



FORWARD Nepal

Bulletin – 19

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 19th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin presents an overview of the major activities and events conducted by the organization during the period from 17th November 2019 to 13th March 2020. The 23rd Annual General Meeting of FORWARD Nepal and signing of an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for implementation of local level activities for reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk prone areas in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan were major events in this reporting period. Implementation of project activities, participation in meetings and seminars by staff and members, visits in the organization by the officials from different institutions were other routine businesses which are briefed hereunder.

Major project activities during the period

1. **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:**

Public hearing: The event was organized on 27th November 2019 at ward no. 5 on 5th December 2019 at ward no 4, on 13th December 2019 at ward no. 6 and on 12th February 2020 at ward no. 2 in participation with 163, 155, 165 and 191 individuals, respectively. Female participants were 62, 82, 46 and 96, respectively at those places. Municipality Chairperson, Mr. Parmanad Yadav addressed to the questions, complaints and demand of public and health workers at three venues. Ward Chairperson and Health Post In charge clarified queries, inquiry and doubt at their respective venue. Livestock Officer and staff of Agriculture Section participated at ward no. 2 where they responded to agriculture related issues. The staff committed to improve services and facilities in the days to come in the respective fields. After the event, public became aware that health facility provides services and other health

facilities in addition to medicine. Budget for medicine procurement increased from 20 Lakh to 29 Lakh of the municipality. Municipality Chairperson and Health Coordinator realized to build own building for outreach clinics. Local authorities assured to improve physical infrastructure and allocate some budget for tea and snacks to Health Posts. They also realized to register some farmer's groups as per demand and implement some agricultural activities through the groups in near future.

Safe Drinking Water: A total of 15 (6 in Saptari and 9 in Rautahat) hand pumps with platforms were installed for safe drinking water.

SAARC Level Visit: Dr. SM Bakhtiar, Director for SAARC Agriculture Center, Dr. Younus Ali, Senior Technical Officer for SAARC Agriculture Center and Ms. Sweta Banerjee, Regional Coordinator (NSV project, WHH) monitored model farms and nutrition gardens of families with malnourished children at Paroha Municipality of Rautahat on 21st December 2019. They had interaction with lead farmers and mothers about the change. Ms. Sweta Banerjee, Regional Coordinator of WHH visited Saptari on 22nd and 23rd December 2019. She observed model farms, nutrition gardens, drinking water facilities and had interaction with lead farmers and LANN+ group members. There was a debriefing meeting at Rajbiraj Office where she suggested to keep clean model farms, make proper soak pit to re-use waste water and form cooperative of farmer's groups.

Regional Review and Planning Workshop: The workshop was organized with one day field visit and two-day review and planning meeting at Sylhet, Bangladesh. Ms. Sweta Barejee (Regional Coordinator, WHH-India), Ms. Nivedita Varshneya (Country Director for Bangladesh and India, WHH), Ms. Blanka Roberts (Country Director, WHH-Nepal), Mr. Philippe Dresuesse (Head of Programme, WHH-India) and Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire (Programme Manager, WHH-Nepal) were key dignities of the workshop. A total of 42 participants including 9 females were present. The Partner

organizations from Bangladesh, India and Nepal shared project update. Ms. Pratibha Srivastava (Coordinator, WHH-India), Mr. Mamunur Rashid (Coordinator, WHH-Bangladesh) and Mr. Deependra Chaudhari (Coordinator, WHH-Nepal) presented the findings of Mid-line survey. Budget utilization status was presented by Ms. Latika Gautam (Accountant, WHH-Nepal) for Nepal and Ms. Sweta for Bangladesh and India.

LANN+ Training: A total of 101 (47 of Saptari and 54 of Rautahat) female community health volunteers (FCHVs) and 12 (6 of each district) auxiliary nurse mid-wife (ANM) were capacitated to facilitate LANN+ sessions. The training mainly covered three major agendas: Participatory Learning and Action Approach, Understanding LANN+ and Facilitation techniques/methodologies of LANN+ sessions. FCHVs are supposed to conduct mother's group meeting and ANM will support them.

2. Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha district, Nepal, the following activities were carried out:

Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Training to Local Resource Persons: Second phase training on GAP to Local Resource Person (LRP) were accomplished from 11th to 18th December, 2019 that trained 22 LRP including 6 females, 8 Dalits, a Janajati and a Muslim. Out of 15 days training, the second phase training of GAP to LRP was designed for eight days, which was delivered in Jhumka, Sunsari with technical support of Agri-business Promotion Support and Training Centre (ABPSTC) of Province 1 of Government of Nepal. The second phase training of GAP covered integrated pest management (IPM), harvesting and post harvesting technology, market driven production, business plan of farming, modal farm, and climate smart agriculture. During the training, an exposure visit was also inbuilt and LRP visited to observe organic farm of Krishna Rai at Basantatar, Dharan, Sunsari.

Good Agriculture Practices Training: Around 3,100 farmers including above 2,230 female farmers were trained on good agriculture practices (GAP) at 136 farmer groups (FG) of livelihood project, Siraha district. Total 406 training sessions were accomplished through mobilization of 25 local resource persons that comprised 136 training sessions on nursery management, 136 sessions on integrated plant nutrients management (IPNM) and 131 integrated pest management (IPM). In November and December, 2019, the 3,084 farmers

from 136 FG were trained on nursery management and the 3,092 farmers from 136 FG were trained on compost making training for IPNM in December, 2019. In February and March, 2020, IPM trainings were carried out for 132 FG that benefited 3,010 farmers. The project has also supported sample seeds of lentil and mustard to 119 farmers, only lentil's seeds to 485 farmers, chickpea to 119 farmers and vegetables seeds to more than 2,360 farmers in November, 2019.

Riverbed farming: The 337 farmers were supported by new varieties of cucumber, sponge gourd and bottle gourd during this period. In addition, 30 farmers were also supported to demonstrate squash farming in river bed and bank of Kamala river in Siraha district. Besides seed support of new varieties, farmers were trained on compost making and integrated pest management (IPM). The project has mobilized local resource person to deliver 15 sessions on compost making to 15 RBF groups and 9 sessions on IPM to nine RBF groups that trained 326 and 212 RBF farmers respectively.

Revolving fund to farmer for credit access: The project has assessed potential cooperatives to cover remaining wards for revolving fund to farmer for credit access. After assessment, a revolving fund has been established in Global Cooperative Ltd, Kalyanpur-11 to cover remaining wards of Kalyanpur municipality and a draft of MoU has been accomplished for remaining wards of Siraha municipality. So far, the project has established 11 revolving funds, out of 12 revolving funds and another is in verge of establishment.

Construction of market-shed cum emergency shelter house: The construction of market-shed cum emergency shelter house has been started at Siraha-11, Bhaluwahi Bazar. The foundation of construction has been done by mayor of Siraha municipality on 23rd December, 2019 and above 40% of construction work has been accomplished by mid of March, 2020.

Set-up irrigation facilities: Three shallow borings of three inches outlet have been installed in this period consisting two schemes at Kalyanpur-4 and a scheme at Siraha-5. Besides these, equipment and materials have been handed over to farmer groups for additional 17 schemes after signing memorandum of understanding (MoU). These 17 schemes will be installed at Karjanha municipality (9 schemes) and Siraha municipality (8 schemes). In addition, 10 MoU have been drafted for additional irrigation schemes representing 6

schemes for Kalyanpur and 4 schemes from Siraha municipality. Each shallow irrigation scheme can irrigate up to 3 hectares of land.

Review, Workshop and Meeting

Project Review: On the behalf of WHH, two consultants from Helvetas Nepal Ms Jane Carter and Mr Niraj Acharya had carried out a mid-term review of the project that will guide for second phase of the project. In this regard, they visited to project site from 11th to 17th February, 2020. They met Mayors, elected representatives and staffs of all municipalities (Siraha, Kalyanpur and Karjanha), farmers groups, riverbed farming group, local resource person, representatives of cooperatives and observed construction sites of market shed cum emergency shelter houses and irrigation schemes. They also did SWOT analysis on 17th February, 2020 and project progress review meeting among project officers on 12th February, 2020.

