



FORWARD Nepal Brief

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 12th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from November 2017 to March 2018. During the period, one project has been phased out, and one project has been started. The "Advocacy Campaign for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality in Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sindhuli" project funded by Equal Access International/UN Women Organization has been completed. The new project entitled "Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Areas (SEDRA)" in collaboration with Business and Finance Consulting (BFC), Switzerland with fund from KfW Development Bank, Germany has been started. The SEDRA project will be implemented mainly to support and develop Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the rural areas of Nepal. The Annual Report (FY 2016-17) of FORWARD Nepal has been published. The Annual General Assembly (AGM) of FORWARD Nepal was also conducted on March 17, 2018, followed by a family picnic program on the next day.

Major project activities during the period

- Representatives of Development Voyage Pvt. Ltd. (DVPL), Mr. Tulsi Giri and FORWARD Nepal, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal made a three-day visit (20-22 March 2018) to the Building Community Enterprises of Small-holders in Bangladesh and Nepal (BCES) project sites in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality 1 & 2 and Kalika Municipality 8, 9, 10 & 11, to explore the feasibilities of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) implementation (IT-platform/app based agricultural extension and marketing/selling) in collaboration with Development Voyage. It is recommended that PGS implementation is possible in those communities and suggested to work initially with 500-600 farmers in all three Community Enterprise (CE) locations which are potential for organic produce. The process starts up with the data-management and analysis of farmers through IT-platform.
- Lahan Municipality Mayor, Mr. Muni Shah and Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Sariyar Chaudhary

along with ward Chiefs, Agriculture Officers, Community Based Seed Producer (CBSP) members, and farmers participated in the lentil crop monitoring visit at Siswani, Sirha on March 17, 2018. The Mayor expressed for the future support to lentil growers for expansion of lentil area and solve the genuine problems faced by them.

- Lentil farmers' field days were organized under IFAD/ICARDA project at Sisbani, Pokherbhinda and Gada of Lahan Municipality, Siraha District; 141 farmers (48% women) participated in the events. The participants were highly influenced by the standing crop in Cluster Demonstrations (CDs) and expressed that lentil technology package used in CDs have shown their superiority over existing farmers' practices.
- Kachahari Drama was organized under 'Sahi-ho! Campaign' in three districts namely Sarlahi (February 12), Sindhuli (February 14), and Rautahat (February 15) in participation of District Coordination Committee (DCC), municipalities, line agencies, NGOs, media personnel and beneficiaries of the women led agriculture groups. The drama sensitized the stakeholders on the existing problem of women in agriculture such as discrimination in wages, lack of access of market, feminization of women in agriculture, structural barriers, decision making, gender equality and bridging the gap between women led agriculture groups, local bodies, and district level stakeholders as well. Additionally, 12 women leaders from three project districts were trained on Mobile Video Recording to raise their voices to media and local authorities.
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Country Office Nepal organized a trip to Kalika-10 and Ichhakamana 1&2 during February 8-9, 2018. Ms. Friederike Group (Thomas Cook), Ms. Patricia Niewels and Mr. Surendra Gautam

(WHH), visited the BCES project sites to gain insights into the project at ground level and find out the areas for possible fund raising. The team interacted with the farmers groups, resource farmer, and committee members of community enterprises in Kalika-10 and Ichhakamana-2, Tallo Kaule. They monitored the project outputs at the community level.

