



FORWARD Nepal Brief

Bulletin - 4

17 November 2014 - 15 March 2015 (Mangsir - Falgun 2071)

Patronage:

Netra Pratap Sen, ED, FORWARD Nepal

Publication Committee: Ram Krishna Neupane

Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Manju Pathak

Current Update at Glance

This is the fourth issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covering from Mangsir to Falgun 2071. Apart from implementation of regular project activities, some projects have been completed, some new projects have been initiated and 5 new proposals developed during the period. We were successful in getting "Promotion of Green Economy in the Hill Areas of Nepal and Bangladesh" and "Improving the livelihood of poor households in Siddhi VDC of Chitwan through beekeeping development" projects from the funding of WHH and BMZ. The aim of Green Economy project is to scale up the integrated farming system approach towards better farm planning, ensuring diet diversity and strengthen community institutions for better market access towards selling the produces in the Siddhi and Shaktikhor VDCs. Beekeeping Project aims to improve livelihoods through Beekeeping development in hills of Chitwan. Letter of agreement was signed with KISAN/WI for implementation of the project "Enhancing food security through scaling up of climate smart agricultural practices in rice-lentil system in Dang, Banke, and Bardia and Kailali districts". The project aims to enhance crop productivity through scaling up of climate resilient varieties and technologies of rice and lentil among 10,000 households of project districts. The project is due to start from May 2015.

Completed projects

- Sustainable Integrated farming systems (SIFS) project was successfully completed by December 2014. The project worked with 1513 households organized into 70 groups, capacity building of beneficiaries of Siddi and Shaktikhor VDCs in promotion of SIFS approach, group level planning, establishment of integrated model farms, nurseries, collection centers, community level seed production, promotion of biodynamic farming, and promotion of income oriented home gardening.
- Hills maize research project Improving Food Security through Community Based Seed Production Initiatives in Surkhet District was successfully completed by December 2014. The project was initiated in 2011 and covered about 1200 HHs in more than 10 VDCs of the district. 71 metric ton seeds of improved maize varieties were produced and marketed during the project period. The project worked with farmers groups associated with two cooperatives at Kunathari and Satakhani for seed production, processing and marketing of improved varieties of maize.

Major Activities during the period

Improving livelihoods of smallholder dairy farmers through feed management in Kailali district:

1. 27 group level trainings on livestock management, clean milk production, shed management, fodder production and feed management was conducted involving 700 small holder dairy farmers in five VDCs: Geta, Beladevipur, Chaumala, Shripur and Malakheti of Kailali.
2. Leguminous forage Alfa-Alfa was introduced to ILRI project sites through distribution of 20 kg seed to the farmers.
3. A total of 3077 bolus of Zanide-L forte bolus and Albendazole was fed to 1425 animal heads as a preventive measure against tape worm in 5 project VDCs: Geta, Beladevipur, Chaumala, Shripur and Malakheti of Kailali district.
4. Five farmers were selected for shed improvement and demonstration in project VDCs.
5. 32 chaff cutters were distributed on 50% cost share basis to the dairy farmers from 27 groups in 5 project VDCs.
6. LRP/Agro-vet training on Basic Livestock Management and Capacity Building was conducted during 24th – 26th February 2015 at Attariya Kailali. Three LRPs, 4 Local agro vets and 5 progressive farmers from 5 VDCs participated in the training.
7. On-farm trials assessing the effect of feeding chaffed and un-chaffed straw to the dairy animals on total milk production, percentage of fat and SNF is ongoing. The data collection format has been developed and distributed to the farmers for recording daily milk production, fat% and SNF%.
8. Forage Promotional Manual has been published and distributed to farmers and stakeholders.

Child Centered Climate Change Adaption (4CA)

1. Final draft of LDRMP was prepared for approval from VDC council after incorporating suggestions from the one day workshop on LDRMP held in eight VDCs in January 2015.
2. Five workshops have been organized in Sunsari district representing 259 people inclusively with 63 female, 18 children, 28 *dalit*, 61 *Janajati* and 34 minorities. Similarly, two workshops were conducted in Morang i.e. at Kerabari and Yangshila VDCs in January. A total of 83 people participated in these workshops; 19 female, 6 *dalit*, 37 *Janajati* and five children.
3. A flood mitigation work on Karam Khola was completed at Barahachhetra VDC, Sunsari to protect Adarsha Higher Secondary School. After completion of construction work, social audit has also been completed.

