



FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 15th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from November 2018 to January 2019. During the period, two projects have been phased out and one new project has been initiated. The phased-out projects are 1) Facilitation of Riverbed Farming Initiatives in Banke, Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, and Siraha districts funded by Helvetas Intercooperation and 2) Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Development Project funded by DAI/DAI Inc. - DFID UK. One new project "Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative" has been initiated with Plan International Inc. Nepal funding.

22nd Annual General Assembly and 10th Convention of FORWARD Nepal, the formation of new Executive Committee, and holding of Half Yearly Progress Review Meeting were other major important events during this period.

Major project activities during the period

- Project action plan meeting of Nutrition Smart Village project was organized at Rajbiraj from November 1-2, 2018. The meeting was concentrated on building common consensus to plan for implementing the activities smoothly in Saptari and Rautahat and drafted the criteria and guidelines for selecting female community health volunteers (FCHV) and excellent farmer's group leaders. The checklist was finalized to conduct Village Vulnerability Assessment (VVA) to identify villages to be transformed into Nutrition Smart Villages.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Project Manager and Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, Project Coordinator, participated in the three days project kickoff workshop of Livelihood project from November 2- 4, 2018. The detail implementation plan and monitoring & evaluation framework were prepared in the workshop.
- Three days (December 1 - 3, 2018) residential training was organized for Child Club/Networks members, adolescence girls group, and VCPC (Village Child Protection Committee) members from Inaruwa and Barahakshetra Municipality of Sunsari district under Strengthening Community Resilience project.
- Under Girls and Boys Start Equally project, children play material was supported to different Child Play

Corners of Belbari Municipality and Gramthan Rural Municipality on November 17, 2018 and in Letang Municipality on November 21, 2018.

- One-day inception meeting was called in Livelihood project in Kalyanpur on December 04, in Siraha on December 17, and in Karjanha on December 20 with total number of 50, 46 and 35 participants respectively, which included 17 women, 16 Dalits, 8 Janajati and 5 Muslim. Each meeting was chaired by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of respective municipality i.e. Mayor Mr. Surya Nath Mandal in Kalyanpur municipality, Deputy Mayor Dr. Namita Yadav in Siraha Municipality and Mayor Mr. Ganga Paswan in Karjanha Municipality. Participants of the inception meetings have appreciated the accountability and transparency of the project.
- Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary and Dr. Swotandra Dangi along with Mr. Sharad Adhikari from Practical Action Nepal attended the Quarterly Review and Planning Meeting of DDIN Project held at Hetauda on December 14, 2018.
- On December 25, 2018, Strengthening Community Resilience through DRM project in Sunsari district supported Nawadurga Basic School and Bhagawati Secondary School from Barahakshetra Municipality ward no. 10 and Ganesh Nepal Rastriya Secondary School and Sishu Niketan Basic School from Inaruwa Municipality ward no. 9 with Light Search and Rescue Materials to be equipped as first responder with response kit.
- On December 28, 2018, Girls and Boys Start Equally project supported clinical equipment to Birthing Centre at Letang Municipality Morang.
- Under Strengthening Community Resilience project in Morang, single day consultation workshop with education focal authorities of Province level was conducted on December 28, 2018. The workshop focused safe school policy and on the mandatory of Disaster Risk Reduction policy in every school of Province No. 1 through support of the Ministry of Education. The focal person will monitor and evaluate the schools.
- In regards to the application of disaster risk reduction measure under Strengthening Community Resilience project, discussion

programme were organized from December 29-30, 2018 with the sponsor family about family safety behavior in terms of hazards. They were made aware of the importance of family safety plan and encouraged to develop family safety plan in each individual's house.

