



FORWARD Nepal

Annual Report **2019**

2018/19 (2075/76)



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Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
(FORWARD Nepal)

Central Office

Bharatpur-2, Chitwan, Nepal

P.O.Box 11 (Bhp)

Tel: +977(56)-527623/527734

Email: info@forwardnepal.org, forward@ntc.net.np

Website: www.forwardnepal.org

Liaison Office

Pulchowk, Damkal Chowk, Lalitpur

+977(1)-5009148

Editorial Team: Ram Krishna Neupane, Rishi Kesh Dhakal, Toya Gautam

Design and Layout: WPS, Tel. 015550289, wpsnepal@gmail.com

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Celebrating 23rd FORWARD Day

Vision

FORWARD Nepal aims a society where all women and men at all levels, the economically poor, vulnerable and marginalized have prosperous and dignified lives.

Mission

FORWARD Nepal reaches and empowers vulnerable and marginalized communities for their improved livelihoods through value chain approach, technology generation and adaptation, advocacy and social transformation.

Objectives

FORWARD Nepal pursues the following objectives through its Programmes/projects:

- Enhanced food and nutrition security, and increased income of disadvantaged people.
- Improved technical and managerial capability of the vulnerable communities in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management for resilient livelihoods.
- Developed and validated agricultural technologies and innovations using participatory research and development approaches.
- Developed physical infrastructure and strengthened local institutions.
- Advocating and conducting capacity building Programmes to ensure the rights of people with different ability, elders, indigenous/ethnic groups, Dalits, women, and children.

Foreword

This annual report gives you an overview of the FORWARD Nepal for the FY 2075/76 B.S. covering the period from 15 July 2018 to 16 July 2019. During the reporting year, we implemented 13 projects in 10 districts employing 46 regular staffs and 45 paid volunteers. Besides, some consultants and research assistants/enumerators were also engaged in the projects mainly on research activities and trainings as per the needs of the projects and the organization.

With the start of four new projects this year namely; Livelihood project in Siraha, Nutrition Smart Village in Saptari and Rautahat, School support initiative in Sunsari and the second phase of lentil promotion in Siraha, we were engaged in project planning, coordination, programme sharing and projects launching meetings and workshops together with local governments, donors and other project stakeholders. As in previous years, we were also involved in results documentation and reporting of three phased out projects to the project partners/donors, continued implementation of six projects that carried over from the last year. Brief highlights of all the above-mentioned projects with major achievement, accomplishments, outputs, lesson learnings and some success cases is shared herein.

It is our pleasure to note here that under the "Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative project in Sunsari", FORWARD Nepal was involved in supporting five local schools for disaster risk management planning process and their integration into municipality planning process, preparation of Ward Level Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (WDCRP), facilitation and technical support to Barahachhetra and Ramdhuni municipality, Sunsari for preparation of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP). Under livelihood project, FORWARD Nepal supported Kalyanpur municipality, Siraha for field data collection and compilation of flood-affected households. Together with WHH and its partners, we were also involved in supporting wash kits and nonfood items to more than 600 households affected by flood on 12 and 13 July 2019 in Siraha and Saptari districts.

Having said this, in this year, we were not so successful in receiving new programmes/projects of longer period for coming years. This is largely due to the adaptation of new working approach and modality by donors (in collaborating projects with local NGOs from the project-implementing district only), which is a challenge for us for collaborating new projects outside Chitwan district. It is also a matter of fact that our financial turnover has been reduced as a result we have adapted a short-term strategy for cost savings measures including downsizing of regular staffs in the organization. This has also affected us for retention of professional staff in the organization and maintaining institutional memories. Whatsoever, our efforts has been continued for institutional relation buildings and networking with the possible project funding agencies both within and outside country with the hope that situation will improve in the future.

Under the new federal structure of Nepal, we have seen many opportunities to work together with local government in our field for the mutual benefit and farmer community at large but we have not been able to materialize it due to our ineffective approach and realization of such need gap from the both sides. It is heard that a new Government Act for I/NGOs is in the process to release by the Government of Nepal, which has a direct implication on NGOs. Hence, we are waiting for the government new law and policies to be applicable for NGOS for making our long-term institutional operational plan and strategies. In this context, support is needed from all concerned to make a FORWARD Nepal a dynamic and vibrant organization to work for the target people/community. At the same time, there is a need to change in our traditional thoughts, which does not work always.

The working team spirit of all staff members of FORWARD Nepal during this reporting year was very encouraging for us, which was the basis for continuing our programmes/projects to this level in partnership with multiple donors and partners. The professional and management policy support and backings for the organization from the board members, members, professionals and founder members were equally praiseworthy and was

always motivating. The support and feedforward provided by the project partners and donors for the programmes and FORWARD Nepal remained truly commendable, professional and lively. For all these, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all concerned individual, organizations and donors. We are looking forward to continue working together in future for the benefits of our people through our expertise and action, and our programme thematic areas; food and nutrition security, business promotion and market development, adaptive research and development, natural resource management and climate change and

disaster risk management. Above all, we are always indebted with our clients (farmers and community) wherever we have worked for their extraordinary support and tireless participation in our programmes.

Lastly, we are enthusiastic to work together ahead with our staff members, members, partners, donors and supporters for the benefit of the needy people in the community where we live in. Our thoughtful actions do opens opportunity for someone, somewhere in the community. Let us keep up a professional and friendship spirit ahead.



Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha
Chairperson, FORWARD Nepal



Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANM	Assistant Nurse Mid-wife	FGD	Focus Group Discussion
BFC	Business and Finance Consulting	FORWARD	Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	FS	Foundation Seed
CBDCRP	Community Based Disaster and Climate Resilient Project	FY	Fiscal Year
CBF	Community Business Facilitator	GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
CBO's	Community Based Organizations	GBV	Gender-based Violence
CBSP	Community Based Seed Production	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CC	Collection Center	GET-CR	Gender Transformative - Community Resilient
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	GiE	Gender in Emergency
CD	Cluster Demonstration	GOs	Government Organizations
CDMC	Community Disaster Management Committee	Ha	Hectare
CDP	Community Development Programme	HHs	Households
CE	Community Enterprise	HRBA	Human Right Based Advocacy
CEAPRED	Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development	I/NGOs	International/Non-governmental Organizations
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
CoRD	Centre of Resilient Development	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergency	IPNI	International Plant Nutrition Institute
CR	Community Resilience	ISER	Institute for Social and Environmental Research
CRP	Community Resource Person	JOA	Jersey Overseas Aid
AKC	Agriculture Knowledge Center	JSPS	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
DAP	Di-ammonium Phosphate	KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
DDC	District Coordination Committee	Kg	Kilogram
DDIN	Dairy for Development in Nepal	Km	Kilometer
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee	LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
DDMP	District Disaster Management Plan	LDCRC	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Committee
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
DRMP	Disaster Risk Management Plan	LDMC	Local Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	LRC	Local Resource Center
DVPL	Development Voyage Pvt. Ltd.	LRP	Local Resource Person
DWIDP	Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention		
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer		

