

Project: Addressing food security through the identification of farmer preferred crop varieties and by strengthening local seed supply system in the rural communities of western Nepal

Project area: Tanahun district

Project Period: November 2003 - June 2006

Target group: *Immediate target group:* 8 Seed Management Groups (SMGs)

Ultimate target group: 145 farmers

Partners: National Agricultural Research and Development Fund (NARDF) Nepal

Project goal: Contribute to food security through identification of farmer preferred crop varieties and by strengthening local seed supply system in the rural communities

Key activities and Implementation modalities

The project implemented the activities in coordination with government line agencies and collaboration with farmers for enhancing farmer's technical capabilities and organizational set up for improved seed production, market management, and increased availability and accessibility to appropriate improved seed varieties

The main activities were providing trainings and sensitizing the farmers on the importance of improved seeds and group planning, field demonstrations of various technologies, quality seed production and marketing, and promotion of community based seed production system.

Major Achievements

- Eight SMGs comprising 145 farmers (61 females) formed
- Farmer's group members trained and sensitized on the importance of improved seeds and involved in group planning, field trial implementation, seed production and monitoring of field activities and each group prepared own program plan for the cropping periods
- 22 leader farmers empowered on quality seed production and marketing through training, visit and interaction with various stakeholders
- Some PVS in maize, rice, wheat, bold seeded lentil varieties, mung bean varieties identified and kept in community based production system
- Dissemination of PVS to other areas of district through seed production demonstrations in the Agriculture Service Centers of DADO
- 100 farmers and six shopkeepers trained on seed production and management; Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; seed technology; Integrated Pest Management; Integrated Plant Nutrient Management Systems, and market management of different crops varieties through on-the-field coaching

Outcome/Impact

Despite the marginality and poverty of farm communities and seasonality of the food crops, 80% of the participating farmers started saving 50% of the produced seeds and seed flow through farmers to farmers networking and five local shopkeepers initiated seed marketing to nearby farm communities.
