



FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 14th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from July – October 2018. During the period, three projects have been phased out and five new projects have been initiated. The phased out projects are Girls' Act Project (BALIKA SHAKTI), Gender Transformative - Community Resilient (GET-CR) funded by Plan International Nepal, and Building Community Enterprises of Smallholders in Bangladesh and Nepal funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Germany. Three new projects initiated with Plan International Nepal funding are 1) Girls and Boys Start Equally, 2) Girls Agency and Youth Empowerment Project (GAP), and 3) Strengthening Community Resilience through WASH & Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Morang and Sunsari districts. The other two projects funded by BMZ/WHH are 1) Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha District, Nepal and 2) Regional Programme for Promoting a Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India implemented in Saptari and Rautahat districts. Organization of Annual Programme Review and Planning Meeting, conduction of annual audit of account for fiscal year 2074/75 B.S., and celebration of 22nd FORWARD Day were important events during this period.

Major project activities during the period

- Under Girls and Boys Start Equally project, two-day training was organized for Child Education Development Facilitator during October 28-29, 2018 at Belbari Municipality, where the participants from Kerabari and Miklajung Rural Municipality of Morang district were participated. The training was focused on Responsive Care and Early Stimulation (RCES) session for a refresher.
- Two days on-site training was organized for the focal person of DRR and Child in Barahakshetra and Inaruwa municipalities of Sunsari district during September 22 to 23, 2018 under Strengthening Community Resilience through DRM project. The training has influenced the local authorities to address children issues regarding disaster/hazard by allocating budget from the municipality.
- Inception meeting was conducted under Girls Agency and Youth Empowerment project in

Dhanpalthan Rural Municipality on August 06, 2018 in Morang District. The major stakeholders of the municipality were involved in the meeting. The project concept and approach was shared with the participants, and also explored the areas of mutual partnership with the municipality.

- Under Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Areas in Nepal (SEDRA) project, development of a banking software on loan lending process is underway. Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager, worked on agri-tech cards for five crops, namely mango, lentil, rice, tomato, and winter maize in Eastern Terai districts viz. – Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Makwanpur and Chitwan. Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya, Field Officer and Mr. Sudarshan Bista, Field Officer also accompanied Mr. Dhakal during the field visit and assisted in data collection. The data compilation, editing and computation process has been completed and is under process of finalization.
- Dairy for Development in Nepal project conducted a baseline survey of dairy cooperatives and dairy farmers in all the project working areas, viz, Kalika & Rapti Municipalities of Chitwan district, Madhyabindu Municipality & Binayi Triveni Rural Municipality of Nawalpur district, and Manahari and Bakaiya Rural Municipalities of Makwanpur district during August 2018. Similarly, the project orientation workshops were organized at the offices of the rural and urban municipalities of the working areas in July 2018.
- Training of Trainers (TOT) Training for leader farmers on improved dairy technology were conducted under Dairy for Development in Nepal at Agricultural Development Bank Mid-Regional Training Centre, Birendranagar (Chitwan) and Market Development Committee's Conference Hall, Chormara (Nawalpur) in August 2018, and at Oshin Rest House, Hetauda (Makwanpur) in September 2018.
- Under riverbed farming, All season Drumstick (Barhamashe sajiwan) saplings have been planted in 10 Katha land by 12 farmers in Jhapa and 3 Katha by 3 farmers in Morang.

Training/Workshop/Meeting/Visits

- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director and Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Project Coordinator, from

FORWARD Nepal participated in the Nutrition Project Inception Workshop in New Delhi from October 26-28, 2018. The workshop intended to build up the common understanding and working modalities among the partners and get familiar to project partners and members working in the project. Participants shared General Information of Project Areas, causes of Malnutrition and Stakeholders specific to our situations. Log-Frames, Detail Implementation Plan (DIP) and Monitoring and Evaluation procedures were discussed and understood. The Nutrition Smart Village Project and Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security Project have been implemented in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. There were three partners from Bangladesh, two from India and two from Nepal (FORWARD and Aasaman). The WHH team from India including Country Director, Ms. Nivedita Varshneya and Programme Manager, Mr. Sushil Ghimire from Nepal were present in the workshop.

