



# FORWARD Nepal Brief

Bulletin - 5

16 March - 16 July 2015 (Chaitra 2071 - Ashad 2072)

## Patronage:

Netra Pratap Sen, ED, FORWARD Nepal

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### Current Update at Glance

This is the fifth issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covering from Chaitra 2071 to Ashad 2072. Apart from implementation of regular project activities, four new projects have been started and five new proposals developed during the period. We were successful in getting the project "Enhancing Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in Central Terai Districts of Nepal (ELIVES) from DFID/ADRA UK in partnership with ADRA Nepal, iDE Nepal. The aim of project is to bring tangible change in poor people's lives contributing on MDG goal: i) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and promote gender equality and women empowerment. Likewise a post recovery project "Vegetable seed package distribution for earthquake victims of Chitwan district" is underway with a grant support from WHH along with contribution from FORWARD Nepal and its Staffs and Members. The project aims to contribute to food and nutritional security among earthquake affected households of Siddhi, Shaktikhor and Kaule VDCs through promotion of vegetable farming. Similarly, a project entitled "Community Practice in Schools for Learning Climate Change Adaptation (COPIA)" has been initiated in three government schools and Riverbed Farming groups in Banke districts with funding from HELVETAS Swiss Inter cooperation Nepal.

### Major Activities during the period

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

1. A coordination meeting of CSISA officials, FORWARD Nepal team and farmers was held in Shripur Kailali on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to discuss about the use of crop residues as alternative feed source for animals during the scarcity of green fodder and forages and also to help reduce the cost of milk production.
2. Five animal-sheds are being reconstructed and improved in 5 working VDCs of Kailali district for demonstration purpose through supports from the project.
3. Results from feeding trials of chaffed and unchaffed straw demonstrated that milk production was increased by 12.47 % when animal were fed with chaffed straw and green fodder as compared to unchaffed straw and green fodder.
4. District level social audit was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 for the transparency and accountability of the project activities and the budget. All the related

stakeholders participated in the program and positive response was found from all about the outputs of project activities and also about the budget utilization.

#### Child Centered Climate Change Adaption (4CA)

1. Workshop of local curriculum development sub-committee was organized to finalize local curriculum on climate change and disaster management in Dharan in March, 2015. The workshop has prepared the local curriculum under leadership of Assistant DEO Mr. Pitambar Gautam. The local curriculum development sub-committee has handed over the curriculum to Prakashpur Resource Centre. After handover of local curriculum, Prakashpur Resource Centre organized a sharing workshop of the curriculum that gathered suggestions and commitments for stakeholder in April, 2015. Forty five teachers, chairperson of school management committee and child clubs, and DEO officials have participated the sharing workshop.
2. Riverbank protection work has been completed in Chisang stream at Kritiman, Letang, Morang. Similarly, risk of children has been reduced in Aauliya SS, Baraha Kshetra and Jwalamukhi SS, Bishnupaduka of Sunsari by constructing RCC culvert over torrential season stream in the school's area.
3. Joint monitoring visit (JMV) and annual project progress sharing workshop have been organized in both districts. In Sunsari, visit was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015, which was lead by LDO Mr. Yub Raj Adhikari, whereas the visit was arranged on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 in Morang district under the leadership of LDO Mr. Narayan Prasad Mainali.
4. Media sensitization workshops were organized in Bhedetar, Dhankuta in 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The main objective of the workshop was to sensitize local media persons on climate change and disaster risk management issues and establish coordination with local media person with 4CA project to increase the coverage of local CCA/ DDR issues.
5. The initial step of implementing the local curriculum of climate change and disaster management was started with teacher's capacity building. Altogether 26 teachers of Prakashpur resource Centre have been trained to implement the curriculum specially focused on content of delivery, mode of delivery of the content and evaluation of student's performance.