LSAR	Light Search and Rescue	RF	Resource Farmer
LSARM	Light Search and Rescue Materials Ltd. Limited	RGP	Resilient Girl Project
M&V	Monitoring and Verification	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	SC	Sponsorship Child
MDFN	Market Development Forum Nepal	SCR-DRM	Strengthening Community Resilient through Disaster Risk Management
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning	SDRMC	School Based Disaster Risk Management Committee
MOALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development	SDRMP	School Based Disaster Risk Management Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	SEDRA	Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Areas of Nepal
MPC	Market Planning Committee	SIFS	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
MSD	Market System Development	SIP	School Improvement Plan
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	SMC	School Management Committee
Mt	Metric Ton	TBS	Tole Bikas Sanstha
MUAC	Measurements on Mid-upper Arm Circumference	TL	Truthfully Labelled
MUS	Multi-Use Water System	ToT	Training of Trainers
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council	VAHW	Village Animal Health Worker
NERP	Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Programme	VBSE	Village-based Seed Enterprise
NPR	Nepalese Rupee	VCA	Vulnerability Capacity Assessment
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products	VCPC	Village Child Protection Committee
PCVA	Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis	VDC	Village Development Committee
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action	WDCRC	Ward Disaster and Climate Resilience Committee
PMAMP	Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project	WDCRP	Ward Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
PMCA	Participatory Market Chain Analysis	WFG	Women Farmers' Group
PUC	Purdue University Cowpea Bag	WHH	Welthungerhilfe
RbF	Riverbed Farming		

Introduction to FORWARD Nepal

FORWARD Nepal is a non-profit making, service-oriented non-governmental organization established in 1997 in Chitwan, Nepal. The organization has its head office in Bharatpur, Chitwan, and a Liaison Office at Pulchowk, Lalitpur and project offices in various working districts in Nepal. FORWARD Nepal is committed to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the disadvantaged groups and rural poor through integrated and sustainable development interventions. The organization provides a forum for researchers, development professionals, rural artisans, private sectors, academia, grass root level organizations and funding agencies committed to change the quality of lives of underprivileged people in Nepal. The organization emphasizes collaboration and partnership with government organizations (GOs), international/non-governmental organization (I/ NGOs), research institutions, academia, private sector, public media, and community-based organizations for greater impacts of its Programme, resource generation/ sharing, and sharing of work experience and learning. The organization has MOU with several institutions as GOs, universities, I/NGOs and private sectors at national and international levels for project collaboration and partnership. Over the past 22 years, FORWARD Nepal has implemented 100 projects in 58 districts involving over 0.461 million direct beneficiaries.

FORWARD Nepal has contributed to the promotion of the several innovative technologies to increase agricultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged communities, including rural farmers. One of the major achievements of FORWARD Nepal is the facilitation in the establishment of a Private Seed Company “Global Agri-tech Private Limited” in Banke, which is running independently. In collaboration with the national and international research institutions and farmer groups, FORWARD Nepal has released some crop varieties. It is a pioneer organization for the promotion of riverbed farming technology in Nepal. The organization has more than nineteen years

of experience in validating and disseminating the riverbed farming technologies. It has considerable experience in the construction of the productive infrastructure such as community resource centers, cooperative buildings, seed storage, potato rustic stores, emergency shelter/marketing houses, improved livestock sheds, irrigation channels, access roads, rainwater harvesting ponds, fish ponds, school buildings, dam construction at the riverbanks and many others. FORWARD Nepal has contributed to the development and inclusion of climate change adaptation course/chapter in some of the Local School Curriculums in Banke and Sunsari districts. Likewise, leasehold farming is practiced for the last twenty-one years for landless and ultra-poor communities and has positive results for their household income. The organization has also implemented several interventions on climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and has developed various training packages and conducted training on this at the district and community levels in different parts of the country. The organization has developed and implemented several interventions on the market system development (MSD) and promotion of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Programme Thematic Areas

FORWARD Nepal's Programme development and implementation are multi-pronged, integrating key interventions both in horizontal and vertical dimensions to enhance sustainable livelihoods and ensure positive socio-economic impacts on the communities. The organization has five Programme Thematic Areas with the following interventions.

1 Food and Nutrition Security

- Food crops and seed supply system
- High-value commodities
- Farm forestry and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)
- Productive infrastructure

2 Business Promotion and Market Development

- Enterprise development
- Value chain development
- Market promotion and networking

3 Adaptive Research and Development

- Participatory innovation, technology development and verification
- Development studies and technology dissemination

4 Natural Resource Management

- Biodiversity conservation, promotion and optimum utilization
- Promotion of renewable energy
- Nutrient use efficiency and recycling

5 Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

6 Cross-cutting themes

- Gender Equity and Social inclusion
- Participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Rights-based approaches to development

- Facilitate employment opportunities through vocational training and income generation activities for targeted groups.
- Develop and institutionalize local resource persons, local resource centers, and community-based organizations for sustainable community development.
- Seek and promote collaboration with various stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, corporate, and funding agencies at local, national and international levels as appropriate for institutional networking, sharing knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources.
- Promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) considering sustainable and judicious use of natural resources.
- Promote and strengthen comprehensive school safety framework (CSSF), community based disaster risk reduction programme (CBDRMP) and community led adaptation programme (CLAP)

Strategies/Approaches

FORWARD Nepal continues to be known as a respected, committed and dynamic organization in alleviating poverty through these strategies/ Approaches:

- Devise a value chain approach for selected sub-sectors within agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry.
- Actively engage target communities in research, institutional strengthening and development interventions to ensure the realization of their stakes and ownership.
- Utilize and promote local knowledge and skills in devising resource management solutions through participatory action research and development approach.
- Address gender and social inclusion issues by ensuring participation of women and disadvantaged members of the community at every step of the development programme.

Overview of the FORWARD Nepal's work in the FY 2018-19

Major Achievements

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19, FORWARD Nepal implemented 13 projects, employing 46 regular staff and 45 paid volunteers. Some consultants and research assistants/enumerators also contributed to the projects, mainly on research activities and training as per the needs of the projects and the organization.

FORWARD Nepal has contributed to promote several technologies for increased agricultural productivity and maintain/enhance the quality in the agricultural production systems. Several projects had contributed to increase the resilience of communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters. Interventions regarding climate change and disaster risk management (DRM) include emergency shelter house cum market-sheds to protect communities from floods, promotion of the climate-resilient technologies, climate-smart agriculture, and emergency response training. Similarly, the organization also implemented several projects

focused on social and economic empowerment of women, adolescents, and girls.

The notable achievements of FORWARD Nepal's implemented projects in the FY 2018/19 include: development of three community enterprises in Chitwan, support of one electric vehicle (facilitate milk transport), milk analyzer set, deep freezer to dairy cooperatives, construction of two emergency shelter house-cum market shed at Siraha, piloting of human digital platform based agricultural extension and marketing/selling programme in collaboration with Development Voyage Private Limited (DVPL), construction of access road to Padampuri Collection Center,

Kaule to link collection center with the main road, distribution of one power tiller performer VDC, and ten wheel barrows per former VDC in Chitwan, and 15 metal seed bins and a seed moisture meter to seed producer group at Lahan, support for establishment of 6 solar water pumps and 10 water pumps, 19 automatic sprayers, and 15 weighing machines to riverbed farmers in livelihood project at Siraha, economic empowerment of young women and girls through establishment of cosmetic shop, beauty parlor, sewing machine, boutique machine/taan, tea shop, and the establishment of nutrition corner, WASH corner, newborn corner, child play corner and birthing center at Morang.

