



FORWARD Nepal Brief

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Patronage:

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 10th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from December 2016 to June 2017. During the period, the planned project activities were executed smoothly and some projects have been phased out. The projects completed during the period are as (i) Validation of GMP standards in the raw milk supply chain of Nepal, which was conducted in six districts - Makwanpur, Parsa, Kavre, Nawalparasi and Tanahun, in collaboration with milk cooperatives and private dairy industries and (ii) Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE), implemented in Sarlahi, Rautahat and Sindhuli districts under WFP funding. During the period, proposals/ PCNs have been submitted to various donor agencies for funding. In this context, consent letter has been sent to HU Japan for collaboration in implementation of the project "Agricultural Entrepreneurship among Female-headed Remittance Receiving Households in Nepal" under Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Technology (JSPS) Hiroshima University Grant-in-Aid for Exploratory Research. An Expression of interest (EOI) was sent to Business & Finance Consulting (BFC) GmbH for bidding the proposal on KfW Rural MSME programme/ Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Areas Programme in Nepal. An EOI has also been submitted to Equal Access for bidding the proposal on "Advocacy Campaign for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality", to be funded by UN Women. Institutional capacity building through engaging staff in various trainings and participation in national and international seminars/symposia were major accomplishments in the reporting period. FORWARD Nepal has been elected a member of Executive Committee (EC) of Market Development Forum Nepal (MDFN) for one year term.

1) Major activities during the period

- ELIVES Annual project review workshop was held at Sauraha, Chitwan during 10th-12th April 2017. The progress of second year activities were presented by partners JJYC Bara, RDA Rautahat, Chetana Sarlahi, and CDFAN Mahottari. Various project issues were discussed, and revised the third year programme activities, based on the learnings of previous year. Overall, the workshop provided insights for the improvement and better implementation of activities in the third year.
- Under Building Community Enterprises of Small-holders in Bangladesh and Nepal (BCES) project, five irrigation schemes have been completed along with the substantial community contribution, benefitting 57 farmers. Likewise, 27 Resource Centers have been established, based on the business plan of the individual farmer entrepreneur.
- Five days training (7-11 April 2017) on business plan development and account keeping was organized for the management committee members and CRPs of

Collection Centers/CE of Kalika Municipality and Icchhakamana Rural Municipality. The training was facilitated by experienced facilitators, Mr. Ram Chandra Subedi, Branch Manager and Mrs. Sarita Gyanwali, Business Development Officer, Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), Bharatpur Branch.

- Veterinary and Animal health Worker (VAHW) training was organized at Animal Health Training and Consultancy Services (AHTCS), Pokhara from 31st March to 4th May 2017. Eighteen persons from ELIVES project districts i.e., Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari, participated in the training programme. The trainees are supposed to provide veterinary services to goat herds in the ELIVES project VDCs of the respective project districts.
- The BCES project has upgraded one collection center to Community Enterprise (CE), structurally and functionally. The project supported for building upgrade and a combined grinding machine, sealing machine, and sewing machine to operate it as a community enterprise.
- Annual review and planning meeting of BCES project was held during 22nd-24th, February 2017 in presence of Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director, WHH and Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire, Programme Manager, WHH and in participation of BCES project team of FORWARD Nepal to review the overall process, strategies and action, over the year 2016. WHH provided constructive feedback and suggestions for necessary changes on project implementation. The target over the achievements of the project was found satisfactory, and the meeting reframed the individual farmer support for farm inputs to business plan based community resource center.
- Three day workshop on cooperative for saving and credit simplification was organized for local cooperatives of Letang Municipality-3 of Morang and Baraha Municipality-2 of Sunsari during January 27th-28th, 2017 under Climate Change Resilient (CR) project. In the workshop, local cooperatives committed to pass disaster budget from their assembly meeting with the purpose of involvement of vulnerable community to local cooperatives and loan provision at minimal interest to vulnerable community.
- Central level monitoring of GMP project was organized in Bara and Makwanpur districts during 4th to 6th January 2017. Director General of DoLS, Joint Secretary Ministry of Livestock and Birds Development, dignitaries from CDCAN, Nepal Dairy Industry (NDI), Executive Director and Programme Director of FORWARD, and Dr. Krishna Paudel, Project Team Leader were present in the visiting team. The team visited Hetauda Dairy industry, Dumarwana Dairy Cooperative at Bara and Manakamana Dairy Cooperative Makaranchuli, Makwanpur. The visit team observed that replacement

of plastic cans by steel/aluminum cans in PPP approach, general sanitary measures adopted in livestock shed during milking, and milk transport were noteworthy achievements of the project.

- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari and Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari from FORWARD, and Mr. Dawa Sherpa from SAMARTH conducted a pocket survey under the GMP project in Bara, Makwanpur and Nawalparasi districts. The objective of the pocket survey was to assess the effectiveness of the training to farmers in regards to the behavioral changes on hygienic practices in the milk production. The study was intended to check whether farmers in the project areas have benefitted or not through a project intervention - training/awareness program on good hygienic practices in the dairy cattle management and milk production. The survey revealed that the trainings on hygienic practices on livestock shed management and milk production had positive outcomes in achieving change in the quality milk production.

2) Staffing

Staff termination/resignation

- Mr. Bhim Bahadur Thapa Magar resigned from the post of Driver effective from 26th May, 2017.
- Mr. Binil Sapkota resigned from the post of Field Officer (Bara) under the ELIVES project effective from 30th April 2017.
- Mr. Satish G.C. resigned from the post of Finance Officer effective from 14th March 2017.
- Mr. Samir Sharma resigned from the post of Field Officer (Mahottari) under the ELIVES Project effective from 4th March 2017.
- Mr. Kshitiz Raj Sharma resigned from the post of Field Facilitator under the BCES project effective from 28th February 2017.
- Mr. Rajesh Shrestha, Mr. Madan Kumar Karki and Mr. Hare Ram K.C, Field Coordinator, successfully accomplished their assigned duties and responsibilities with completion of the GMP project effective from 1st February, 2017.
- Mr. Achyut Mishra, Dairy Technologist successfully accomplished the assigned duties and responsibilities with completion of the GMP project effective from 1st February 2017.
- Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Team Leader, successfully accomplished the assigned duties and responsibilities with completion of the GMP project. After the completion of the project, he left FORWARD Nepal effective from 1st February 2017.
- Mr. Chhalu Prasad Chaudhary, Mr. Pramaod Shah and Mr. Rohini Raj Rijal, Field Technicians successfully accomplished their assigned roles and responsibilities in the RbF project effective from 1st January 2017.
- Mr. Bipin Kumar Manandhar resigned from the post of Senior Accountant effective from 31st December 2016.

- Ms. Inu Upadhyaya resigned from the post of Admin and Procurement Officer effective from 1st December 2016, and left for Australia for higher study.

New staff

- Mr. Suraj Sharma joined as an Account Officer in the Head Office effective from 2nd June 2017.
- Ms. Anjana Rai joined as a Field Facilitator for the BCES project, based in Kaule effective from 25th May 2017.
- Mr. Raj Kumar Lama joined as a Driver in the Head Office effective from 23rd May 2017.
- Mr. Prakash Pulami joined as a Field Officer for the ELIVES project based on Bara effective from 18th May 2017.
- Mr. Kriti Sasmit Joshi joined as Admin and Procurement Officer in the Head Office effective from 13th March 2017.
- Mr. Mahesh Lal Vaidya joined as a Field Officer for the ELIVES project, based on Mahottari effective from 5th March 2017.
- Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi joined as a Finance Officer in the Head office effective from 2nd March 2017.

Interns

Ms. Aakriti Bhattarai, High school graduate from USA has started her internship at FORWARD Nepal from June 2017. She has been associated in BMZ/WHH supported BCES project at Shaktikhor, Kaule and Siddhi under the supervision of Ms. Ashmita Pandey, Programme Officer.

3) News

20th General assembly of FORWARD Nepal was celebrated on the 10th March 2017 at Royal Century Chitwan. The auspicious event was traditionally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University, Prof. Dr. Ishwari Prasad Dhakal through illumination of the lamp and followed by watering the flower vases. FORWARD Nepal's Founder members, general members, staff, and other invited guests were present in the occasion. After welcome address by the Vice Chairman, Assoc. Prof. Durga Devkota, highlights on the achievements of the year 2016/2017 was presented by Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane. During the occasion, appreciation letters were presented to Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu, Asst. Account Officer for his work excellence and to progressive farmer Mr. Aita Ram Chepang for his contribution in the dissemination of agricultural practices/ technologies to the fellow farmers.

In the second session, various issues on the development of FORWARD Nepal, including five year development strategy was reviewed and discussed. The names of FORWARDS' Affiliated Members and Advisory Committee Members were approved by business session chaired by Professor Dr. Madhav Shrestha. (Please visit <http://www.forwardnepal.org/news>)

Following the AGM, FORWARD family picnic was organized on 11th March 2017 at Aaptari, Chitwan. FORWARD staff, executive and general members including their family

members participated in the picnic, and enjoyed the entertainment programmes.

