

Project: Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) in South Asia

Project area: Chitwan district

Project Period: November 2011 - December 2014

Target group: *Immediate target group:* 70 farmer groups, 3 cooperatives, 3 market management committees (MMC)
Ultimate target group: 1,513 poor farm-households

Partners: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Himalayan Bio-dynamic Development Trust (HBDT), Coffee Promotion Program, Helvetas Nepal, WHH in Ranchi (India), PGS Farmers' Association and Keystone Foundation, India.

Project goal: To contribute in improved food and nutrition security and poverty reduction of the most vulnerable sections of the rural households through increasing agricultural production and enhancing market access of agricultural produce for rural households.

Key activities and Implementation modalities:

SIFS in South Asia project had been implemented in Nepal, Bangladesh and India; and as the lead implementing agency FORWARD had implemented the project in Nepal with HBDT as partner in coordination with DADO, DLSO, DDC, VDCs, NGO Federation, DFO, NGOs.

The main activities were:

- 70 farmer groups, including 1,513 farm-households & three market management committees formed
- Organized training on: Model farm design, SIFS model, LANN, participatory guarantee systems, group mobilization, leadership development and different technical trainings to the farmers and local resource persons
- Local resource centre developed and supported it
- Capacity building of farmers on commercial vegetable farming, cattle rearing, cooperatives, market centre development, study and orientation on livestock feeding management, nutrition awareness, livestock health campaigns, market exposure and exchange visit
- Supported various inputs to the farmers (seeds, seedlings, saplings, irrigation materials, cattle shed construction materials, Burdizzo Castrato, buck, piglets, fingerlings); conservation oriented home gardening and high value commodity promotion, promotion of biogas technology; Community Facility Centre Development; Bio-Dynamic Preparation materials and to adopt the Internal Control System (ICS)
- Value chain development workshops for agricultural commodities and non-timber forest products (NTFPs),

Major Achievements:

- Farmers in all 70 groups identified their own resources and planned to solve the problems by utilizing such resources through community micro-planning and self monitored
- Development of resource farmers and demonstration plots helped to wheel-up the self-run capacity building activities and technology adoption in the communities.
- The diversified farm products and orientation to the farmers about the nutrition requirement brought changes in the consumption habit to more than 50% of the targeted households.
- Increased farmer access to the market and a good network with buyers helped farmers to sell locally available farm produces in local markets
- 26 farmer groups have been registered in DADO
- Innovative technologies such as Bio-dynamic farming, organic farming, liquid fertilizer, potato farming in the sack, kitchen fishery, tomato farming in the plastic tunnel, crossbreeding of local goat with Jamunapari buck are locally adapted and have been acknowledged by the district level institutions as good practices

Outcome/Impact:

Increased agricultural productivity contributed to improved food security of the targeted households and farmers, who were only subsistence prior to the project, are now selling the farm produces in the market resulting to increased income.