### Green Economy Project

1. A two-day orientation/training (30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March) on “Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Organic Farming Standards” was organized in Janapragati community building, Shaktikhor.
2. A SWOT analysis of Shree Ichhakamana Agricultural Produce, Vegetable and Fruit Collection Center was undertaken on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to examine the internal and external factors that help or hinder the smooth and effective operation of the Centre.
3. Training on Entrepreneurship Development and Nutrition awareness was held in between 6<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> April in Shaktikhor VDC. Project staffs and farmers were involved in the training.
4. To assist participants of the “SIFS follow-up training” for the Strengthening Community-based Biodiversity Management Programme (SCBDM), project staff of the Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), FORWARD Nepal’s field staffs joined the team of RRN and WHH staff and made a joint visit to Shaktikhor VDC on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

### Improving the livelihood of poor farmers through beekeeping

1. Suitable and potential areas for beekeeping were identified through field feasibility study in Siddhi VDC. Altogether 36 poor households (100% Chepangs) were selected from three villages as Majhbang, Hoiling, and Gamidung.
2. Group level baseline information was collected from a group of twenty seven farmers on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The main purpose of baseline information collection was to obtain the details about beekeeping scenario of the project sites and situation/circumstances of the participating farmers prior to the implementation of the key activities of the beekeeping project.
3. An orientation program on beekeeping (27<sup>th</sup> May, 2015) was organized at Siddhi VDC. This orientation program offered the two-way medium for dissemination of modern technology of beekeeping and receiving the farmers’ ideas, perception, and feedback.

### Vegetable seed distribution for earthquake victims in Chitwan District

1. Assessment of earthquake effects in Kaule, Siddhi, and Shaktikhor VDCs was done by the field staffs from 1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. Suitable vegetable and farmers adopted varieties for the rainy season were identified.
2. Highly affected wards in the VDCs and target beneficiaries were identified. Total of 1950 HHs from three VDCs as 1069 HHs in Kaule, 797 HHs in Siddhi and 84 HHs in Shaktikhor were identified as target beneficiaries.
3. Vegetable seed mini-kit distribution program started from 27<sup>th</sup> May and ended on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Each household received seed mini-kit packet weighing

520 gm along with the leaflet detailing the cultivation methods. Total 1943 HHs received the seed mini-kit packets as 1011 HHs in Kaule, 724 HHs in Siddhi and 208 HHs in Shaktikhor VDCs.

### AgLEARN Project

1. Twenty project farmers at Banke were trained on bitter gourd plantation on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015. There was theoretical as well as practical session in the training.
2. Fermented Fruit Juice or Banana Vitamin is a flower inducer and fruit promoter which was technology chosen to be used in Bitter gourd. Vitamin preparation training was provided by leader farmer Mr. Kumba Singh Tharu, as resource person from Banke district on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Participants in the training were 20 project farmers. Vitamin was made by mixing 3 Kg chopped ripe banana, 0.5 Kg jiggery and 200gm salt. The mixture was put into *Kora* clothes and the tied clothes was put in drum and left for a week. After one week, yellowish brown colored liquid called Banana Vitamin was produced. The vitamin can be sprayed on leaves and flower at the rate of 10ml per liter water.
3. Field demonstration programme was conducted in Surkhet district on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The demonstration started with the practical of vitamin making. All the participants were shown the method to make vitamin from banana. The practical was effective for farmers from Banke to learn about the method and usage of vitamin. Participant farmers were delighted to see the difference in production brought by the use of vitamin in Bitter gourd. Farmers also assured to adapt the technology back their home. Extension officer and Horticulture Officer from DADO, Banke and 23 project and non-project farmers participated in the demonstration.

### Multi stakeholders Forestry Programme

1. A one-day orientation programme on Duna Tapari enterprise was conducted jointly by FORWARD Nepal and RDC Nepal in Chhatiwan VDC of Doti district on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. All together 63 participants participated on the training and orientated about importance, socio-economic benefit and environmental benefit of Duna Tapari as an enterprise.
2. The World Forestry Day was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 with tree plantation activities in Bajura and Essay competition, Rally and Quiz Competition in Doti district. The objective of the celebration was to create awareness among the stakeholders, civil society, educational institution and member of society on role of forest in mitigating climate change and environment protection.
3. A Business Plan Development and Analysis Training was successfully completed jointly with RDC Nepal on March 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Doti and with MISS Bajura on 31<sup>st</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015 in Bajura districts. The training enhanced the Business Plan Development and Analysis capacity of 23 MSFP project staffs in Doti and Bajura districts.

