

Project: Promotion of Rainfed Rabi cropping in eastern, central and western Terai of Nepal

Project area: Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, Siraha, Kapilbastu

Project Period: October 2002 - June 2006

Target group: *Immediate target group:* 57 self-help groups consisting of 1,013 members

Partners: CAZS Natural Resources (CAZS-NR), National Grain Legumes Research Program (NGLRP), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs), Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Project goal: To promote suitable technological and resource management options for the sustainable intensification of rice-fallows

Key activities and Implementation modalities

The project employed a system-based participatory research and development approach where the activities were reshaped based on the feedback from the experiential learning cycles.

The key activities included participatory variety selection (PVS), strengthening community based seed system for producing seeds of wide range of crops including rice, chickpea, lentil, mungbean, pigeon pea and scaling up of the farmer preferred crop varieties through Informal Research and Development (IRD), validation and promotion of resource management options, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Plant Nutrient Management System (IPNMS), Integrated Crop Management (ICM), development of Local Resource Persons (LRPs), establishment and strengthening of agro-forestry nurseries, and sensitization about regenerative energy for the sustainability of the system.

Achievements

- Multipurpose nurseries and plantation: Six multi-purpose nurseries were established
- Participatory Varietal Selection on rice in shallow banded rainfed system and intermediate deep water regime
- Participatory Varietal Selection on chickpea, lentil, pea, Mungbean
- Chickpea pod borer management
- Adaptive demonstration on buckwheat and Niger
- Integrated nutrient management on chickpea & field pea
- Seed priming on Mungbean, chickpea and lentil
- Mixed cropping of chickpea and coriander
- Pigeon pea and cowpea on paddy bunds
- Adaptive observation on horsegram

Impact

The project created enormous impact in the household income and livelihoods of poor farm communities by increasing the accessibility of technological and resource management options. After the adoption of RRC technologies, the income of farmers increased by 200 to 300%.
