



# FORWARD Nepal

## Bulletin – 18

July 17, 2019 – November 16, 2019

Patronage: Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director

Publication Committee: Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane  
Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal  
Ms. Ashmita Pandey

### FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 18th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019. During the period, "Rice-fallow system with pulse crops in South Asia (Bangladesh, India and Nepal)" project funded by IFAD/ICARDA was extended for one year from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019. In the reporting period, submission of project concept notes/project proposals has been continued as usual and we have been informed that FORWARD Nepal has been selected by United Nations Development Programme for implementation of the project "Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi hazard risk prone areas of Nepal" project in Wards 2 and 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan.

### Major project activities during the period

1. Under the project entitled "Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India", implemented jointly with FORWARD Nepal and Aasaman Nepal, following activities were carried out:
  - **Advocacy workshop in the context of nutrition:** Nutrition Smart Village Project organized an Advocacy Workshop at Sitasharan Hotel, Janakpurdhama in Province 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to sensitize policy makers for effective enforcement of Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) II policy, to develop alliance for evidence-based policy advocacy, to share experiences and good practices of nutrition smart village project and develop multi sectoral partnerships to implement and scale up the practices to mitigate malnutrition. Mr. Nawal Kishor Sah, Honourable Minister for Social Development (Province Level) inaugurated the Programme. Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, Director of Province Level Health Directorate, chaired the session. Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal highlighted the objectives of the workshop. Mr. Raj Kumar Lekhi, Honourable Member of Policy Commission expressed his strong concern about sanitation, hygiene and clean drinking water in the community, and wished for grand success of the Programme. Chief Guest Mr.

Nawal Kishor Sah emphasized that malnutrition is prevalent in the communities associated with poverty, illiteracy and food deficit, and appreciated the project's efforts for improving food and nutrition security. In the concluding session, the chairperson expressed that in spite of the people becoming aware of nutrition and health day by day, improved dietary diversity for children and women at reproductive age, and 100% vaccination is essential for improved health. He also suggested to avoid the use of junk food like chocolate, noodles, chips and Kurkure etc. In the workshop, Ms. Seema Luitel, Programme Manager of WHH highlighted the on-going activities and four thematic areas of Welthungerhilfe: disaster risk reduction; right to food and empowerment; sustainable food and nutrition security; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) being implemented in 10 Palikas of Province 2.

2. Under the project entitled "Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha district, Nepal", the following activities were carried out:
  - **Involvement in flood response:** After heavy rainfall, in the beginning of the monsoon, flood of Kamala and its tributaries entered into villages in second week of July, 2019 and project municipalities were severely affected by the flood. The flood also affected the project beneficiaries and the project interventions due to inundation. Following the flood, the project team was engaged for the procurement and distribution of relief items in Siraha, Kalyanpur, and Karjanha municipalities in coordination with WHH and its other partners in the district. Project team were also involved on coordination with DDMC and local government, distribution and logistics management, and information compilation and communication process.
  - **Project review and planning meeting:** A three-day long project review and planning meeting of livelihood project was organized in Hotel Ramjham, Siraha jointly by WHH, FORWARD Nepal, and Aasaman Nepal during 1-3 August 2019. Programme Manager and Project Coordinators of WHH and Project Focal Persons, Project Coordinators, Project

Officers, Admin and Finance Officers of both the partner organizations participated in the meeting. Project leaders of the partner organizations shared the progresses, learnings, problems and constraints encountered during project implementation till the period. There was also guest presentation from WASH Project, Trans-boundary project, and Nutrition Project of WHH - for the learning, sharing and for tracking the project activities in a uniform way. The project team decided to review the detail implementation plan (DIP) of the project based on the learnings and the available resources.