Monitoring Visit of Interim Country Director of WHH:

A team of WHH led by Interim Country Director of WHH Ms. Blanca Robert and Programme Manager Mr. Sushil Ghimire and Programme Officer Mr. Rabin Shrestha had visited project site on 19th February, 2020. They observed model farm at Siraha-12, and interacted with farmer group at Siraha-16.

Situation Assessment for Second Phase Project Planning:

Consultant of WHH Ms. Anke Schuermann had visited to livelihood project site, Siraha from 4th to 7th March, 2020. She interacted with farmer groups, local resource person, Mayor of Siraha and Kalyanpur, non-cover farmers, non-cover vulnerable community, LANN groups, mothers or care taker of Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Programme (NERP) camp, and manager of Agrashil Mahila Sana Kishan Sahakari Sanstha Limited, Kalyanpur-1. Her visit was complemented by Programme Manager - Mr. Sushil Ghimire of WHH on 6th and 7th March 2020 as the visit proposed for second phase of the project.

Planning Workshop of Second Phase of Livelihood Project:

Project Coordinator (PC) of livelihood project Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel and Agriculture Officer Mr. Tanka Prashad Acharya have participated in livelihood project review and next phase planning workshop in Kathmandu from 9th to 13th March, 2020. First day, Project Manager Ms. Manita Ale has also participated in the workshop. The proposal of livelihood project, Siraha (Phase II) has been drafted in the workshop.

Financial Monitoring Visit: Finance Officer Mr.

Rajendra Raj Bhandari and Accountant Ms. Latika Gautam of WHH have visited to review financial document from 17th to 20th December, 2019.

WHH's audit: The financial audit of the project has been audited by independent audit (M/S PP Pradhan and Co) from 17th to 22nd December, 2019. Audit has evaluated financial documents of the project for the period from September, 2018 to August, 2019. Beside review of financial documents, auditors have also visited in field for the physical inspection project activities in Kalyanpur and Karjanha municipality. The auditor has submitted their reports with some recommendations.

Participation in DDMC Meeting: Project Coordinator Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel attended meeting of district disaster management committee (DDMC), Siraha in December 2019. The meeting was called for preparedness and emergency management for cold wave.

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

Two-day training on institutional capacity self-assessment of the dairy cooperatives and their capacity building was organized for the executive members of the cooperatives on 29th to 30th December 2019 at Narayangadh (Chitwan), in which 15 males and 4 females participated.

Six events of awareness campaigns, two each in Chitwan, Nawalpur and Makwanpur districts, were organized to create awareness on breed improvement through artificial insemination & sexed semen, and advantages of the cross-bred animals produced thereof.

An event of three-day basic training on agriculture and livestock insurance for livestock technicians and members of animal insurance sub-committees of dairy cooperatives was organized from 25th to 27th February, 2020 at Narayangadh (Chitwan), in which 13 males and 5 females participated.

Three events of trainings, one each in Chitwan, Nawalpur and Makwanpur districts, on preparation of farmyard manure by plastic-cover method were organized for the leader farmers. Each leader farmer was provided with 12 x 20 square feet black plastic (800 gauge thickness), agriculture lime and effective micro-organism (EM) to support for its adoption.

Three commercial cattle farms, one from Chitwan and two from Nawalpur, were physically supported with construction materials (like bricks, sand, cement, aggregate, stone, iron poles, CGI sheets, etc.) worth Rs. 600,000.00 (in words: Six hundred

thousand rupees) for the establishment of cattle breed resource centers.

An event of milk product diversification training was organized from 1st to 5th March 2020 at Narayangadh (Chitwan) for the dairy cooperatives from Chitwan, Nawalpur and Makwanpur districts. A total of 18 participants (15 males and 3 females) were benefitted by the training in which they learnt to prepare various value-added milk products (like paneer, khuwa, barfi, peda, dahi, kulfi, lassi, rasbhari, gundpak, etc.).

Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, Dr. Swotandra Dangi and Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi of the Dairy project participated in the orientation on safeguarding training organized by Practical Action, Kathmandu for its staffs and partner organizations' staffs at Sauraha, Chitwan on 22nd January, 2020.

4. Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative (SCRSSI) Project:

Support for the construction works at School: In this reporting period, three events were completed at the Suryakunda Secondary School; repair of school building, school gardening, repairing of the water supply structure and construction of school compound and school gate. These works were conducted based on the Vulnerability capacity assessment of school involving School Management Committee (SMC), PTA and students.

Safe School Policy in all schools of targeted Municipalities: Two facilitation workshops on implementation of Safe School Policy were organized where 27 different schools participated for the preparation of this policy for the Ramdhuni and Barahakhstra Municipalities. A total of 67 people were oriented on the National Safe School Policy, and the Municipalities are preparing a policy on the educational part about the safe school. Once it is prepared, it will be shared in the meeting of concerned Municipalities for approval.

Support to Rural Municipalities for the preparation of a gender responsive education sector contingency plan: Two workshops were organized in each Ramdhuni Municipality and Barahakhshtra in February 2020. A total of 59 people were directly involved in the process of preparing plans. Two Contingency plans have been prepared in both the Municipalities.

LDCRP planning and prioritization workshop: Trained 27 people were mobilized in facilitating the LDCRP planning and prioritization workshop held on 13th March 2020 at Municipality level for elected bodies. In the workshop, ward level plans were shared, discussed and different activities for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from major disaster and thematic plans for local CCA and DRM

identified. The project team encouraged participants to include activities for climate smart safe school and give special focus on gender balance in LDCRP in Ramdhuni Municipality.

Integration meeting with partner organization: An integration meeting was hosted by FORWARD Nepal at its project office, Sunsari on 20 March 2020 where five different project partners and senior management team of Plan International, Field Office, Sunsari participated. In the meeting, integration of sponsorship programme in the regular project activities conducted by Plan partner organizations and need of supports during implementation was discussed and learning of good practices on integrated sponsorship programme was also shared.

Construction of 3 Class Roomed Structure:

Construction of three room school building has been started in Auliya Secondary school. Mr. Nilam Khanal (Mayor) and Mr. Suresh Shrestha (Ward Chairperson ward no 1) of Bahrahakshetra Municipality had participated in placing the foundation stone of the school building which is supported by the project.

Visit of Plan International team: A team of Plan International comprising of Mr. Kojiro Kurahishi from Japan, Mr. Bardrun Nahar, Plan International Bangladesh and Ms. Lingling Liu from China (working in Plan International Asian Office) had visited to the SCRSSI project sites in Ramdhuni Municipality, Sunsari from 25th to 27th December 2019. During the visit, they observed the musical chair drama on DRR, Risk sensitization evacuation map and hazard calendar of safe school prepared and presented by the students. They had met and interacted with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Administrative Chief and DRR Focal Person of Ramdhuni Municipality about the coordination aspect and the programmes. They also interacted with the Child Clubs, Teacher and SMC/PTA about the progress of the project. The team observed the construction activities at the Suryakunda Secondary school, Sarsawati School and Janaka School too.

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

Cluster Demonstrations: 300 Cluster demonstrations of lentil technology package were established among farmers of Pokherbhinda, Maheshpur, Sisawani, Bhotia Tol, Padhariya, Motipur, Kataha/Charapati, Gada, and Betaha/Sodhiyani villages in Siraha district. The technology package consisted of improved lentil varieties seed priming, rhizobium culture, DAP fertilizer and need based application of fungicides.

