



FORWARD Nepal

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

This 28th 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 four months of the fiscal year 2079/80 B.S. i.e. November 16, 2022 to March 14, 2023. During this period, we completed two projects namely, USAID-funded project Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture Regional workshop and Procurement of services for Providing training on agricultural value chain to Small Farmers; started 2 new projects named "Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub Manager" and "Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Dairy Value Chain in Western Nepal (AFU- FORWARD Nepal)" and continued with three projects viz. "Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Village in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal-Phase II"; "The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal" and "Effect of Male Out Migration, and Environmental Changes on Women involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal".

Apart from this, some projects are confirmed and in line for implementation and several project concept papers and proposals have been submitted to various donor agencies for project partnerships/funding. Our project-based staff attended meetings, seminars, and training with different donors and development agencies.

Major project activities conducted

1. Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Village in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal-Phase II

- **Monitoring visits to the Project Site**

On 18th Nov, a field monitoring visit from BMZ – Regional Director, Anja Schroeder; WHH- Country office- Country Director, Shakeb Nabi; Program Manager- Ms. Seema Luitel was made to Saptari, Rajgadh. They interacted with some of the beneficiaries like mothers whose children were admitted and recovered in the NERP camp, SIFS champions, farmers, and visited SIFS model farms and demonstration farms in Rajgadh 4, Belhichapena, and Jamuwa.

- **Rehabilitation of Malnourished children through NERP Camp**

In Paroha, 3 NERP camp for 15 days was completed during the period where 81 MAM children (41 Boys, 40 Girls) were admitted. At the end of the camp, it was found that 90.12% (73) of children successfully reverted back to normal after the camp.

- **Need-based support to Farmer Field Schools in the pilot village**

As handholding support, seasonal vegetable seed and sapling was supported to 41 farmers (demonstration farmer, SIFS champion, and FFS members) for diversified cropping and promote them as a model farm and model kitchen garden. Additionally, the farm subsystem hoarding board sticker was pasted on 5 farms (3 SIFS & 2 Demonstrations) for visibility as a model farm in the village.

- **Agri-kit support to Demo Farm/EGL**

In Rajgadh, 245 demonstration farmers were supported with yellow sticky trap and hermetic bag for paste management and preservation of local seeds. Additionally, 4 farms were supported with fencing net to protect farm from animal hazards.

Similarly, 58 farmers (45 Demonstration farmers and 11 Excellent Group leaders (EGL) were supported with a modern agri-kit (Electric Motor, Yellow sticky, Hermetic Bag) for promotion of model farm and improvement in the diversity of the crops round the year. And, 174 farmers (163 Demonstration farmers and 12 Excellent Group leaders (EGL).

- **Traditional Seed Preservation Training**

Traditional Seed Preservation training was conducted in Rautahat and Saptari where 500 demonstration farmers were trained regarding local method for preserving the traditional seed using the local resources. By the end of the training, farmers were able to understand the importance of the local seed and the traditional method to preserve it safely with low cost. Also, they were convinced for the establishment of seed bank in their ward/village level as per their feasibility.

- **Development of resource pool at NSV Project site (Rautahat)**

Two days Masters Trainer Training was conducted at Siya Palace Gaur on 29-30 December 2022 having involvement of 24 (19 Male and 5 Female) participants. 24 resource pool are developed at Rautahat on multi-sectoral approach. The main objective of the training was to sensitize and internalize malnutrition as multifactorial and possible interventions to prevent from it.

- **Conduct CGM scans of under-five children**

The Child Growth Monitor (CGM) application is an artificial intelligence-based application that shall allow assessors to detect malnutrition in children between 6 months to 59 months, via a photo or video sequence.

- **Preparation HH micro plan for malnourished children**

A total of 1368 micro plans of HH with malnourished children in Rautahat have been prepared by Community Volunteers.

- **Field Visit Monitoring at Rautahat**

On 23 Feb, 2023 field monitoring visit at Paroha Rautahat was done by WHH- Centre Office (Head of Program- Ms. Tabia Seiz and Program Manager - Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Mr. Maheshwar Rijal – MEAL Officer, Mr. Deependra Chaudhari – Partner Advisor) and FORWARD Centre Office team (Executive Director- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen and Program Manager Mr. Krishna Sapkota). The visit was made to Jingadawa, where project approaches such as SIFS farm, demonstration farm, LANN meeting and farmers groups meeting were observed, the project progress was overviewed, and feedback was given for the promotion of Moringa in the farm.

- **Project Review and Planning**

On 24-25, Feb 2023 project review and planning meeting was held at Hotel Gunja, Bardibas with the presence of NSV project team including the Executive Director and Program Manager from FORWARD Centre team. Similarly, the Head of Programs, Program Manager, Project Coordinator, Finance Officer, MEAL Officer and HR Manager from WHH were also present to review the project's progress and status. Besides, beneficiaries from field such as SIFS Champion, LANN+ group member, Excellent Group Leader (EGL), participated in the review day of the meeting. A total of 30 members participated in the event. By the end of the event, project team was able to plan 2023 along with their tentative budget estimates.