- Under Strengthening Community Resilience project, three days residential training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was organized in Sunsari, especially for women and girls during January 11-13, 2019, and two days onsite training organized in Inaruwa and Barhakshetra Municipality, Sunsari District from January 17-18, 2019.
- Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary, Project Coordinator attended the opening session of 35-day Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) Training at Animal Health Training and Consultancy Service (AHTCS), Pokhara on January 21, 2019. Dr. Chaudhary briefly introduced dairy project & working modality to the participants and explained how the trained VAHWs will be mobilized in the future, after completion of the training.
- A total of 51 leader farmers including 15 females from 15 riverbed farming groups have been trained on riverbed farming in Siraha. Participants were 18 from Kalyanpur, 11 from Karjanha and 32 from Siraha municipalities. The two-day training was organized in two slots first on January 21 -22, 2019 and the second on January 23-24, 2019 which were followed by field practices in their farms.
- Joint Monitoring visit on Responsive Care and Early Stimulation (RCES) class at Childhood Education Development (ECED) center was held on January 23 and 27, 2019 in Miklajung Rural Municipality, Morang with local authorities.
- FORWARD Nepal has received an approval from all three municipalities (i.e. Kalyanpur, Karjanha and Siraha) to implement 'Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security in Kamala River Basin of Siraha District, Nepal Project'. Similarly, FORWARD Nepal has also received an approval from District Administrative Office, Siraha to open branch of FORWARD Nepal and implementation of the project.
- The selection of consulting firm for baseline and KAP survey of the Livelihood project has been completed. Out of 14 interested consulting firms, Rural Infrastructure & Management Consultant (RIMC) Pvt. Ltd, Kathmandu-32 was selected. Selected consulting firm has also submitted

inception report and detail methodology of the study

- To conduct detailed situation and gap analysis of agriculture sector for Livelihood Project in Siraha, FORWARD Nepal hired Practical Solution Consultancy Nepal Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu-4, through a rigorous selection procedure.
- Under the DDIN project, fifteen events of farmer-level trainings on the preparation of balanced feed for cattle by using locally available feedstuffs like rice bran, chokar, mustard cake, etc. were carried out by the leader farmers who participated in the TOT training on improved dairy technology.
- Under the BCES project, final evaluation of community enterprise was done by Dr. David Stone, Consultant appointed by WHH on January 8, 2019.

Training/Workshop/Meeting/Visits

- Dairy for Development in Nepal (DDIN) Project Coordinator, Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary along with Project Manager, Mr. Sharad Adhikari from Practical Action Nepal coordinated with the officials of National Livestock Breeding Office (NLBO), Pokhara, viz. Mr. Krishna Kant Neupane (Chief), Mr. Shiva Nath Mahato, Mr. Bharat Gautam, Dr. Shova Sharma on November 13, 2018, for the official procedure for importing of sexed semen from India or a third country. Similarly, also coordinated with the officials of Livestock Service Training Center, Pokhara, viz. Dr. Grishma Neupane (Chief) and Dr. Dipa Diwali on November 14, 2018, for an event of Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination training to the animal health technicians from working sites of DDIN Project
- Project inception meeting was held at Paroha Municipality of Rautahat district and Rajgadh Rural Municipality of Saptari district on November 21 and 27, 2018, respectively. Mr. Sajjan Yogesh from Aasman Nepal and Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary FORWARD Nepal presented a brief introduction, objective and target groups of the project in Rautahat and Saptari. Project activities and methods of implementation were also discussed in the meeting. Project advisory committee (PAC) was formed in both districts to monitor project activities and provide feedback and guidance for proper implementation.
- Three days VCA training from November 22-24, 2018 was conducted in Sunsari District. The training was organized by Plan International Nepal on Strengthening Community Resilience through DRM (Disaster Risk Management) Project. Different VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) tools were

practiced to enable the girls and women to assess the vulnerable situation.

- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the Capacity Building Training to Emergency Response Team (ERT) members organized by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), from December 26-28, 2018, in Entrance Cafe, Bakhundole, Lalitpur. There were participants from WHH Nepal Office, Concern Worldwide, FORWARD Nepal, Li-BIRD, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), Relief Nepal, Asaman Nepal, Action Nepal, Sabal Nepal, Reconstruction and Research Development in Nepal in Mugu (RRDC), and Peace Win (Bajura). The programme was facilitated by National Disaster Reduction Center (NDRC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Practical Action and TPO Nepal. The training was focused on basic terminologies, disaster risk reduction/management (DRR/M) and its cycle, orientation to cluster approach, common assessment tools, institutional policies and frameworks of government, emergency logistics, observation of humanitarian staging area, orientation on institutional policies and frameworks of government, early warning system (EWS), psycho-social counselling and computer-based simulation exercise for flood response. The training helped to understand the disaster concept, life saving measures cum response mechanism, and relevant mechanism and policies in Nepal.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Programme Director participated in the Riverbed Farming (RBF) Alliance Meeting held at GIZ, Lalitpur on January 24, 2019. Discussion was held for exploring the possibility of expanding RBF in 78,000 ha riverbeds spread in 21 Terai districts of Nepal. Considerable time was spent on revisiting the RBF policy drafted in 2012 by RBF Alliance. Since the country has adopted the federal system, the draft RBF policy needs changes to accommodate provisions made in the constitution of Nepal. As per the constitution, Riverbed farming is a concern of the local/provincial government. Therefore, it was felt that, the draft should be revised to fit into the federal structure. The provincial and local government should own the policy. The policy passed from the central government may not be accepted by the provincial /local government. Other issues discussed in the meeting were inclusion of other crops such as peanuts, sweet potato and sugarcane in riverbanks; reluctance of insurance companies for ensuring of riverbed farming on grounds of risky nature of crops; inclusion of riverbed farming in course curriculum of (Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), and inclusion of other organizations WHH and FAO in RBF Alliance. The meeting also decided to organize the next meeting in the second week