Village based seed enterprise (VBSE): To fulfil the demand of quality seeds of lentil, Truthful Level seed production of lentil varieties Kalo Musuro, Sital Simal and Shisir was conducted in 10 hectare area involving 25 farmers affiliated to Jandibya Krisak Samuha Lahan-23 Gada, Gramin Krisak Samuha Lahan-20 Motipur, Sahlesfulbari Biu Utpadan Krisak Samuha, Lahan -11 Padariya Tharutol, Pargatishil Krisak Samuha Lahan-22 Sisawani, and Mahila Krisak Samuha Lahan-12 Bhotia Tol. It is expected that about 9 MT seeds produced through this intervention will suffice to cover about 300 hectors in the coming year.

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

During the reporting period, verification and finalization of five animal type tech-cards (that is carp fish, trout fish, honey bee, poultry and buffalo) and verification of banana tech-card was accomplished. Altogether FORWARD Nepal developed crop tech-cards of 52 crop species and 10 animal types. FORWARD Nepal also prepared 10 TOT training materials on maize, rice, wheat, cauliflower, tomato, ginger, potato, sugarcane and provided 4 capacity building trainings to partner banks and selected private enterprises on good agricultural practices (GAP) and agricultural technologies (AT). All the tasks as agreed with Business & Finance Consulting for SEDRA have been completed.

7. Exploratory research on Agricultural entrepreneurship among female headed remittance receiving households in Nepal

Result sharing seminar: Result sharing seminars were organized for the research project entitled 'agricultural entrepreneurship among female-headed remittance-receiving households in Nepal'. The field survey for this project was conducted in August 2017 covering eight Tole Lead Organizations within ward number 25 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan. The research project is led by Dr. Luni Piya of Hiroshima University (HU) Japan. The result sharing seminars were organized at Bharatpur metropolitan city office on 5th December 2019 and in the ward office Sukranagar on 7th December 2019. Dr. Piya, along with co-researchers Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi, and FORWARD Nepal jointly presented the preliminary findings of the project.

At the ward level seminar, the local government – Ward Chairperson, Secretary, Ward Members, committee members of the selected Tole Bikas Sansthas and local representatives like teachers were present. While in the metropolitan city office, elected authorities, government officials, university professionals, local media, and NGO representatives participated in the seminar. There

were 44 participants in the ward level seminar and 38 in the metropolitan level seminar. Both the district and ward level government representatives acknowledged that such types of result sharing seminars were helpful in evidence-based policy formulations. Constructive feedback was received from the participants regarding future research topics, research methods, and data analysis. The findings of the research will be published in international journals and copies of the publication will be provided to the concerned line agencies once available.

8. Reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk prone areas in Ward No. 2 and 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan

Project Introduction and consultation meeting at ward level: A half-day 'ward level project introduction and consultation meeting', was organized among DMC members (that is elected ward members, DAO representative, Security force (Police/Army), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Chitwan, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Tole Lead Organizations and Mothers' Group of two wards (Bharatpur Metropolitan City Ward No. 2 & 10). The meeting was held in the meeting hall of Organization of Government Employees at Bharatpur-10 on 4 February, 2020. Introduction of project, its implementation modalities and project interventions to be implemented at ward level and the community level were shared among the project stakeholders. Altogether, 73 people participated in the meeting of them 33 percent were female.

Project introduction and consultation meeting at municipal level: A meeting was organized jointly by FORWARD Nepal and MADE Nepal, the UNDP partners at the meeting hall of Bharatpur metropolitan city on 6th February 2020 among the municipal level project stakeholders. This was to familiarize the stakeholders about the project modalities and interventions at municipal level, ward level and the community level. The Disaster Management Committee members such as Deputy Mayor and representatives from District Administration Office (DAO), Security force (Police/Army), Fire brigade, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Chitwan, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), NGO Federation, Nepal Federation of Journalist (NFJ) were present in the meeting. The programme was chaired by Ms. Parbati Shah, Deputy Mayor of the Bharatpur Metropolitan City. Altogether 54 participants took part in the meeting where 24 percent were female.

Ward Level vulnerability assessment (2 events): A ward level meeting in participation of Official from Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Ward Level DMC

members, Tole Development Organizations (TDO), and Mother's Group of ward no. 2 and ward no. 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City was organized in the both ward on 17 and 18 February 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to a) provide the basic understanding on disaster related terminologies, b) identify the vulnerability and capacity of the ward, and c) identify the hazards of the respective ward. There were 109 participants all together in the both wards and of them 50 percent were female.

