika.

Installation of contactless handwashing station: COVID-19 prevention and Monsoon Preparedness and Response support by establishing Contactless hand washing stations was accomplished in a) District Administration Office, b) Bharatpur Metropolita City Office, c) Bharatpur Hospital, d) Blood Bank, e) Narayani Model School, f) Chitrasen Primary hool, g) Balkumari Secondary School, h) Bharatapur-2 Number Ward Office, i) Devkota Chowk, BMC-2, and k) Pragatipath TLO, Narayangarh.

Verification of ward boundary and risk cum capacity mapping (GIS) with project wards: Ward level DMC meeting reviewed the ward boundary and the resources exists in the territory. The plotted GIS maps were shared by Mr. Biraj Pokharel, Information Management Officer, UNDP during the sessions. The participants reviewed the visual map and provided feedback for necessary correction.

Mapping of vulnerable populace by using KOBO tools: Enumerators were trained on KOBO application based data collection tools and mobilized to the community level. The enumerators compiled the data on social security allowance recipients, beneficiaries of COVID-19 relief items etc..

Consultation in preparation of Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) of Metropolitan Emergency Operation Centre (MEOC): FORWARD Nepal organized two days long SOP/MEOC preparation workshop in Bharatpur. Mr. Cecil Adhikari, a facilitator hired by UNDP facilitated the workshop amongst the municipal level officials, authorities, vulnerable population, and other stakeholders. Deputy Mayor Ms. Parbati Shah Thakuri of BMC formally inaugurated the programme. Mr. Prem Raj Joshi, Chief Administrative Officer provided guidance to develop the SOP. Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director of FORWARD Nepal chaired the formal opening programme.

Trained / Mobilization of volunteers for COVID-19, Awareness and Handwashing campaign: One daylong training was organized amongst the women groups' as a Training of Trainers model in a meeting hall of District Coordination Committee, Bharatpur, Chitwan. The awareness raising campaign was is to orient the practical need of the women groups on different types of hazards, precautionary measures and its control at the household level, and train to the other group members thereof. There were all

together 15 participants in the training.

4. Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India, implemented jointly with FORWARD Nepal and Aasaman Nepal, following activities were carried out

Farmer's Field School (FFS): 10 sessions of FFS were organized in 120 farmer's groups in both project districts Saptari and Rautahat. The sessions were provided in an introduction to sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS): Concept, Principles, Components; Ideal SIFS farm; Production system, Seasonal calendar; Resource mapping & Farm planning (individual farm), Crop/ tree Management: Crops according to root/ family; crop rotation; relay cropping; mix crop; multilayer design, Seed preservation, Soil and water management: vermicomposting; heap and pit compost; liquid manure, Water management and Mulching, Disease and pest management: Use of Neem; organic pest repellent, Pond management, Livestock management: Improved shed management (urine collection) & Fodder management & Energy management.

30 Excellent Group Leaders were enhanced in facilitation of skill farmer to farmer training and improving the PLA approach. 12 EGL and 8 group leaders have applied Jhol Mal/Bio pesticide in their field. Out of 12 EGLs vermicomposting have been started by Six EGLs at Rajgadh Rural Municipality. After the prior pilot demonstration of vermicomposting, the vermi- worm is easily available to the interested farmers at their local level. 45 FFS members sold surplus vegetables to the nearest Hatiya-market in Saptari. Improved cowshed practiced by all 12 EGLin Saptari. 32 PLA Group member are getting improved wheat seed as seed subsidy from RMC level agri section in Rajgadh, Saptari. All 42 PLA: FFS group information and the record have been submitted at RMC level agriculture section in Rajgadh, Saptari. Community nursery and seed kit distribution and other SIFS activities were conducted with close coordination in RMC level agri section in Rajgadh, Saptari.

Nutrition Garden: In order to promote nutrition garden and integrated farming systems, winter vegetable kits (Pea, Radish 40 days, Radish Mino early, Coriander, Fenugreek, Fava Beans, Garden pea, Chilly, Rayo, Squash, Asparagus, Cabbage, Carrot, Rayo and different gourds) were distributed to support nutrition gardens of 7200 (2880 in Saptari and 4320 in Rautahat) households (HHs).

