



# FORWARD Nepal Brief

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August - November 2016

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### FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 9<sup>th</sup> issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from August to November 2016. During the period, the project activities were executed smoothly, and some projects have been phased out. The projects completed during the period are as (i) DFID/SAMARTH-NMDP funded two projects namely "Community Grain Storage Facility and Seed Bank" and "Livestock Sheds Construction" where 600 livestock sheds and 5 community grain storage facility and seed bank structures were constructed, (ii) Community Practice in Schools for Learning Climate Change Adaptation (COPIA) project, which was implemented in three government schools and riverbed farming groups in Banke district with funding from HELVETAS Swiss Inter cooperation Nepal. Besides, socioeconomic study on maize production and evaluation and dissemination of the nutrition expert tool based on farmer typologies in eastern Terai of Nepal program was also completed during this period. A new project entitled "Youth Empowerment (YE) has been initiated with the purpose of lobby advocacy on girls and young women issues of economic empowerment and stopping gender based violence, as well as promoting employment for young women. Similarly, other two projects have been initiated. With the financial support from Plan International, "Child Centered Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM)" project has been started in Morang and Sunsari districts. The CCDRM project aims to strengthen the capacity of communities and schools for disaster risk management. DFID/ICARDA funded project "Enhancing food nutritional security and improved livelihoods through intensification of rice-fallow system with pulse crops in south Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal and India)" has also been initiated. Besides, a collaborative work has begun initiated with DAI, Europe for Monitoring and Verification of Community Development Programme.

### Major activities during the period (Aug-Nov 2016)

- The Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE) Programme distributed second and third lot of Cash for Asset (CFA) upon construction of productive assets. Beneficiary women received NRs. 2,655,688 in Sindhuli, NRs. 1,968,718 in Sarlahi, and NRs. 2,021,980.00 in Rautahat districts (NRs. 6,646,386 in total). The amount was calculated depending on the valuated amount of unskilled work to the laborers.
- Three community agriculture extension centers (CAESCs), 75 small irrigation schemes, and 16 fish ponds were constructed in Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts through RWEE programme.
- Under Building Community Enterprises of Small-holders in Bangladesh and Nepal (BCES) project, one pipe irrigation scheme has been completed in Kaule VDC, Chitwan, with considerable contribution from community members, benefiting 18 farmers. Similarly, the

construction activities for two collection centers are also underway - more than halfway to completion.

- The BCES project supported the beneficiaries with vegetable seeds (mini-kits) and agricultural tools/materials as a start-up support. Similarly, resource farmers have received resource materials to strengthen the resource farm as a demonstration plot. Besides, a baseline survey with structured questionnaire was conducted with 115 sampled-households (about 5% of the total beneficiary households), selected through random sampling method.
- The Community Resilience (CR) project organized two workshops for sharing the baseline survey results and community action plan, with a total of 114 participants from Letang- Bhogateni Municipality-7, Kirtiman, Morang and Barahachhetra VDC, Sunsari.
- Under CR project, Project level National Children Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Likewise, orientation program was also carried out for teachers on School Implement Plan (SIP) and extracurricular activities planning for Disaster Risk Management, so as to design and implement those activities in the schools.
- The CR project conducted various capacity building trainings/workshops as 22 Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Committee (CBDRMC) members capacitated on community-based disaster risk management, 48 participants (above the age of 16 years) on basic first aid, 53 interested farmers on vegetable farming along with seed and equipment support, and 41 interested farmers on mushroom cultivation.
- Formation of Market Planning Committees (MPCs), market management training to leader farmers and cooperative members, business literacy class for semi-literate women farmers and service providers (4,800 HHs), and initial facilitator training were conducted under Enhancing Livelihoods of Smallholders (ELIVES) project in Central Terai Districts.
- The ELIVES project trained the goat rearing group members on breeding, animal health, animal shed management, and feed and forage management to improve goat farming practices. Moreover, Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) training, castration, dipping and drenching and PPR campaign, demonstration of improved shed (stilted shed), and fodder / forage plantation / demo on common land have also been implemented in Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari districts.
- Under "Enhancing quality standards of raw milk: Validation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in the supply chain" project, 5,400 farmers (45% women) have been trained on clean milk production. Besides, 250 dairy personnel working at CCs and Milk Cooperative Centers (MCCs) have been capacitated on hygienic milk handling, storage and transport.

