



FORWARD Nepal Brief

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Current Update at Glance

This is the third issue of FORWARD Nepal's Quarterly Bulletin covering from Shrawan to Kartik 2071 (17th July to 16th November 2014). Major activities accomplished during the reporting period were; Baseline study of FTF/ KISAN for the USAID/Nepal; consulting service for developing appropriate Agricultural Training Package and delivering trainings for the capacity building of the staffs and the clients of Nirdhan Utthan Development Bank Limited (NUBL) for the World Bank. PGS workshop organized in Chitwan. Likewise, SKI/Nutrient Expert workshop was jointly organized by NRNA Australia and FORWARD Nepal at Chandragadhi, Jhapa. We were successful in getting the Multi-stakeholders Forestry Program (MSFP) through competitive bidding process from SDC. Besides, regular monitoring of project activities, write-up of project completion reports and project concept notes were the major accomplishments during the reporting period. Highlights of works have been summarized in the following section:

Major Activities During the Period

1. District inception meeting of Child Centered Climate Change (4CA) project was organized in Biratnagar, Morang, on August 21, 2014. Altogether 25 stakeholders took part in the meeting. Formation of District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) was an important outcome of the meeting. DPAC will be chaired by Local Development Officer, as per the mandate of social welfare council, Nepal. Other members include District Education Officer, DRM focal person of District Administrative Office, representative from District Women and Children Office, District Agricultural Development Office, District Forest Office, representative from Non Government Office Federation, Sunsari, representatives from Biratnagar metropolitan city and Village Development Committee's secretary of Letang. The member secretary of DPAC will be Project Coordinator of Plan Nepal and FORWARD partnership 4CA project. The meeting has set the reporting channel to DDC Sunsari. Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Section Officer/ Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation/ DDC Morang will be focal person of reporting and coordination between DPAC and project. The meeting also has decided to submit monthly and quarterly progress report along with financial details and planning of the next quarter to DDC and.
2. More than 455 tree saplings of different species and 400 hundred cuttings of broom grass have been planted at Bhogeteni Secondary School, Bhogeteni, Morang on August 1, 2014.

3. For providing services to different 4CA model's activities in project sites, altogether 13 Local Resource Technicians (LRTs) were formed from 19 project sites by August.
4. Child club networks of Letang and Kerabari VDC have received some budget from VDC and have conducted training on 'Climate change adaptation and Leadership of Children' at Letang in August 1-3, 2014, and on 'Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management for Children' in Kerabari in August 8-10, 2014. The 4CA project supported technically rather than financially for those activities.
5. District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) coordinated a two-day review workshop on District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan in Sunsari in August 11-12, 2014. The workshop was jointly organized by key NGO/INGOs working in Sunsari District. Nepal Red Cross Society, Sunsari Branch coordinated the workshop and 4CA project covered resource person's fee for reviewing the plan.
6. In October, 4CA project has supported and facilitated seven LDMC's meetings two in Morang and five in Sunsari district. In Sunsari, the meetings were organized in Itahari municipality, Barahachhetra, Prakashpur, Pashchim Kushaha and Shreepur Jabdi VDCs, whereas these were held in Yangshila and Bhogeteni VDCs in Morang district. Altogether 133 people have participated in these meetings including 25 female and 9 children.
7. There were five child club/network meetings and one meeting of youth network in project districts. The meetings were focused on *wall magazine* publication and awareness campaigns. They have published five *wall magazines* in October- three from Sunsari and two from Morang.
8. A total of 4 local level trainings on CSDRM have been accomplished in October 2014 at project districts in coordination with LDMC of respective VDCs for LDMC members, children and youths. In these trainings, 129 local people including 32 female and 24 children were benefited.
9. In October 27, 2014, representatives of selected child or youth club/ networks were oriented on awareness campaigns such as street drama, rally and door to door campaign, and DRM games.
10. In ILRI program in Kailali district, altogether 679 participants from 27 groups were trained on clean milk production, storage and transportation, per liter milk production cost and the ways to lower it, shed management, nutritious fodder/forage, local level feed formulation techniques, mastitis and its prevention, control and treatment.
11. 180 new home gardens were established at 16 working VDCs of Morang District, especially for ultra poor Plan Families and provision of one day nutrition training to them, and supports on seasonal nutritious vegetable seeds.
12. One-day training on seasonal and off seasonal vegetable farming and marketing network system was provided to 150 farmers of 8 working VDCs of Morang district. Also vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and micro nutrient were supported to the trainees.