Focused discussion with the identified vulnerable groups (2 events): A ward level interaction meeting among identified women groups and single women including participation of Ward Level elected representatives of ward no. 2 and ward no. 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, was organized on 5 and 6 March 2020, respectively with a view to identify their issues and needs related to DRR vulnerability. It was organized in Mother's Group Union office at Bharatpur - 10, and Rameshwor Library and Reading Room's meeting hall at Ward No. - 2. There were all together 90 participants in those meetings of them there were eleven percent male.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

Partners meeting: Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, participated in the partners' meeting of Welthungerhilfe (WHH)/BMZ funded projects on 19th September 2019 at Entrance cafe in Bakhundole, Lalitpur. Status of the project progress were briefly shared by each partner which was followed by an open sharing of experience, learning and perception between partners and WHH senior management team towards partnership between partners and WHH. The programme followed by 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 the Policy Department at WHH Head Quarter, Germany.

Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen attended a WHH Nepal organized partners' meeting on 10th December 2019 at Lalitpur. Ms. Blanka Reberts - Interim Country Director, WHH Nepal, Ms. Anja Schroder, Deputy Regional Director – WHH head office, Ms. Tamanna Ferdous, Regional Nutrition Advisor, WHH were introduced with partners.

Programming towards Improved Nutrition was presented by Ms. Ferdous. Perception of current partnership (role of partners, role of WHH and quality of project results), areas for improvement and cooperation with one another (thematic areas, geographic areas, learning, institutional memory etc.) and added values of partnership was shared by all partners including the present Nepal context after Federalization process. In the meeting, Ms. Anja shared the participants about the Global Strategy

2017-2020 of Welthungerhilfe. She also mentioned that WHH Nepal is in process to develop new country strategy and the inputs from this partners meeting will be helpful for the country team to come up with new strategy and plan. She further provided brief introduction on WHH Code of Conduct (CoC) published recently and requested the partners to ensure that there is no violation of these conducts by any WHH & Partners Staff, consultants, volunteers, service providers etc, who are directly involved in WHH funded projects.

Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen participated in the Global Hunger Index 2019 report launched event in Kathmandu, Nepal on 5th December 2019. The launch event was organized jointly by Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 report produced by WHH and Concern Worldwide was launched for the first time in Kathmandu, Nepal with financial support from The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The launch programme was well attended by a range of participants, including key government stakeholders.

Visitors

Mr. Achyut Luitel, Regional Director, Practical Action, Kathmandu visited the field of Dairy project. He visited to Bhagwati Milk Producer Cooperative Limited, Rapti – 8, Brahmanagar, Chitwan on 22nd January, 2020 and interacted with the chairman and dairy farmers of the cooperatives about the progress of the project & received feedbacks for the betterment of the project in the following year. He also observed the cattle sheds of some of the leader farmers in the vicinity.

A team of NETZ Partnership for development and Justice, a German organization, working for Bangladesh paid a visit to FORWARD Nepal from 20th to 22nd February 2020 with an intention of extending their programme in Nepal and India as well. As they were found interested mainly on livelihood programme, they were taken to Sunsari and Siraha districts to see the FORWARD Nepal's project activities. Following the field visit, the team had a meeting with Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha and Secretary, Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana along with Executive Director and other senior members of staff at FORWARD Nepal and shared their objective of visit. They had thorough interactions with Finance and Admin Team and observed financial and administrative policies of the organization. A skype conversation was also hold with the Executive Director, NETZ in

Bangladesh while the team from NETZ Mr. Satyajit Saha, Head of Finance and Administration, Ms. Afsana Binte Amin, Programme Manager and Md. Aminur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager were at FORWARD head office.

Prof. KL Maharjan from Hiroshima University of Japan paid a visit to FORWARD Nepal on 23rd December 2019 in relation to MoU update on HU interns to FORWARD Nepal. He was met by Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha and Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal.