FORWARD Nepal's implemented projects in the FY 2018-2019

SN	Projects	Locations	Donors	Beneficiaries
1	Building community enterprises for smallholder farmers in Bangladesh and Nepal	Chitwan	BMZ Germany	2,338
2	Building livelihood resilience and nutrition security in the Kamala river basin, Siraha district, Nepal	Siraha	WHH/BMZ Germany	3,479
3	Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition smart villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India	Saptari and Rautahat	WHH/BMZ Germany	7,200
4	Dairy for Development in Nepal: Boosting rural livelihoods by enhancing production techniques, strengthening value chains and improving the genetics of dairy cows in Nepal	Nawalpur, Chitwan Makwanpur	JOA/PA	5,000
5	Girls agency and youth empowerment project (GAYE)	Morang	Plan International, Nepal	371
6	Strengthening community resilience through WASH & DRN	Sunsari	Plan International	3,010
7	Girls and boys start live equally	Morang	Plan International	4,500
8	School safety initiative for strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster in Sunsari Project	Sunsari	Plan International	1,507
9	Enhancing food and nutritional security and improved livelihoods through intensification of rice-fallow system with pulse crop in South Asia (Bangladesh, India and Nepal)	Siraha	IFAD/ICARDA	314
10	Sustainable economic development of rural areas (SEDRA)	Hills and terai	BFC	NA
11	Agricultural entrepreneurship among female-headed remittance receiving households in Nepal	Bharatpur, Chitwan	JSPS/ HU	-
12	Facilitation of riverbed farming initiative in Banke, Siraha, Saptari, Morang and Jhapa districts	Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, Siraha, Banke	Helvetas Intercooperation	6,468
13	Monitoring & verification of community Development Programme(CDP) with DAI Europe	Hills and Terai	DFID	-

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECTS

BUILDING COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES OF SMALL-HOLDERS IN BANGLADESH AND NEPAL

Introduction

FORWARD Nepal successfully executed a three-year project entitled "Building Community Enterprises of Small-holders (BCES) in Bangladesh and Nepal", funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)/Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in September 2018. It was executed by four partners in two South Asian countries as Nepal and Bangladesh. In Chitwan, FORWARD Nepal implemented the project in Kalika Municipality-8, 9, 10 & 11 (former Shaktikhor and Siddhi VDCs), and Ichhakamana Rural Municipality-1 & 2 (former Kaule VDC) of Chitwan district. Altogether 2,338 households from indigenous and marginalized communities were benefitted to combat poverty and food insecurity.

Accomplishments

During the two and half month's period of the FY 2075/76 (2018/19), at the ending phase of the BCES project, only a few activities were executed. Those are: a) *Moringa plantation*: Project introduced Moringa Oleifera (Drum stick) and plantation support by establishing six nurseries for seedling raising, and 5,000 seedlings were distributed to producers. Eighteen hundred seedlings were successfully grown up from the intervention, and NPR 25 per seedlings were paid to producers, as an award, to make the intervention success. The product is channelized to the market through community enterprises (CE), b) *Human digital platform* based agricultural extension and marketing/selling activity: It was accompanied with Development Voyage Private Limited (DVPL), Kaski by provisioning training on 'organic farming, soil treatment, and techniques to use mobile application' for establishing participatory guarantee system (PGS). Project supported android mobile sets (on 50 percent cost sharing basis), and soil testing kit boxes to the ten eco-preneurs to provide support services to the producers, c) *Farm tools*: One power tiller per VDC and ten wheel barrows were supported to community enterprises and producers' group

for farm mechanization and product delivery to collection centers (CC), d) *Construction of access road*: Padampuri collection center, Kaule was supported for the construction of 18 m long access road to link collection center with the main road for vehicular movement during product transport, e) *Project progress/learning sharing and closure meetings*: four events of those meetings were organized among local government authorities of two Municipalities, district level agencies, and BCES project implementers (CEAPRED and FORWARD Nepal), at local, district, and central level respectively, f) *Social Welfare Council (SWC) project evaluation/visit*: Team of Agricultural Expert, SWC Official, Finance Expert, and Experts from WHH, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RNN) had visited the project site/s and evaluated the project in consultation with the communities and the local government in Kalika Municipality, Ward number eight and nine.

Overall output of the project

A total of 2,338 farm households were organized into 110 farmer groups and capacitated on various aspects of sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS), linking agriculture nutrition and natural resources management (LANN). The demonstration farms were established in each group and producers' groups were strengthened through technical and farm input supports. The project supported different irrigation schemes to enhance the production. Two CEs and three CCs were developed to strengthen value chains and establish strong market linkages. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were identified and capacitated based on the project developed CRP modules to facilitate the Community Enterprises and worked as a liaison among farmers, CCs and CEs. Resource Farmers, members of management committees, and CRPs were trained by series of trainings on business plan development, leadership development, book-keeping, and financial management. CEs were achieving marketable surplus and performing semi-processing activities of the farm produce.

The project established three new collection centres and two community enterprises in convenient locations for collectivized marketing and value addition of the farm produce. The CCs/CEs are equipped with trained human resources, digital weighing balance, materials for packaging tools, processing mills, power tiller, furniture etc. and is owned and managed by management committees of farmers' representatives. The project capacitated the management committees and members of CE/CCs through different technical and managerial skills and trainings cum exposure visits to the successful cooperatives, farms, and wholesale and retail markets of different places.

Project impacts

The project promoted SIFS with nutritional awareness in one hand and community business in other. It's succeeded to increase the per-capita household income to NRs. 47,880 against NRs. 34,186 in the baseline. Likely, the number of food insecure months was 3.4 in baseline which has reduced to 1.8 months; the total agricultural production was 1,623 kg per households, which has reached to 2,325 kg per household; the marketable surplus of total agricultural production was 13.7% in baseline, which has increased to

18.2%; and the diet diversity score was 4.93 in the baseline which has reached to 7.5 at the end of the project.

Each community enterprise had 3~4 trade partners (agro-vets, municipality, traders, RFs, CRPs, local organizations etc.) and offered seed, fertilizer, seedlings, extension services, collective marketing of the fresh farm produce, milling and marketing of processed product, etc. Two community enterprises and three collection centres have developed business plan for three years and were successfully implemented. Farmers have increased the coordination and linkage with the government agencies. Farmers become able to tap the government resources at group or at individual level.

Lesson Learnt

During the short time frame of this project year, it is realized that heterogeneous members in the management team of community enterprise and producers' group, in terms of caste and demography, would bring better output. It is tough to involve poorest of the poor section of the community, directly, in the business model projects.

Success Case

It's never too late to make things right

"Few years back, I had really hard times managing the needs of the family and sustaining the livelihood" says Ms. Hari Maya Chepang, a young hardworking woman entrepreneur. She is a resident of Kalika Municipality-9, Dogara-northern part of Chitwan, which is about 30 km from district headquarter Bharatpur and 17 km from the East-West highway. Currently, she is living with her husband and two sons. She is known in the village for her endurance and learning ability, which has led her to the success. She has managed to operate a resource center (a multipurpose nursery) and commercial vegetable farm. But, few years back, the scenario was totally different. The main source of income was carpentry work, managed by her husband. She used to do labour work and sometime work in neighbour's house to sustain her livelihood. As the wages for woman was low, it was really difficult for her to manage the daily household

expenses. Being the owner of 0.41 acre land, she was unable to utilize at its best. She used to grow maize, millet, and left fallow sometime. *"I do regret now- I had never thought that this piece of land would become the major source of earning for my family"*, says Ms. Hari Maya.