- **Monitoring visit of Country Director of WHH:** CD of WHH Ms. Asja Hanano, ED of FORWARD Nepal Mr. Netra Pratap Nepal, and ED of Aasaman Nepal Mr. Nawal Kishor Yadav had visited project sites immediately after flood disaster in July and 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019. CD of WHH had suggested for speeding up the process of farmer groups formations and provide training to the farmers on sustainable integrated farming system in the community.
- **Farmer group formation:** A total of 139 farmer groups have been formed during August to September, 2019 based on targeting survey. In these groups, there were 3190 farmers in which one farmer represents one household. Out of 3190 farmers, 72% of members are female in the groups, above 40% farmers represent *Dalits* community, 11% are *Janajatis* and more than 6.5% are from Muslim community.
- **Farmer groups level Good Agriculture Practices training:** Total seven sessions of good agriculture practices (GAP) have been delivered in two farmer groups, in which 50 farmers participated in these sessions. In Karjanha-4 four sessions were delivered by covering nursery management, bio-pesticide preparation, soil nutrition management and compost preparation, and nutrition garden and nursery plantation. Similarly, three sessions such as nursery management, soil nutrition management & compost preparation, and bio-pesticide preparation were delivered by Agriculture Officers of the project.
- **Construction/rehabilitation of small scale infrastructure:** Market-shed cum emergency shelter house construction have been accomplished in three sites, viz. in Bandipur of Karjanha-2, Chikanha of Kalyanpur-5, and Prashahi of Kalyanpur-3, whereas two sites are on progress. In Market-shed of Prasahi bazaar, farmers and small traders have already started to sell their agricultural products and grocery items in the market shed. Around 90% construction work has been completed in Karjanha of Karjanha-11. Construction works at Sarswar of

Siraha-12 was heavily disturbed by flood.

- **Set up of irrigation facilities:** Irrigation facility has been installed in Veruwa Khola Farmer Group at Kalyanpur-7, Bhedia. Two shallow borings have been installed with 2HP electric motor. These two schemes are irrigating eight hectares of land, where farmers are basically growing vegetables. Similarly, channel gate installation support was accomplished at Karjanha-8, Gautadi. The scheme has improved irrigation facilities to more than 35 hectares land of 126 HHs among which 45 are *Dalits*, 15 are *Janajati*, 15 Muslim households of Karjanha-8. The scheme has reduced cost of rice production and improved cropping pattern as farmer planned to grow vegetables after paddy. Installation of a submersible water pump has been accomplished at Karjanha-4, Badhara that will irrigate around five hectares of lands. The land area has great potentials of vegetable and fruits cultivation.
- **Social mobilization and leadership development training:** Two trainings on social mobilization and leadership development had been carried out for Apan Sangi (Change Agents) on September 4-9, 2019. The three-day training was facilitated by external consultant who provided basic social mobilization knowledge and skills, and boosted leadership capacity of Change Agents. The livelihood project, Siraha realized the gap on leadership capacity and social mobilization skills among Change Agents (Apan Sangi). Hence, Social Mobilization and Leadership Development Training was planned, instead of refresher training on sustainable integrated farming system.
- **Monitoring visit by Programme Manager of WHH:** Mr. Sushil Ghimire, PM of WHH had visited the livelihood project site for monitoring and preparation plan for Happel Foundation's visit to be held on September 9-15, 2019.
- **Visit of Happel Foundation:** Mr. Alexander Lanz, Managing Director of Happel Foundation had visited the project site during September 13-15, 2019. During the visit, Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director and Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Programme Manager of WHH, and Nawal Kishor Yadav, Executive Director of Aasaman Nepal had accompanied Mr. Lanz. He had visited different project sites and observed two projects of WHH i.e. Livelihood project and WASH governance project in Siraha district. Under Livelihood project, Alexander had visited to Karjanha-4 and observed farm land, good agriculture practice training and irrigation support, which was under installation process. Further, he visited to Kalyanpur 3 for observation of market-shed cum emergency shelter houses construction at Prashahi bazar and to Kalyanpur 7 for observation of farm land of Veruwa Khola interacted with the

Farmer Groups. He has suggested to the project team to adapt business model in market shed cum emergency shelter house and give more focus on rain water harvesting rather than promoting underground water utilization.

- **Developing local resource person on Good Agriculture Practice:** The project has selected 25 Local Resource Persons from among 139 farmer groups and 15 from riverbed farming groups to provide them 15 days of training on good agriculture practices. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, a 7 days training was conducted from November 5-11, 2019 in which 14 were male and nine female participants.