13. Coordination meeting was organized at Morang on 23 September 2014 to share annual approved program, and budget and to explore the possibility for program partnership. Participants were district level line agencies member, stakeholders, DPAC members and leader farmers.
14. Dr. Dhiraj Singh from ILRI conducted two days monitoring visit of project sites Malakheti, Sripur and Geta at Kailali on 19th and 20th of August. The main purpose of the visit was to meet the CIMMYT staff to discuss about the coordination of activities.
15. Vet-camps were organized at three places in Shaktikhor VDCs of Chitwan district on September 05-06, 2014. The technicians from livestock service centers in Shaktikhor VDC were involved to run the vet-camps and aware farmers to take care of livestock health, and the importance and timing of deworming.
16. Bokashi manure preparation and data recording training was organized for 20 smallholder households under AgLEARN project in Shaktikhor VDC of Chitwan on 9th November 2014.
17. Nutrition trainings were provided to farmers to aware farmers of Siddi and Shaktikhor about good health, relation between food habit and health, importance of consuming nutritious food, and production and consumption of diverse types of commodities.
18. A Review of the SIFS project activities was done by Dr. Nar Bikram Thapa (Maitriya Collaboration Pvt. Ltd.) to evaluate the project achievements on the basis of the project log-frame. A number of field visits in Siddhi and Shaktikhor VDCs were accomplished to interact with farmers through participatory approaches and methods. The review findings show that the SIFS project is efficient and effective and has large socioeconomic impacts in the communities.
19. A farmers' exposure visit to Gorkha and Dhading districts was organized for SIFS farmers on November 05-06, 2014. Twenty-six farmers and four project staffs participated in the excursion. The group visited Bhumlichok in Gorkha, Darechowk in Chitwan, and Dhusha VDC in Dhading. During the visits, farmers learned about the techniques of making vermin-compost, vegetable cultivation in plastic tunnels, and marketing of agricultural commodities through management of the collection center. Farmers realized the importance of forming the farmers' groups and cooperatives, the practice of awarding the best farmers, and commercial production to reduce the cost of production.
20. A Workshop on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in Organic Farming, managed by FORWARD Nepal and Keystone Foundation (India), was held at Hotel Image Palace, Narayangarh, and Chitwan, Nepal on November 14-16, 2014. Thirty-three participants from various organizations e.g. FAO, FORWARD Nepal, DDC, DADO, DLISO, Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), RRN, MADE Nepal, ECOSCENTRE, FriPAD, Himalayan Bio-Dynamic Trust (HBDT), Praja Cooperative, and entrepreneurs, traders (organic), and organic farmers participated in the workshop. A national-level workshop on PGS including national-level stakeholders is realized, which will be the key for developing PGS Organic Council in Nepal. A district-level workshop on Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) can be the immediate step to build linkage among producers, traders and consumers of organic products.
21. Regular broadcasting of the SIFS technology in a local TV channel (Avass TV) disseminates the SIFS activities to the wider communities. The activity has helped to