- An inter-project observation visit was organized from February 3-4, 2018 to the BCES project sites, implemented by CEAPRED in Salyan District. The BCES team from FORWARD Nepal participated in the visit. The objectives of the visit were to have insights into the working modality of Community Enterprise, Collection Center and resource farms and also to exchange the field learnings. The team visited enterprise sites, collection centers, spices enterprise, integrated farms, and seed production sites and drawn good impression of it.
- Artificial Insemination (AI) training in goats was organized at Regional Livestock Training Centre, Duhabi, Biratnagar during January 25-30, 2018 to capacitate 11 JT/JTAs who have been doing AI in large animals.
- Under the Enhancing Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in the Central Terai Districts (ELIVES project), a joint monitoring visit was made by a team comprised of Dr. Salil Bhattarai (Team Leader, ELIVES project, ADRA), Mr. Lalit Chaudhary (Finance Officer, ADRA), Mr. Ganesh Gurung, (PC, ADRA) and Dr. R. P. Thakur (PC, FORWARD) on January 14-17, 2018 to all ELIVES districts.
- A team of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) conducted the mid-term evaluation (field visit) of the Building Community Enterprises of Smallholder Farmers (BCES) project in Chitwan on January 10, 2018. Mr. Kapil Pokhrel led the team including Mr. Shashidhar Sharma, SWC, Mr. Jyoti Prakash Pandey, a Finance Expert, Mr. Ram Babu Adhikari, Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), and Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Welthungerhilfe (WHH). The team visited the community enterprise in Kalika-8, Gairibari, Chitwan and interacted with the community enterprise management committee. The team also reviewed the

financial system and vouchers of the BCES project.

- Under the Resilient Girl project, a disaster risk management planning training was organized to communities and local government representatives on January 09-11, 2018 in Itahari, Sunsari.
- ELIVES project organized a refresher training entitled "Practical solutions for prevention and treatment of prevalent goat diseases based on the laboratory diagnosis" for 19 Veterinary and Animal Health Workers (VAHWs) in Regional Livestock Training Center, Janakpur on December 24-27, 2017.
- A training was conducted on riverbed farming to 60 farmers (3 farmer groups) with technical support from the local resource person (Mr. Ananda Prasad Chaudhary) on December 25, 2017 at Suranga Municipality, Saptari.
- School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) comprising of school teachers, students, School Management Committee (SMC) was formed at Sharada Secondary School, Urlabari (December 14-15, 2017) to manage all kinds of disaster management activities in the school. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) were also present in the program.
- The BCES project organized a market and financial management training for the management committee members and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) of Collection Centers (CC) and Community Enterprises (CE) of Ichhakamana Rural Municipality and Kalika Municipality from February 17-18, 2018. The objective of the training was to acquaint participants on book keeping processes, market and financial management and also develop concrete strategic plans for smooth operation of CC/CEs. The training was facilitated by experienced facilitator Mr. Ram Chandra Subedi, Branch Manager, Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), Bharatpur Branch, GoN, Mr. Hari Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of Market Development Committee and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Program Manager, FORWARD Nepal. The participants also visited two successful agri-

cooperatives functioning as envisioned by the project.

- An orientation meeting at Multi-purpose Cooperative (MPC) Building in Sukhaura-Ddhamaura Gaduraha, Rautahat was held to familiarize the elected body of Gujara Municipality- Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and respective ward chairperson about the existing ELIVES project activities in the area.
- WHH Country Office Nepal and FORWARD Nepal organized a three-day training on February 26-28, 2018 to enumerators and project team for mobile based data collection in Gaindakot, Nawalpur. The enumerators had collected data from the BCES project sites (Ichhakamana 1&2 and Kalika-8, 9, 10&11) for the mid-term review of the BCES project.
- Technical training to entrepreneurs/farmers were conducted under different projects in various districts for technical capacity development of farmers, e.g. mushroom cultivation training (November 20, 2018) to 23 farmers in Kalika Municipality 8 & 9, Chitwan, the spot training on lentil production (rhizobium inoculation and weed, disease & fertilizer management) to 300 farmers of 13 clusters in Siraha district during November 2017 to February 2018.
- Under IFAD/ICARDA supported project, 25 backpack sprayers were handed over to lentil cluster demonstration groups (CDGs) in Siraha district. The groups contributed 25% costs of sprayers. The group members were also trained on the safe use of pesticides for the management of stemphyllium blight disease in lentil.
- Under the ELIVES project, an exposure visit was organized for goat Multi-purpose Cooperatives to Goat Resource Centers in Ladavir VDC of Sindhuli district. The main objective of the visit was to know the modalities of operating goat collection centers. This visit was useful for operators of goat resource centers to share learnings from others who have been doing such business successfully.
- The Girls Act Project organized a two-day training on sexual and reproductive rights to

the teachers of 20 schools on February 27-28, 2018. The training focused on sexual and reproductive health rights to adolescent girls and boys in school sector, gender equality, women in development sector and other various topics. Similarly, 55 adolescent girls and young women were empowered through various vocational trainings as computer, beauty parlor, sewing/cutting, boutique, etc.