4. Drinking water supply has been improved at Basanta Ritu Secondary School, Mahendranagar by installing a tube well. There was problem in water discharge due to low water level which has been addressed by construction of ground water recharge pit for waste water and rain water.
5. Construction of hume-pipe culvert has been completed over Tekra channel of Teli Khola, Jante, Morang that reduced risk for school going children.
6. Risk Reduction works are going to be completed in Pashchmi Kushaha i.e. construction of low cost bamboo bridge and hume-pipe culvert with the involvement of Friendly Youth Club.
7. Riverbank protection work has been started at Letang-Bhogateni-7, Kritiman, and Morang in coordination with Divisional Office of Department of Water Induce Disaster Prevention Centre (DWIPC), Biratnagar.
8. Based on LDRMP Guideline, 2011 and National Framework for Local Adaptation Plans for Action, 2011, PCVA were carried out in each ward of project VDCs.
9. A poster on child right and CCA was published and disseminated to project sites. One thousand multicolor poster have been produced.
10. The eighteen VDC/City level inter-school art competitions have been completed. Altogether 629 children including 222 girls took part in the competition. Top three students of each VDC and municipality will take part in district competitions of respective districts.
11. Seventeen peer education classes were successfully carried out by local resource person in project sites. These classes have been reached to 555 people including 449 children, 54 youths, 43 elder people and 8 senior citizens.
12. Local training has been accomplished in December 2014 in Biratnagar to build capacity of LDMC members and ward secretaries of Biratnagar. In the training, a total of 39 people: 9 female, 1 *dalit* and 8 *Janajati* have been benefited. 4CA Project has supported and facilitated four meetings of local disaster management committee, sixteen meetings of child clubs/ networks and six meetings of youth clubs. More than 327 children and 75 people took part in these meetings and discussed on issues of climate change and disaster in project sites.

Green Economy Project

1. Household identification was completed for the continuation of previous activities of SIFS project.
2. Management of compost and farm yard manure, household's food and nutrition security and entrepreneurship development trainings were held under the Farmers' Field School (FFS) approach.
3. For the potential SIFS farms for organic certification under participatory Guarantee System, activities like - household identification, orientation to farmers about government's organic farming standards, workshop on orientation to the selected farmers on PGS, Workshop on Participatory Market Chain

Analysis (PMCA) of the organic products were completed.

4. Farmers' groups were supported for the value chain improvement of turmeric, ginger, honey, legumes etc. Also value addition trainings were provided to farmers.
5. SWOT analysis, suitability and feasibility study of three cooperatives and three market centers was completed in Siddhi and Shaktikhor VDCs.
6. One case study booklet has been published and a video documentary also finalized that will be broadcasted through Nepal Television.

AgLEARN Project

1. Training on preparation of Bio-fertilizer using leguminous plants and cow dung was done in Kunathari, Surkhet. Similarly, training on extraction of wood-vinegar using indigenous tree *Burdhyaro* was completed in Shaktikhor Chitwan. Wood vinegar is the natural extraction produced by distillation process. The extract can be used as insecticides in crops.
2. On-farm demonstration/trials on use of trichoderma in nursery and main plot of onion var Nasik 53 with control was conducted at Banke on 28 January 2015. Total 24 participants including 20 non-project farmers participated in the demonstration.
3. On-farm demonstration on use of Bokashi manure in four-season bean with control was done on 6 February 2015 in Chitwan District.
4. On-farm demonstration on Bio-fertilizer used Vs bio-fertilizer not used in onion crop var Nasik-53 was conducted in Kunathari, Surkhet district on 2nd Mar 2015. Also, bittergourd plantation training was organized for 20 project farmers in Surkhet.
5. Prof. Dr. Gopal Thapa from AIT monitored AgLEARN project activities in Surkhet, Banke and Chitwan districts from 1st - 5th December 2014.
6. Dr. Kipp Sutton from USAID/RDMA, Bangkok, Executive Director of FORWARD Nepal Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, and Yagya Prasad KC, Technical Officer of NARC monitored the field activities of AgLEARN project in Bajapur, Banke District on 27 Feb 2015.

