



FORWARD Nepal Brief

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Patronage:

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Current Update at Glance

We are pleased to present seventh issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covering from November 2015 to March 2016. During the period apart from smooth functioning of regular project activities, two new projects have been initiated namely "Validation of good manufacturing practices (GMP) in the raw milk supply chain" which aims to create the process of good manufacturing practice in order to improve milk quality in particular hygiene quality and "Rural women economic empowerment programme (RWEE)" which aims to enhance capacities for improved nutrition of rural women's and families of vulnerable group from the selected communities in addition to improving access to infrastructure such as irrigation facilities and community agriculture extension service centers for those women, with the support of SAMARTH-NMDP/DFID and World Food Programme (WFP) respectively. While Community Practice in Schools for Learning Climate Change Adaptation (COPILA) and (Agricultural Learning Exchange for Asian Regional Networking) AgLEARN Project phased out on December 2015 and March 2016 respectively. Second phase of COPILA Project has been initiated from 15 February 2016 so as to increase the resilience of communities against the negative impact of climate change. At the same period, FORWARD Nepal's 19th General Assembly and 9th convention was held at Hotel Red Carpet, Chitwan.

Major Activities during the period

1. Memorandum of Understanding was signed between FORWARD Nepal and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) Rampur, Chitwan to create better understanding between the two institutions and establish institutionalized linkage for project collaboration, partnerships and sharing of experiences, and joint interventions on 12 January 2016.
2. Refreshers training of trainers on climate change was conducted in Shree Bhagwati High School, Titihiriya with the participation of 15 teachers on 6 March 2016, Shree Laxmi H. S. School, Kachanapur with participation of 12 teachers on 13 March 2016 and Shree Saraswati H. S. School, Baijapur with the participation of 17 teachers on 20 March 2016 under the COPILA Project.
3. The major products of riverbed farming in Jhapa, Morang, Banke, Siraha, and Saptari namely Bitter gourd, Bottle gourd, Pumpkin, Watermelon, and Cucumber are being marketed by the farmers in the local as well as the markets of other districts.

4. District Development Committee, Jhapa organized one day Stakeholder's visit to riverbed farming sites of Jhapa on 24 February 2016. Local Development Officer of Jhapa, Senior Agriculture Officer, representatives from District Forest Office, and District Administrative Office took part in the visit.
5. Project inception and stakeholder's consultation workshop of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) project held on 6 March 2016 and stakeholder's meeting on 11 March 2016 paved path for delineating roles and selection of pilot sites of the project. Six pilot chilling centers have been identified covering 5,400 dairy smallholders as direct beneficiaries of the intervention. Dr. Keshab Prasad Premi, Director General of Department of Livestock Services (DLS) along with other officers from DLS, representatives from Dairy Development Corporation, officials from SAMARTH/DFID, and other concerned offices participated in the workshop.
6. Lentil value chain workshop involving producers, collectors, traders, mill owners, and line agencies (local level) of project districts was completed under the project "Enhancing food security through scaling up of climate smart practices in Rice-Lentil system in Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali district".
7. Farmer's internship programme-II for Nepal was organized by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand from 7 to 20 December 2015 under the AgLEARN project. Fifteen intern farmers (3 from Chitwan, 7 from Banke, and 5 from Surkhet districts), 1 technical staff, and AgLEARN Field Manager of FORWARD Nepal participated in the program.
8. Field demonstration, training to the farmer's group and on-farm testing of technologies was organized under AgLEARN project in Surkhet, Banke, and Chitwan.
9. Baseline survey for the registration of MCHN beneficiary that is pregnant women, lactating mothers and children aged 6-23 months is completed among nutrition targeted VDCs of Rautahat, Sindhuli and Sarlahi under RWEE (Rural women economic empowerment programme). There were around 600 individuals belonging to this category, under FAO formed groups, in each project district.
10. Renovation of earthquake damaged primary school in Lotanti, Siddhi VDC of Chitwan district has been completed under which plaster work in verandah, floors, and interior walls of the classrooms and white paint coloring of whole building has been done along with the installation of the drinking water supply.

