



FORWARD Nepal

Bulletin - 29

March 15, 2023-July 16, 2023

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

This 29th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin provides a general cumulative brief update on project implementation progress with some of the institutional activities/events for the last four months of the fiscal year 2079/80 B.S. i.e. March 14, 2023 to July 16, 2023. During this period, we continued with five projects viz. "Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Village in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal-Phase II"; "The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal"; "Effect of Male Out Migration, and Environmental Changes on Women involved in Livestock Production in Rural Nepal"; "USAID/FtF Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub"; and "Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Dairy Value Chain in Western Nepal". We also started with two projects namely "Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal (YUVA)" and "Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as promoters of improved food systems and equitable Livelihood opportunities".

Apart from this, developing project concept papers and proposals have been continued based on need and perspectives.. Participation in meetings, seminars, and training with different donors and development agencies by our project-based staff and head office staff was apprehended. We were also privileged to organize YUVA project and FELLO projects launch workshop in this period wherein project stakeholders participated. Sixteen new staff have also joined for the new projects.

Joint monitoring visits of concerned government officials from the Federal and Local levels, professionals and experts from Agriculture and Forestry University and donors agencies were held in TERAJ project and donor monitoring visits to the Nutrition Community project.

Major project activities conducted

1. Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal - YUVA

Introduction

"Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal -

YUVA (Youth)" is a research-for-development project. It is one of the research initiatives of the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, managed by the University of California, Davis. FORWARD Nepal, as a lead institution, has been implementing the YUVA project, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Nepal, as a consortium partner, has been providing co-funding and technical support for implementing this project. Moreover, the collaborating partners, the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) of Nepal and the National Farmer Group Federation (NFGF), provide thematic expertise to the YUVA project. The local governments will establish policy provisions to establish and promote horticulture enterprises by youth, including effective funding mechanisms. The YUVA project is being implemented at Buddhabhumi, Sandhikharka, and Tulsipur Municipalities of Lumbini Province, Nepal, from April 2023 to July 2026.

The primary objective of the project is to identify, test, and establish appropriate horticultural enterprises that contribute to decent employment and income for Nepalese youth (women and men). The YUVA project will establish 24 horticulture enterprises focusing on youth (men and women) to gather evidence of appropriate size, crop, and technology for sustained employment and income for the youth and funding mechanisms to support such enterprises.

The principal activities of the project in this quarter are:

- **Project staff onboarding**

In April, Dr. Bishnu Kumar Bishwakarma as a Principal Investigator (PI), Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire as Co-PI from WHH, Ms. Srijana Neupane as MEAL Officer, and Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu as Admin and Finance Officer joined the project and the project implementation started.

- **Coordination/consultation visit/meeting with local governments for research site selection:**

During 18-21 April, the YUVA project team, including Dr. Bishwakarma, PI; Mr. Ghimire, Co-PI; Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, SA Hub Manager and Netra Pratap Sen, ED, FORWARD Nepal visited the potential project sites Buddhabhumi, Kapilvastu;

Sitganga and Sandhikharka of Arghakhanchi and Ghorahi of Dang. During this visit, consultations with local leadership, local level government agriculture staff and other relevant stakeholders were done. Correspondence was done later with Buddhabhumi municipality, Kapilvastu, Sandhikharka municipality, Arghakhanchi and Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city, Dang of Lumbini province to collaborate for the YUVA project.

- **Innovation Lab for Horticulture (ILH) annual meeting, Kenya**

The annual meeting of Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture was held in Nairobi, Kenya during 22-26 May 2023. Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal, YUVA project PI and Co-PI and South Asia Hub Manager participated in the IHL annual meeting.

- **Recruitment of field officer**

During June, three field officers (Ms. Sudha Baniya, Ms. Subhika Pradhan, and Mr. Nomraj Sharma) were recruited and deployed in project districts Kapilvastu, Dang and Arghakhanchi respectively.