Trainings/Workshops/Meetings

- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Dr. Ram Pukar Thakur, and Mr. Durga Bahadur Basnet participated in the closing workshop of "Enhancing Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in the Central Terai of Nepal (ELIVES)" project on March 28, 2018 in Kathmandu.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the workshop on "Strengthening National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Nepal" organized by NARC on March 21-22, 2018 and presented the paper entitled "The role of civil society organization in NARS".
- Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi Participated in the training on Learning Sharing and Capacity Building on Financial Management from March 21-24, 2018, organized by Practical Action. The subject matter of workshop included administration and financial guideline of LINGO, internal control, donor compliance, financial reporting, fund forecast, and prevention and detection of fraud.
- Mr. Suraj Sharma participated in the training entitled "Ensuring sustainability of I/NGO in Changed Context of Federalism with Best Practices", which was organized by Biz Hub Consultancy at Hotel Himalayan, Kupandole, Lalitpur on March 08, 2018. The training dealt with the tax, legal compliance for I/NGO and sound management systems.
- Ms. Sakchha Subedi participated in a two-day training on Front Desk Handling Skills from March 3-4, 2018 organized by HR Development center. The main objective of the training was to equip the participants with the most up-to-date ideas and easy-to-use techniques applied while handling front desk

duties and develop self-motivation and confidence to perform proactively in variety of workplace situations.

- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the National Workshop & Expert Elicitation on Lentil Productivity & Profitability in Nepal on February 20-21, 2018 organized by CIMMYT and NARC in Nepalgunj. The workshop was attended by national and international organizations- NARC, DOA, private sectors, and NGOs involved in the lentil research and development in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the meeting organized by Kalika Municipality on February 02, 2018 to all the NGOs working in the area. Executive Officer of Kalika Municipality shared the current regulation of NGOs to work in approval and coordination with local authority. FORWARD Nepal team presented the progress of BCES project in the meeting. A NGO profile development committee was formed, including FORWARD Nepal as a team member, during the meeting.
- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the training "Translating Science into Policy and Practice" organized by the Agriculture for Food Security 2030 (AgriFOSe2030) in Bangkok, Thailand on January 22-27, 2018. The training course covered the topics as understanding of the policy landscape, research policy linkages, different models for policy engagement and knowledge exchange, hands-on tools and skills for effective research to policy communication, sharing of experiences and lessons on best practices in communicating research outputs, and strengthen networks for policy influence in Asian agriculture.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the four-day training on "Asia Program Design" during January 15-19, 2018 organized by the Civil Society Academy (CSA). The training was conducted to capacitate participants from different countries (Nepal, Cambodia, Myanmar, India and Afghanistan) on program design for making progress towards ending hunger and poverty in Asia. The major training topics included result chain, log-frame and theory of change, M&E system and

tools, management styles, facilitation process, etc.

- WHH Bangladesh organized a multi-country annual review and planning workshop of the BCES project in Netrakona and Sylhet, Bangladesh on January 01-06, 2018 in participation of four partners- two from Nepal as FORWARD Nepal and CEAPRED, and two from Bangladesh as FIVDB and Anando. Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Ms. Ashmita Pandey, and Mr. Suraj Sharma participated in the program. The workshop agendas comprised of the learning sharing event of the past year, field visit, project documentation and future planning sessions.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in Market Development Forum Nepal (MDFN)'s conference on State Restructuring and Innovations in Market System Development held in Lalitpur, Nepal on December 19, 2017.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the NARC organized "Lessons Sharing workshop" at Bakhundole on December 18, 2017. The loss of indigenous plant genetic materials in the aftermath of the 2015-earthquake was discussed in details. Actions initiated by Nepal Agricultural Research Council for the rescue of indigenous landraces were highlighted in the workshop.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the 21st General Assembly meeting of MDFN held at Mercy Corps Nepal office. The key focus of the 21st General Assembly meeting was on the organization and management of the MDFN Conference scheduled on December 13, 2017.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the central coordination committee meeting of the ELIVES project ADRA Nepal office on December 13, 2017. In the meeting, the progress of the project was updated and intervention points were prepared for the completion of targeted activities in time.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the consultation meeting organized by ADB Skills Development Project on November 27, 2017