Trainings/Workshops

- The BCES project organized training on 'Facilitation process for enterprise development and food and nutrition security promotion' from 27th-30th June 2017 in Pokhara. The programme was organized with the objectives to handover the knowledge and skills on community mobilization and facilitation process, enterprise development, and integrated farming and nutrition promotion. Seventeen participants (including facilitators) of BCES team from CEAPRED, Salyan and FORWARD Nepal, Chitwan participated in the training programme. The training was facilitated by in-house team of experts from WHH, FORWARD Nepal and CEAPRED. The event remained fruitful to sharpen the knowledge of project staff on project management and facilitation tools.
- A review and reflection workshop for the Youth Empowerment Project (YIP) was held at Morang on 23rd June 2017. The progress of YIP was highlighted, and the potential intervention area for the next year was also discussed in the event.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the 12th National Outreach Research Workshop from 18th to 19th June 2017 at NMRP Rampur, and shared FORWARD Nepal's experiences in farmer participatory research and development.
- Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari, Project Monitoring & Internal Audit Officer and Mr. Kirty Sasmit Joshi, Admin and Procurement Officer, participated in the Team Management and Leadership Training organized by CSA-WHH in Kathmandu from 8th to 9th June 2017.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager, participated in training entitled "Integrated Seed Sector Management" organized by Wageningen University and Research in The Netherlands from 15th May-2nd June 2017.
- Ms. Ashmita Pandey, Programme Officer, participated in the training entitled "Horticulture sector development for emerging markets" organized by Wageningen University and Research in The Netherlands from 15th May-2nd June 2017.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated at the National Workshop on the Conservation and Utilization of Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources (CUAPGR) held in Dhulikhel from 22nd to 23rd May 2017, and presented the paper "Food Legumes: Diversity, Utilization and Conservation Status".
- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the "International Expert Seminar on Hidden Hunger" at Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany on March 12-19, 2017. Dr. Tiwari presented the FORWARD's work on Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) and SIFS's contribution to reducing hidden hunger of the small-holder farm families. He participated in the exposure visit of a biodynamic farm (Hofgemeinschaft Friedelhausen). In addition, he visited BASF (a Multi-national Chemicals Manufacturing Corporation) in Germany to know about the efforts and contribution of BASF to food fortification. Following the participation in the seminar, Dr. Tiwari

participated in the 3rd International Congress Hidden Hunger in Stuttgart, Germany on March 20-22, 2017. The Congress Hidden Hunger addressed the topic "Post-2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals: Where are we now? Strategies to improve nutrition quality and combat hidden hunger" with several presentations on research findings and development issues related to hidden hunger.

- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in Team Management and Leadership training organized by Civil Society Academy (CSA) at New Delhi, India during 23rd-24th Feb 2017. Altogether, 20 participants - five from Afghanistan, one from Nepal and 13 from India, attended the training.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Planning Director, Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the BEAM exchange Webinar organized by MDFN on 31st January 2017. Success stories of MDFN activities in Nepal, Ethiopia and Bangladesh were presented in the webinar.
- A one-day District Level Project Inception Workshop of IFAD/ICARDA project on Legume intervention in rice fallows was organized by FORWARD Nepal in Siraha on 19th January 2017. The project objectives, working modality and expected supports from district level offices were discussed in the meeting. The workshop was attended by DADO, DLSO, LDO, farmer's representatives and representative of community based seed production groups.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the two-day SAARC Seminar on Pulse in Dhaka from 8th to 9th December, 2016 and presented the paper "Pulses as a Climate Resilient Crop: Technology for Climate Smart Agriculture in SAARC Countries". The seminar was attended by Pulses experts of the SAARC Region, CIMMYT, FAO, UNDP and University professionals.

Meetings and Visits

- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the MDFN Internal Thematic event on Lessons learning sharing of KISAN project on 30th June 2017 at KISAN Office, Kathmandu. The learnings from the project were shared among participants in the event.
- Executive Director, Mr Netra Pratap Sen and Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the Joint Monitoring Visit to Potato storage structures constructed with SAMARTH Funding at Dadabas and Furke of Makwanpur district. The team from SAMARTH was led by Ms. Srijana Rana, Agriculture Portfolio Manager and the other members were Mr. Madhu Sharma, Finance Manager and Rishi Koirala, Market Development Specialist. The team interacted with the community members and found the construction very relevant to the area as potato was the predominant commercial crop in the area, and hoped for its full utilization by the communities for storing potato. The team also visited community seeds storage structure at Padampokhari, and interacted with the cooperative management committee on ways to increase working funds for the cooperative.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Field Facilitator, Mr. Sudarshan Bist participated in the annual Review and planning meeting of IFAD /ICARDA project

held at Kathmandu during 7th-9th June 2017. In the meeting, project partners from Bangladesh, India and Nepal presented the progress of the intervention in the first year, and activity plans of second year were discussed and finalized. In the second year, possibilities for provision of Zero Till (ZT) machines, seed graders and Daal Mills were discussed and recommended for its inclusion in the programme budget.

- Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen and Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the National Riverbed Alliance Meeting held on 25th March 2017 at Helvetas Chakupat, Lalitpur. Review of progress and the upcoming activities of the Alliance were discussed in the meeting.
- WHH Nepal organized Inter-Country Annual Review and Planning Workshop of BCES project from 21st-23rd March 2017 in Sauraha, Chitwan. Representatives from WHH Country Office, Nepal, Anando & FIVD Bangladesh and FORWARD Nepal & CEAPRED presented the progresses and learnings of the year 2016, and planned the future actions for project implementation, necessary amendments, capacity building and knowledge sharing options for the next year.
- A meeting was held at FORWARD Contact Office, Lalitpur with BFC consultants on 18th March 2017 to explore the possibility of project partnership with BFC for value chain interventions in agricultural sectors involving producers, MSMEs and financial institutions in Nepal. The president of BFC Mr. Cristina Popa, Consultant Xavier and Mr. Shankar Pathak were present in the meeting.
- FORWARD Nepal's Board Meeting was held on 9th March 2017 at FORWARD meeting hall in Chitwan and finalized the programme for 20th AGM.
- As a member of Market Development Forum (MDFN), FORWARD Nepal has participated in 8th Executive Meeting on 16th of February, 18th General Meeting on the 3rd of March, 19th General Meeting on the 26th of May 2017, and 10th Executive Committee meeting on the 14th of June 2017.
- Mr. Isabel Sommer from Zurich made a visit to the DDR Project in Morang/Sunsari from 2nd to 8th March 2017. During the visit, progress on DRR interventions was presented and discussed.
- FORWARD Nepal's Technical and General Meeting was held on 15th-16th February 2017 in the meeting hall in participation of all head office staff. The meeting reviewed the ongoing projects/activities and made detailed planning for the 20th General Assembly and FORWARD Family picnic.
- Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen participated in the Project partnership and coordination visit to Makwanpur, Sindhuli and Udaypur districts from 9th-12th February 2017, and explored the possibility of developing project concepts in collaboration with local NGOs.
- District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting was held at Chitwan on 20th January 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Local Development Officer and participated by the concerned development offices in the

district. In the meeting, highlights of the programme/ activities implemented by FORWARD Nepal was presented and discussed. The achievements of FORWARD Nepal was appreciated by the committee members and requested for involvement of local communities and organizations to avoid duplication of efforts.

- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Programme Director, attended the IFAD/ICARDA project inception meeting on pulses in New Delhi, India from 13th-16th December 2016. The annual plan of the project was discussed in the meeting attended by project partners from Bangladesh, India and Nepal, IFAD and ICARDA.

Appreciation

1. Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu, Asst. Account Officer was honored with Letter of Appreciation in recognition of his excellent work performance in the various project accounts, logistic support to the project team etc. at 20th General Assembly of the organization. The Letter of Appreciation was presented by Prof. Dr. Ishwari. Prasad Dhakal, Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University and Chief Guest in the ceremony.
2. Mr. Aaita Ram Chepang, Resource Farmer was honored with Letter of Appreciation at 20th General Assembly of the organization in recognition of his contribution in dissemination of agricultural technologies to the farmers. The Letter of Appreciation was presented by Prof. Dr. Ishwari. Prasad Dhakal, Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University and Chief Guest of the ceremony.

Upcoming Major events

- Value Addition Training on Pulses to women farmers under IFAD/ICARDA project
- IFAD/ICARDA project learning/sharing meeting among stakeholders
- Half yearly programme review and planning workshop
- Baseline study under IFAD/ICARDA project
- WHH partners meeting at Kathmandu
- GMP project learning and sharing meeting
- High level SAMARTH NMDP joint monitoring visit to community seedbanks in Makwanpur
- VAHW Refresher Training under ELIVES project
- FORWARD Nepal Day 2017
- Annual audit of core fund and project account



Rustic house Dandabas, Makwanpur



Using Bio-engineering tool Bamboo Plantation on the bank of chisang River, Letang Bhogatein, Morang



Seed storage building, Padampokhari, Makwanpur



Group photo of 20th AGM FY 15'16 - 17'18



Milk collection at Manakamana, Dairy Cooperative, Kakwanpur