Multi stakeholders Forestry Programme

1. A feasibility study was conducted in MSFP project districts; Bajura and Doti during 3-10 December 2014. The study aimed (i) to inform local partners (MISS-Bajura and RDC) about FORWARD Nepal and MSFP, (ii) to facilitate the staff recruitment process for implementation of MSFP in the districts, and (iii) to consult with major stakeholders to inform them about the project and to collect information on potential forest-based enterprises.
2. Staff recruitment process for MSFP/Implementation of Forest Based Enterprises Promotion Programme in Bajura and Doti districts was completed during 13-14 January 2015 in Doti and 16-17 January 2015 in Bajura district. Altogether, 21 staff consisting of 33 percent women were selected.

3. A sub sector analysis (SSA) workshop was organized by MISS-Bajura on 12 January 2015 and RDC Nepal, Doti on 21 January 2015 in participation of wider stakeholders to select sub sectors and project VDCs based on set criteria as an entry point for MSFP in Bajura and Doti districts. The major outcome of the workshop was selection of subsectors and programme VDCs in Bajura and Doti districts.
4. FORWARD Nepal organized a two-day micro-planning workshop in Silgadhi, Doti during January 27-28, 2015 to prepare the detailed Activity Implementation Plan (AIP) for the implementation of forest-based enterprise promotion programme in Bajura and Doti districts. Eighteen staff from FORWARD Nepal and its local partners participated in the workshop. The workshop ended with the listing of major activities to be implemented immediately.
5. All staffs from three MSFP project implementing agencies; FORWARD Nepal, Sunder Nepal and IDS participated in the one-day orientation programme on "Safety and Security" organized by the MSFP/SSU- Surkhet cluster in Surkhet on February 9, 2015.
6. A one-day orientation on Sisno processing was organized by FORWARD Nepal and RDC Nepal on 13 March 2015 in Sarswatinagar VDC and on 15 March 2015 in Ghanteswor VDC of Doti district. Altogether, 53 participants in Saraswatinagar VDC and 57 participants in Ghanteswor VDC were orientated about Sisno enterprise: Origin, historical perspectives, nutritional and medicinal value, Sisno processing methods, quality maintenance, marketing etc.
1. General and technical meeting of FORWARD Nepal was held at FORWARD Nepal's head office, Kshetrapur, Chitwan on 20th March 2015. Executive Director, Program Director, Program Coordinator including all the project coordinators, and head office based staffs were present in the meeting. Audit of SIFS project was carried out by Kuber & Company during second week of February 2015 and findings report of audit has been sent WHH, Regional Office, India.

Riverbed Farming Project

1. Line agency visit of RbF project sites was organized at Jhapa on 16 March and Morang on 18 March 2015. Twenty representatives from district line agencies from Jhapa and 19 from Morang district attended the event. The stakeholders were impressed by the performance of cucurbitaceous and other crops in the otherwise unutilized riverbeds.
2. Crop insurance interaction program in the context of RBF crops was organized by Helvetas /Swiss in collaboration with DADO at Jhapa on 17 March 2015. Thirty eight persons attended the event and discussed on various aspects of crop insurance scheme.

Nutrient Expert Project

1. Line agency visit of Nutrient Expert project sites at Babia Birta, Morang was organized on Feb 5th 2015. Stakeholders were impressed by the uniform growth of wheat crop in plots receiving fertilizer as per Nutrient Expert recommendation followed by government recommendation and farmers' practices of fertilizer management.
2. Dr. Kaushik Majumdar, Director, south Asia Program of International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) participated in monitoring of maize and wheat IPNI trials in Jhapa and Morang districts during 26-28 Feb, 2015. Crop growth of wheat and maize receiving NE recommendations fertilizer was better than from plots receiving government recommended or farmers' practices.
3. Dr. Jagadish Timsina, Adviser to NRNA-Australia & Member, NRNA-SKI Project monitored wheat and maize trials under IPNI/NRNA-Australia project implemented in Jhapa and Morang during in the last week of December 2014.

Agro/Livestock Business promotion project

1. Two-day goat and pig raising training was organized for beneficiaries of IOM supported Agro/livestock Business Promotion Project in Sukranagar and Jagatpur VDCs of Chitwan. Following the training, trainees were supported with 72 goats and 30 piglets in Sukranagar, Jagatpur VDCs and Ratnanagar municipality. Follow up visits to 180 households was also done to find project impacts.