Chilly, Tomato, French bean, Onion, Coriander, Broccoli, Capsicum and Cauliflower were distributed to establish community nursery of 120 FFS group

leader. PLA group member, Field staff, FCHVs and local ward member etc. are capacitated the seedling grower. The project also supported Community level nursery growers with summer brinjal seeds, plastic sheet, nets and bamboo to produce quality seedlings and provide the beneficiaries to promote integrated farming system. EGLs were also provided with sacks, bamboo and ropes, and oriented to promote kite gardening and sack gardening. They also received fish fingerlings to culture in the kitchen pond for better nourishment and income. All 30 EGLs have been demonstrated kite gardening and multilayering in both districts. During the last month, 1245 marginalized families started nutrition garden.

Construction of Platform of Hand Pumps: There were some hand pumps in the project area without the platforms. To prevent the water contamination and maintain the sanitation around the hand pumps, 60 cemented platforms of hand pumps were constructed in both districts.

Distribution of Soaps to the LANN group members: During the COVID-19, 10,800 Soaps were distributed to the LANN group members. 2000 soaps were distributed to the COVID-19 affected migrant workers during the food relief distribution in the Paroha municipality, Rautahat.

Hygiene kit support to the SAM children households: A total of 105 severely acute malnourished children (SAM), 56 in Paroha and 49 in Rajgadh, were referred to the Out Reach Therapeutic Center of the respective municipality and were treated with Ready-to-use-therapeutic-food package (RUTF). During the treatment, follow up was done by the FCHV and social mobilizers of the project using the standard checklist. All the SAM children households were supported with a Hygiene Kit, counselling and demonstration was done for the proper and continuous use of the materials and requested to continue and replenish the materials from their own resources.

Awareness Campaign and Visibility: Pamphlets about symptoms of COVID-19, its preventive measures, and steps of handwashing were provided to the social mobilizers. They demonstrated to FCHVs and EGLs of each ward to convey messages to the community. All EGL have got field level bags and an apron with a slogan. During the two months farmer bags, apron and jacket has been distributed to all EGLs and handwashing awareness posters and preventive measures against COVID-19 were distributed to the beneficiaries and service providers. During that period, the National Hand wash campaign (Till 15 October 2020) was celebrated at Rajgadh Municipality, Saptari.

5. Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha district, Nepal, the following activities were carried out:

Review meeting with Cooperatives: The review meeting with the cooperative of all three municipalities Karjanha, Kalyanpur and Siraha was carried on 27th July 2020. The purpose of meeting was to review the status of the revolving fund/cooperative and the challenges on increasing the membership in the cooperative. The meeting was chaired by PC, Bed Prasad Bhurtel with invitee PC of WHH, Uttam Sharma and PC of Aasaman Nepal, Raj Kumar Mahato. Altogether 17 representatives, 5 females and 12 males from 9 cooperative (3 from Karjanha, 4 from Siraha and 2 from Kalyanpur) were in the meeting. Among 9 cooperatives, 8 cooperatives has invested the revolving fund till July. So far, 53 farmers were benefitted with an access to credits for goat farming, vegetable farming and paddy farming in cheaper interest rate i.e. 12 % in comparison to at least 16 percent with moneylenders.

Refresher training of GAP to LRPs: Two days refresher training of GAP to LRPs was carried out in two slots. The first slot training was done on 17th-18th August in Karjanha-7 for the LRP of Karjanha and Kalyanpur and second slot was done on 20th - 21st August at Siraha-12, Saraswar for Kalyanpur and Siraha. Altogether 24 LRPs (14 male and 10 females)- 8 in Karjanha, 7 in Kalyanpur and 10 in Siraha were benefitted with the refresher training of nursery management technique, IPNM and IPM. The training was done in very sensitive period of COVID 19 with all the full precaution with Safety and Security materials. The first slot of training was conducted with chairmanship of ward Chairperson of Karjanha-7, Jay Kishor Sah and closed by Agriculture Section Chief of Karjanha, Ful Kumar Sah with active facilitation of one session of Model Kitchen Garden.

Support for Cattle shed Improvement to selected LRP: Among 25 LRPs of all three municipalities, 11 LRPs were supported with the schemes of Cattle shed Improvement. 3 potential LRPs from Karjanha, 4 from Kalyanpur and 4 from Siraha were benefitted with improved urine collection in the cattle shed for the demonstration purpose in the community. Each beneficiaries were supported with construction materials; Brick (2050 numbers) and Cements (20 Bags).