- Mr. Suraj Khanal, Project Officer participated in three days VCA (Vulnerable Capacity Assessment) training organized by Plan International Nepal from October 10 – 12, 2018 in Makawanpur District. Participants were trained on assessment of vulnerable situation especially for girls and women through various VCA tools. Similarly, a one-day practical session was also organized by Plan International Nepal's Partner in project catchment Community at Makwanpur District.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Dr. Shreeram Prasad Neopane participated in presentation and discussion of the technical proposal on Baseline study of Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal II (SLVC II)" at Heifer International Nepal on September 20, 2018. It was a Skype meeting with HI England. After the presentation, questions raised on various issues were answered jointly by FORWARD team.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Mr. Sudarshan Bista participated in the Second Annual Review and Planning Meeting of IFAD/ICARDA collaborative project held at Dhaka, Bangladesh during September 12-16, 2018. FORWARD Nepal has been implementing the project: Enhancing food and Nutritional Security and Improved livelihoods through intensification of rice-fallow system with pulse crops in South Asia since October 2016 in Siraha district of Nepal. In the meeting held at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), project partners from India (Viswa Bharati University, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Tagore Society for Rural Development and Nirman), and Bangladesh (Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear

Agriculture - BINA), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute - BARI), BIVA) and Nepal (Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and FORWARD Nepal presented highlights of achievements during the year 2017/18. FORWARD presented the summary of achievements of IFAD/ICARDA project encompassing Cluster demonstrations, farmer capacity building, FFDs, women training, and village level seed increase. Overall, the visit was fruitful in understanding the legume research and development programs of the partner organizations in the three countries. The visit to Bangladesh Agricultural University, BARI and BINA has provided good exposure to the research facilities in those organizations.

- WHH Country Office Nepal organized interviews to the Programme/Project Managers to introduce tools/control systems of risk management for its project management. As part of this, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) provided consultancy service to WHH to identify, test and recommend the risk management measures. The BCG consultants interviewed the management level staff from varied agencies from September 24 – 27, 2018. During the period, the expert interviewed Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager, FORWARD Nepal at its Liaison Office in Pulchowk, Kathmandu. The interaction was specifically focused on quality vouchers, fund control, and output monitoring.
- WHH organized a review and closure meeting in participation of the project team from partner organizations, namely, FORWARD Nepal and CEAPRED in the meeting hall of CEAPRED Office, Nayabato, Lalitpur on September 25, 2018. Though there were no representation from WHH in the meeting, Mr. Jaya Mukunda Khanal, Executive Director, CEAPRED joined the programme over the day. During the meeting, Mr. Sunil Dhungel presented the project actions, learnings, best practices in Salyan district. Similarly, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal presented the progress of BCES, learnings and best practices in Chitwan District. The programme went well. Mr. Jaya Mukunda Khanal, CEAPRED thanked all the project team, from both organizations for a successful completion of the project.
- A kick-off workshop was organized at Janakpur from September 17-21, 2018 under Nutrition Smart Village Project and Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security Project in the Kamala River Basin in Siraha District. Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director of FORWARD, Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Project Coordinator of Nutrition Project and Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, Project Coordinator along with his project team of Siraha Livelihood Project participated in the workshop. Several

technical topics related to project were discussed by Programme Managers of WHH. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion & Core Humanitarian Standard were defined, described and discussed. The participants were oriented on WHH voucher requirement, financial report, procurement policy/regulation (WHH/Partner), and procurement plan along with Logistics procedures. Monitoring and evaluation and timely reporting of technical and financial progress were presented by the Country Finance and Administration Manager and his WHH team. A draft DIP, Log frame, Monitoring and evaluation matrix, Indicator tracker and Activity tracker of the project was prepared. Similarly, a checklist of village vulnerability assessment was also prepared.

- BCES project review and closing meetings were organized on September 20, 2018 in the Ward Office of Ichhakamana Rural Municipality – 1 and September 17, 2018 in Kalika Municipality - 9 in the presence of Mayor and the Ward chairperson of the respective project sites. The participants were Community Resource Persons (CRPs), Resource Farmers (RFs), Resource Centers (RCs), and management committee members of the collection centers and Community Enterprises. The overall target of BCES project, achievements, and learnings were presented in the meeting. The participants appreciated the initiatives of the BCES project.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the brief introductory meeting with Mr. Krishna Mohan, Livelihoods Programme Manager of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Nepal on August 15, 2018 at FORWARD Liaison Office, Lalitpur. In collaboration with ICARDA, CRS is in the process of developing a project proposal on ICARDA mandated crops/commodities under CRS funding for India (Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal) and Bangladesh and Nepal. The meeting focused on exploring the possibility of engaging FORWARD Nepal in the consortium for joint proposal development.
- Development Voyage Private Limited (DVPL), Kaski organized three days training from August 10 – 12, 2018 on 'Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Soil Testing and Information Technology' at Muktinath Lekali Hotel, Rastra Bank Chowk. The training was organized for 22 participants/ micro-entrepreneurs from Chitwan and Kaski district including the participants from BCES project staff with the objective of providing in depth knowledge on Human Digital Platform. Subject matter specialists from GoN and DVPL facilitated the training process.
- On behalf of FORWARD Nepal, Dr. Shreeram P. Neopane Agri/Livestock Expert for SEDRA project visited Shreenagar Agro Farm, Butwal during August 16-19, 2018 and conducted the Focused Group Discussion (FGD) & data collection for preparing of

Agri Tech Cards of selected animal types.