and shared FORWARD Nepal's' experience in farmer's capacity building and their skill development on agro/livestock business enterprises.

- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen participated in a strategic planning meeting for Global Agri-tech Pvt. Ltd on December 24-25, 2018 at Godawari, Lalitpur.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Mr. Purna Bahadur Chemjong, Board member participated in the workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) organized by MOAD/LIBIRD on November 09, 2017 in Kathmandu. The findings from the CSA survey implemented by LIBIRD were shared among participants.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in a meeting held at Swiss Contact, Lalitpur on January 05, 2018 to explore the possibility of collaboration in writing project proposal for post recovery project. FORWARD Nepal's experiences in implementation of the construction projects in the aftermath of earthquake were presented in the meeting.

Staffing

Staff termination/resignation

- Ms. Anupama Katuwal resigned from the post of Project Accountant under the Girls Act Project effective from January 31, 2018.
- Ms. Ashmita Baral resigned from the post of Field Officer (Rautahat) under the ELIVES project effective from January 15, 2018 for further study.
- Mr. Kirty Sasmit Joshi resigned from the post of Admin and Procurement Officer effective from January 13, 2018 and joined with WHO.
- Mr. Shree Ram Chaudhary resigned from the post of Admin Assistant effective from January 11, 2018 and started beekeeping business.
- Mr. Bharat Lal Shrestha resigned from the post of Office Boy effective from January 05, 2018 and have started the Tempo service business.

- Ms. Laxmi Singh Thakuri resigned from the post of Cook effective from January 05, 2018.
- Ms. Renuka Neupane resigned from the post of Field Facilitator under the BCES project effective from November 14, 2017.

New staff

- Mr. Shova Ram Devkota joined as a Field Facilitator for the ELIVES project, based in Rautahat effective from February 09, 2018.
- Mr. Pankaj Chaudhary joined as Project Accountant for the Girls Act Project based in Morang effective from February 02, 2018.
- Mr. Dharma Raj Mahato joined as Cook in the Head Office effective from January 08, 2018.
- Mr. Pramesh Bade joined as a Facilitation, Reporting and Monitoring Officer for the Advocacy Campaign for Women Empowerment & Gender Equality project based in Sarlahi, Rautahat and Sindhuli districts effective from December 01, 2017.
- Dr. Ram Pukar Thakur joined as a Project Coordinator for the ELIVES project, based in Rautahat effective from November 17, 2017.

Interns

- Ms. Yan Chen, MSc Development Policy student from Hiroshima University, Japan did her internship at FORWARD Nepal from February 22 to March 21, 2018. She was involved in the BCES project at Kalika-8, 9, 10 & 11. She did strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the two community enterprises (CEs).
- Ms. Rachana Khanal and Ms. Ashmita Shrestha, Bachelor's Social Work students from Millennium Model College, Bharatpur-10, Chitwan did their internship at FORWARD Nepal from February 01 to March 31, 2018. During the internship, Ms. Rachana Khanal visited Girls Act project sites in Morang district and Ms. Ashmita Shrestha visited Resilient Girls project sites in Sunsari district.

Guests

- A RTL Trainee, Juliana Schatzschneider visited the BCES project sites from February 20-23,

2018 to assess the impacts of the project activities.