The change introduced in her life after she got involved in a farmer group, formed under SIFS project. She received various training as vegetable production, nutrition, animal husbandry, poly-tunnel farming, off-season vegetable production, liquid fertilizer, kitchen fishery and many others. Since then, she started growing diverse vegetables in the kitchen garden. She also received various support and planned to make vegetable farming as her main source of livelihood. But, due to the irrigation problem, her plan always remained as plan and never got executed. The SIFS project also phased

out, before she realized for the dare need of irrigation facility. However, she did not lose hope and put her effort to influence and encourage other nearby group members for the commercial vegetable farming and joint contribution to solve the irrigation problem.

At the meantime, BMZ/WHH funded BCES project launched in her area. She along with her group members raised a hope for the irrigation support. After the various negotiation with the project, they finally managed to accomplish the irrigation scheme along with their substantial cash contribution. After the irrigation facility, she started commercial farming of tomato, chilly, four season bean, yard long bean etc. She earned NPR. 40,000 from tomato, NPR. 30,000 from yard long bean and NPR. 70,000 from four season bean, making total income of NPR. 140,000, over one-year period. Now, she has diversified the farm enterprise. She runs

resource center (a multipurpose nursery) and also started poly-tunnel farming, for which she received the support from project basis on 25% cash contribution. She is making an income of NPR. 10,000-15,000 from nursery, in a season. Likewise, she is planning to sell the tomato of worth NPR. 70,000 from poly-tunnel farming.

The project also established her as a Resource Farmer, because of her hardworking nature and keen interest. She provides technical and managerial support to the community members, and plans to continue it. Now, she is happy with the changes in her life. *“I belong to the minor ethnic group, I had never hoped that I could be able to give better future to my children. But slowly it’s happening. I am now living much more comfortable life than before. The interventions of the project have certainly changed and improved my way of living.”*



Ms. Hari Maya transplanting tomato seedlings in the tunnel



Hari Maya Chepang, Kaiika - 9, Chitwan selling seedlings from her resource center

BUILDING LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE THROUGH SMART FARMING PRACTICES IN KAMALA RIVER BASIN IN SIRAHA DISTRICT

Introduction

The project "Building livelihood resilience through smart farming practices in Kamala river basin in Siraha district" is implemented through partnership between Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and FORWARD Nepal. The project is implemented as first phase for 23 months in consortium among WHH, Aasaman Nepal and FORWARD Nepal. The project is implemented in three municipalities of Siraha district, namely Kalyanpur, Karjanha and Siraha because of high poverty, population density, low HDI, large Gini coefficient, low food and nutrition security, low income (i.e. below \$689 per year), limited economic opportunity, diverse social issues, high risk from climate and disaster and low resilience and adaptive capacity for climate and disaster risk. Therefore, the project aims to improve the resilience and food security of vulnerable communities in the catchment area of the Kamala river in Siraha district. The project has three folds objectives, but FORWARD Nepal is working on its first objective as "vulnerable households use nutritionally sensitive and climate-friendly integrated farming methods and have an improved income". The livelihood project has adopted four project implementation approaches as participatory learning and action cycles to develop sustainable integrated farming systems (SIFS); participatory learning and action cycles for linking agriculture and natural resource management towards nutrition security (LANN+); nutrition camps for identification, care and nursing, nutrition advice to malnourished children; and community-based disaster risk management. Although the project has targeted 5000 HHs of 45 wards in three municipalities, more focus is in 16 wards of these municipalities adjacent to Kamala River. The project targeted to women, children below 5 years, Dalit, Muslim, landless, poor, farmer practicing riverbed/river bank farming, and climate and disaster vulnerable families. FORWARD Nepal is serving for 3,479 HHs through different livelihood related project intervention under objective one of the project.

Project accomplishments

The project has delivered different activities and achieved some outputs during the FY 2018/19. After successful establishment of project office in Siraha, the project has taken approvals from respective municipalities in December 2018 and District Administrative Office, Siraha in January 2019. The project sharing workshops were organized in Siraha, Kalyanpur and Karjanha municipalities in December 2018, in which project objective, programme, budget, structure and anticipated results were shared to local governments. Similarly, district level project sharing workshop was organized under chairpersonship of District Coordination Committee, Siraha's chairperson and in presence of different municipalities' mayors, chief district officer of Siraha district, concerned officers of different government institutions and officers from security agencies. Besides, three six-monthly project review meetings have been organized in May 2019, wherein in both programme and financial progresses were shared to local governments. Similarly, monitoring visits of local governments were organized in Kalyapur and Karjanha municipalities in June 2019. The project has organized seven workshops on annual participatory planning process of local governments for capacity building of 332 elected representatives and staffs of local governments in collaboration with other NGO partners of WHH i.e. Aasaman Nepal, Mukti Nepal and Sabal Nepal.

Construction of five emergency shelter house cum market-sheds has been initiated in project municipalities consisting two market-sheds in each of Kalyanpur and Karjanha and one in Siraha. The market-shed consists of ramp, two toilets and tube-well water supply. Out of five, 80% of construction has been accomplished in Chikana, Kalyapur-5, 70% construction works in Karjanha-11 and 50% construction works were accomplished in Bandipur, Karjanha, Prasahi, Kalyanpur and Sarswar, Siraha.

A total of 321 riverbed farmers from 15 riverbed farmer groups received support of three new varieties of watermelon in the project municipalities. Besides, the farmers groups received support of irrigation schemes, which encompassed 6 solar water pumps and 10 water pumps, 19 automatic sprayers and 15 weighing machines. In Karjanha-8, one irrigation channel improvement schemes is under construction at end of this fiscal year.

In January 2019, 15 riverbed farmer groups were formed consisting 334 households. The project has delivered two-day trainings to 48 lead farmers to support 15 riverbed farmers groups, and those riverbed farmers groups were also technically supported in the field. Forty-one people were trained on repair and maintenance of agri-equipment through five-day trainings, repair and maintenance of electric and diesel pumps of farmers through 3 slots of training. The trained people have started to provide their service to farmers. The project has selected and recruited 45 change agents, paid volunteers. The change agents and staffs were trained through training of trainer (ToT) of five days on sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS) through participatory learning and action (PLA) cycle.

To simplify and improve farmers' access to credit, eight cooperatives were selected for revolving fund establishment. The chairperson, manager and executive members of the selected cooperatives were oriented on revolving funds. After agreeing in consensus for revolving fund establishment between selected cooperatives and the project, cooperatives were supported with NPR 120,000.00 for establishment of 10 revolving fund scheme.

A couple of studies have been done by the livelihood project i.e. baseline and knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study of the project and detail study of agriculture sectors of the project municipalities. The research finding of the study were shared and validated in each municipality through a one-day validation

workshop. Similarly, the draft report of baseline and KAP study has been prepared by external consultants, which has set the benchmark of the projects. Beside these, the project conducted the targeting survey involving 14,000 HHs from project municipalities. Based on targeting survey, around 3142 HHs have been selected to form 138 farmers groups in 45 wards of three municipalities.

Lessons learnt

- Construction work is not only a public concern, but also conflict of interest of stakeholders. Hence, strong coordination with local government and stakeholders, transparency, adequate time and efforts should be provisioned before construction work.
- FORWARD Nepal has shared budget and plan that made a convincing environment to implement the project activities in community. Hence, transparency and accountability should be used not only for good governance of project, but also used for fostering ownership among stakeholders, acceptance and appreciation from community to the project.
- Pre-construction orientation/seminar to user committee and key stakeholders helps to ensure quality of construction works and materials.
- The project has trained farmers on different technique for riverbed farming. However, at the beginning farmers showed rigidity to adapt improve methods of farming, use of new tool, application of new method of manure management and pest control. Unfortunately, farmers were faced fungi and bacterial infection on watermelon. Agriculture officers were in close contact to RbF groups and were frequently visiting farmer's yards. The suggestions of the agriculture officers for pest control worked very nicely, and then farmers were realizing need of technical support. Close contact with farmers creates an enabling environment for technical support to target beneficiaries.