4. A Participatory Market Chain Analysis (PMCA) workshop on *Lokta*, olive oil, MAPs and all other subsectors was organized jointly by FORWARD Nepal and MISS-Bajura during 26<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 in Bajura district. The main objective of the workshop was to establish linkage and promote a synergistic partnership among the market actors (Producer/Collector/Traders/Wholesalers/Retailers) based on knowledge sharing.
5. World Environment Day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 by organizing Speech Competition in nine Secondary Schools of Doti and a Rally in Bajura district. The main objective of the celebration was to create awareness among the communities on environment-related issues.
6. A two-day Sustainable Resin Collection Training was jointly organized by FORWARD Nepal and MISS-Bajura in coordination with DFO Bajura and Mankamana Resin Company on 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Bajura district. All together 20 participants were benefited by the training and increased their capacity on sustainable resin collection.
7. Review and Planning Meeting of MSFP project was held at Chitwan during 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Altogether 17 participants including representatives from MSFP Kathmandu, LINGO partners: RDC Doti & Miss Bajura attended the meeting. In the workshop, review of previous activities and planning for upcoming months was done. Besides this, Professional Report Writing, PowerPoint Presentation, Case Study Writing trainings were provided to MSFP project staffs and other staff of FORWARD Nepal.

#### Riverbed Farming Project (RbF)

1. A total of 1564 households (involving 34 % women) organized into 92 groups were involved in RbF activities in Banke, Saptari, Morang and Jhapa Districts. Riverbed farming interventions included: capacity building of Riverbed farmers and supports in cultivation of watermelon, cucumber, bitter melon, bottle gourd.
2. Beneficiary HHs of RbF in Banke, Saptari, Morang and Jhapa were able to get income of NRs 19,480, 6,138, 29,765 and 58,776 respectively from sale of riverbed products.

#### Nutrient Expert Project

Survey on rice fertilizer management practices among 100 farmers of Jhapa and Morang was completed, and Nutrient Expert (NE<sup>+</sup>) demonstrations on rice were established in 100 farmers' field in Jhapa and Morang districts.

Progress review and planning workshop on IPNI/NRNA funded project "Transfer, Evaluation and Dissemination of an Innovative Fertilizer Management Tool (NE<sup>+</sup>) for increasing crop yields and farmers' income in Eastern Nepal" was organized at Biratnagar during May 22-24. The workshop was attended by IPNI South Asia Director Dr. K Majumdar, Dr. J. Timsina from NRNA Australia,

Regional Director (DOA) and Regional Director (NARC), DADO, DLISO, DDC, Students and Campus Chief of IAAS, Lamjung. The results of Fertilizer demonstrations indicated yield increases of NE<sup>+</sup> over GR and farmers' practices by 17.6 and 46.9. Percentages respectively. Investment of NRs 1 for additional nutrient management in wheat resulted in a return of NRs 3.87 over GR and 3.28 over FFP and therefore, it was recommended that farmers adopt NE<sup>+</sup> tools and apply fertilizers as per the recommendation.

#### Household Economy Security (HES) Project, Morang

1. Supports were provided to 180 households on poultry, fingerlings and mango saplings in the Project VDCs at Morang. Under farm forestry programme two new blocks were established and two thousand forest saplings transplanted.
2. Group level summer season vegetable production was done among 150 households.
3. Review and Planning Meeting of HES project was held at Morang on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Altogether 27 participants including Regional Director of Agriculture, DADO, DLISO, DFO, DPAC and leader farmer attended the meeting. In the workshop, review of previous activities and planning for upcoming months was done.