11. The beneficiaries of Building Community Enterprise for Smallholders in Bangladesh and Nepal (BCES) project were supported with the summer vegetable seeds for the establishment of the kitchen garden, based on the farmer's crop variety preference. Feasibility study, identification, and cost estimation of six irrigation schemes and collection centers has also been completed.
12. The Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation Project (4CA) has initially developed a Local curriculum of Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management (CSDRM) in schools and implemented in fourth standard of Prakashpur resource center, Prakashpur, Sunsari. Tool kit has been developed for the trainer and practitioners to make them easy to transfer the knowledge of (Climate Change Adaptation) CCA and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to school children.
13. Five awareness programme on *Allo* protection, conservation and collection were conducted jointly by FORWARD Nepal and MISS Bajura in Brahmdev, Bhanodaya, and Ghatala Community forest user's group (CFUGs) of Dahakot VDC and Simtal, Seyalipakh, Kaperamandau, Pragatisil, Himchuli and Lodeninda CFUGs and Janajyoti, Sirjansil, Mastamandau, and Laliguras CFUGs of Kolti VDC. The programme raised awareness among 418 people to harvest according to Good Collection Practice (GCP).
14. In order to make people conscious of scientific and sustainable harvesting methods, seven different awareness programmes were conducted in Galesain, Thalahariyali, Laliguras, Sundarilura, Patarasi and Suryodaya CFUGs of Dahakot VDC according to Good Collection Practice (GCP) model. All together 373 people participated in the awareness campaign of Lokta (local paper making) and committed to share learnings to others.
15. MSFP-SSU team consisting of Anil Bhandari, Programme Officer and Arun Pandey, Sr. Finance Officer, MSFP SSU, Surkhet; Kalyan Gauli, Outcome Manager, Sita Rana, Deputy Team Leader from MSFP SSU, Kathmandu, and Sushila Kumari Thapa Magar, Programme Officer-Forestry from Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal visited Doti during 19 to 21 January 2016. The objectives of monitoring visit were: i) Discuss the MSFP progress with the NGO implementing agencies (IAs) of Doti ii) Monitor the effectiveness of MSFP interventions implemented by IAs with a focus on reaching the poor, women and disadvantaged groups (the target groups) iii) Interact with local communities as well as stakeholders of the districts and iv) Monitor the financial management system of the NGO implementation agencies of the districts. The project is implemented by FORWARD Nepal in partnership with other NGOs.
16. Honorable Minister, Mr. **Som Prasad Pandey** at Ministry of Industry, GoN visited Namuna Sisno Prasodhan Udyog (Nettle processing plant) in Sarswatinagar-7, Doti with his team on 4 March

2016. Minister Pandey appreciated MSFP works in establishing new type of enterprise and assured to support the enterprise for its sustainability.

17. Monitoring visit of "Transfer evaluation and dissemination of an innovative fertilizer management tool (Nutrient Expert) for increasing crop yields and farmers income in Eastern Nepal" project sites was conducted by Dr. Jagdish Timsina, Advisor, NRNA Australia on 27 and 28 February 2016.
18. In three VDCs (Bhaise, Namtar, Thaha) of Makwanpur district, 210 livestock sheds have been constructed. Now project staff have moved to Tistung VDC for more sheds construction. In Tistung VDC, 213 households have already received the construction materials and technical guidance to construct the animal sheds. The project team will first complete the animal sheds in four VDCs, and later will move to Aagra VDC.
19. The construction of seed storage at Padampokhari has almost been completed in March 2016. Similarly, the construction at Hatiya and Chhatiwan has been speeded up. At Agra and Bajrabarahi, the construction of potato rustic store has been initiated and the work is in progress.

Staffing

1. Mr. Suman Subba and Mr. Pherulal Chaudhary were appointed as Overseer for the Livestock Shed Construction Project, Makwanpur effective from 27 November 2015 and 3 December 2015 respectively.
2. Ar. Sumitra Simkhada was appointed as a Civil Engineer for the Seed Storage Bank Construction project in Makwanpur effective from 29 November 2015.
3. Ms. Manju Pathak resigned from the post of Information and Publication Officer effective from 7 December 2015 and departed for Finland to accompany her husband.
4. Ms. Swati Shrestha was appointed as new Information and Publication Officer of FORWARD Nepal effective from 28 December 2015.
5. Mr. Pradip Lamichhane was appointed as Field Officer of the ELIVES Project for Bara District from 1 January 2016.
6. Mr. Ram Shankar Thapa resigned from the post of Finance Officer effective from 4 March 2016.
7. Mr. Satish G.C joined FORWARD Nepal as new Finance Officer from 17 March 2016.
8. Mr. Ashok Kumar Gurung was appointed as District Coordinator for the Livestock Shed Construction project in Makwanpur district effective from 30 December 2015.
9. Mr. Mohan Kumar Basnet was appointed as Field Technician of the BCES project effective from 30 December 2016.
10. Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel was appointed as Team Leader and Mr. Sachit Neupane as consultant - Dairy Technologist for the GMP project effective from 1 February 2016.