Success story

Riverbed Farming is an Area of Economic Empowerment of Women

“I am a woman, but I can earn money and can maintain the family. I earned money in riverbed in Kamala River and I settled my family’s loan”, Dukhini proudly shared. In spite of absence of her husband in home, she worked hard on 15 Kattha (0.5 hectare) of Kamala riverbank and was able to reconcile her loan and interest from riverbed income. She considered riverbed farming as a dignified work and self-empowerment to rural woman, who lives in riverbank.

Mrs. Dukhni Paswan is a 45 years old woman farmer, who lives on Kamala riverbank at Karjanha-6, Betaha, Siraha district. It is five km far from east west highway and 20 km far from the nearest city Mirchaiya. She got marriage on her adolescent and gave birth to four children i.e. three girls and one boy. In her community, most of people are poor in monetary term and almost all Dalit are under poverty. Her spouse Mr. Gagan Paswan went gulf for foreign employment to cope poverty, as same to trend of most Nepalese communities. Her husband was not skilled manpower resulting insufficient income for their

family expenditure. Meanwhile their family has decided to do marriage of her daughter and took loan for the marriage. Dukhani and her husband rented a Bigha (0.66 ha) of land for riverbed farming in Kamala riverbank. Being the land unregistered, they have to rent it, because other people have already captured the land. With verbal agreement of land renting at the rate of 30 kg rice grains/per Kattha to Prabhat, her family started planting watermelon and muskmelon on riverbank. Due to lack of proper knowledge and skills of riverbed farming, her family could not earn enough money from riverbed farming in the beginning. Hence, her husband finally decided to move to Qatar for foreign employment in 2018. After departure of her husband to Qatar, she became alone to hold her family’s responsibility with children and senior citizen (mother in law). She had a burden of loan for her daughter’s marriage and cost of her husband to go for foreign employment. Therefore, she needed money to cope financial problem and decided to continue renting in the land for riverbed farming in absence of her husband.



Meanwhile, FORWARD Nepal has started to implement livelihood project at her locality and formed riverbed farmer groups. She became a member of the Sagarmatha Krisak Samuha (Farmer Group). FORWARD Nepal has also reversed quota for women on riverbed farming training. Hence, her group selected her for two days training on riverbed farming in January 2019. She shared that she had never participated in training of riverbed farming before. The training has corrected her riverbed farming technique and has expanded her knowledge from varieties selection, pit preparation, sowing of watermelon, manure preparation and plant's nutrition management, pest management and so on. Dukhni said, "In addition to riverbed farming, FORWARD Nepal informed us that they would support technically in our field as per our need. It gave me more confidence in farming in riverbank." With technical support and new variety of watermelon support from the project, she did farming of watermelon in a 15-16 Kattha, in which she earned a profit of NPR 125,000.

She is talking with her husband to practice riverbed farming in more area, after his return to Nepal. She proudly said, "As a woman, I can run my house and I don't need to beg for money though I could only write my name." It proved importance of income generation for woman empowerment and riverbed farming is a decent work for rural woman. However, she felt a threat of insecurity, while guarding her crops in night from depredation by wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*). She has to stay with her child of age 10 years. Nevertheless, she is happy with support from the neighbors. She wants to give an education to her children, so that they can enjoy good life. She is planning to expand farming in more area of riverbed and riverbank of the Kamala. In conclusion, she is an example of economic empowered women and enjoying on her sweat and works for her family.



REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH FOR NUTRITION SMART VILLAGES IN BANGLADESH, INDIA AND NEPAL

The project is being implemented in Rajgadh Rural Municipality of Saptari district and Paroha Municipality of Rautahat district in Province 2, where malnutrition perpetuates from intergenerational cycle of poverty and deprivation and is restricting the benefits of economic development. The project has been focusing on multi-sectoral responses to address the multiple factors that cause chronic under-nutrition to contribute to food and nutrition security (SDG 2) amongst women of reproductive age and young children from vulnerable and food insecure families in Nepal. The project was initiated from September 2018 and will terminate in August 2020. The project aims to transform 60 villages of the two districts Rautahat and Saptari into Nutrition Smart Villages (NSV) by involving 13,382 households comprising a population of 66,912 focusing 10,000 women in the age group of 15-49 years and 6,000 children in the age group of 0-5 years. The target stakeholders will be benefitted through the participatory learning and action (PLA) cycles and agricultural demonstrations, improved care practices leading to improvements in nutrition, dietary diversity, water, sanitation, hygiene and health.

Accomplishments

Project coordinator/staff participated in the inception workshop in New Delhi, India during 26-28 October 2018. They became familiar with participants from Bangladesh, India and Nepal and developed common understanding about Nutrition Smart Village (NSV) project. They were clarified about its major activities including procurement and financial compliances. Municipality level project inception meeting included local leaders, staff of municipality, female community health volunteer (FCHV) from all wards, teachers and social workers in both districts. The project objective, its target groups, working modality and activities were shared. The

municipality level project advisory committee (PAC) was also formed in both districts to monitor project activities and provide adequate guidance for proper implementation. The project staffs participated in exposure visit to Jharkhand, India in December 2018 and had good learning about participatory and learning action. Fifteen FCHVs were capacitated on Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene towards Nutrition (LANN+) during trainer's training (ToT) and have been facilitating LANN+ sessions at LANN+ groups in their respective wards. Project staffs and health coordinators from both municipalities were also trained during ToT and are monitoring and supporting FCHVs in conducting the sessions. A total of 120 groups (48 in Saptari and 72 in Rautahat) are participating in such sessions. Three sessions on gender equality and social inclusion; intergenerational malnutrition cycle; early marriage and adolescent reproductive health were completed in Saptari. In Rautahat, first and second sessions were organized.



Regional Inception Meeting

Similarly, a total of 120 farmer's groups (FGs) were formed. Thirty excellent group leaders (EGLs) of FGs participated in ToT on sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS). Fifteen EGLs were selected as champions and are responsible to facilitate farmer's field school (FFS) in their respective FGs. All group leaders were oriented to develop SIFS model farms and have started integrating livestock, field crops and horticulture crops and establishing nutrition gardens. Altogether 23 barefoot planners (BFPs) were hired as volunteers and were capacitated in nutrition sensitive micro planning (NSNP) to support the community at house hold level planning as well as municipal level planning. Elected local government authorities, municipal staff, teachers, BFPs, FCHVs, social workers and volunteers were capacitated about current planning process.



Wellbeing Ranking



Conducting FFS session to farmer group by EGL at Paroha 6, Rautahat

Health post staffs and FCHVs were oriented on nutrition education and rehabilitation Programme (NERP) and screening. They screened 1882 children of 6-59 months and identified 244 severely acute malnourished (SAM), 383 moderately acute malnourished (MAM) in Saptari. There were 192 SAM and 502 MAM out of 3342 children in Rautahat. Assistant nurse midwife and FCHV organized NERP camp where 297 out of 308 MAM children were rehabilitated.

Regional Planning Workshop was held in April 2019 at Lahan. Progresses including baseline survey findings were shared and country wise plan for May- December 2019 was prepared and shared.