- Dairy-GMP pocket survey was conducted in Bara, Makwanpur, Kavre, Tanahun, and Nawalparasi districts from 10-14<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

## Staffing

### Staff termination/resignation

- Er. Jeewan Raj Chaudhary effectively completed his tenure as District Coordinator for RWEE project effective from 31 October 2016.
- Mr. Diwas Khanal, Mr. Prem Lal Jaiswal, Mr. Manoj Kumar Sutihar, and Mr. Ram Pukar Prasad successfully accomplished their assigned roles and responsibilities in the RWEE program by 25 October 2016.
- Mr. Santosh Adhikari's contract of employment as Information and Publication Officer discontinued, effective from 21 October 2016.
- Mr. Pradeep Lamichhane resigned from the post of Field Officer (Bara) under the ELIVES project effective from 19 October 2016.
- Ms. Yamuna Dulal, an Admin Assistant, completed her tenure on the RWEE program from 17 September 2016.
- Ms. Kiran Kunwar has successfully completed her tenure on the COPILA Project from 14 August 2016.
- Mr. Prasanta Nepal, Mr. Jhapta Bahadur Basnet and Ms. Tilrupa Rana Magar successfully accomplished their assigned roles and responsibilities in the IPNI programme by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### New staff

- Mr. Jay Prakash Chaudhary joined the CCDRM project as Project Officer in Morang/Sunsari district.
- Mr. Deepak Paswan and Ms. Mana Maya Tamang joined as Social Mobilizer in the CCDRM project.
- Ms. Ashmita Baral has been appointed as Field Officer for ELIVES project in Rautahat district effective from 8 August 2016.

### Interns

- Mr. Shree Kumar Maharjan, Postgraduate student of Hiroshima University, Japan, successfully completed his three-month internship in FORWARD Nepal (August 25 to November 10, 2016).
- Ms. Louise Legein, Postgraduate student of Brussels University, Belgium, successfully completed her three-month internship (July 8- October 5, 2016) in FORWARD Nepal.

### News

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FORWARD Nepal and Hiroshima University, Japan has been renewed for the implementation of the Global Internship Program (G.ecbo Program). FORWARD Nepal has agreed to continue the acceptance of the

interns (graduate students) from Hiroshima University, and provides them the place in its Head Office or one of its ongoing projects.

- The 20<sup>th</sup> FORWARD Nepal Day was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 through organizing special events in FORWARD Nepal's Head Office, and plantation of religious/flowering tree saplings on the FORWARD's own land in Kalyanpur, Bharatpur Sub-Metropolitan city. The FORWARD Day celebration provided an opportunity for founder members, board members, members, and staff members to come together for joint celebration and exchange of warm wishes and thoughts. The auspicious event was traditionally inaugurated by FORWARD Nepal's Chairperson Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha through illumination of the lamp along with a minute of silence, which was followed by watering the flower pots and cutting the birthday cake. Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha acknowledged all for the outstanding contribution to establish FORWARD Nepal as the prominent organization of Nepal, working essentially in the field of agriculture.
- A Joint Mission Visit was made by representatives from the Government organizations, UN organizations (UN Women, FAO, WFP and IFAD), INGO, and NGO in Sindhuli and Rautahat districts (RWEE project sites) from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016. The team was led by Mr. Uttam Kumar Bhattarai, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and assisted by Mr. Ian Mc Donald, Program Director, World Food Program (WFP). The team observed deep boring site in Rautahat district and Community Agriculture Extension Service Centre (CAESC) and Cash for Assets (CFA) distribution in Sindhuli district. During the visit, Mr. Surya Prasad Poudel, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture (DOA); Ms. Bidya Pandey and Mr. Indra Hari Poudel, Under Secretary, MoAD; Ms. Meenu Hada, Program Officer, WFP; Dr. Binod Saha, Assistant Country Representative, and Mr. Shrawan Adhikari, Program Officer, FAO Nepal; Ms. Miyo Yokota, Program Specialist, and Ms. Rachana Bhattarai, Program Officer, UNWOMEN; and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Program Manager, including field team of FORWARD Nepal were present. The visit was encouraging to the stakeholders where government realized the need and scope of CAESC, and all United Nations agencies appreciated the works of RWEE Program.
- Five community seed bank and grain storage facility buildings constructed one each in AGRA VDC, Phurke of Thaha Municipality, Hatiya and Padampokhari of Hetauda Municipality and Chhatiwan VDC were handed over to the cooperatives in September 2016. Representative from DFID, SAMARTH-NMDP, DADO, Makwanpur and FORWARD Nepal were present in the programme.