11. Mr. Madan Kumar Karki and Mr. Dipesh Chhetri were appointed as Field Coordinator for GMP project from 18 February and 31 February 2016 respectively.
12. Mr. Suraj Khanal was appointed as Field Officer of Household Economic Security (HES) project in Morang district effective from 14 March 2016.
13. Ms. Gita Gurung joined FORWARD Nepal as Admin Associate for the contact office, Kathmandu from 11 March 2016.
14. Er. Jeewan Raj Chaudhary, Uttam Kandel and Er. Dilli Raj Limbu were appointed as District Coordinator for Sindhuli, Rautahat and Sarlahi districts respectively for RWEE project effective from 1 March 2016.
15. Mr. Pukar Pahari, Mr. Ram Pukar Prasad, and Mr. Diwas Khanal were appointed as Overseer for Sarlahi, Rautahat and Sindhuli districts respectively for the RWEE project effective from 1 March 2016.
16. Likewise, Mr. Bijaya Chaudhary, Mr. Nar Bahadur Auji, and Ms. Raj Rani Rana were appointed as Nutrition Associate for Sarlahi, Sindhuli and Rautahat districts respectively for RWEE project effective from 1 March 2016.

Trainings and Workshop

1. A three-day long training programme on “Capacity building, skill upgrading, riverbed farming awareness, technology support, and motivation to farmers” was organized by FORWARD Nepal/ Helvetas from 26 to 28 March 2016. A total of 28 local resource person (LRP)/ Community Technicians from Saptari, Siraha, Morang, Jhapa, Nawalparasi, Makwanpur, Rupandehi, and Bara participated in the training programme.
2. Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Programme Director, attended workshop on Climate Change organized by ICIMOD in Chitwan on 15 February 2016.
3. Ms. Ashmita Pandey, Project Officer participated in a training “Advocacy for Food and Nutrition Security in the context of agenda 2030” organized by Civil Society Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal from 7 to 12 March 2016.
4. Various training were organized to enhance the capacity of ELIVES project staff which included Result Oriented Leadership Development Programme (ROLDP) training from 9 to 13 March 2016, IPM training from 10 to 12 February 2016 and TOT on social mobilization from 22 to 25 February 2016.
5. A five-day project inception and planning workshop took place in Kolkata, India from 2 to 6 December 2015. WHH India hosted the workshop, and Mr. Anshuman Das, Program Manager, WHH India facilitated the workshop in participation of the representatives from WHH Nepal and three partner organizations as FORWARD Nepal, CEAPRED, and ANANDO (Bangladesh). Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Planning Director and Ms. Ashmita Pandey, Programme Officer attended the workshop.

6. A one-day staff orientation workshop of RWEE project was organized in WFP Country Office, Kathmandu on March 14, 2016.
7. Two days programme implementation planning workshop of RWEE project was organized in FORWARD Nepal's head office, Chitwan, from 15 to 16 March, 2016. The technical team of the RWEE programme - Project Coordinator (Engineer/s), Sub-Engineers, and Nutrition Associates participated in the activities planning workshop.
8. One day media sensitization workshops was organized for reporter and editor in Youth Development training Center (YDC) on 20 March 2016. The main objective of the workshop was to sensitize local media persons on climate change and disaster risk management issues, establish coordination with local media of Sunsari and Morang districts and to increase the coverage of local CCA/DDR issues and create a startup effective media advocacy and public awareness raising on DRR in local context.