Three hoarding boards with project description and visibility were posted at three main ways to project sites in Saptari. Six boards posted at each ward of Rajgadh had message of nutrition and WASH. The street drama was organized to create awareness regarding care to children and women at reproductive age. The drama also portrayed the theme to provide additional diets, care and rest to pregnant women to avoid intergenerational malnutrition cycle.

Lesson Learnt

Improper allocation of budget for the project partner/s for agricultural activities and field staff were problem to implement the planned activities timely and effectively.

Major problems

Agricultural activities and issues received poor attention either knowingly or unknowingly.

DAIRY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

Dairy for Development in Nepal (DDIN) Project, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, is jointly implemented by Practical Action and Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal) in Chitwan (Kalika and Rapti Municipalities), Makwanpur (Manahari and Bakaiya Rural Municipalities) and Nawalpur (Madhyabindu Municipality and Binayi Triveni Rural Municipality) districts. The overall objective of the three-year project (April 2018 to March 2021) is to improve livelihood of smallholder dairy farmers through sustainable increase in income whereas its specific objective is to sustainably increase the production and productivity of 5,000 smallholder dairy farmers (50% women and 15% dalit communities) by strengthening the dairy value chain for better access to improved dairy technologies, quality veterinary services, marketing services, breed services, and financial and insurance services to smallholder dairy farmers.

Activities and accomplishments

Capacity building of smallholder dairy farmers for uptake: Three-day training of trainers (TOT) on improved dairy technology was organized each at Chitwan, Makwanpur and Nawalpur districts. Leader farmers selected by the concerned dairy cooperatives participated in the trainings. Altogether 35 leader farmers at Chitwan, 30 at Makwanpur and 30 from Nawalpur attended the training.



A leader farmer running a one-day training for other farmers

Adopting the cascade approach, the project mobilized 57 leader farmers to deliver one-day long, on-farm, issue-based practical trainings to other dairy farmers on improved dairy farming practices which were identified during training need assessment, baseline survey and dairy value chain analysis.

A four-day technical training was organized for dairy cooperatives to develop their technical capacity so that they too can provide technical advices to their beneficiaries.



TOT Training to the leader farmers

As a component of demonstration of improved dairy production practices, stainless steel milk cans of 10 liter and aluminum milk cans of 20 liter capacities were distributed to the leader farmers, in order to replace the plastic cans banned by the government. Similarly, 50 feed mixtures were also provided to 50 leader farmers for proper mixing of the feed ingredients while preparing balanced feed. Similarly, seeds of forages like Teosinte (670 kg) and *Stylo* (23 kg), and Napier cuttings (5750 cuttings) were distributed to the leader farmers through dairy cooperatives.

Training on animal reproduction and artificial insemination (AI): Eleven paravets from the project working sites were trained on 'Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination (AI)' at Livestock Services Training Center, Pokhara.

The training participants and 11 other paravets were supported with AI equipment so that they can render AI services to the farmers of project sites.



AI training trainees practicing during a practical session

Village animal health worker (VAHW) training:

Twenty persons selected by dairy cooperatives were provided with 35-day VAHW training at Animal Health Training and Consultancy Service, Pokhara so that the farmers from rural areas have increased access to animal health services in the future. The trainees have been registered at Livestock Service Section of their respective municipalities/rural municipalities, and also mobilized by Livestock Service Sections during vaccination Programmes, animal health camps, etc.

Dairy equipment support: As a component of rural milk collection center development, various dairy related equipment were supported to the dairy cooperatives as one milk analyzer set (including computer, printer, battery, inverter, digital weighing balance) on 50% cost sharing, one electric vehicle for milk transportation from collection center to chilling center, 86 milk can (40 liters capacity), 2 milk can (30 liters capacity), 2 cream separator, 2 paneer mold, and 2 deep freezer (550 liters capacity).



Electric vehicle supported to a dairy cooperative for milk transportation



VAHW trainees during a practical session

GIRLS AGENCY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (GAYEP)

Introduction

The project “Girls Agency and Youth Empowerment Project (GAYEP)” was implemented by FORWARD Nepal in partnership with Plan International Nepal in Morang District with the objective to promote economic security, self-employment and entrepreneurship development for young women/girls of landless, very poor and marginalized families through their access to on-farm and off-farm interventions. Project activities were intervened in Urlabari Municipality, Letang Municipality, Belbari Municipality, Kerabari Rural Municipality, Gramthan Rural Municipality, Katahari Rural Municipality and Dhanpal than Rural Municipality in Morang. The project directly supported to adolescent girls, young women, single women, and people with disability. Project activities were geared towards increasing the agency of children especially that of adolescent girls through asset-building, enhanced access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) services, and growth in self-protection capabilities.

Accomplishments

The project capacitated young women in development of their vocational skills in sewing/cutting, advance computer course, Acharaco boutique (traditional Tharu dress), beauty parlor, through basic entrepreneurship development training. After the training, start-up support was provided to the trainees for the economic empowerment for all adolescent girls and young women. Ninety-six sponsored child/families were directly benefited through their participation in short term vocational skill development training. In this training, especially school dropout adolescent girls and young women were empowered economically and individually. Ninety-three adolescent girls and young women who received vocational training were directly benefited from business start-up support for the establishment of cosmetic shop, beauty parlor, sewing machine, boutique machine/taan, tea shop, etc. Altogether 23 adolescent girls and young women from sponsorship families received different business start-up supports.



Rally – 108th International Woman's Day, Kerabari, Morang



Awareness against early child marriages – Street drama, Kerabari, Morang

Major Achievements

- 96 sponsored families were directly benefited.
- 54 Participants received basic entrepreneurship development training.
- 42 adolescent girls and women received different short-term vocational trainings (advance sewing/cutting, Dhaka Topi making, computer, Achraiko Butic, etc.).
- 86 adolescent girls and women started their own business.
- 93 participants reviewed their business with local agencies and other participants.

Challenges

- Still traditional vocational skill is in demand from SC families.
- Very nominal budget for start-up support for the trainees

Lesson Learnt

- Selection of appropriate candidates for the training and start-up support is very important for vocational training to be successful.
- Preferences given to local trainer and institutions for vocational trainings to SC families contribute in sustainability and helps for local job creation.

GIRLS AND BOYS START EQUALLY (GBSE) PROJECT, MORANG

Introduction

Cultural, social, and religious patterns in Nepal repeatedly enforce the low social status of women, often leading to a destructive lifestyle between genders. Instead of being treated as equal members in the society, Nepalese women are treated as less than a mere slave. The economic contribution of women was substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting in agriculture. Although the constitution offers equal educational opportunities to women, many social, economic, and cultural factors contributed to lower school enrollment and higher dropout rates for girls. Against this background, FORWARD Nepal implemented the project “Girls and Boys Start Equally (GBSE)”, in partnership with Plan International Nepal focusing on healthy grow up of girls and boys from the start in an environment providing equal opportunities, as parents and caregivers socialize them in a gender equal and inclusive manner. The objective of the project were i) Supports for increased knowledge and gender equitable and nondiscriminatory behavior of parents and care givers on responsive care, nutrition and Early stimulation, through gender transformative curriculum, ii) Girls and Boys aged 0-5, especially the most marginalized and excluded communities, grow up healthy and happy and iii) Increased capacity of institutions

accountable for promoting gender transformative inclusive early positive parenting & health development & socialization of children below 5. The project interventions were implemented in Letang Municipality, Belbari Municipality, Miklajung Rural Municipality, Kerabari Rural Municipality and Gramthan Rural Municipality in Morang.