Staffing

1. CA Ram Shankar Thapa has been appointed as Finance Officer from 23rd November 2014.
2. Mr. Manoj Majgaiya, Account Officer left FORWARD Nepal on November 2014 and joined Mercy Corps.
3. Mr. Anup Adhikari has been appointed as Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for MSFP, Doti from 28 November 2014.
4. Ms. Ashmita Pandey joined FORWARD Nepal as Research Officer from 1st February 2015.
5. Mr. Jhapta Bahadur Basnet rejoined FORWARD Nepal as a Field Technician in IPNI project from 1st December 2014.

News

1. A promotional visit for innovative farmers to ILRI first phase site (Chitwan) was conducted on 14th – 16th December 2014. Altogether 36 participants including 27 farmers from each farmers' group participated in the visit. The farmers visited Geetanagar, Ratnanagar and Birendranagar in Chitwan district and observed cattle resource center, milk marketing cooperative, model farms and interacted with the farmers about livestock raising, fodder/forage cultivation and feed management for increasing milk production.
2. Dr. Dhiraj Singh from ILRI New Delhi and Dr. Neils Teufel from ILRI head office Nairobi conducted field monitoring and evaluation visit of improving livelihoods

of smallholder dairy farmers through feed management project sites Malakheti, Chaumala, Beladevipur, Sripur and Geta at Kailali on 30th January 2015. The main purpose of the visit was interaction with the farmers about the effectiveness of the program and future planning of the activities to address farmer perceived problems.

3. As an invitee member of District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), 4CA Project organized an event in Prakashpur to celebrate 17th National Earthquake Safety Day, 2071 BS with the slogan of 'Earthquake may strike any time, be ready and prepared every time'. DDRC Sunsari coordinated the programme. 4CA Project, District Education Office (DEO), Sunsari and Prakash Higher Secondary School have jointly organized the NES day. In the occasion, interschool speech competition on 'Safe School, Culture of Safety: Child Right on Earthquake Strike' was also organized. Altogether 12 students representing 12 schools took part in the competition and top three positions were secured by girls: Ms. Laxmi Siwakoti from Prakash HSS, Ms Ishwari Raut, Kachana Mahadev SS, Itahari and the third was Ms. Laxmi Bista of Saraswoti SS Prakashpur.
4. 18th General Assembly of FORWARD Nepal was held at Hotel Red Karpel, Narayangarh, Chitwan on 2nd January, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota, the Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal. The program was inaugurated by opening the banner of General Assembly by the Chairperson and lighting the *Panus* jointly by Chief Guest Mr. Bharat Mani Pande, Local Development Officer, Chitwan and Special Guest, Dr. Surya Kanta Ghimire, Registrar, Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan. The Representatives of Government Offices (District Line Agencies), President of District NGO Federation, Representatives of NGOs, and Executive Director, Founder Members, Executive Committee Members, General Members, Staff of FORWARD Nepal and Journalists were present in the program. FORWARD Nepal's Vice Chairman Mr. Ram Kumar Neupane delivered welcome speech in the program. Program Director of FORWARD Nepal presented highlights of major activities and accomplishments of FORWARD Nepal, while the Financial Report was presented by Finance Officer and Treasurer of FORWARD Nepal. In the occasion, AVASS Television and 4 staffs were honored with Letter of Appreciations. Chief Guest, Special Guest, Representative of GOs, President of District NGO Federation expressed good wishes to FORWARD Nepal on this occasion. They praised FORWARD Nepal for providing services to the rural communities through various projects for their better livelihood, and suggested to plan and implement more visible effective programs in coordination with concerned government offices in the future. Adjournment of the Inaugural Session was done by the Chairperson with concluding remarks. The morning session was

followed by a closed session of its members only and was focused on the development issues of the organization, policy issues, staff welfare scheme, membership update, organizational strategic long-term plan. The AGM also approved the appointment of MJ Associates as its authorized auditor for the audit of its account for next three years. The Financial report for year 2070/71 and tentative budget for 2071/72 was also approved by the general assembly. The program was finally declared closed by the Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal, Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota with his closing remarks and thanking all the founder members, board members and general members for their support and valuable suggestions for the organizational development and active participation in the program.