- **Staff orientation and kick-off workshop**

YUVA project inception and staff orientation workshop was held from 14-16 June 2023 at Narapani, Arghakhanchi, where the opening program on 14th June had the gracious presence of Mayors and other representatives from Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan City, Sandhikharka municipality and Buddhabhumi Municipality, representative from Agriculture and Land Management Ministry, Lumbini Province; president and members of National Farmers' Group Federation; representative from Kalika Self-reliance Social Center, along with staff from implementing partners Welthungerhilfe and FORWARD Nepal.

- **MoU between consortium partner and collaborator and onboarding of experts**

A written contract is signed between FORWARD Nepal and consortium partner cum donor Welthungerhilfe. Onboarding of four experts: Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Shrestha-horticulture expert, Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota-GESI expert, Dr. Ujjal Tiwari-socioeconomic expert, and Dr. Stefanie Griebel-research expert, is done and the project is currently preparing the ToR of those experts.

- **Mapping and listing of farmers for aspiration, income needs and livelihood survey**

Field officers are scoping the project sites and collecting information on youth farmers in the project

sites. The sampling frame of the survey is being identified in the field while drafting and refining of the questionnaire is done by PI and MEAL officer with the help of experts.

2. Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promoters of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities

"Grassroots Civil Society Organizations as Promoters of Improved Food Systems and Equitable Livelihood Opportunities," (FELLO) is a BMZ/WHH funded project scheduled from 1st June 2023 to 28th February 2027, spanning 45 months. FORWARD Nepal and Kalika Self-reliance Social Center (KSSC) are implementing the project in partnership with Welthungerhilfe. It targets three Rural Municipalities in Kapilvastu district: Mayadevi, Sudhodhan, and Yashodhara, with a specific focus on agriculture and nutrition sectors. The primary objective of the project is to empower socially marginalized and economically poor citizens in those three Rural Municipalities by promoting improved food systems and equal livelihood opportunities.

The principal activities of the project in this quarter are:

- **Project staff onboarding**

On June, a team from FORWARD Nepal management went for staff hiring for the FELLO project. From the recruitment process, Mr. Madhu Sudan Poudel as Program Officer (Agriculture and Livelihood), Mr. Binod Pokharel as Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting Officer, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav as admin and finance officer were selected along with 7 community facilitators for the fieldwork. With this, the project went into implementation.

- **MoU between consortium partner and collaborator and onboarding of experts**

A written contract agreement has been signed with donor of the project Welthungerhilfe, and contract with consortium partner is under process.

- **Staff orientation and kick-off workshop**

The inception and staff orientation workshop of FELLO project was conducted on 3-7 July 2023 at Hotel Tilaurakot, Taulihawa of Kapilvastu district. Project launching session held on 3rd July was chaired by Kamlesh Sharwan Chaudhary, Mayor, Suddhodhan Rural Municipality and had the graceful presence of municipal representatives from all 3 Palikas, representative from District Coordination Committee, Welthungerhilfe, KSSC and FORWARD Nepal. Immediately after launching the workshop, started the

five days of orientation to staff and management on project introduction, reporting compliance, and detailed implementation plan, facilitated by different thematic experts from WHH.

- **Preliminary mapping survey of project sites**

Preliminary mapping of project sites has commenced in all three rural municipalities at Kapilvastu district from July 13th, led by community mobilizers to gain a rough understanding of the field status and facilitate effective communication between the target beneficiaries and project staff. Before initiating the survey, thorough coordination is established with all three rural municipalities. Data collection templates are provided to field staff to gather information from the villages and toles within the 22 wards. The survey is planned to conclude before July 25th, 2023.