### Trainings/Workshops/Conferences

- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, participated on third phase of training entitled "How to become an exceptional civil society leader", organized by CSA-WHH in Bangkok from 23 to 27 August. The training was very much useful for the organizational capacity building and development of strategic programme planning, long-term vision, goals and policies.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELIVES project staff attended leadership training from 9-12 August 2016 at Kathmandu.</li> <li>• Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Programme Director participated in USAID Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers Project in Hyatt Regency at Kathmandu on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016.</li> <li>• Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in National workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) at Kathmandu during 12-14 September 2016, and presented a paper “Piloting of Nutrient Expert Tool in Rice, Wheat and Maize: FORWARD Nepal’s Experience in the Eastern Terai.</li> <li>• ELIVES project partners’ meeting was held at Chapur, Rautahat on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, and the project progress, planning, financial and some administrative issues were reviewed in the meeting for smooth functioning of the project.</li> <li>• Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director participated in the Riverbed Farming Alliance meeting at Kathmandu on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016.</li> <li>• Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Planning Director, participated in the Tropentag 2016 - an international conference on “Solidarity in a competing world - fair use of resources” in Vienna, Austria from 18 to 21 September 2016. Dr. Tiwari presented a poster entitled “Promoting Green Economy in Hill Areas of Nepal”. The presentation covered mainly the activities and achievements/impacts of the SIFS and Green Economy projects in Chitwan district. A paper has been published in the Conference Proceedings.</li> <li>• Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager participated in the MTR debriefing meeting of WFP at Kathmandu on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.</li> <li>• A ToT training on GMP practices was organized from 24-26 October 2016 in Hetauda where representatives from 13 milk cooperatives of Makwanpur, Bara and Chitwan districts participated. The objective of the training was to capacitate the cooperatives for GMP implementation in raw milk.</li> <li>• A one-day workshop on “Baseline Information Sharing and Progress Updates on Validation of GMP Standards in the Raw Milk Supply Chain of Nepal” was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at Yak palace, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The objective of the workshop was to share key findings of the baseline study and progress achieved from six GMP validation pilot sites. The event was chaired by Dr. Keshav Premy, Director General of the Department of Livestock Services. Representatives (75 participants) from different organizations, key stakeholders, participated in the workshop.</li> <li>• Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Program Manager, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari, Monitoring Officer, and Ms. Ashmita Pandey, Program Officer, participated in the training “Core Humanitarian Standards and Accountability” organized by WHH from 2 to 4 October 2016 in Lalitpur. The objective of a training was to capacitate trainees on core humanitarian standards and its guiding principles.</li> <li>• Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Program Director, FORWARD Nepal participated in the Regional Consultation workshop for CIMMYT-SRFSI project in New Delhi, India (16-18</li> </ul>	<p>November 2016), and contributed technical inputs for the development of Phase II scaling out the project.</p> <p><b>Meetings and Visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FORWARD Nepal’s annual program review and planning meeting was held during 27-28 October 2016 at Hotel Image, Chitwan. The objective of a meeting was to have a comprehensive review of continuing projects, and make necessary recommendations for future progression. The meeting gave critical insights into the progress made against previous year plan, challenges faced, and project milestones through deliberately set presentations and a series of discussions. The review meeting also focused on administrative and financial issues. Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director presented the procurement procedure guidelines, to be followed by the organization and its projects, and also briefed the responsibilities of concerned staff for its execution. Besides, the summary of phased out and pipeline projects were also shared among the participants. There was a lively discussion among the participants on various important issues.</li> <li>• A team comprising Ms. Srijana Rana, Agriculture Portfolio Manager of Samarth-NMD, Mr. Sijan Mainali, Sector Analyst of Samarth NMDP, and Mr. Narayan Devkota, President of Central Cooperative Association Limited Nepal visited GMP pilot sites to assess the progress in the implementation of GMP, and interact with market actors to explore possibilities for branding of milk products. The visit was joined by the FORWARD team as Dr. Krishna Paudel, Team Leader, GMP Validation Project, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, and Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Planning Director.</li> <li>• Executive Director (Netra Pratap Sen), Planning Director (Ujjal Tiwari) and Monitoring Officer (Krishna Bahadur Bhandari) along with District line Agencies - DADO and DLSO of Makwanpur District visited the community grain storage facility and seed bank and livestock sheds construction projects in Makwanpur district on 24 November 2016. The key districts stakeholder organizations are satisfied with the progress on the two post-quake recovery projects implemented by FORWARD Nepal.</li> <li>• A monitoring team from WHH - Ms. Anya, Regional Director, Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director, and Mr. Surendra Gautam, Program Manager visited Kalika Municipality-3, Chitwan on November 27, 2016. The visit team was accompanied by Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal and the BCES project team. The major objective of the visit was to have depth insights into the progress of the project, ensuring its direction towards the expected outcomes. The visit was followed by a debriefing meeting at FORWARD Nepal’s Head Office, through which some constructive feedback on the project performance was received from WHH team.</li> <li>• The IPNI staff along with DADOs of Jhapa and Morang districts and students from A&amp;FU and IAAS, Lamjung visited to nutrient fertilizer management activities in Bihar, India from 9 to 10 September 2016. The visit was organized by IPNI South Asia Office, Delhi.</li> </ul>
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- The RWEE project site office in Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat has been closed after completion of project from November 2016.
- A series of meetings were held with DAI-USA, CNFA, and Chemonics at different dates in September 2016, concerning to the upcoming KISAN II project collaboration/ partnership in response to RFP of USAID.
- Chief Executive Officer and Regional Asia Director from Fintrac, USA visited FORWARD Nepal on 12 September 2016 in connection to upcoming KISAN II project. Likewise, a team from CNFA, USA made a visit to FORWARD Nepal on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to explore the possibilities of partnership for the same project.
- In the context of phasing out of the projects implemented in the mid-western and far western regions, Banke office has been closed since November 10, 2016. Office furniture and other old stuff have been donated to Krishi Cooperative of Bajapur and GATE Nepal.