- extend the SIFS technologies and empowering farmers to do innovating things to bring them in the public media.
22. General and Technical Meeting of FORWARD was held on 7th November 2014. Meeting focused on review of past activities and also planning of upcoming activities. Assigning project liaison person (PLP) for each project and formation of new procurement committee were agreed in the meeting.
23. Entrepreneurship Development Trainings were organized for RRHHs and Returnee migrants in Ratnanagar municipality and Sukranagar VDC of Chitwan through IOM supported Agrolivestock Business Promotion project. Altogether 280 HHs participated in the training. They were imparted skills to start enterprise and they were trained to prepare business plans of their enterprises. The business plans were prepared for agro/livestock enterprises e.g. mushroom, dairy, pig, banana and fish farming. The training was based on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) package. Training manual on the above five sectors were prepared and shared with IOM.
24. Training Manual for commercial farming for Nirdhan Utthan Bank (NUBL) Ltd/WB was developed from existing training materials available at FORWARD Nepal, IAAS, AFU, NARC, DOA and DLISO by a team of experts. The manual contains suitable illustration or pictures and is written in simple language which is useful for the NUBL staff clients/ farmers as well as other farmers and technical and professionals of agriculture and livestock sector.
25. NUBL Staff Training: Residential training of 5-7 days was provided to a total of 47 Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited (NUBL) staff of 10 Branch Offices, two Regional Offices in Birgunj and Birtamod. Experts from DADO, DLISO, NARC, AFU, NUBL/AgriFin and FORWARD were invited as Experts for the training.
26. NUBL Clients training: After the completion of staff training, training of NUBL clients was organized on the spot. Selection of clients was done by NUBL Branch offices and classes run by DLISO, DADO staff and Staff of FORWARD. A total of seventeen events of client/farmers trainings of 2-3 days were conducted in Parsa, Bara, Jhapa, Morang and Ilam using the training manual in which 473 clients/ farmers of 17 Groups participated in training.
27. The project entitled 'Feed the Future (FTF) Baseline Survey' to collect performance-based information corresponding to certain indicators of the FTF Initiative in Nepal was completed in August. The study was conducted in 1,927 households of 60 VDCs in 20 FTF/KISAN districts in the Western, Mid-Western, and Far-Western Development Regions.
28. Base line study indicated that Vegetable crops were able to generate higher margins compared to cereals. It was as high as NPR 331,068 per hectare (NPR 16,843 per *ropani*) for bitter gourd to NPR 92,951 per hectare (NPR 4,729 per *ropani*) for potato.

About 30 percent of cultivated land is covered by year round irrigation (i.e., 239,984 ha out of 811,589 ha of cultivated land); 64 percent of total HHs has received technical services in seeds, fertilizers, and other agro-chemicals. Private agrovets are the most important service providers. Sixty percent of HHs receiving technical services has received the service from agrovets.

On an average, there was 12.9 percent loss during post-harvest handling of major food crops consisting of 7.11 percent storage loss and 5.74 percent spoilage lost.

Only the surplus products of rainy season crops like cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, potato, green chili, capsicum, beans and radish are supplied to market.

On-going Projects

S.N.	Name of project	Project districts	Project duration	Funding source	Partners
1.	Household economic security (HES) programme in Morang district	Morang	July 2013 – June 2015	Plan Nepal	DADO, DLSO, DFO, CBOs
2.	Riverbed vegetable farming	Banke, Morang, Jhapa	May 2011-2014	Helvetas Nepal	Local groups
3.	Promoting new maize varieties in the hilly areas of Surkhet district	Surkhet	2011-2014	CIMMYT/HM RP	Local groups
4.	Sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS)	Chitwan	2011-2014	BMZW/HH	HBDT/One World Alc.
5.	Improving livelihoods of smallholder dairy farmers through feed management in Kailali district	Kailali	2013 -2015	ILRI	Local communities
6.	Nepal market development programme (NMDP) - Dairy sub sector	Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Udayapur	May 2013 – Nov 2014	UKaid/ASI	Practical Action Nepal
7.	Solar power and water for Life: institutional design with randomized field experiments	Under selection process	2013-2017	MEXT, Japan/ HU, Japan	AEPC, AITM
8.	Enhancing productivity and market linkages-Improving the livelihoods and food security of smallholders in Asia	Surkhet, Banke and Chitwan	May 2013 –May 2016	USAID/ RDMA	AIT-Thailand (Led) NARC, BARI/iDE-Bangladesh, RUA & CEDAC Cambodia, SOFILWM-India, CMU&, KU-Thailand
9.	Child centered climate change adaptation (4CA)	Sunsari, Morang	Feb 2014 -Dec 2015	Plan Nepal	Schools/VDCs
10	Adoption of improved maize varieties in the hills of Nepal and the impact of community based seed production	Ten Hill districts of MW/W & Central region	Oct 2013-Nov 2014	CIMMYT	-
11	Capacity enhancement of returnee migrants and remittance receiving households (RRHHs)of Chitwan district through agro/livestock business promotion	Chitwan	March-Dec 2014	IOM	DADO, DLSO
12	Transfer, evaluation and dissemination of an innovative fertilizer management tool (Nutrient Expert) for increasing crop yields and farmers' income in eastern Nepal	Jhapa and Morang	Oct 2014 Sept 2016	International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)	DADOs, Farmer groups
13	Implementation of Forest-Based Enterprise Promotion Programme in Bajura and Doti districts	Bajura and Doti	20 Months	SDC	MISS Bajura and RDS Doti