3. Regional Programme for Scaling up the Multi-sectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Village in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal-Phase II

- **Regional Nutrition Advisor field visit to Rautahat and Saptari**

Dr. Tamanna Ferdous, the Regional Nutrition Advisor, visited the Nutrition Smart Community-Nepal's field in Saptari and Rautahat from 8th to 12th May 2023. The visit included observing PLA-LANN+ meetings, interacting with caretakers of malnourished children, engaging with stakeholders, observing SIFS model farms, conducting anthropometric measurements and CGM scans for children, continuous household monitoring of under-five children, separate sample sizes for MAD and MDD-W surveys, frequent calibration of instruments, adoption of water harvesting, and adjusting working schedules during hot seasons were recommended.

- **Induction on Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) to project team**

During RNA's visit, an induction session on Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) was conducted at the Project office, Rajbiraj. The aim was to orient the NSV project team on conducting the MDD-W survey using specific guidelines. Some pointers included counting fortified food, excluding pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), and differentiating sample units for MAD and MDD-W surveys.

- **NSMP MToT to Master trainers and SIFS champions in both District**

3 days NSMP MToT to master trainers was held on 26-28 March 2023, at Shree Janta Adharbhat Bidhyalaya, Rajgad-3. In total 13 (6 Female and 7 Male) NSMP

resources pool are developed at Saptari. The general objective of the training was to understand the inclusive and participatory planning process of the NSMP and its village-level implementation.

- **LANN+ PLA meeting in the scale-up village**

A total of 648 LANN+ PLA meeting were conducted, with 331 in Saptari and 317 in Rautahat reaching 19,440 female participants, aiming to identify underlying causes of malnutrition, WASH, and agriculture-related issues.

- **FFS PLA class**

A total of 601 FFS PLA classes were conducted, with 337 in Rautahat and 264 in Saptari, engaging 9,823 female and 8,207 male participants. The classes covered various techniques like optimal land usage, crop selection, and organic remedies for crop and pond management, enhancing farming practices, livelihoods, and sustainable farming systems. The FFS sessions focused on pond and shed management, sack farming, and seasonal planning while emphasizing water quality, sack farming, urine collection, and individual farm planning.

- **Standardization tests at both districts**

A two-day standardization test was conducted at Hotel Siya Palace, Gaur, Rautahat from Thursday, 8 June 2023 to Friday, 9 June 2023. The test aimed to assess standardization procedures, particularly focusing on the Child Growth Monitor (CGM) scan through the CGM application. Three out of five health workers and three out of four NSV staff passed the test and were recommended to practice with other participants in the field.

- **Consultant visit at Project area for position paper of Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**

In May 2023, a consultant visited the project area for Welthungerhilfe (WHH) to assess the progress and nature of interventions. In-depth interviews with beneficiaries and community adoption of interventions were conducted.

- **NSMP training for Master Trainers in Rautahat District**

A 3-day NSMP training for master trainers was held from 4th to 6th April 2023 at Shree Secondary School, Tejapakad. A total of 18 NSMP resource pool members were developed in Rautahat, including 5 females and 13 males. The training aimed to understand the inclusive and participatory planning process of NSMP, with in-class sessions focusing on nutrition, malnutrition, NSMP steps, and local-level

planning, while field demonstration sessions covered the village-level NSMP process.

- **Nutrition Sensitive Microplanning (NSMP) at Village Level**

In both districts, Nutrition Sensitive Microplanning has been completed in 101 out of 103 villages. Watch committees have been formed, and the nutrition plan will be endorsed at the ward assembly. In Rautahat, 52 villages have detailed nutrition plans, including activities like screening, kitchen gardens, and livestock farming. In Saptari, 49 villages have plans that encompass training, agriculture, and kitchen gardens.

- **Conduct orientation to health workers on anthropometric measurement**

The health section of the Municipal Office organized an orientation on anthropometric measurement for health workers in both districts. In Rautahat, 30 participants were oriented, and screening will be conducted by 9 teams from 19th April to 30th June 2023. In Saptari, 25 participants were oriented, and screening is scheduled from 30th April to 2nd June 2023.

