

Project: Market Access for Smallholder Farmers (MASF)

Project area: Chitwan

Project Period: July 2010 – March 2012

Target group: *Immediate target group:* 56 cooperatives, 115 farmer's groups (FG)

Ultimate target group: 3520 households of dairy farmers

Partners: DFID, Practical Action Nepal, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nimbus, Sitaram Gokul, NARC, DLSO, DADO and Nepal Livestock Breeding Center (NLBC)

Project goal: Reducing poverty by achieving sustainable increase in income of smallholder dairy farmers

Key activities and Implementation modalities

Project was implemented in four districts in lead of Practical Action Nepal and FORWARD implemented program in Chitwan district in collaboration with ILRI, Nimbus and Sitaram Gokul and in partnership with NARC, DLSO and DADO.

The main activities included capacity building of smallholder dairy farmers, group leaders and cooperative members through training, learning meetings, model farm demonstration; support farmers through innovative extension program, especially for local marginalized and other youths for enterprises; Institutional management and technical capacity enhancement of key actors of milk market; and develop mechanisms for environmental sustainability

Major Achievements

- 115 FGs formed involving 3,520 households
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of farmers through training as
 - 3046 farmers in basic livestock management and safe dairy waste management
 - 978 group leaders and cooperative members in saving and credit and good governance
 - 26 demonstrations on improved dairy farming
 - 147 farmers gained knowledge in safe dairy waste management
 - Forty youths selected through dairy cooperatives were trained in enterprise development
- Organized 209 events of "learning meeting under a tree" (Dairy Chautari) among farmers and agro-vets
- Three dairy cooperatives established dairy animal resource centres
- Organized 14 animal health camps, 6 demonstrations on forage cultivation, and 3 vaccination camps
- Supported equipment to 40 cooperatives and one chilling center
- Supported seasonal forage seed
- 68 ultra-poor and Dalit community members purchased dairy cows from seed money
- 2371 animals insured by 15 cooperatives
- 3 Joint disaster risk management plan developed
- 3 exposure visits to commercial dairy farms, fodder and forage cultivation
- Forage Hand Book Publication (500 copies)

Impact

Contributed in sustainable increase in income of smallholder dairy farmers as number of commercial farmers and area of forage cultivation increased, AI and new veterinary services started, Small dairy enterprises joined in dairy value chain, dairy farmers got access to collection centers, farmers used Urine as manure and repellent for crop and forage production and community people controlled free grazing animals in river bank plantation area.