- Prof. Dr. Shinji Kaneko from Hiroshima University (HU) visited FORWARD Head Office on March 14-16, 2018. He participated in the seminar organized by Ms. Yan Chen (Intern) to present her internship work. He also visited Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) on March 15, 2018 and discussed with key personnel for the potential partnership between HU and AFU.

News

- 21st Annual General Assembly of FORWARD Nepal was held on Saturday March 17, 2018 (2074/12/03 B.S.) at Sun City Hotel & Banquet, Bharatpur-2, Chitwan under the chair of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal. Mr. Krishna Kumar Dallakoti, Chief, District Coordination Committee of Chitwan was invited as chief guest in the program while representatives of local government, Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, President of Chitwan Chamber of Commerce & Industries, district line agencies, journalists of national and local media, Civil Society personnel were also present as guests. Dr. Chet Narayan Kharel, Senior Livestock Development Officer of District Livestock Service Office, Chitwan; Mr. Radheshyam Khatiwada, President, Federation of Nepali Journalists in Chitwan; Mr. Mitra Raj Dawadi, NARC Council Member and National Seed Board Member; Ward Chairman, Purna Bahadur Shrestha of Bharatpur Metropolitan City-2 and Mr. Krishna Kumar Dallakoti, Chief, District Coordination Committee, Chitwan had delivered Subhakamana speeches in the Program. Letters of Appreciation were also presented in the program to Associate Prof. Kalyani Mishra, AFU; Mr. Mitra Raj Dawadi, NARC Council Member and Dr. Keshav Babu Koirala, Coordinator, National Maize Research Program, NARC in recognition of delivering their important lectures on agriculture reporting to journalists organized jointly by Federation of Nepali Journalists in Chitwan and FORWARD Nepal. Letter of Appreciation was also presented to Mr. Toya Gautam, Professional Affiliated Member in recognition of his contribution in providing

professional inputs in the publication and documentation of FORWARD Nepal. A video recording of the "Advocacy Campaign for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality" "SAHI HO" was also showed in the AGM and appreciated by all. A brief introduction of FORWARD Nepal along with its projects success stories were presented through photo documentary.

Following the Inaugural Session, a meeting of FORWARD Nepal's members was held in the same venue where annual audit report and programs of last fiscal year 2016/17 and tentative budget and program for 2017/18 was discussed and endorsed by the AGM. Similarly, the five year strategic plan and its progress including future plans were shared in the program.

- Foundation of FORWARD Nepal's office building was laid in its own land at Bharatpur Metropolitan City-4, Anandapur with GURU Matra jointly by Chairperson and Founder Members. Board members, members and staff were present in the program.
- A picnic program was held at Aaptari – Jalpadevi Community Forest Park on 18 March 2018. There were about 100 participants in the program including staff, members and their spouses. The program was interactive and entertaining.

Upcoming Major Events for the period March-May 2018

- Delivery of 15 storage bins to the Village Based Seed Enterprise at Padharia, Lahan Municipality, Siraha district.
- Organization of women farmers training on value addition of pulses.
- Start of the SEDRA project (inception phase) in partnership with the BFC, Switzerland: desk study and field visit to identify/prioritize the good agricultural practices (GAPs) and effective farming technologies to be promoted by the SEDRA project.
- Submission of the project proposal to Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) for "Climate Change Risk and

Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation/Risk Reduction Plan Formulation in four Gaunpalikas and four Municipalities".

- Submission of the project proposal to International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for "Accelerating Climate Action: Social Equity and Empowerment of Women and Girls".
- Submission of the Project Completion Report (PCR) of the ELIVES project.



Lightening of Lamp by Mr. Krishna Kumar Dallakoti, Chief, District Coordination Committee of Chitwan (21st AGM of FORWARD Nepal)



Foundation laying of FORWARD office building, Bharatpur-4, Anandapur



FORWARD's Picnic program, Aaptari – Jaladevi Community Forest land



21st Annual General Assembly of FORWARD Nepal



Kachahari Drama under 'Sahi-ho! Campaign, Rautahat



Multi-country Annual Project Review and Planning Workshop, Bangladesh (BCES project)