Dr. Mandira Singh Shrestha, Programme Coordinator and her other 4 members from ICIMOD visited FORWARD Nepal on 6th January 2020 in relation to possible project partnership.

Mr. Sachin Adhikari and Dr. Subash Gurung from LWF visited FORWARD Nepal on 14th January 2020 for possible project partnership.

Mr. Rajendra Gurung, Ms. Pragati Manandhar, Ms. Anjana Sharma, Mr. Ram Nibas Kushuwa and Ms. Nitisha Kafle from UNDP, Kathmandu visited FORWARD Nepal in different dates in January and February 2020 in relation to implementation of CDRMP project in Bharatpur.

Mr. Lee Jaeho and Mr. Dhurba Gautam from Korea Engineering Consultants Corps, IRDN project Nawalparasi, Nepal visited FORWARD Nepal on 25th February 2020 for possible project partnership in vegetable sector.

Ms. Hedda Fedenci from OeloMet, Finland visited FORWARD Nepal on 6th March 2020 in relation to her research for bachelor thesis in journalism.

Staffing

➤ Staff termination/resignation

Mr. Suraj Khanal left the Livelihood project, Siraha on 25th November 2019 and joined with Agriculture Knowledge Center, Dhankuta as Plant Protection Officer.

➤ New staff

Ms. Manju Regmi appointed as Social Mobilizer for the project entitled 'Local level activities for reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk prone areas in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan' from 27th January 2020.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Yadav has joined Livelihood Project, Siraha as Agriculture Officer with effect from 12th December 2019.

Mr. Sujit Chaudhary appointed as Sub-Engineer for SCRSSI project, Sunsari from 13th February 2020.

➤ Staff promotion/appreciation

Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu has been promoted to the position of Senior Admin and Procurement Officer from 1st Mangsir 2076.

Ms. Rashu Thakali has also been promoted to the position of Senior Admin Associate from 1st Mangsir 2076.

Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, Project Coordinator was honoured with a letter of appreciation in recognition of his creativeness and contribution, beyond his assigned project, in institutional development.

Institutional activities

Publication:

Annual report: The Annual Report of FORWARD Nepal for the fiscal year 2075/76 (2018/19) was published in February 2020 and distributed to its members and staff in the annual general meeting held on 29th February 2020. The report will further be distributed to other concerned organizations.

Riverbed farming booklet: A booklet on Riverbed farming was published and distributed to the concerned project stakeholders. Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Nepal has kindly supported for the printing of the booklet through livelihood project, Siraha.

Revision of Code of Conduct of the organization: Code of Conduct (CoC) of FORWARD Nepal to be applicable to its staff, members, consultants, partners and workers who are involved in its programmes are updated and passed by the Executive Committee in February 2020.

Meetings:

Annual programme review, planning and reflection meeting: A meeting was held on 28th February 2021 at the FORWARD Nepal head office with the overall objective of sharing progress against plan and capture learning and reflection of the projects implemented by the organization.

Project output wise progress against log frame indicators, learning and issues observed during the project implementation and other project management and financial aspects of the projects were discussed/shared. Besides projects, other programmes of the organization were also shared. Constructive feedback for the project team and management team at the head office was provided for necessary improvement. Project leaders / coordinators, project officers, finance officers and all the staff members at the head office attended the meeting. Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Secretary, Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana and Founder member, Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa had kindly made their time available and provided their

constructive comments and guidance for the meeting.

Board meeting on 28th February 2020: 86th board meeting was held on 28th February 2020 under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha and the meeting reviewed and finalized the agendas to be submitted to the 23rd Annual General Meeting.

AGM: 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of FORWARD Nepal was held on 29th February 2020 at the Jaldevi Community Forest Users Group Meeting hall, Aanptari, Kshetrapur of Bharatpur Metropolitan City-2, Chitwan. The programme was chaired by Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson.

FORWARD Nepal and Ward Chairman, Purna Bahadur Shrestha, Bharatpur Metropolitan City-2 had attended the programme as Chief Guest and President, District NGO Federation, Chitwan, Mr. Suresh Adhikari as Guest. Board members, members and staff were present in the programme.