### 3. Under the "Dairy for Development in Nepal" project, the following activities were carried out:

- Start-up kit boxes including necessary medicines and instruments were handed over to 20 Village Animal Health Workers (VAHWs) trained by the Dairy Project.
- Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, Project Coordinator and Dr. Swotantra Dangi, Project Officer participated in the capacity building workshop on storytelling, tone of voice, use of social media, mobile/SLR photography and mobile videography organized by Practical Action from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Sauraha, Chitwan.
- A three-day technical training for dairy cooperatives on improved production practices in cattle farming was organized at Hotel Red Carpet, Narayangadh, Chitwan from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019, wherein a total of 17 executive members of different cooperatives had participated.
- The project also organized a one-day interaction Programme on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 among dairy cooperatives, feed company run by a dairy cooperative – viz. Annapurna Milk Producer Cooperative, Gitanagar (Chitwan), National Cattle Research Programme, Chitwan and Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan. In the occasion, chairman of Annapurna Milk Producer Cooperative shared the success story of his cooperative and the challenges faced. Similarly, Associate Prof. Ram Ashish Sah, Department of Nutrition/AFU highlighted the importance of balanced feed for cattle and the methods of its preparation using the locally available feedstuffs.
- Dr. Subhash Chaudhary attended the Annual Progress Review Workshop of the fiscal year 2075/76 of Kalika Municipality, Chitwan and shared the Dairy Project's progresses.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal (Programme Manager), Dr. Subhash Chaudhary and Dr. Swotantra Dangi (Project Coordinator and Project Officer respectively of Dairy project) participated in the

Half-Yearly Review and Planning Meeting of Dairy Project from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at Practical Action's cluster office, Bharatpur. Ms. Bijaya Bajracharya (Head - Programme Delivery), Ms. Renuka Rai (GESI Specialist), Ms. Menila Kharel (Knowledge Management Coordinator), Mr. Sharad Adhikari (Programme Manager) participated on behalf of Practical Action. The whole team also visited and interacted with the executive committee as well as shareholders/dairy farmers of Janamukhi Dairy Cooperative, Rapti-6, Padariya, Chitwan.

- Officials from Practical Action, Kathmandu Office - along with the Dairy Project team, visited Bhagawati Milk Producer Cooperative Ltd, Rapti – 8, Brahmanagar, Chitwan on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to discuss about the necessity of establishing Community-led Agricultural Extension Services Centre (CAESC) for outreach Programme of agriculture and livestock services, and Prakriti Milk Producer Cooperative Ltd., Madhyabindu – 1, Kolhuwa 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to facilitate the institutional capacity self-assessment of the cooperative by using the 'spider-web tool'.
  - Five interns from Practical Action, India visited Bhagwati Milk Producer Cooperative Limited, Rapti – 8, Brahmanagar, Utthan Milk Producer Cooperative Limited, Kalika – 8, Kalika (Chitwan), National Cattle Research Programme, Rampur, Chitwan and Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur Chitwan from 20 – 22 September, 2019.
- ### 4. Under the "School Safety Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster in Sunsari (SCRSSI)" Project, the following activities were carried out:
- **Child-club led action plan development and implementation:** Three workshops held from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 in three different schools in presence of child club members, school disaster management committees (SDMC) and task force of the concerned school. Girls, boys and teachers were involved to discuss on climate change adaptation (CCA), Safe school pillar and gender transformation as per the child-clubs' action plan. They were oriented in vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) report of the relevant school and preparing action plan through group discussion. In the workshops, child- clubs have prioritized some activities, created awareness on safe school related activities benefiting 98 students directly.
  - **Disaster and climate risk assessment map display:** Coordination meetings were held with ward office 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11 of Ramdhuni Municipality, Sunsari to finalize the ward level social and hazard maps of ward numbers.
  - **Advocacy support to establish linkage between**

**schools and the ward/rural municipality:** Five events of advocacy support were organized to establish linkage between schools and the ward/rural municipality in close coordination with government authorities. Among them, two events were held in ward no 11 Shivapuri Tole of Barahakshetra municipality on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 and three in ward 3 Bange Tole of Barahakshetra Municipality on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. During the Programme, interactions were held with ward level disaster management committee and municipality including community people on the ward level disaster and climate resilient planning (WDCRP), local disaster and climate resilient planning (LDCRP) and risk profile.