#### Rice-Lentil Program

1. Group level training on rice cultivation, importance of growing drought & submergence tolerant varieties, its characteristics, fertilizer, insect/pest and disease management was organized in four project districts:- Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali District. Altogether 77 farmers group (1723 households) were directly benefited by the training.
2. Rice IRD sets were distributed to 1000 HHs, 80 demonstration plots established and seed multiplication program of drought and submergence tolerant rice varieties implemented in 10 ha area in the project districts.
3. One project inception coordination meeting has been completed in Banke district.
4. Four field technicians were provided one day training on rice cultivation, climate resilient rice varieties and technologies.

#### COPILA

1. Staffs related to project were oriented for one and half day in Banke on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Team Leader of COPILA from HELVETAS Swiss Inter cooperation Ms. Usha Dahal Aryal oriented the participants. Total of 8 participants were in the orientation program.
2. A two day long teacher training was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of June. The teachers of Laxmi Higher Secondary School of Kachnapur, Saraswati H. S. School of Bajapur, and Bhagawati High School of Tithiriya participated in the training. Altogether, 10 teachers have participated in the training. Training was facilitated by Mr. Prasuram Sharma Niraula, an expert from CEEN.



- Teacher's orientation for integration of climate change topics in curriculum was facilitated by Mr. Parshuram Niraula. He supported teachers to integrate the climate change topics in School Curriculum, teachers plan for annual activities related to climate change.

### Staffing

- Ms. Sunita Shrestha, Project Accountant has been promoted to the post of Senior Accountant effective from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 with the status of core staff from project staff.
- Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu, Project Accountant has been promoted to the post of Asst. Account Officer effective from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 with the status of core staff from project staff.
- Mr. Bramanti Prasad Mahato has been appointed as Field Manager from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for USAID/KISAN supported rice-lentil project.
- Mr. Roshan Paudel and Ms. Rajani Sapkota have been appointed as Project Officer from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 for ELIVES project.
- Dr. Saroj Chaudhary joined FORWARD Nepal from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 and assigned to ILRI Project in Kailali district as a Project Coordinator.
- Mr. Uttam Aryal has been appointed as Project Officer from 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for COPILA project in Banke district.
- Ms. Sakchha Timilsina joined FORWARD Nepal as Programme Accountant with effective from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- Mr. Pandap Chepang rejoined FORWARD Nepal as a Field Facilitator on Vegetable seed Support project with effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.
- Ms. Kshamata Gurung rejoined FORWARD Nepal as a Field Technician from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- Mr. Umesh Kattel rejoined FORWARD Nepal as a Field Technician from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- Ms. Yabati Chaudhary was transferred to Rice Lentil project from ILRI project as a Field Technician with effective from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- Ms. Yog Maya Kunwar rejoined FORWARD Nepal as a Field Technician from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- Mr. Pradeep Pokharel, Project Coordinator of ILRI project has resigned from the post with effective from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### News

- A devastating earthquake of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 caused damages in hilly areas of Chitwan. FORWARD Nepal along with the contribution of staffs and the members residing abroad has distributed the vegetable seed mini-kits in most affected 350 households of Siddhi and Shaktikhor VDC of Chitwan District. Later, this activity was followed in three hilly VDCs of Chitwan i.e. Siddhi, Shaktikhor, and Kaule with the financial support of WHH, Germany. Seeds of vegetable crops compatible with the growing season and location namely okra, bitter melon, brinjal, four season bean, and yard long bean has been included in the seed

mini-kits along with the leaflet detailing the cultivation methods. Altogether targeted 1,950 households were supported from three VDCs. The farmers appreciated the seed support.