- Two meetings of the Executive Committee were held at FORWARD Nepal head office on July 29, 2018 and September 01, 2018 respectively. Program review, revision in the meeting allowances, organizing coordination meetings with local governments, opening of branch offices in Morang, Sunsari and Siraha districts, slight revision in the selection criteria for the new Executive Committee, FORWARD's Day celebration etc. were discussed in the meetings.
- Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari (PMIAO) visited Siraha District from October 09–11, 2018 under the "Livelihood and Food Nutrition Project in Kamala Riverbed Side at Siraha district", to explore local vendors, who could timely supply the construction materials in the project working area i.e. Karjana municipality, Kalayanpur municipality and Siraha municipality for the timely accomplishment of the construction work. He visited few vendors and gave his suggestion to the management on the basis of rate, quality and capacity.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, and Dr. Shreeram P Neopane participated in the BFC organized agri-tech data card orientation BFC Office, Jhamsikhel on July 25, 2018. In the meeting, Mr. Eugen Birca presented the project overview and administrative section of the project to the consultants whereas Mr. Dmytro Bobyrev presented the interactive session regarding agri-tech data card to the consultants. Dr. Shreeram P. Neopane and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, MSME Consultants queried to the technicalities and administrative management during data recording and finalization process.
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Concern World Wide (CWW) organized a one-day Joint Emergency Preparedness and Planning Meeting among the participants from Chitwan, Dhanusha, Kathmandu, Kaski, Dhading, Dolakha and Sindhuli districts of Nepal. The organizational/ representation was from FORWARD Nepal, Aasaman Nepal, CEAPRED, LI-BIRD, Action Nepal, Dipjyoti Club, Relief Nepal, and Sahakarya in Kathmandu on July 24, 2018. The Response Team revised JEPP prepared in the previous year and reviewed the JEPP program as the tool for disaster preparedness in Nepal. The programme was valuable to update the JEPP to kick-off the response, as the emergency happens.
- Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, Project Coordinator and Dr. Aashish Dhakal, Project Officer of Dairy for Development in Nepal project participated in a workshop organized by Agriterro at Annapurna Milk Production Cooperative Limited, Gitanagar, Chitwan on July 21, 2018.

- WHH Nepal organized three days financial and procurement training at Butwal for admin and finance programme staff of WHH partner organizations. Mr. Suraj Sharma, Project Account Officer from FORWARD Nepal participated in the training. The discussion was mainly on the procurement procedures, financial documentations, reporting formats, and deadlines, etc. in the workshop.

Staffing

➤ Staff termination/resignation

- Mr. Mohan Kumar Basnet, Mr. Durga Bahadur Basnet, Mr. Chhon Bahadur Praja, Ms. Bimala Shrestha and Ms. Anjana Rai, Field Facilitator, successfully accomplished their assigned duties and responsibilities with the completion of the BCES Project effective from September 30, 2018.
- Mr. Chandra Chepang, Office messenger plus technical support, successfully accomplished his assigned duties and responsibilities with the completion of the BCES Project effective from September 30, 2018.
- Dr. Aashish Dhakal, Project Officer resigned from his post from August 22, 2018 to pursue his Ph.D. Degree in China.

➤ New staff

- Dr. Swotandra Dangi joined the Dairy for Development in Nepal project, effective from September 21, 2018.
- Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary joined the Nutrition Smart Village Project as Project Coordinator based in Saptari, effective from September 16, 2018.
- Mr. Deependra Adhikari joined the Nutrition Smart Village Project as Agriculture Specialist based in Saptari, effective from September 16, 2018.
- Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel joined the Livelihood Project as Project Coordinator based in Siraha, effective from September 16, 2018.
- Mr. Hari Prasad Gupta and Mr. Santosh Sen Chaudhary, and Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya joined the Livelihood Project as Agriculture Officers based in Siraha, effective from September 16, 2018.
- Ms. Kiran Kunwar joined the Livelihood Project as Disaster Risk Reduction Officer based in Siraha, effective from September 16, 2018.