- **Awareness raising activities on safe school, gender equality and climate change adaptation (CCA):** During the reporting period, 256 students have been oriented on DRR and safe school through presentation of informative flex in Chandra Kamal Secondary School and Saraswati Secondary School. In this context, five different types of informative flex of safe school DRR and gender transformation were provided to each school to conduct class on regular basis by child-led clubs with supports from project staff. Informative flex boards on hazard mapping and ranking were also prepared for hanging on the school wall for better access of the students.
- **Coordination of context specific natural hazard risk mitigation and climate change adaptation activities:** In September 2019, Coordination meeting with School Management Committee (SMC), municipalities' wards and Local Education Unit (LEU) was held to finalize the construction activities in schools. One of major activities was finalization of garden in school ground, and delivering materials to construct gardening in Chandra Kamal School in Ramdhuni Municipality. Ramdhuni Municipality ward no 11 has contributed Rs 40,000 for the construction work, whereas Chandra Kamal Secondary School contributed land and Rs 20,056 for school gardening. Similarly, the municipality, ward and schools have allocated Rs 52,270 in the mitigation structure (i.e. railing construction) of ward no 11 Bange tole.
- **Development and dissemination of gender responsive school safety and evacuation plan:** Evacuation maps have already been installed in the school, and hazard mapping and seasonal calendars have been painted on the wall of Auliya Secondary School. So, all the students were made aware of the hazard and seasonal calendars produced by school level VCA Programme of the school.
- **Documentation and dissemination of case studies/success stories:** Three events of case story

writing were held in school with the involvement of the child clubs and other students. The stories focused on addressing gender issues related to the underlying causes of girl's vulnerability before, during and after disaster identified through the VCA.

- **Training on local disaster and climate resilience planning (LDCRP):** Five-day residential training to planning sub-committees, elected representatives and municipal staff was organized in Ramdhuni Municipality involving external expert Mr. Ashok Wagle and Mr. Shambhu Chaudhary as resource person to facilitate the training. Municipality team of DRR focal person Mr. Rabin Kumar Thakur, Mr. Harsahal Chaudhari and Mr. Rajan Kumar Gelal) also supported in coordination and planning process. The training agenda consisted of DRR and CCA, VCA tool practice, LDCRP plan identification, prioritization, mainstreaming, gender transformation and preparation of required task force and cluster approach for LDCRP, and field visit to ward number 7, Ramdhuni Municipality. Thirty-two people have been trained on DRR, CCA, VCA and process of the LDCRP from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- **Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) workshop:** Two days' workshop was organized in all the nine wards of Ramdhuni Municipality. The workshop was led by the ward level disaster management committee with financial support for transportation of participation in ward no 2, 4, 5 and 9. All information for vulnerability and capacity assessment for the wards were gathered with community people. Trained volunteer peoples were mobilized for the preparation and facilitation of the workshop focusing on DRR, CCA and VCA. Ward chairperson, DRR focal person and elected bodies participated in this workshop.
- **LDCRP planning and prioritization workshop:** Trained 22 people were mobilized for facilitating the LDCRP planning and prioritization workshop including municipality level elected bodies on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019. In the workshop, ward level plans were shared, discussed and different activities for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery for major disaster and thematic plans for local CCA and DRM identified. In this plan, the project team encouraged to include activities for climate smart safe school and special focus on gender imbalance in LDCRP.
- **Sharing of Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Planning (LDCRP):** Risk profile and LDCRP sharing meetings were conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Barahakshetra Municipality. After the completion of VCA workshop, Ward and Municipality level sharing workshops were held involving the elected bodies and disaster management committee of community people of Barahakshetra Municipality.