Interventions and accomplishments

Major interventions included gender transformative/sensitive parenting education session on RCES incorporating health, nutrition and WASH behavior, capacity building of ECED Facilitator on first aid and RCES ToT/refresher, support for review meetings, campaigns, and workshops at local, district, provincial and central level, IEC/BCC material printing for RCES programme, establishment of nutrition corner, WASH corner, newborn corner, IEC/BCC corner in early child development (ECD) corner, establishment of child play corner and play material in health facilities, orientation on ECD /RCES at local level, and supports to strengthen Health facility/Birthing center/PHC-ORC (Clinical equipment support, renovation / repair maintenance) in project area.

Lesson learnt

- ECED Center is a better and effective means for behavior change on WASH and nutrition through parenting education.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (SCR-DRM) PROJECT

Introduction

The project “Strengthening Community Resilience through Disaster Risk Management (SCR-DRM) Project” was implemented by FORWARD Nepal in partnership with Plan International Nepal in Morang District in 2018/019. This was disaster risk management (DRM) project, which works as an innovative approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) that fosters the agency of children and youth, in groups and as individuals, to work towards making their lives safer and their communities more resilient to disasters. It facilitates children’s active participation and agency in efforts to prevent, prepare for, cope with, and adapt to climate change and extreme events. Such initiatives cover curriculum development in schools, teacher training, and knowledge-transfer through a range of media and increasingly they enable child participation through rights-based approaches, children’s engagement in related policy spaces, and child-centered risk communication. The objectives of the project are to strengthen community resilience through gender transformative and disability inclusive disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and WASH promotion.

The project activities were implemented at 6, 9 and 10 wards of Barahakshetra Municipality and 8 and 9 wards of Inaruwa Municipality, Sunsari. The project directly supported 4 new schools (Shree Ganesh Basic School Inaruwa-8 (Dumraha), Shree China Basic School Inaruwa-9 (Babiya), Shree Bhagawati Basic School Barahakshetra -10 (Prakashpur) and Shree Nawadurga Basic School Baraha-10 (Prakashpur)) and 4 old schools (Shree Sarbodaya Basic School Inaruw-9 (Babiya), Shree Tribhuvan Secondary School Inaruwa-8 (Dumaraha), Shree SiriJangha Yuk Singh Nisam Him Bhubhasic Basic School Barahachhetra-9 and Shree Mahendra Secondary School Barahachhetra-6) in Sunsari.

Accomplishments

Project interventions included capacity building of community and school on life- saving skills and prepare them for effective disaster response through equipment supports, child and adolescent girls led awareness campaign on disaster risk management (DRM), introduction of climate smart safe school programme through school disaster management planning and integration in school improvement plan (SIP), mock drills for life saving skills transfer, promotion of culture of safety and engagement of children on extracurricular activities on DRM. In the course of project implementation, risks associated with hazards (natural & human induced) and climate change in targeted vulnerable communities (children, young women and person with disabilities) were identified. The identified risks were reduced through implementing multi-hazard and integrated risk reduction initiatives, and help in formation of DRM policy, strategy, guidelines, and its dissemination to risk groups and vulnerable community and school through their access to Disaster Risk Management (DRM)/ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/ Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) intervention to municipality,



विपद्का कारण तथा आर्थिक सामाजिक शिक्षा तथा जीविकोपार्जन जस्ता कार्यमा प्रवृत्त उत्तर पर्व र बालबिवाह तथा जबरजस्ती विवाहका घटना बढ्ने भन्जाले बालसंरक्षण र विद्यालय समित क्षेत्रसम्बन्धी समुदायमा जम्मेतलका उपायनुपर्छ ।

communities, school, children, adolescent girls, women and person with disability.

A total 4,500 people including municipality elected bodies, administrative team/executive team, community people, school teachers and children, child club, young women groups were capacitated in vulnerable capacity assessment (VCA), DRR/CCA, gender in emergency (GiE), child protection in emergency (CPIE), uses of light search and rescue materials, family plan preparation workshop to vulnerable community/school and risk people. Other activities included; educational material preparation workshop for ECED Center at Letang Municipality, and staff participation in financial management training, DRR and DRM-Province and Priorities workshop, province level child protection issues workshop, Organized by SIWN and province level DRM meeting at Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Biratnagar, province no 1.

Major achievements

- Formation of 4 school disaster risk management committee (SDRMC).
- Formation of 6 wards disaster and climate resilience committee (WDCRC).
- Formation of 2 community disaster and climate resilience committee (CDCRC).
- Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) at local level in 5 wards and 4 schools.
- Local line agencies got knowledge about concept, reasons and safety measures from hazard and disaster.
- 100 members of school children and community children have got knowledge to be alert from protection issues.
- About 2,000 children of Sunsari are directly aware about different hazards /disaster and about 500 community people including children are indirectly aware about different disaster through formal/informal discussion, capacity development training, mock-drill, peer classes etc.
- Altogether 40 children, local authorities, community people and school teachers received capacity building training (VCA, DRM, DRR/CCA, CPIE, GiE Training)

- Four schools and two communities received Light Search and Rescue (LSAR) materials.
- 47 families of project catchment area have their own Family Safety preparation and response plan.

Challenge

- Due to non-ratification of draft LDCRP guideline, municipalities were not ready to form LDMC.
- Lack of major mitigation activities in DRR programme after VCA in community, there was conflict of interest among elected ward bodies to hold project activities according to their own interest.
- Due to lack of human resources, it was difficult to implement project activities in scattered wider areas.

Lessons learnt

- Coordination and programme sharing with palikas is important before palika's programme/budget formulation to reflect the project's programme and budget and make the project's programme fit into palika's programme.
- Peer-to-peer classes on DRM and CCA for knowledge transfer was found to be effective to raise awareness on disaster and climate change, and promote culture of safety on disasters.
- For efficient utilization of limited human resources and deliverance of good results, it would be better to plan project's activities in small coverage of area. In doing so, we would be able to demonstrate these activities as a model too.

Impacts

Due to DRM training, Inaruwa and Barahakshetra Municipalities have committed to change their working strategy in relation to disaster risk management. Inaruwa and Barahakshetra Municipalities have committed to address disaster issues through mainstreaming gender transformative DRR/CCA activities in local plan and budget allocation for DRR /CCA.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO DISASTER THROUGH SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

Introduction

The project “Strengthening Community Resilience to Disaster through School Safety Initiative” was initiated in Sunsari district since January 2018 with the objective of providing equal access to safer education and learning environment that minimize the impact of disaster and promote gender equality. The project was implemented in 5 schools in Ramdhuni and Barahakshetra Municipalities of Sunsari district. The direct project beneficiaries are 1,432 students (767 girls, 665 boys) and 75 teachers. While indirect beneficiaries include local and provincial government authorities, School Management Committees and Parent Teachers Associations of the 5 selected schools, and local communities.

Activities and accomplishments

Capacity development on safe school and gender equality has been done to 183 students, School Management Committee (SMC), Head Teachers, Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of four schools and ward representatives of Barahachhetra and Ramdhuni municipality, Sunsari. The three days training focused mainly on the essentials of the comprehensive school safety framework, the indicators of safe school, gender equality and transformation as a cross cutting issue, and the methodologies to be adopted for ensuring the safety and resilience of schools.