- Half-yearly Program Review and Planning Meeting of FORWARD Nepal was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at its Head Office, Kshetrapur, Chitwan. The objective of the meeting was to make critical reviews of on-going projects and make recommendations for future course of actions. The meeting also discussed on project related management and financial issues. Altogether, 23 staffs participated in the meeting. In the first day, Program Director of FORWARD Nepal warmly welcomed the participants and focused on the importance of periodic review meeting. Executive Director highlighted on the review meeting. He focused on the important role of staff members in effective project implementation, coordination and establishment of linkages with stakeholders, and gathering learning and experiences from projects. Technical review and planning of projects was presented by concerned Project Coordinators and this was followed by discussion session. Administrative and financial issues were presented and discussed on in the second day. Besides, pipeline projects and procurement procedure were also shared among participants. There was lively discussion among the participants in all issues. At the end of the meeting, Chairperson Prof Dr. Naba Raj Devkota thanked all FORWARD staff for their efforts in making the projects successful.
- The National Workshop on AgLEARN project was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Banke, Surkhet and Chitwan. In the workshop, District Agriculture Development Officer, NARC Scientists, Regional Agriculture Research Station (RARS), Khajura, Agriculture Research Station, Surkhet, Executive Director of FORWARD Nepal, The Deputy Chief of Party of USAID/RDMA-AIT and some journalists participated. The workshop was combination of the interaction with farmers regarding the technology they have been using last year and the impact of technology, planning for crop and technology selection for next crop season and also field visit of technology demonstration plots.
- FORWARD's Executive Board meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at FORWARD's Head office, Bharatpur-2, Kshetrapur, Chitwan. The meeting was held to discuss the on-going and future project activities carried by FORWARD Nepal, proper utilization of FORWARD's land, celebration of 19<sup>th</sup> FORWARD Day and preparation for General Assembly, closure of financial books for the fiscal year 2071/72 and annual audit of the account.

## Training & Workshop

1. Program Coordinator, Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, participated in Evaluation and Way Forward workshop organized by the WHH-Civil Society Academy (CSA) in Bangkok, during 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
2. Ms. Manita Ale, Field Manager participated and presented paper on FORWARD's Experience on Agricultural Insurance in the workshop organized by NARC at Rampur, Chitwan on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
3. Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Programme Director, Mr. Ram Shankar Thapa, Finance Officer and Project Officers Mr. Durga Bahadur Basnet, Mr. Roshan Paudel, Ms. Rajani Sapkota, Dr. Saroj Chaudhary participated the project start up workshop of ELIVES project at Kathmandu during 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
4. Mr. Ram Shankar Thapa attended training on fiduciary risk management, organized by MSFP at Dang from 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.
5. Ms. Ashmita Pandey attended A SMS Training Program on "Breeding, Agronomy, Crop Protection and Seed Technology of maize" organized by NMRP, Rampur from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

## Upcoming Major Events

1. Mitigation and Adaptation work, Installation of Mini-Weather Station and School Based Activities will continue under 4CA Project.
2. SWOT analysis of market centers and cooperatives, workshop on Participatory Market Chain Analysis (PMCA) of the organic products will be organized under Green Economy Project.
3. Workshop on food diversity and honey utility, Baseline study of the individual households, training on processing, branding and storage of bee products including knowledge on the medical use will be held under Bee Keeping Project.
4. Project monitoring and data collection and End-line survey will be done under vegetable Seed Distribution Project.
5. Training on Good Governance in community forestry and workshop on Participatory Market Chain Analysis will be organized in Doti and Bajura districts under MSFP project.
6. Three project coordination meetings, one seed production training, Local level consultation and interaction meeting will be held up to last month of July under Rice and Lentil project.
7. Selection of local NGOs for implementation of ELIVES project in Central Terai districts: Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mohottari and office set up for the project.
8. Reconstruction of Earth Quake proof Livestock Sheds in Makwanpur district.
9. External Audit of FORWARD Nepal's Core and Project funds for 2071/72.
10. Publication of Annual Report 2071/72.
11. 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of FORWARD Nepal.
12. Training on Social Mobilization and Good Governance for staff of MSFP project in Doti and Bajura districts.



Half Yearly Review and Planning Meeting of FORWARD Nepal



Performance of Maize Under Three Nutrient Management Practices



Vegetable Seed Mini-Kits Distribution Programme, Siddhi, Chitwan



Riverbed Farming, Jhapa