Intern

Ms. Aina Kajisawa, Masters Student of Hiroshima University, Japan, has completed her one month's

internship, starting from August 20 to September 19, 2018, in the working areas of "Building Community Enterprises of Smallholder Farmers in Bangladesh and Nepal" (BCES) project in Chitwan district. Ms. Kajisawa conducted her research on health and sanitation status of school children, parents of those children and teachers, with a primary focus on hand washing practice at different levels. Ms. Kajisawa presented the findings in a conference at FORWARD Nepal Head Office on September 18, 2018. Besides her involvement in research work, Ms. Kajisawa contributed on developing a factsheet of FORWARD Nepal's executed five projects.

Guests

Prof. Teruo Maeda, PhD, Dairy Breeding and Dr. Niraj Joshi from Hiroshima University, Japan visited FORWARD Nepal Head Office, Chitwan on September 07, 2018. It was the courtesy visit to the MoU signing between two institutions. FORWARD Nepal introduced about the organization to the visitors. Similarly, there was a two-way discussion for the possible collaboration with the HU and FORWARD Nepal in the future.

News

- On September 01, 2018, FORWARD Nepal completed its 22 years of establishment. The day was celebrated amidst a function in the presence of founder members, board members, general members, and staff at the Head Office. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Vice President, by lighting the panus and watering a pot plant, followed by cutting of FORWARD's 22nd birthday cake. Thereafter, the FORWARD Day message was released jointly by the Chairperson and Executive Director. Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota (Member), Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa (Founder Member) and Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota (Vice President) expressed their best wishes to the organization for its future endeavors. The second part of the event was celebrated at Bridhhashram, Devghatdham, Tanahun. Mr. Tanka Nath Poudel, Chairperson of Devghat Area Development Committee (DADC) was invited as Chief Guest in the event at Devghatdham. In the occasion, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal and Mr. Tanka Nath Poudel, DADC, Chief Guest of the programme delivered wishes of the 22nd FORWARD's Birthday. This was followed by a joint Bhojan (lunch) with senior citizens of the Bridhhashram, DADC and FORWARD Nepal's family. Like in the previous years, a sum of NRs. 7,000 was donated to the Achchhaya Kosh of DADC.

- Annual review and Planning Meeting of FORWARD Nepal was held during July 31 to August 01, 2018 at Head Office of FORWARD Nepal, Bharatpur - 2, Kshetrapur, Chitwan. Progress/achievements of eight projects implemented during 2017/18 were presented by the respective project coordinator/team leaders in the two-day' workshop. In addition to technical progress, administrative and financial progress were presented and discussed, and lessons learned through participation in training and visits by FORWARD staff were shared in the meeting. Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal shared lessons from "Rural entrepreneurship training: Chain-wide Learning for Inclusive Agri-Food Market Development" based on his observation from the training attended by him at Ghana. Mr. Dhakal also shared learnings from the Joint Emergency Preparedness Planning Workshop for the benefit of FORWARD Staff. Similarly, Ms. Ashmita Pandey shared lessons on "LANN Approach for rural development". She highlighted the four pillar of LANN (1) Linkage between Agriculture and Nutrition, (2) Linkage between NRM and Nutrition; (3) Linkage between income generation/markets and nutrition, Linkage between Food consumption and nutrition. The importance of "Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security" (LANN+) approach for addressing the food and nutrition security of the rural households was also shared in the meeting.
- FORWARD Nepal board member, Mr. Dinesh Babu Thapa Magar, traveled to Australia to pursue his PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of Western Australia, School of Agriculture and Environment.

Audit and renew of the organization

- Organization was renewed in District Administration Office, Chitwan on October 12, 2018.
- Organizational statutory audit for the fiscal year 2074-75 (2017-18) was accomplished at the head office from August 22 to September 04, 2018. The audit was carried by KUBER & Co., Kathmandu.
- Project audit was conducted by Plan International Nepal for the project named Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation (4CA) Project, Girls Act Project and Gender Transformative – Community Resilient (GET-CRDRM) Project on August 31, 2018 in Morang.
- WHH Nepal finance and administration team, Mr. Rajendra Raj Bhandari and Ms. Laxmi Dhakal made a monitoring visit to FORWARD Nepal Head Office, Chitwan during August 15-18, 2018. They monitored accounting and administrative procedure, HR files, and compliance of WHH funded project.

Some Glimpses



Celebrating 22nd FORWARD Day in Bridhhashram, Devghat.



Annual Programme Review and Planning Meeting



BCES project closing workshop at Kalika Municipality, Chitwan