Vegetable Nursery Entrepreneurship Development Training: Two days vegetable Nursery Entrepreneurship Development training was carried on 9th -10th September 2020 at project office, Siraha. Altogether 8 beneficiaries were trained from all three municipalities i.e. 2 from Karjanha, 4 from Kalyanpur and 2 from Siraha. Along with training,

they got benefitted with agri inputs and materials like iron frame for nursery bed, poly bag, Sprayer, Watering can, sprinkler, 1 HP electric motor, seedling tray and varieties of winter season seeds support as a startup seed for agri- entrepreneurship.

Training to Farmers Group Leaders on Institutional development: The two group leaders of all the farmers group and riverbed farmers group were provided training in three slots in three different municipalities. The training was carried out on 24-26th September in Karjanha; 4-6th October and 13-15th October in Siraha with the help of agriculture section chief/technician as a facilitator. In Karjanha 69 farmers (32 female and 37 males) were trained. In Kalyanpur 88 farmers (43 females and 45 males) and from Siraha 116 farmers (85 females and 31 males) were trained. Altogether, from this training, 273 were benefitted from all three municipalities (160 females and 113 males). The main aim for this activities was to develop the linkage of the farmers group with the local government.

Assessment of Cooperative: Altogether 10 cooperatives assessment has been done in the project site who had already subsidized with revolving fund in three municipalities on September 2020 with the help of assessment team of PC and Agriculture officers. Altogether 10 cooperatives' (3 from Kalyanpur, 4 from Karjanha and 3 from Siraha) status were assessed for identifying their potentiality for support of additional grants of revolving fund.

Sapling support to the dumping site: The sapling of fruits i.e. Lemon, Mango, Pear, Indian blue berry was supported at the dumping site of Siraha municipality. The aim of the support was to enhance the greenery and manage the wastage of the dumping site in addition to consumption of their nutritional values.

Support Farmers Group with the Sapling of Fruits: The 35 farmers group of Karjanha and 42 farmers group of Kalyanpur were supported with the sapling of fruits i.e. Banana, Lemon, Mango and Papaya. The support was done to all the members of farmers group including local resource person in nutrition point of view to establish model nutrition garden and to cope with the climate resilience. Altogether 1757 beneficiaries get benefitted with sapling from two municipalities. Among them Karjanha and Kalyanpur constitute 810 and 947 beneficiaries respectively in number including 25 LRPs.

Winter Season Vegetable Seeds Support to the Farmer Group and Kitchen garden: Altogether 79 farmers group for kitchen garden get supported with the winter season vegetable seeds. The needy and potential targeted 79 farmers group (25 from

Karjanha, 25 from Kalyanpur and 29 from Siraha) were supported with the 9 varieties of vegetable seeds of Winter Season (Broad Leaf mustard, Chilly, Tomato, French Bean, Onion, Carrot, turnip and Coriander. Altogether 1690 farmers in all three municipalities (502-Kalyanpur, 553 from Karjanha and 635 from Siraha) get benefitted. In addition to this, 25 LRP's also get supported with the winter season vegetable seeds support.

Pulses and Oil seeds Support to the selected member of Selected Group: For the demonstration of good agriculture practices, the project supported 600 beneficiaries with improved lentil seeds and 500 beneficiaries with the improved mustard seeds from all three municipalities. The project demonstrated the relay cropping in rice crop with the lentil and mustard seeds support.

Semi-Commercial Support of seeds and agri tools to selected SC Farmer: For the demonstration of good agriculture practice, altogether 75 selected semi commercial farmers were benefitted with semi commercial seeds supports and agri tools like mulching plastics, plastic drum, yellow sticky trap, pheromone trap with spodolure and heli lure. From each municipality, 25 semi commercial farmers were selected.

Multilayer Frame Support to Selected members of Farmers Group: For the good agriculture practice; the project supported 36 number of multilayer frame. The project identified most probably landless, dalits, single women member of the farmers group for supporting and encouraging a multi-layer farming. 24 member of the farmers group get supported (8 beneficiaries from each municipality get supported). For the demonstration of the multi-layer farming, 4 LRP's from each municipalities get supported with multi-layer frame

Support of Agri tools to Selected Kitchen garden farmers: The selected 45 members of the kitchen garden farmers group also get supported with yellow sticky trap, Pheromone trap with spodo lure and heli-lure. Each municipalities comprises 15 members. The purpose was to demonstrate the good agriculture practice in kitchen garden group.

Demonstration of Drip irrigation: The project supported the demonstration of 10 drip irrigation on 15th October 2020 in all three municipalities identifying dry area where the drip irrigation is the most. The drip irrigation for 500 sq. metre was supported to 4 beneficiaries of Karjanha municipalities. The small drip irrigation of capacity 200 sq. m was supported to 6 beneficiaries (3 from Karjanha, 1 from Kalyanpur and 2 from Siraha).