News

1. 4CA started to orient selected youth or child club/network in September 2014, and conduct awareness campaign at local level. As an inception, Barahachhetra Child Network and Youth Network were jointly supported to organize street drama on climate change and related disaster. The awareness campaigns were organized in October 20, 2014 in Chatara, Barahachhetra Mela and Chakarghatti, Mahendranagar of Sunsari district. The dramas were performed by same team in both places. In the campaign, altogether 10 youth and children artists including 5 girls were involved in street drama.
2. In order to promote the dairy market of Kailali, one-day workshop on milk market promotion was organized at Hotel Amit Plaza, Dhangadhi on 27th July, 2014. All the stakeholders consisting of District Development Committee, District Livestock Service Office, District Agriculture Development Office, District Forest Office, Khaptad Dairy Development Corporation, cattle feed suppliers, dairy equipment suppliers, fodder seed suppliers, forage nursery, milk collectors, milk producers, and agrovets attended the workshop. Issues on dairy cattle management and feeding were discussed with related stakeholders. The marketing channels of milk in Kailali and neighboring districts were explored. Issues on milk market price and availability of improved fodder seeds were also discussed. An open forum discussion between milk producers, processors as well as government bodies was done. The program was appreciated by farmers as well as line agencies.
3. A one-day coordination meeting was organized on 15th of August to discuss joint implementation of CSISA activities in overlapping VDCs to exchange technical knowledge. The participants were Mr. Lokendra Khadka, Agronomist; Mr Pradip Chaudhary, Mrs. Ganga Jaisi of CIMMYT, Dr. Shekhar Pokharel, PC; Padam Joshi and Yabati Chaudhary of FORWARD Nepal. Sharing of progress of CSISA and FORWARD Nepal about their activities in Kailali and Kanchanpur was done. Planning was done for coordinating activities like technical information exchange in groups and innovative trials in intercropping of maize and leguminous fodders.
4. An inception workshop of the SKI project entitled, "Transfer, evaluation and dissemination of an innovative fertilizer management tool (Nutrient Expert) for increasing crop yields and farmers' income" was jointly organized by NRNA Australia and FORWARD Nepal at Chandragadhi, Jhapa, Nepal on the 7th October 2014. The workshop with about 25 participants was attended by the representatives of major political parties (Nepali Congress and United Marxist Leninist), District Development Officer, District Agriculture Development Officer, Scientists from Regional Agriculture Research Station, Tarhara, Campus Chief and students of the Lamjung Campus under the Institute of Agriculture and