### Upcoming major events

- Participation in the workshop on Preparedness on Effective Emergency Response (PEER) at Kathmandu (6-9 December 2016).
- Participation in the riverbed farming alliance meeting at LWF, Kathmandu (6 December 2016).
- Participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of NMDP on December 7, 2016 in Kathmandu.
- Participation in the seminar on celebrating the pulses in SAARC region in Dhaka Bangladesh (8-9 December 2016).
- Visit of Swedish delegation to RWEE program, Sindhuli district.
- Participation in the IFAD/ ICARDA project inception workshop in Delhi on December 13-16, 2016.
- Consultation workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Kathmandu on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- End-line survey under GMP project to assess the project outcomes and impacts.
- Visit of Dr. TP Tiwari, Country Representative, CIMMYT-Bangladesh on 23-24 December 2016.
- Annual Review and planning workshop of BCES project from January 22-24, 2017.
- End line survey workshop of GMP in January at Kathmandu.
- Joint monitoring visit of officials from DLS, SAMARTH/ DFID and other project stakeholders to GMP project in Bara and Makwanpur districts in December 2016.
- Workshop on CRM at Kathmandu on 31 January 2017.
- Publication of Annual Report 2015/16
- Audit report for 2072/73 (B.S.)
- Renewal of FORWARD Nepal's registration at the DAO, Chitwan.
- 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in December 2016.
- Foundation laying of FORWARD Nepal's office building – January 2017



Participants at sharing of the baseline report.



Joint Mission Visit to RWEE project sites



Celebration on 20<sup>th</sup> FORWARD Nepal day



WHH field monitoring visit to BCES project sites