News

FORWARD Nepal's 9th convention and 19th General Assembly

FORWARD Nepal's 19th General Assembly was held on 12 February, 2016 at Hotel Red Carpet, Narayangarh, Chitwan, under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, Chairperson of the organization. The program was facilitated by Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana, Secretary, FORWARD Nepal. In this program, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari, Senior Admin Officer, presented the status of employees' Welfare Fund. Likewise, Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, the representative of FORWARD Nepal to GATE Nepal, shared about the recent Annual General Assembly of the above company where FORWARD Nepal has invested NPR 12,197,681.96. Similarly, Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen shared implementation of five years' strategic plan of the organization. He placed emphasis on the possibility of low-cost office building construction in FORWARD Nepal's own land within next one year at Kalyanpur, Chitwan. He also shared the revised Organizational Principle and Guiding policies including GESIP and Child Right Policy. Ms. Sunita Shrestha, Acting Treasurer presented the audited Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet of FORWARD Nepal and Tentative Budget Forecast for current fiscal year 2016/17 in the assembly, and was passed by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the Chairperson thanked everyone for the cooperation and support they had been providing during his tenure, and expressed his best wishes to the new Executive Committee.

Following the General Assembly, 9th Convention was commenced where an election committee was formed under the coordination of Mr. Ram Mani Poudyal, Founder Member, Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa, Founder Member and Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, member. The committee formulated a code of conduct to be followed, and briefed it to the members

in the house for the nomination and election of new committee. Thereafter, as per constitution of FORWARD Nepal, New Executive Committee of 11 members were nominated under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha with unanimous decision of the 9th convention for three years terms from 2016. The New committee/board consists of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha - Chairperson, Associate Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota - Vice Chairman, Mr. Dharma Prasad Pandey – Secretary, Ms. Sunita Shrestha – Treasurer, Mr. Purna Bahadur Chemjong – Member, Mr. Dinesh Babu Thapa Magar - Member, Mr. Krishna Bahadur B.K. - Member (Farmers' representative), Ms. Madhu Shah – Member, Dr. Narayan Prasad Khanal – Member, Ms. Sabita Chepang – Member, and Ms. Maiya Giri- Member.

FORWARD Nepal's Half- Yearly Review workshop meeting

FORWARD Nepal's half-yearly program review and planning meeting was held on 11 February 2016 at its head office Kshetrapur, Chitwan. The main objective of the review meeting was to make critical review of on-going and phased out projects and make recommendations for future course of actions. The meeting focused on the discussion of progress, targeted activities and achievements of on-going projects from mid July 2015 to December 2015 as well as discussed on project related management and financial issues.

This type of review meetings are milestone for the progress of the organization, as the agendas discussed in the review meeting and brainstorming among the participants help to generate innovative ideas for the betterment of the society as a whole.

Significant meetings and Visits

1. GMP Project startup meeting was held at SAMARTH Office, Kathmandu on 1 February 2016.
2. Inception meeting of RWEE project was held at Dhulikhel, Kathmandu on 14 February 2016.
3. ELIVES project inception meeting was held at Hotel, Himalaya Kathmandu on 29 January 2016.
4. Stakeholders meeting of Community Seed Storage Construction and Livestock Shed Construction project was held at SAMARTH office Kathmandu on 12 February 2016.
5. Riverbed Farming alliance meeting was held at FORWARD Nepal contact office, Lalitpur on 17 March 2016.
6. WHH Country Director, Ms. Asja Hanano and Programme Director, Mathias Maggie visited Siddhi and Shaktikhor V.D.C of Chitwan on 30 March 2016 to observe the status of the communities where BMZ development projects are implemented.
7. HELVETAS team consisting of Smriti Neupane and Usha Dahal visited FORWARD Nepal's head office, Chitwan on 10 February 2016 to discuss about the implementation of second phase of COPILA project.

8. External Audit of Riverbed Farming Project and Multi stakeholder's forestry programme took place during the period.

Appreciation

Mr. Dinesh Babu Thapa Magar, Board Member was honoured with Letter of Appreciation in recognition of his commendable contribution and participation in the various programmes of FORWARD Nepal at the 19th General Assembly of the organization. The Letter of Appreciation was presented by Mr. Binod Prakash Singh, Chief District Officer, Chitwan, and the Chief Guest in the assembly.



19th General Assembly



MoU between FORWARD Nepal & AFU at Hotel Royal Century, Chitwan



GMP Inception Workshop at Kathmandu