Based on LDCRP and Risk profiles and vulnerability hazards, two settlements of ward no 11 and ward no 3 were identified for mitigation supports. Accordingly, formation of local disaster climate resilient committee LDRRC and Community disaster climate resilient committee at municipality and ward level were supported. These committees held discussion with community members and ward disaster management committee (WDMC) and identified two settlements Bange Tole in Ward No 3 and Shivapuri Tole in Ward No. 11, Barahakeshtra Municipality for mitigation supports.

- **Support for implementation of hardware:** Reports for hardware supports for Madhuban Shivapuri Tole in ward no 11, Barahakeshtra and Bange Tole in ward no 3, Barahakeshtra have been prepared, disaster risk management (DRM) plan developed and discussed. Two schemes i.e. railing of irrigation channel at Bange Tole, and another small structure at Shivapuri Tole have been selected.
- **Quarterly review meeting:** Quarterly review meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2109 in FORWARD Nepal's Office hall with the participation of Plan International Nepal. Project coordinator presented quarterly progress of programmes, budget, main problems and challenge of SCRSSI Project for discussion in the team. In the meeting, technical monitoring and cost sharing procedures with Government bodies (Engineer) and stakeholders were discussed at length.

#### 5. Under the "Rice-fallow system with pulse crops in South Asia (Bangladesh, India and Nepal)" Project, the following activities were carried out:

- **Baseline data collection of IFAD project:** Collection of baseline data on IFAD project in Siraha district has been completed. Data on demography, socioeconomic status, cropping patterns, and others aspects in relation to the Rice -Legume intervention were collected from 99 respondents across 9 villages in Lahan municipality in Siraha district. A comprehensive report is under preparation.
- **Distribution of lentil seed and other inputs:** For the conduct of cluster demonstrations and seed production, 1343 kg quality seeds of lentil varieties Sital, Simal, and Kalo Musuro along with other inputs were distributed to the farmers at Pokherbhinda, Maheshpur, Sisawani, Bhotia Tol, Padhariya, Motipur, Kataha Charapati, Gada Betaha/Sodhiyani.

#### 6. Sustainable Economic Development of Rural areas (SEDRA):

- **SEDRA project meeting:** A brief meeting with consultants Dr. Sreeram Neopane and Dr. Narayan Prasad Khanal was held at FORWARD Nepal Liaison

Office Kathmandu in the presence of Executive Director Mr. Netra Pratap Sen on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The meeting discussed on ways to accelerate the completion of animal tech-cards, and preparation of Training of trainers (TOT) materials on good agriculture practices (GAP) and agriculture technology (AT). In the meeting, Programme Director Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane briefed on the progress status and existing obstacles to the achievements of the project target. In spite of the busy schedule of Dr. Neopane and Dr. Khanal, the meeting decided to expedite the completion of the assignments specially the preparation of TOT materials on crops and livestock in consultation with BFC/SEDRA and addressing the BFC's comments on previously submitted tech-cards of 5 livestock species.

- **Trainings under SEDRA project:** Dr. Narayan Prasad Khanal organized a training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Agriculture technology (AT) for the staff of Global IME Bank at Butwal and Janakpur on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, respectively. Participants were familiarized with the GAP on selected crops and technologies for the smooth implementation of value chain financing of those crops/commodities. Similarly, Dr. Sreeram Neopane organized Training of Trainers (TOT) for resource persons and poultry farmers in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Resource persons were trained on bio-security and housing, whereas for the farmers, the training was limited to bio-security. Similar trainings were organized at Butwal for the resource persons and farmers of Shreenagar Agro Farm Pvt. Ltd.
- **Tech-cards preparation:** FORWARD Nepal prepared and submitted agricultural tech-cards of 17 crops namely, four-season bean, brinjal, onion, okra, garlic, cotton, pigeon pea, cucumber (tunnel), grapes, lime/lemon, papaya, pomegranate, areca nut, litchi, mary-gold, and rose to SEDRA/BFC. Those tech-cards will facilitate financial institutions for value chain financing in those crops/commodities.
- **Data collection for tech-cards of mango and lentil:** Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager, visited the hilly region to compile crop farming tech cards of lentil and mango during 21-23 October, 2019. In consultation with the Municipal Agricultural Section, Development Voyage Private Limited (DVPL), and Malepatan Agricultural Research Station, Mr. Dhakal collected data on lentil production in the hills. Although some local varieties of mango were observed on the way to Pokhara, mango data were not applicable for value chain financing in hilly region as mango farming is not a viable business in areas of 700 meter above sea level.