- **Conduct Mass Screening of 6 - 59 months children**

Mass screening of children aged 6 to 59 months was successfully conducted in both Rautahat and Saptari districts. Health workers and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) assessed anthropometric measurements, identifying 19.93% (693) of children in each district as malnourished. Specifically, 9.57% (333) of boys and 10.09% (351) of girls were found to be malnourished in both areas.

- **Participate and provide technical support to the health section of the municipal office**

Technical support for the health section included a one-day orientation on anthropometric assessment, with facilitation, budget breakdown, and a mass screening work plan. Additionally, coordination with district and municipal offices ensured a continuous supply of RUTF to avoid stockouts.

- **Celebration of National Paddy Day**

On National Paddy Day, a celebratory event took place in Rautahat and Saptari districts on June 30, 2023. The event aimed to honour hardworking farmers and raise awareness about the importance of paddy cultivation in agriculture. The gathering brought farmers, officials, and community representatives together, fostering unity and collaboration.

4. USAID/FtF Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asia Regional Hub

- **Projects Award and Contract:**

Three projects are awarded by Innovation Lab for Horticulture, led by UC Davis, to South Asia and coordinated by the South Asia regional hub. Those projects are:

i) Production Efficiency and Employment Nexus: Advanced Technology based Urban and Peri-urban Horticulture in Bangladesh and Nepal: Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) partnering with Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU)

ii) Mitigating soil-borne diseases to improve smallholder farmer livelihoods and food security in Nepal: Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), and

iii) Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through appropriate Horticulture Innovations in Nepal (YUVA): FORWARD Nepal in partnership with WHH. The contracting process is completed for all projects, staff are onboarded and projects are in the initial phase of their implementation process.

- **Annual Meeting at Nairobi:**

The annual meeting of ILH was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 22-26 May, where nine members from South Asia, (8 from Nepal and 1 from Bangladesh) participated. The representation of the South Asian Regional hub was done by Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Chairperson, FORWARD Nepal and Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Regional Hub Manager. The regional hub manager shared the development pathway of the prioritization of the archetype and the adjoining processes to the International Advisory Board meeting together with the Management Entity and the Regional Hub Managers. In addition, representatives from all three projects participated and presented the project proposal and plan. On behalf of the YUVA project, Dr. Bishnu Bishwakarma, PI, FORWARD Nepal and Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Co-PI, WHH participated in the meeting, whereas Prof. Dr. Kalyani Mishra Tripathi and Mr. Praseed Thapa from AFU, Prof Dr Md Anwarul Abedin from BAU Bangladesh, Dr. Ram Bahadur Khadka and Dr. Ranjana Rawal from NARC also attended the meeting representing their projects. The Management Entity shared the communication, branding and marking guidelines together with other M&E systems in PieStar. The annual meeting brought together the International Advisory Board, Management Entity, Consortium Specialists, Regional Hub Managers, Project Principal Investigators and Co-

PIs sharing the recently awarded projects and receiving feedback/inputs for implementation going forward and also opening up prospects for collaboration. It was also a great event for networking of professionals across regions. The next annual meeting is planned to be hosted by Central America followed by South Asia.

5. The Enhanced Rural AI (TERAI) Project for Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal

- **Training on saving and credit for the group treasurers**

Three-day training was provided to group treasurers from 19-21 March 2023 at Buddhabhumi Municipality – 2, Gorusinge, Kapilvastu. The training dealt with financial literacy, savings and its importance, family budget and its importance, loan, double-entry bookkeeping system, bill/invoice, receipt, interest calculation, posting in the savings account, loan account, and saving & credit pass book of the group members, etc.

- **Animal Breeding and Artificial Insemination Training to paravets**

Animal Breeding and Artificial Insemination Training was provided to paravets from 7th – 18th May at National Livestock Breeding Office/GoN, Pokhara to strengthen their competency in managing breeding programs, applying artificial insemination procedures, understanding genetics and reproduction, and implementing biosecurity measures effectively.