March 2019 to be hosted by WHH.

- Ms. Ashmita Pandey (Senior Programme Officer) visited Uganda from January 28 to February 08, 2019 to participate in a short course on "Climate Change Adaptation 2019".

Conference/Visits

- Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari (PMIAO) visited the DFID funded "**Seed/grain storage houses**" in Hatiya, Chhatiwan, Bajrabarahi, Agra, and Padampokhari in Makwanpur District from October 31– November 02, 2018 and verified the condition and the use of constructed buildings as per the project purpose.
- Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Project Coordinator and Mr. Deependra Adhikari, Agriculture Specialist from FORWARD Nepal participated in the exposure visit to India organized by WHH. The programme was facilitated by Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire, Programme Manager, WHH with two-day in-house training on the use of Akvo Flow Software, which gave insight about its applicability in the project, and its advantages and disadvantages. Practice was done for collecting baseline data, editing, cleaning and managing them before analysis by using the software. The participants visited Nutrition Camp and interacted with mothers whose children were identified as moderately acute malnourished and facilitators. The visitors also participated in LAAN PLA session and visited several nutrition gardens, sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS), keyhole gardens and had interaction with the community.
- Programme Director, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the workshop on agro-biodiversity, agro-biodiversity strategy (ABS) and farmers' right held at NARC Lalitpur on December 17, 2018. Representatives from NARC, Li-BIRD & MOAD, and community seed banks participated in the workshop. Discussion was held on the provisions made in the draft document on agro-biodiversity and the rights of the custodian farmers for maintaining the crop seeds for generations. The group agreed that if a variety is developed from landraces or traditional varieties belonging to a group or cooperative and sold commercially, the benefits from the sale of the variety should be shared to the concerned group or cooperative. The workshop formed a committee for the preparation of recommendations/suggestions and its submission to the ministry of agriculture development.
- Ms. Laxmi Dhakal and Ms. Latika Gautam from

WHH Nepal visited Siraha for the Monitoring of Livelihood (NPL 1059-18) project on December 27, 2018.

- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane visited IFAD/ICARDA project sites in Siraha district during December 26-30, 2018. During the visits, interaction meetings were organized at 4 clusters: Siswani and Pokharbhinda, Bhotia tole and Gada, and Padharia to understand the perceptions of beneficiaries about the IFAD funded project and its benefits. Beneficiary farmers, input suppliers, local government representatives (Ward chiefs) participated in the meetings. The beneficiaries of the project mentioned the increase in the area under lentil; average yield of 30-40 kg per kattha after the project, compared to only 15 kg per kattha before the project; increase in the household consumption of lentil dal and the easy access to quality seeds of lentil varieties. Additionally, the linkage of farmers groups with Government line agencies, research stations (NARC) and input/output dealers were strengthened through their involvement in orientation meetings, field visits, monitoring etc. Beneficiary farmers were able to tap resources from DADO and local government for the purchase of power tillers and Purdue University Cowpea (PUC) bags for safe seed storage. Metal seed bins provided through the project are used in storing seeds by village-based enterprise (VBSEs). Even the landless people have taken lentil technology as an opportunity for their economic and nutritional improvement. However, the participants also mentioned that low price of lentil has persuaded farmers to divert to chickpea farming in some locality.
- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director participated in a coordination meeting of senior management of WHH, Aasaman Nepal and FORWARD Nepal on Terai projects at WHH Country office, Lalitpur on January 18, 2019.
- Project Coordinator of the dairy project, Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary, attended the opening ceremony of a new milk collection center of Bhagawati Milk Producer Cooperative Limited, Rapti-8, Brahmanagar, Chitwan on January 29, 2019. Dairy project provided a grant support of NRs. 200,000 to the cooperative to purchase an electric auto rickshaw for the transport of milk from milk collection center to milk chilling center.