5. FORWARD Nepal organized family picnic on 3rd January 2015 at Gyneshwor Community Forest, Shivaghat, Chitwan. There were almost 70 participants including Executive Board Members, Founder Members, General Members as well as FORWARD Nepal's Staff and their families.
6. A one-day district level inception meeting was organized by the MISS-Bajura on January 18, 2015 and RDC Nepal, Doti on January 25, 2015. It was under the promotion of forest based enterprise project funded by MSFP. Fifty-five members from different organizations/institutions participated in the meeting in Bajura and thirty six participants took part in Doti district. The major feedback and suggestions from the participants include (i) the MSFP is a very good programme; it provides jobs to rural women and disadvantaged groups, (ii) sustainability of the forest resource should be maintained, (iii) it would be better if the programme focuses on unexplored forest resources, (iv) there are also other potential VDCs where the proposed forest-based enterprises can be established, and (v) rural income will be increased if the market is developed, so it is necessary to strengthen the marketing systems.
7. Mrs. Barbara Zilly, Country Director of WHH Nepal visited SIFS project sites in Chitwan during 12th - 13th February 2015. She visited Siddhi and Shaktikhor VDCs and interacted with farmers group focusing on knowledge and skills that farmers learned from the SIFS project. The opportunity for further development of the SIFS technologies in the area was also discussed. She also visited the two collection centers and discussed on agriculture products market management systems.

Training & Workshop

1. Project Coordinator (PC) Bed P. Bhurtel and Social Mobilizers (SM) took part in local level planning workshop and VDC/municipality council in Morang and Sunsari districts in January 2015.
2. Programme Officer Nirmal Chongbang participated in a workshop for district energy and climate change planning in Biratnagar on November 24. PC and PO participated project management meeting organized by Plan Nepal at Itahari on November 14, 2014 and

also district level pre planning workshop of education organized by district education office, Sunsari on November 28, 2014.

3. Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the training entitled "Developing effective programs: from Analysis to Action" organized by Civil Society Academy (CSA) – WHH during 24th November – 4th December 2014 in Charikot District. The objective of training was to improve the capacities of WHH and partner staff to develop effective programs for food and nutrition security, including analysis, planning, management and review processes.
4. Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane (Programme Director) and Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari (Senior Admin Officer) participated in the training on "safety and security" organized by the SSU/MSFP in the Embassy of Switzerland at Kathmandu during December 3-6, 2014. The training covered a wide range of topics including risk concept, basic operation guidelines, conflict sensitive program management, proactive communication, incident reporting, earthquake, fire, emergency preparedness, IED/weapon awareness, and workforce diversity (WfD).
5. Mr. NP Sen and RK Neupane participated in the orientation of MSFP program organized at Kathmandu on 27th November 2014.
6. Mr. RK Neupane attended the District Agricultural coordinating committee meeting held on 24 December 2014 at DADO, Chitwan.
7. Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, DADO, Chitwan, Mr. Somnath Ghimire, IPO Ms. Manju Pathak, Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu and two farmer representatives participated in Best practice sharing workshop of SIFS project in Kolkata 17-18 December 2014.

Upcoming Major Events

1. Vaccination of animals against BQ, HS and FMD in the ILRI project sites at Kailali.
2. Workshop on milk market promotion in Kailali.
3. District and VDC level social audit and line agency visit under the ongoing ILRI project at Kailali.
4. Facilitating to disseminate improved maize cultivars (CIMMYT promoted) for feeding maize stover, crop residue innovations in over-lapping VDCs and scaling out knowledge and skills to other CSISA project districts. In Kailali district in coordination with CSISA agronomy/CIMMYT.
5. District Level Art and Essay writing completion, Local Curriculum Development Workshop and finalization of curriculum on CCA and DRM, Joint monitoring visit by DPAC and media under 4CA project in Sunsari and Morang districts
6. Farmers field school (FFS) based trainings under Green Economy Project, Chitwan including management of compost and farm yard manure, awareness to farmers about the household's food and nutrition security, planning and management of home garden for ensuring household's food and nutrition security, entrepreneurship development trainings to farmers

7. Progress Review and Planning National Workshop under AgLEARN project
8. Stakeholders' workshop, socioeconomic survey on maize production, line agency visit of IPNI maize and wheat trials at Jhapa and Morang.
9. Line agency visit of RBF Project sites at Jhapa and Morang



Bicycle Pump for Micro irrigation, Banke



General & Technical Meeting of FORWARD Nepal, Chitwan



IPNI Project Monitoring by Stakeholders, Morang