- **Visit to trout farm at Naubise, Dhading:** Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, and Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager, visited Agro Top Industries Company Nepal Private Limited in Thakre Rural Municipality-6, Mulkhola on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 and interacted with Mr. Sadhu Ram Basnet, Farm Manager and Trout Specialist. Mr. Basnet, a retiree of the Nepal Agriculture Research Council, provided details on activities on trout farming, allied cost, and returns over the investment. The information was fitted into the trout farming tech-cards prepared for value chain financing under SEDRA project, financed by Business Financing Consultancy (BFC).

### Training/Workshop/Meeting

- **Participation in social audit training in Bhedetar, Dhankuta:** FORWARD Project Staffs participated in the three-days social audit training organized by CSDC, a partner of Plan International, during 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Bhedetar, Dhankuta with the objective of a) capacity enhancement of municipal staffs on social audit of WASH Programme/activities under WASH SDG project and other sectors, b) promote social audits in each project involving partner organizations, and c) adopt social audit tool (mandatory of SWC to partners for Accountability and Transparency) at organizational/project level. The training was facilitated by freelancer consultant Mr. Nirmal Bhandari in participation of partners of Plan Nepal. After the conduct of two-days training session at Bhedetar, and a day's practical session was held in one of the schools in Sunsari.
- **Participation in consultation meeting:** Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager of FORWARD Nepal participated in the consultation meeting on **"Mitigating drudgery for farm women in the mountains through improved tools, technology, and Services"** organized by ICIMOD, under its initiative Resilient Mountain Solutions, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Kathmandu. The meeting aimed to: a) identify barriers and opportunities in introducing customized technologies to meet the needs of female agricultural workers; b) share existing examples of successful initiatives involving women-friendly technologies, scope out prospective areas and sectors for sustainable interventions; and c) map key stakeholders in the region and come up with recommendations for an action plan to reduce drudgery among women workers in agriculture in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. More than 40 participants representing the government and non-government organization, community-based

organizations and academic institutions from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China were present in the meeting.

- **Partners meeting:** Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director participated in the partners' meeting of Welthungerhilfe (WHH)/BMZ funded projects on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Lalitpur. Status of the project progress were briefly shared by each partners which was followed by an open sharing of experience, learning and perception between partners and WHH senior management staff towards partnership between partners and WHH. This was also a farewell Programme to Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director – WHH Nepal who was leaving Nepal by the end of September 2019 to take a new position in policy department at WHH Head Quarter.
- **International seed conference and expert consultation:** Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director participated in an International Seed Conference and Expert Consultation held from 3-4 September 2019 in Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu. The conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, USAID Nepal and CIMMYT with the objective to exchange ideas, share knowledge and international good practices and innovations to achieve the goals of the Nepal Seed Vision. There were over hundred participants and seed experts and scientists from within and outside country.
- **Visit of UNDP team to FORWARD Nepal:** UNDP team namely Ms. Pragya Pradhan, Senior Project Officer and Mr. Rajendra Kumar Gurung, Admin. & Finance Officer, Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP) visited FORWARD Nepal for organizational assessment on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019, as it was shortlisted for the project "Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi hazard risk prone areas of Nepal". UNDP team assessed Institutional capacity, assets, policy, staffs, governing body, and finances of FORWARD Nepal during the assessment process.
- **Field visit by Executive Director to eastern terai project sites:** ED-Netra Pratap Sen, Project Manager Ms. Manita Ale, and Admin Officer- Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu visited sites of Livelihood Project, Nutrition Smart Village Project (NSV) and SCRSSI Project during Nov.12-15 2019. In Saptari, a short meeting was held with NSV project team and this was followed by field visit to Rajgadh rural municipality along with Mr. Deependra Chaudhary, Project Coordinator (Partner Advisor)

– Nutrition Governance, WHH and Mr. Milan Dhakal, Nutrition Specialist of Aasaman Nepal. On the next day, the ED and PM paid a courtesy visit to Plan International Nepal Field Office, Sunsari wherein Ms. Kalawati Changbang – Area Manager and Ms. Pooja Shrestha, Project Coordinator DRM were met. The team also visited SCRSSI project site Marchaiya at Ramdhuni-9, Sunsari.