Street Drama on Climate Change Adaption

- Animal Sciences- Tribhuvan University, NGOs and INGOs, young farmers of the project villages, FORWARD Nepal, and the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), New Delhi. Dr. Jagadish Timsina (Advisor, NRNA Australia and Member NRNA ICC/NCC Committee and the project leader) representing NRNA-Australia and Dr. Kaushik Majumdar (Director, IPNI, South Asia) and Dr. Satya participated representing IPNI participated in the events. Prior to the workshop, the participants visited two VDCs in Jhapa and conducted focus group discussions and collected information required for the Nutrient Expert (NE) training on the next day.
5. A team of sixteen members consisting of 13 from Viva con Agua (Germany), Mr. Surendra Gautam (Programme Coordinator WHH), and Dr. Ujjal Tiwari (Programme Coordinator) and Ms. Manju Pathak (Information & Publication Officer) from FORWARD Nepal visited Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) project sites in Shaktikhor and Siddhi VDCs of Chitwan district on 4th November 2014. The main purpose of the visit was to interact with Chepang communities and know about their sanitation and drinking water conditions. The visitors were interested to know about the communities' awareness and the problems faced by the communities to maintain good water and sanitation. There were two discussions with the communities (SIFS farmers' groups) in two VDCs. The team also physically observed the Chepang households in the upper part of Siddhi VDC (Majbang village). The team observed poor conditions of water and sanitation, e.g. no toilets, poor health, etc. The team also monitored ongoing SIFS activities. The farmers are very happy and actively involved in the farming activities. They wish to continuation of the SIFS project. According to them, they just learned something and have been practicing it. They would like to increase their knowledge and skills so that they can be perfect in farming. Farmers' demand particularly is on irrigation development. Farmers have also assured to continuation of the farming activities even after the completion of the project.
 6. Ms. Anita Mahat from SEED Office USAID/Nepal visited FORWARD Nepal Office Chitwan on 8th September 2014 and a lively interaction was held on the opportunities and challenges of strengthening cooperatives and private sectors and their business sustainability.
 7. 18th FORWARD DAY was celebrated on 1st September 2014 through organization of various programs. The auspicious event was inaugurated by FORWARD Nepal's Chairperson Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota by lighting the lamp on traditional PANUS followed by sprinkling water on the flower pots and cutting BIRTH DAY CAKE and its distribution. The event was graced by the presence of Founder Members, Board members, Members and staff members. Message of Chairperson and Executive Director was delivered in this occasion. On the same day, joint free meals program was organized for elderly people living



Workshop on Milk Market Promotion, Kailali

in Devghatdham, Tanahun. Around 31 elderly people, members of Devghatdham Region Development Committee (DRDC), its staff members, and FORWARD family participated in the joint meal program. About 60 participants attended this event. Brief introduction of FORWARD Nepal was shared by FORWARD Nepal's Founder member Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa. Likewise; the activities of Devghatdham Region Development Committee were highlighted by Mr. Jay Krishna Sharma Subedi, Executive Director of DRDC, while Chairperson of DRDC Mr. Shailendra Kumar Piya thanked FORWARD for organization of the important event in honor of the elderly people. In this program, Chairperson Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota handover NRs 7,000 to DRDC treasury fund as continuation of annual donation. This program was followed by plantation of tree saplings (gap filling) and observation of plants which were planted by FORWARD Nepal in the premises of Manimukundeshwor Park at Devghatdham in the previous year. Chairperson, Executive Director of FORWARD Nepal and DRDC members and staff members of the FORWARD Nepal were involved in planting tree saplings and field visit.

Staffing

1. Dr. Ujjal Tiwari rejoined FORWARD Nepal as Program Coordinator with effect from 16th Oct, 2014.
2. Dr. Luni Piya, Planning Director has departed to Japan in September 2014. She will remain at the Hiroshima University, Japan with her 9 months old baby and husband Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi for some time.
3. Mr. Khadga Man Samyuhang has left FORWARD after successful completion of his assignments in October
4. Mr. Pankaj Koirala has left FORWARD Nepal after successful completion of his assignment in October
5. Mr. Dharma Prasad Pande and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Senior Programme Officers have joined with Practical Action Nepal and FAO programme in Dadeldhura from September and October 2014 respectively.
6. Dr. Shekhar Pokhrel resigned from the post of Project Coordinator of ILRI program in Kailali 6th November 2014. He is going to New Zealand shortly for further study.
7. Mr. Pradeep Pokharel has been selected as Project Coordinator for ILRI project, Kailali