The first session of the AGM was jointly inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Guest and Chairperson and it was facilitated by Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari, one of the founder members while a welcome speech was delivered by Vice-chair Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota. A brief programme of FORWARD Nepal was shared by Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, Programme Manager through the PP presentation. The income and expenditure for the fiscal year 2075/76 B.S. (2018/19) was also shared by Treasurer Ms. Sunita Shrestha and Finance Officer, Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi.

Following the inaugural session, the second session was started with the facilitation by Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana, Secretary to the Executive Committee of FORWARD Nepal and following agendas were shared, discussed and approved by the AGM. (This minute of meeting is shared with an intention of informing to those members who were not able to attend the AGM).

Use of FORWARD Nepal's land at Kalyanpur, Bharatpur Metropolitan City- 4. Under the present uncertainties surrounded in existence of NGOs and having no immediate plan of any infrastructural works in the land, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari reported that various options are being explored for the efficient use of land.

FORWARD Nepal Receivable amount, which was transferred in the name of some staff and members from GATE Nepal against FORWARD Nepal's investment in GATE Nepal. As invited by GATE Nepal, the concerned staff and members have applied for the sales of FORWARD Nepal share remained in their name in the company. The Board and the management team of FORWARD Nepal will follow this up continually.

FORWARD Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. It was reported in the AGM that it is in the process of closure and the management will further review the process in Baisakh 2077.

Liaison office at Kathmandu. It was discussed and decided to close down the present liaison office at Kathmandu and look for other suitable cost saving options as necessary.

Strategic plan: In the changing context of government policies to be applicable to NGOs and social organizations, it was reported difficulty to make a long-term period strategic organizational plan until a clear picture comes forward. However, a temporary short-term plan was presented by Executive Director, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen and endorsed by AGM.

The tentative budget for the fiscal year 2076/77 B.S. and the audited income and expenditure of last fiscal year 2075/76 B.S. was presented by Treasurer, Ms. Sunita Shrestha and Finance Officer, Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi and approved by the AGM.

Appointment of External Auditor. The management team had proposed the name of SHA & Associates, Chartered Accountants for the audit of FORWARD Nepal's account for the fiscal year 2076/77 for approval by the AGM. Thereafter, the AGM have endorsed it with suggestion of negotiating the cost proposal with SHA & Associates.

New membership. The AGM have transferred the responsibility to the Executive Board for a detailed review of the applications received for the new membership of FORWARD Nepal and provisionally issue the membership as necessary, which could be finally endorsed by the next AGM.

Finally, the 23rd AGM formally declared closure by the Chairperson with his key notes of thanks to all members.

Picnic programme: As in previous years, a family picnic of FORWARD Nepal was organized immediately after the 23rd AGM on 29th February 2020 at Jaldevi Community Forest Picnic spot, Aanptari, Kshetrapur, Chitwan where members and staff together with their wives and children participated.

News

Under the Micro-Capital Grant Agreement of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), an agreement was signed between the UNDP and FORWARD Nepal on 9th December 2019 for implementation of project entitled "Local level activities for reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency response capacities in multi-hazard risk

prone areas in Ward No. 2 and 10 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan".

A MOU was signed on 27th December 2019 between the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) and Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal) for providing a small grant to the four master degree students of AFU. These students will conduct their master degree predefined thesis research the sites of the project entitled "Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala River Basin, Siraha District, Nepal", a partnership project of Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Germany, Asaman Nepal and FORWARD Nepal.

Some Glimpses



Public hearing at Rajgadh-5, Malekpur, Saptari



Integration meeting with partner and Plan in office, Itahari, Sunsari



Household Survey Result Presentation Programme at District Coordination Committee, Chitwan



Focused meeting among women and single women, Bharatpur, Chitwan



Farmer were selling their products under market shed at Kalyanpur-3, Prasahi Bazar, Siraha



FORWARD Nepal's 23rd Annual General Meeting



Annual Picnic Programme at Jaldevi, Chitwan