In Livelihood Project site, the team monitored market shed at Prashahi bazaar, Kalyanpur Municipality-3; visited Change Agents training organized at Mirchaiya, and vegetable fields at Veruwa Khola farmer group, Bhedia (Bhadari), Kalyanpur-7, Siraha. And lastly, the team visited vegetable fields under the NSV project at Narkattiya, Paroha-8 and Paroha-3, and organized a short meeting with the project team of both Aasaman Nepal, FORWARD and Project Coordinator, WHH to collect and provide feedback for upcoming visitors from SAARC and WHH Germany.

- **Project Monitoring visit:** Mr. Netra Pratap Sen Executive Director participated in a joint project monitoring visit from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 to Livelihood Project Siraha and Nutrition Smart Village in Rautahat along with Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director, WHH and Mr. Nabal Kishore Yadav, Executive Director, Asaman Nepal.
- **High level meeting on AFAW (American Fall Armyworm):** Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal participated in a high-level meeting organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in its ministry office. This was related to American Fall Armyworm which was recently reported for the first time in Nepal. In order to manage this invasive pest in sustainable manner, the MoALD presented the protocol on IPM and surveillance for this pest as well as plan of action they developed during the discussion and suggestions were collected in the meeting.

### Staffing

#### ➤ Staff termination/resignation

- Ms. Geeta Gurung – Admin Associate left the office from 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 for her further study in Germany.

#### ➤ New staff

- Ms. Manita Ale, re-joined FORWARD Nepal as a Project Manager with effect from November 2019.

### Institutional activities

- 85<sup>th</sup> Board meeting of FORWARD Nepal was held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha at the head office.
- Annual external audit of FORWARD Nepal was carried out by KUBER & Co. during 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.
- Organizational registration with the District Administration Office, Chitwan was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.
- Annual Tax clearance of the organization with Inland Revenue Office was done on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.

### News

- 23<sup>rd</sup> FORWARD Day was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 with various activities in the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Vice Chairperson. First part of the celebration was held at the head office of FORWARD Nepal and next Programme was held at Devghatdham Birdhasram wherein a joint lunch Programme was organized together with senior citizen at Devghatdham and Devghat Development Management Committee. A greetings message was also issued jointly by the Chairperson and Executive Director on the occasion of FORWARD DAY.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, Nutrition Smart Village Project organized a Province Level Advocacy Workshop at Janakpurdham, Dhanusha, Province 2.

### Key activities planning for the next quarter

- Signing of contract agreement with UNDP for “Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi hazard risk prone areas of Nepal” for implementation in Bharatpur municipality.
- Donor audit of Nutrition Smart Village Project from December 05-07, 2019 and Livelihood project, Siraha from December 17-19, 2019.
- Visit of SAARC Officials to Nutrition Smart Village Project, Rautahat on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and Saptari 22-23 December 2019.
- Revision of Code of Conduct of the organization.
- Donor visit to SCRSSI project, Sunsari 25-27 December 2019.
- Publication of Annual Report 2018/19.
- 86<sup>th</sup> Board meeting - third week January 2020.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly in February 2020

Some Glimpses



23<sup>rd</sup> FORWARD Day celebration at Head Office of FORWARD Nepal



Vegetable field at Kalyanpur-7, Siraha.



Social mobilization and leadership development training to change agent at Siraha.



Province Level Advocacy Workshop at Janakpurdham, Dhanusha



Distribution of lentil seeds and other inputs to farmers at Pokharbhinda under IFAD project



Nursery management training for good agriculture practice at Karjanha-4, Siraha



Market shed monitoring at Prashahi bazar, Kalyanpur Municipality-3, Siraha