Training & Workshop

1. Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, Project Coordinator-4CA Project participated in DDRC meeting, Sunsari to discuss potential disaster event after Sunkoshi Landslide in Sindhupalchowk in August, 2014. Similarly, PC of 4CA Project/FORWARD Nepal attended the meeting as focal NGO in Sunsari. The 4CA project teams were made in high alert in first week of August as per verbal direction from DDRC, Sunsari. Similarly PC has also presented a presentation on progress of 4CA project in District Level Annual Review Meeting that was organized by DDC, Morang in last week of August, 2014.
2. FORWARD Nepal participated in one-day food security meeting organized by DADO Morang on 7th July 2014.
3. FORWARD Nepal Participated two days seasonal agricultural workshop at Kathmandu and also presented project quarterly progress report on 6th -7th August 2014.
4. Ms. Manita Ale, Data Manager attended the capacity development program on 'Priority Setting and Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation' from July 14-16, 2014 at Kathmandu under USAID's, "Policy Reform Initiative in Nepal" project in partnership with IFPRI.

5. Ms. Manita Ale, Participated in training on 'Crop Experimental Design and Data Analysis' from 31st Aug-3rd Sept. organized by CIMMYT in collaboration with NARC at Lumle.
6. Ms. Manita Ale participated in Field Managers training by AIT Oct 26-29, 2014 at Thailand.
7. Five-day SPSS Data Entry Operators training was organized by CIMMYT at FORWARD Office Chitwan in July 2014. Four staffs Ms. Manju Pathak, Ms. Rasu Thakali, Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Sriram Chaudhary from FORWARD and 3 locally recruited personnel participated in the training.
8. Mr. RK Neupane participated in Market Development Forum (MDFN) workshop organized by SAMARTH on 30th October at Kathmandu. The impacts of subsidies on private sector marketing were discussed in the meeting.

Upcoming Major Events

1. Under 4CA Project various meetings and trainings are going to be organized like - Completion of local level training on CSDRM, Awareness raising campaign, LDMC, child and youth's meetings, Conduct PCVA, Conduct LDRMP planning workshops and starting of LDRMP preparation/review, Organization of meeting and workshop on local curriculum development, Half-yearly meeting of DPAC-4CA.
2. Mini weather station is going to be Establish in Morang and Sunsari district under 4CA project.
3. One-day seed production farmers training to be conducted in 4 slots of Morang district.
4. New groups going to be formed in riverbed farming groups in Plan Morang project.
5. Under AgLEARN Project Various trainings like - data recording, onion plantation, Trichoderma production, bio-pesticide preparation is going to be organized in Banke and Surkhet district.
6. Monitoring visit of Prof. Dr Gopal Thapa from AIT to AgLEARN project sites in first week of Dec 2014.
7. 18th General Assembly of FORWARD Nepal will be held on 26th December 2014.
8. Inception meeting of Forest-based enterprise promotion project in Doti and Bajura districts in First week of December 2014.
9. Website update/ redesigning in Nov/Dec 2014.
10. Participation on Civil Society Academy (CSA) training in Charikot - November 24 to December 5, 2014.
11. Annual project review workshop of SIFS in Deoghar, India from 20-22 November 2014. Participation of FORWARD staff in project orientation workshop at MSFP at Kathmandu on November 27, 2014 and Security and Safety Training from December 3-5 at Kathmandu.
12. Best practice sharing workshop of SIFS project in Kolkata 17-18 December 2014.

Comments Received for the 2nd Bulletin

Appreciation for continuously bringing such informative bulletin on a quarterly basis. I have gone through the bulletin; as always, the organization has attested its professionalism. No doubt, FORWARD-Nepal is incessantly heading towards its goal.
Regards,
Bishnu Poudel