- **Animal Breeding and Artificial Insemination Refresher Training**

Animal Breeding and Artificial Insemination Refresher Training was provided to 11 paravets from 16th – 21st April at the National Livestock Breeding Office/GoN, Pokhara to enhance the knowledge, techniques, and skills of paravets related to animal breeding and artificial insemination, and ensure that they are up-to-date with the latest technologies.

- **Capacity building training for the executive members and/or managers of dairy cooperatives**

Thirteen executive members and/or managers of dairy cooperatives were capacitated on strategy planning, entrepreneurship development, business plan preparation and GESI from 22nd – 25th April 2023 at Hotel Machhapuchhre, Banganga Municipality – 4, Jitpur, Kapilvastu.

- **Joint monitoring of ADRA Asia, AFU, IRDC Nepal and FORWARD Nepal**

A joint monitoring visit was organized on 11th – 12th June, where Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director along with Mr. Umakant Chapai, Chairman (District Coordination Committee, Rupandehi), Mr. Brendon Irvine, Director of Programs and Planning (ADRA Asia, Bangkok), Dr. Hom Bahadur Basnet, Dean (Faculty of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Fisheries, AFU), Mr. Sagar Paudel, Coordinator (National Cattle Research Program/NARC) visited the project sites and observed the project activities and provided necessary feedback to the project.

6. Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Dairy Value Chain in Western Nepal (AFU- FORWARD Nepal)

- **Project contract**

Project contract has been signed with the University of Florida, USA at the end of March with both of the consortium partners, viz. FORWARD Nepal and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) separately.

- **Weekly meetings**

Project PI from AFU and project Co-PIs from FORWARD Nepal and AFU attend the weekly meeting every Thursday at 8:45pm NPT conducted by the University of Florida where project PI from USA, Prof. Dr. Gerrit Hoogenboom, Agriculture and Biological Engineering, University of Florida and PIs and Co-PIs from all projects of Livestock Innovation Lab participated.

- **Drafting of the questionnaire**

Project PI Dr. Ujjal Tiwari, and Co-PIs Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary and Mr. Praseed Thapa have drafted the questionnaire for the study and shared it with the University of Florida for refinement.

Training/Workshop/Meeting

- African Jersey Forum was organized by Shire Highlands Milk Producers Association at Blantyre, Malawi from 27-29 June 2023 where Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, Livestock Development Specialist, FORWARD Nepal, Dr. Anil Chandra Neupane and Mr. Sharad Adhikari from ADRA Nepal, and Mr. Jagbir Chaudhary from Indreni Rural Development Center (IRDC) Nepal participated from TERAJ project.
- Orientation to health workers on Anthropometric measurement was organized by Rajghad rural municipality, Rautahat on 20 April 2023 where officers and nutrition promoters participated and facilitated the orientation.