- **SIFS training to Masters Training in Rautahat**

3 days training was accomplished in both Saptari and Rautahat districts. The training was targeted to Master Trainers, SIFS champions and Demonstration farmers with the purpose to create a resource pool for SIFS at the Municipal level.

In Saptari, the training was conducted on 14-16 February, 2023 at Rajgadh -3, Janata Adharbhat Bidyalaya with the involvement of 16 (14 male and 2 female) participants. Similarly in Rautahat, the training was conducted on 27 Feb – 1 March, 2023 at Jingadawa Paroha, SIFS farm of Ram Ayodhi Baitha.

2. USAID/FtF Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub Manager

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture has made an agreement with FORWARD Nepal to hire Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, as the Regional Hub Manager for South Asia region who will also be considered a part of the Management Entity of the Feed the Future Horticulture Innovation Lab led by the University of California Davis. The Regional Hub Manager will live in FORWARD liason office, Kathmandu and head office, Chitwan, Nepal and coordinate and monitor awarded projects and trainings, maintain in-country networks including USAID mission relationships. To coordinate the efforts with those of the host government(s), other partners, and other U.S. Government interagency partners active in the region.

3. The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal

- **Resilience and Safeguarding Training**

The training program was organized by ADRA Nepal for the TERAI project staffs from 29th November – 1st December, 2022 at Butwal. The main objective of the program was to train the project staffs on:

- ✓ social mobilization – concept, importance, and approach
- ✓ gender equity and social inclusion (GESI), GESI analysis, GESI integration in the project interventions
- ✓ safeguarding measures and risk resilience in the project, and
- ✓ M&E – finalization of data collection and reporting formats, etc.
- ✓ log frame and project indicators.

- **Municipal, province and national-level**

project inception workshops

The main objectives of the workshops were to inform the local, provincial & federal governments and other relevant stakeholders about the donors and partners of the project, i.e. Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), roles of ADRA UK, ADRA Nepal, Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RJAHS), IRDC and FORWARD Nepal, working modality, and the activities to be accomplished within the project period, etc.

- **Training on Group Management, Leadership Development and GESI**

Livestock Development Specialist was involved in providing training to the farmer groups on 'Group Management & Mobilization, Leadership Development and GESI Trainings.

- **Assessment of existing Milk Collecting Cooperatives**

Livestock Development Specialist was involved in the institutional capacity assessment of 15 existing milk collecting cooperatives.

- **Province-level Project Inception Workshop**

A province-level project inception workshop was organized on 14th February at Hotel Club de Novo, Butwal, Raupandehi to provide information on the implementation of TERAJ project to the province-level government and stakeholders. The main objectives of province-level project inception workshop were:

- ✓ to share the project's concept, working approach and strategies, project's major activities and budget.
- ✓ to explore the possible areas of coordination and collaboration with related stakeholders at province and local level for proper utilization of project's resources.
- ✓ to receive feedback and suggestions on intervention, approach, and strategies of the project from the relevant stakeholders for strengthening the project's plan and strategies.

- **Semi-annual Review and Planning Workshop**

The project organized a two-day semi-annual review and planning workshop on 15th and 16th February 2023 at Hotel Club de Novo, Butwal. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- ✓ to share about Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), and TERAJ Project.
- ✓ to share the physical progresses achieved (i.e. target versus achievement) by the project from August 2022 to January 2023
- ✓ to share the financial progress of the project

- ✓ to share the lessons learnt, challenges and way forward.
- ✓ to share the plan of project activities for the next six months (February to July 2023)

- **Training on saving and credit to the group treasurers**

In order to capacitate the treasurers of the farmer groups, two events of trainings on saving and credit to the group treasurers were organized. The training dealt with financial literacy, savings and its importance, family budget and its importance, loan, double entry book keeping system, bill/invoice, receipt, interest calculation, posting in the savings account, loan account, and saving & credit pass book of the group members, etc.

- **National level Project Inception and Semi-annual Review and Planning Workshop**

A national-level project inception workshop was organized on 14th March at Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu to provide information on the implementation of TERAJ project to the national-level government and stakeholders.

4. Effect of Male Out Migration, and Environmental Changes on Women involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal

The research undergoing under JSPS Kakenhi Research Grant project has conducted few focus group Discussions at Ichhakamana rural Municipality ward number 1, 2, 3, and 6 of Chitwan district where project coordinator Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi along with Dr. Shanker Raj Barsila and Dr. Rishi Ram Kattel from Agriculture and Forestry University collaborated for the facilitation of the FGDs. The data was collected to understand the effect of out migration and environment changes on women involved in livestock production for 3 days in February, 2023.

5. Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Dairy Value Chain in Western Nepal (AFU- FORWARD Nepal)

A research based project named "Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Dairy Value Chain in Western Nepal" started from January 15 2023, and will continue till July 15 2024. It is led by University of Florida and funded by USAID/Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock systems and will be implemented in collaboration Agriculture and Forestry University in 7 districts of Western Nepal namely Doti, Kailali, Dailekh, Surkhet, Banke, Palpa, and Kapilvastu. The sub-award PI on behalf of FORWARD Nepal for the project is Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary and PI and co-PI from Agriculture and Forestry university are Dr. Ujjal

Tiwari and Dr. Praseed Thapa respectively.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

- Gender in Agriculture workshop was taken by project staff in 21-22 December, 2022 at FORWARD Nepal Head office, Kshetrapur. The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Dawn Cheong, a PhD scholar from Wageningen University. There were 8 participants in the training.
- FORWARD Nepal staff under NSV-II project received a 4 days Project Cycle Management Training on 21-24 Dec, 2022 at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort organised by WHH Nepal. There were 24 Participants altogether (3 Female and 21 Male) consisting of Project Coordinators, Project Managers from Implementing Partners (FORWARD Nepal, AASAMAN, LIBIRD, SKILL-UP, CEPRED) and WHH Nepal.
- FORWARD Nepal staff under NSV-II project received 3 days training on Finance & Procurement on 6-8 December 2022 at Park Village Resort, Buddhanilkantha- Kathmandu. There were 28 total participants (25 Male & 3 Female) from several implementing partners such as LIBIRD, AASAMAN, SKILL UP, CEPRED including FORWARD Nepal
- A province-level project inception workshop was organized on 14th February and semi-annual review and planning workshop on 15-16th February, 2023 at Hotel Club de Novo, Butwal, Rupandehi. The Vice Chairperson, Executive Director, Project Manager, Admin and Finance Officer, and Livestock Development Specialist participated in the program on behalf of FORWARD Nepal.
- The project review meeting was done for Nutrition Smart Village-II project at Hotel Gunja, Bardibas on 24-25 Feb, 2023 with presence of NSV project team, Executive Director and Program Manager from FORWARD Nepal, and Head of Programs, Program Manager and Project Coordinator from WHH.
- National level Project Inception Workshop and semi-annual review and planning workshop of TERAJ project was held on March 14, 2023 at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu. The Vice Chairperson, Executive Director, Project Manager, Admin and Finance Officer, and Livestock Development Specialist participated in the program on behalf of FORWARD Nepal.

Staffing

- Mr. Amitraj Shah has been promoted to the position of Project coordinator in place of Ms. Gupta from Advocacy cum project officer from 12 March 2023. He has taken over the responsibility of Archana Gupta.
- Mr. Deepak Kumar Mandal has been promoted to Nutrition and Advocacy Officer in place of Amitraj Shah from 12 March 2023.
- Termination of 14 REFP-project staff (Local Resource person) due to the end of project. The name and position of staff are:
Mrs. Parbati Kafle-Agriculture Technician
Mr. Liladhar Panta-Agriculture Technician
Ms. Shreejana Regmi-Agriculture Technician
Ms. Anjana Rai-Agriculture Technician
Mr. Sabin Khatri KC-Agriculture Technician
Ms. Rita Rai-Agriculture Technician
Mr. Karna Bahadur Rana-Livestock Technician
Mr. Bhagarathi Bohora-Livestock Technician
Mr. Dan Bahadur Ramtel-Livestock Technician
Ms. Rigi Limbu-Livestock Technician
Ms. Tara Kumari Khadka-Livestock Technician
Mr. Mohit Kumar San Teli-Livestock Technician
Mr. Nirgun Kumar Mahato-Livestock Technician
Mr. Jitendra Mahato-Livestock Technician

Visitors:

- Mr. Shakeb Nabi, Country Director of WeltHungerHilfe (WHH) visited FORWARD Nepal Head Office on 5th December, 2022.

Institutional activities/events:

- The policy documents of FORWARD Nepal such as GESI and Women Empowerment Policy, Child Rights Safeguarding Policy, and Anti-sexual Harassment Policy were updated.
- Annual Report 2022 was published on January 2023.

Upcoming institutional major events:

- SMARIKA Publication
- Annual Programme Planning and Review and Reflection meeting.
- Annual programme for 2079/80 and Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- EOI submission for different INGOs/ agencies for projects partnership
- Nepal AgT Technical Design Workshop
- Exchange workshop of NSV-II project, Rajasthan, India
- Staff Recruitment for Kapilvastu Livelihood Project
- Horticulture Innovation Lab Annual Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya

Some Glimpses



TERAI Project National-level Project inception and Semi-Annual Review and planning workshop, Kathmandu



NSV-II Project Review and Planning Workshop, Bardibas



Innovation Lab for Horticulture Consortium Meeting held at FAMU, USA



TERAI Project Province-level Semi-Annual Review and planning workshop, Butwal



Demonstrating the story from the field of NSV-II project during the Review and Planning Workshop, Bardibas



Gender in agriculture workshop participants with the Resource person Ms. Dawn Cheong