News

- An agreement was signed between Plan International Inc. Nepal and FORWARD Nepal on

December 31, 2018, for the implementation of three-year project "Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative Project" in Sunsari district.

- An agreement was signed between Business Finance Consulting (BFC) Company and FORWARD Nepal on December 25, 2018, for the preparation Agri Data Cards for 47 crops and 7 animal types, and capacity building through the preparation of TOT training manuals and delivery of TOT classes to staff of banks and agro entrepreneurs.
- Dairy Project (DDIN) handed over three feed mixtures to Utthan Dairy Cooperative, Kalika-8, Shaktikhor, Chitwan on January 28, 2019.
- A project proposal on Climate Change Adaptation to Food Security for Kalikot district had been submitted to the United Nation World Food Programme on December 10, 2018
- Half yearly programme review and planning meeting of FORWARD, Nepal was held on January 25, 2019 at its Head Office at Bharatpur - 2, Chitwan. Progress/achievements of ten projects implemented during July – December 2018 were presented by the respective team leaders/project coordinators. Besides, training on Disaster Risk Management and Lessons learned attended by Programme Manager, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal in Ghana was shared. Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota, Advisor of FORWARD Nepal provided valuable guidelines for smooth running of programmes & harmonization of the overall project activities in his concluding remarks. He emphasized on the importance of strengthening linkages among all the stakeholders and regular sharing of the project activities with concerned stakeholders for better project impacts and sustained development.
- FORWARD Nepal's 22nd Annual General Assembly Meeting (AGM) and 10th General Convention were held on January 26, 2019 at Chitrawati Leisure Centre, Kshetrapur, Chitwan. These events were organized in two sessions, the first event, AGM was held under the chairpersonship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal and in the presence of Mr. Purna Bahadur Shrestha, the Ward Chairperson of Bharatpur Metropolitan City – 2, Chitwan as the Chief Guest. Mr. Suresh Adhikari, Chairperson of NGO Federation, Chitwan and Advocate Jagannath Bhandari were also invited as the Guest for the event.

The closed session and the General Convention was held in the chair of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson and in the presence of founder members, life members and general members of FORWARD Nepal. In this session, highlights on last and current years' programmes

were presented. Progress and constraints on the Strategic Programme Plan of FORWARD Nepal were cursorily reviewed in a participatory way and various suggestions were received for its betterment, and the new Executive Committee of FORWARD Nepal for the term of three years (2075/76 – 2077/78 (2019/20-2022/23)) was elected.

- All six sites for market-shed cum shelter house construction have been finalized in 'Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security in Kamala River Basin of Siraha District, Nepal Project'. Initially, a preliminary study was carried out by the project team in all weekly bazaar (agriculture market) sites. Based on a preliminary assessment, the project team has discussed with local government and decided the sites. Out of six sites, ward office, school, and community have provided a written commitment for 20% contribution in four sites i.e. 2 sites from Kalyanpur and 2 sites from Siraha. In Karjanha, the project has received verbal commitment and the team is trying to take it in the written form.
- FORWARD Nepal's Annual Report for 2017/18 has been published

Audit and renew of the organization

- SWC Audit team, Mr. Hari Bahadur KC (SWC Evaluation Team Leader), Mr. Sushil Sapkota (SWC Financial Evaluator), Mr. Bhojraj Upreti (SWC Evaluation team member) and Mr. Arun GC (Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development) visited FORWARD Nepal Head Office from December 07-09, 2018 for evaluating the BCES Project account and its field activities.
- Donor Project Audit was conducted by WHH Nepal for BCES Project through RajMs audit firm from January 03-11, 2019 and observed the account for the period from January 01 to September 30, 2018.

Some Glimpses



New Executive Committee of FORWARD Nepal (photo from left – Ms. Sunita Shrestha, Treasurer, Mr. Prabin Poudel, Member, Mr. Toya Gautam, Member, Ms. Maiya Giri, Member, Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Vice-chair, Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson, Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana, Secretary, Dr. Dilip Jha, Member, and Ms. Sabita Chepang, Member)



Baseline Orientation of Nutrition Project



ToT on NERP & LANN



Dairy Clinical Equipment Support



River Bed Farming Training



Pit making for riverbed farming