- Province review and planning workshop was organized by Madhesh province Health Directorate (PHD), Ministry of Health and Population, on 20-21 June 2023 where the project coordinator and WASH supervisor participated from the Nutrition Smart Community project.
- Regional Consultation on promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture for Improving Nutrition Security and Health of smallholders in South Asia was organized jointly by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) on 11-12 July 2023 in Kathmandu, to address malnutrition and food security as well as identify major Nutritional Sensitive Approaches (NSA) in South Asia. On behalf of FORWARD Nepal, Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director, Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Regional hub manager, ILH, Amit Raj Shah, PC, NSV-II, Smita Kumari Pal, Agriculture Officer, NSV-II participated.
- FORWARD Nepal staff including Amit Raj Shah, PC, NSV-II, Srijana Neupane, MEAL Manager and Smita Pal, Agriculture Officer, NSV-II partook in the Staff and partner orientation for common understanding on good practices for achieving Nutrition Security workshop organized by WHH from 14-16 July 2023 at Hotel Sarathi, Dhulikhel, Kavre.
- YUVA conducted its project inception and staff orientation workshop from 14th to 16th June 2023 at Sandhikharka-6, Narapani, which had the presence of project staff, expert, management and relevant stakeholders.
- FELLO project conducted its inception and staff orientation workshop on 3-7 July 2023 at Hotel Tilaurakot, Taulihawa of Kapilvastu district, which has the presence of donor, and management and staff from both implementing organizations and relevant stakeholders.
- FORWARD Nepal staff including Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Bishnu Kumar Bishwakarma and Srijana Neupane took the UC Davis provided virtual crash course on "Postharvest solutions for small and evolving operations" from June 26-30. The course was also undertaken by ILH representatives from AFU, NARC, WHH, east Africa, west Africa and central America.
- Krishna Prasad Sapkota, ILH SA hub manager, attended International Horticulture Conference organized by Nepal Horticulture Society, at Godawari Village Resort, which brought together policy makers, external development partners, farmers, academic communities, researchers, scientists, government officials, INGOs, NGOs,

journalists, and private sectors to exchange information, experiences and research results.

- KP Sapkota also participated National Conference on Food Science and Technology, organized jointly by Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA) and Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) at Aloft Hotel, where representatives from FAO, MoALD, TU, Care, GiZ, WHH, Li-BIRD, AFU assessed the existing food systems and safety, gaining awareness and advocacy to promote food systems for better nutrition.
- South Asian Climate Action Conference, organized by Youth Development Society and Sipshala was participated by KP Sapkota on 20-22 June 2023 at Yellow Pagoda Hotel.
- KP Sapkota, on behalf of FORWARD Nepal, participated "Consultation Workshop on Global Food Policy Report" on 19-20 June 2023 at Marriott Hotel, organized by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), which aimed to identify gaps on responses to food crisis, suggest mechanisms and help prioritize efficient crisis response funding.
- "Community of Practice on Climate Resilient Agriculture" organized by FinChurchAid (FCA) at Malla Hotel was also attended by KP Sapkota, which aimed to create spaces for networking, joint learning and future collaboration between different actors fostering knowledge sharing and innovation.

Staffing:

- Mr. Shyam Raj Badu has been appointed for the position of Nutrition and WASH Supervisor for the Nutrition Smart Community project.
- For the new project, YUVA, the following staff are hired for the following positions:
Dr. Bishnu Kumar Bishwakarma- Principal Investigator
Ms. Srijana Neupane- MEAL Officer
Ms. Sudha Baniya- Field Officer
Ms. Subhika Pradhan- Field Officer
Mr. Nomraj Sharma- Field Officer
- For the new project, FELLO, the following staff are hired for the following positions:
Mr. Madhu Sudhan Poudel- Program Officer (Agriculture and Livelihood)
Mr. Binod Pokharel- Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting Officer
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav- Admin and Finance Officer
Ms. Brinda Kumari Linkha- Community Facilitator (Technical)

Ms. Sabina Palpali- Community Facilitator (Technical)
 Ms. Shreejana Regmi- Community Facilitator (Technical)
 Mr. Subhash Khanal- Community Facilitator (Technical)
 Mr. Ganesh Poudel- Community Facilitator (Technical)
 Mr. Sudama Mishra- Community Facilitator (Technical)
 Mr. Hanuman Prasad Yadav- Community Facilitator
 Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Karki- Office and Logistic Assistant

Visitors:

- Mr. Prashu Ram Poudel along with a team from Bharatpur Metropolitan City ward no 2 visited FORWARD Nepal Head Office on 28th March to suggest provincial registration of FORWARD Nepal.
- Mr. Arjun KC, Save the Children, US, Ishwari Kadariya, AFU, and Mr. Durga Acharya, Save the Children Nepal paid a visit to FORWARD Nepal Head office on 2nd April 2023.
- Ms. Deepa Shrestha, Ms. Shanti Khadka and Ms. Jushana Adhikari from ADRA Nepal visited FORWARD Nepal head office for project monitoring on 27th April 2023.
- For extended AGM of FORWARD Nepal, Professor Dr. Sharada Thapaliya, Registrar, AFU; Professor Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, VC, Gandaki University; and Mr. Manoj Ranabhat, chairperson, BMC ward no 2 paid a visit to FORWARD Nepal head office on 28th April 2023.
- On 18th June, Dr, Stefanie Griebel, Research coordinator, Welthungerhilfe HQ and Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire, Program manager, WHH country office, Nepal visited FORWARD Nepal head office.
- Mr. Chiranjivi Sharma, vice-CDO, Chitwan visited FORWARD Nepal head office on 22nd June 2023 for monitoring purpose.

Institutional activities/events:

- Annual calendar of FORWARD Nepal was designed, published and distributed to all project offices, offices of local stakeholders, staff and relevant personnels.
- The 26th extended Annual General Meeting of FORWARD Nepal was done in Hotel Diyalo, Kshetrapur, Chitwan on 15th Baisakh, 2080. In the event, the organization's founder members, general members, board members, staff and well-wishers gathered to review the past year's performance and lay out plans for the future. The meeting was chaired by chairperson of FORWARD Nepal, Professor Dr. Durga Devkota, and had graceful presence of Professor Dr. Sharada Thapaliya, Registrar, Agriculture and Forestry University, Professor Dr. Nawaraj Devkota, Vice-Chancellor, Gandaki University,

Mr. Manoj Ranabhat, Chairperson, Bharatpur Metropolitan City ward no 2, Mr. Jagannath Bhandari, advocate and legal advisor of FORWARD Nepal, and many more. The formal ceremony was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and unveiling the banner. After introduction, project representatives presented a short highlights of their project activities, Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Executive Director presented on the ongoing and pipeline projects of FORWARD Nepal and Mr Shriram Chaudhary and Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu provided an insightful report on the financial highlights of the year.

- After the formal program of AGM, an informal program was held in the same hotel, where the members, staff and well-wishers dined together and partook in communal merriment and dance.
- The silver jubilee souvenir of FORWARD Nepal was also ceremoniously unveiled by the esteemed presence of Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota, Prof. Dr. Sharada Thapaliya and Mr. Manoj Ranabhat on extended AGM. The souvenir highlights a 25-year milestone of the organization and symbolizes the progress, achievements, and memories of the past 25 years.

Upcoming institutional major events:

- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture South Asian launch and press release
- YUVA project municipal inception meetings
- FELLO project municipal inception meetings
- Basic training to CBOs under FELLO project
- Orientation training for FELLO team members regarding CFRM
- Breastfeeding week celebration
- MEAL Workshop –WHH on WHH standards and practices
- Financial monitoring and visit of WHH team to NSV-II project, Saptari
- Meeting with LWR on USAID Agriculture transformation activity
- Submission of the proposal on Nepal Integrated Nutrition Program with SCI lead
- USAID fraud awareness training
- EOI submission for different INGOs/ agencies for projects partnership
- Annual audit for FY 2079/80
- Annual Report 2022
- Board meeting
- Celebration of FORWARD DAY

Some Glimpses



YUVA project Inception and staff orientation workshop, Narapani, Arghakhanchi



TERAI project team on African Jersey Forum, Malawi



Local food demonstration of NSV-II project at Regional Consultation Meeting, Kathmandu



FELLO project Inception and staff orientation workshop, Taulihawa, Kaplivastu



26th Extended Annual General Meeting of FORWARD Nepal



Unveiling of Silver Jubilee Souvenir of FORWARD Nepal



Project site scoping of FELLO project by field staff



Celebration of 20th National Paddy Day by the Nutrition Smart Community team with the farmers of Paroha, Rautahat