Support of Seeds and agri tools to Change Agent: The project supported 44 Change agents of the

project with the winter season vegetable seeds i.e. Chilly, tomato, onion, and coriander, squash pumpkin, carrot cauliflower and turnip. The seed support to them was to promote kitchen gardening and ensure good nutrition. Along with this, the plastic drum was also supported to them for proper demonstration of good agriculture practice in the community from the change model.

Set up irrigation facilities: 49 schemes of shallow boring have been installed that are benefiting more than 587 farmers in project municipalities. Out of 49 schemes, 28 shallow tubes have been installed since July, 2020. Out of 49 schemes, 11 schemes have been installed in Karjanha municipality which has the capacity to irrigate 36 hac of land. Similarly 22 schemes and 11 schemes have been installed to irrigate 85.5 hac of land in Siraha and 65 hac of land in Kalyanpur. Besides this only one schemes is left and is in process of installation in Siraha. The project has also handed over equipment and materials for shallow boring to install 20 schemes of 1 HP electronic motor to farmers group and nursery entrepreneur.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director along with Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, PC and Mr. Sajjan Yogesh, PC from partner organization, Aasman Nepal for Nutrition Smart Village (SNV) project participated in the project experience sharing and learning virtual meeting in November 2020. In the meeting, Project progress and their experience were shared by each project partners from Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The meet was facilitated by Ms. Sweta Banerjee, Team Leader of NSV project and there were also other participation of Welthungerhilfe officials from India and Nepal in the programme.

Staffing

Mr. Jay Prakash Chaudhary appointed as Project Coordinator in place of Mr. Lok Bahadur Khadka for the Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative Project (SCRSSI) in Sunsari from 1st November 2020. Mr. Khadka resigned the job at FORWARD Nepal from 30th October 2020.

Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Project Coordinator, Nutrition Smart Village Project left the organization from 1st September 2020 due to end of project.

Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, Project Coordinator, Livelihood project, Siraha resigned from his position at FORWARD Nepal from 30th September 2020 and joined with Plan International as Programme Coordinator, Resilience.

Two staff of FORWARD Nepal – Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi, Finance Officer and Dr. Subhash Chaudhary Project Coordinator, Dairy for Development Nepal project infected by Corona virus and remain in 15 days in isolation. They are now fully recovered and back to normal in their duties.

Institutional activities/events:

- As in the previous years, 24th FORWARD Day was celebrated on 1st September 2020 in the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson. This event were conducted both physical and virtual with participation of staff and members. In the morning hours a programme was held at the head office where a Happy Birthday cake was cut/distributed among participants and wishing of FORWARD DAY to each other exchanged. A greetings message was also issued jointly by the Chairperson and Executive Director on the occasion of FORWARD DAY. Unlike in previous years, physical presence of FORWARD team to the Devghatdham was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, Mr. Krishna Bhandari, founder member participated in a joint lunch Programme with senior citizen at Devghatdham and Devghat Development Management Committee which was sponsored by FORWARD Nepal.
- The Annual Audit of FORWARD Nepal's head office and projects account was carried out by the S.H.A. & Associates, Chartered Accounts from 21st September to 7th October 2020 and produced audit report.
- Project audit report of Livelihood project, Siraha and Nutrition Smart Village project in Saptari and Rautahat had been submitted to donor Agency, WHH in September 2020.
- Because of limited projects, the workforce at the head office have been reduced and accordingly number of rented office rooms have been dwindled.

Upcoming institutional major events:

- Staff recruitment and deployment for COVID-19 response livelihood project, Rautahat.
- Hiring of staff for Nutrition Smart Village Project Phase II in Saptari and Rautahat.
- New office set up for Nutrition Smart Village Project Phase II in Saptari and Rautahat.
- Submission of Project Completion Reports (PCR) to BMZ/WHH and IFAD/ICARDA.
- Annual Programme Planning and Review and Reflection meeting.
- Publication of Annual Report (English) 2019/20.
- Annual programme for 2077/78.

- BOD meetings.
- Appointment of Auditor for year 2077/78.
- Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 11th General Convention of FORWARD Nepal.

Some Glimpses



24th FORWARD Day celebration at Head Office, Chitwan



Basic Fire Fighting, rescue and HAZMAT Handling Training to the Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan



Under Construction of Girls Toilet of Chandra Kamal School, Sunsari