The project facilitated the formation of school disaster management committee (SDMC) in five schools in Barahakshetra municipality including different task force for school safety in school. A total of 121 participants with 64 males and 57 females were involved in the formation of five SDMCs in the five schools. A three-days training on climate smart safe school has been conducted to 16 staffs of Plan International Nepal and FORWARD Nepal in May, 2019. As

a part of the solid waste management, colour coded dustbins (green and blue) were provided to five schools. Beside this, a pit was constructed for the disposal of the sanitary napkins at Shree Janak Secondary School and Shree Saraswati Secondary School. Similarly, 157 people including 59 boys and 98 girls were engaged in awareness raising activities on DRR, CCA and climate smart safe school in the five targeted schools.



A total of 18 people consisting 4 female, teachers, head teachers, representatives of education coordination committee of local governments were capacitated for gender transformative climate smart safe school through organizing a four-days ToT. Three days training on disaster/ climate risk assessment and gender analysis on climate change/disaster scenario including VCA of school was conducted in targeted 5 schools of Barahakshetra municipality, in which 118



LDCRP training in Barhakshetra Municipality

children and teachers were trained on gender transformative disaster and climate vulnerability and capacity assessment. An exposure visit was organized for 27 children, teacher, SMC and PTA to observe climate smart safe school of Churiyamai Secondary School in Hetauda, Makawanpur. Targeted five schools were supported to update their school improvement plan (SIP) to have school DRR plan, in which 122 including girls, boys, teachers, members of school management committee were involved. The 24 people from targeted schools of SCRSSI have been capacitated on the basic first aid. After the training, municipality level networks of the first responders were formed and five squads of first responders to disaster were developed with certification of volunteer for first aid. Baseline survey of the project was carried out in five schools from 20th February to 28th February 2019. An inception meeting was conducted at Barahachhetra and Ramdhuni

Municipalities, in which was attended by 64 participants from the municipality including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Focal person for DRR in municipality and education officer. A five-day residential training was organized in Barahachhetra municipality involving 22 people of planning sub-committees, elected representatives and municipal staff. In the training, concept of DRR, and CCA, VCA tool practice, DCRP plan identification, prioritization, mainstreaming, and preparation of task force and cluster approach for LDCRP were orientated. After the training, two-day workshop was organized in each ward of Barahachhetra Municipality. After the VCA workshop, FORWARD Nepal have facilitated one day planning workshop among the community people to make plan, in which 248 community people were participated. All information for vulnerability and capacity assessment for the wards were gathered with community people. There were 470 participants including 139 females of 9 wards in VCA. One-day workshop for VCA results' validation was organized in Barahachhetra municipality. In the workshop, there were 37 people including elected representatives viz. mayor, Deputy Mayor, chief executive officer, DRR focal person and ward chairperson. After these processes, the Risk profile and LDCRP draft was prepared and submitted to LDMC Municipality.

Impact

Five school of the project site have SDMC with plan for comprehensive school safety, which is in build in their school improvement plan.

ENHANCING FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS THROUGH INTENSIFICATION OF RICE-FALLOW SYSTEM WITH PULSE CROPS IN SOUTH ASIA

Introduction

FORWARD Nepal has been implementing the project with support from IFAD/ICARDA since October 2016. The project aims to enhance the food and nutrition security and improve the livelihood of poor farmers through intensification of rice fallows with pulse crops. The project has promoted an additional crop (lentil) in the fields which otherwise used to be left fallow in winter due to a number of reasons such as non-availability of seeds, lack of irrigation, delayed paddy harvesting, too dry soils, stray animals and socioeconomic constraints like absentee landlords and uneconomic winter crops. To address the issue, the project intervened through capacity building of farmers on improved technology package of lentil farming, demonstrations, seed production, organization of farmers' field days and innovative platform meetings, and seed storage supports.

Activities and accomplishments

Cluster demonstration (CD): To address the problem of rice fallows, the project intervened through demonstration with a technology package consisting of improved lentil variety, seed priming, DAP fertilizer application and need-based application of fungicide to manage stem and leaf blight disease. Accordingly, 283 CDs on improved production technology of lentil were conducted in 11 clusters/villages: Tilebana/Gadha, Harinagara, Charapati/Kataha, Pokharbhinda, Sisawani, Padharia, Laxmipur Patari, Bhotia Tol, Barchuwa, and Kejuwahiad Motipur in Siraha district. A total of 51.9 hectares was brought under CDs.

Village based seed enterprise (VBSE): To address the scarcity of quality seeds of improved lentil varieties, the project has promoted VBSE in the project area. VBSE was implemented in

5 hectares area involving 30 farmers affiliated to community based seed production group (CBSP), Padharia and Jandibya Farmers' Cooperative, Gadha of Siraha district. The varieties used were: Shikhar, Shital, Sindur, and Black Musuro. In the year 2018/19, 3167 kg truthfully labelled (TL) and 540 kg foundation seed (FS) of lentil was produced, which is adequate to cover an area of 123 ha in succeeding crop season. To enable farmers for safe seed storage, 300 hermetically sealed storage bags (IRRI bags) were distributed to the seed producer farmers. Besides, 15 metal seed-bins of 200 kg capacity each were provided to Jandibya Krisak Cooperative, Gada for bulk storage of seeds, and a seed moisture meter to seed producer group, Padharia, Lahan.

On the spot training: 330 farmers were trained through organizing 12 slots of training events on improved lentil farming. Besides it, 30 women from Bhotia Tole were trained on lentil value addition to enhance their economic condition through selling value added products such as Dalmoth, Bhujia etc.

Farmer's field days: In FFDs organized at physiological maturity stages of the crop, beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers, local input suppliers, grain traders and representative of local government extension officers, and media personnel were invited for participation in the events. The feedbacks from the participants provided an opportunity for the farmers and other stakeholders to observe and judge the performance of improved lentil technology. 200 beneficiaries participated in the FFD.

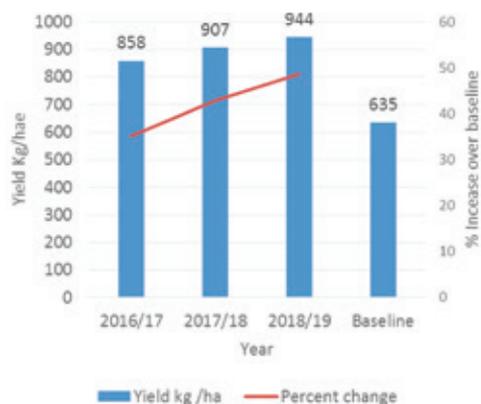
Innovation platform meetings involving beneficiary farmers, input suppliers, private seed entrepreneurs, local government representatives

and other development projects in the area were organized for the management of seeds, agri inputs and marketing of lentil grain and seeds in addition to briefing of important technology and nearby field visit by the stakeholders.

Impacts

Project interventions in terms of capacity building, technology package demonstrations, and increased access to improved seeds has led to an increase in average yield of lentil of project beneficiaries over the baseline. The increase in yield was 35, 43 and 49 percentages over the baseline yield (Figure 1)

- Landless and land-poor farmers have initiated leasing-in fallow lands for lentil farming.
- Farmers have initiated increasing area under lentil.
- Beneficiaries were successful in capturing co-funding from Government for the purchase of power tillers, and hermetically sealed bags (IRRI bags, PUC bags for seed/ grain storage).
- Success of VBSEs and or CBSP in generating income through seeds transaction motivated the beneficiary farmers for establishing Lotus Seed Company Pvt. Ltd, at Lahan.



Avg yield of lentil in demo plots across years

Lessons Learnt

- Local capacity building in crop management is key to the success of technology interventions.
- Involvement of local government and elected personnel from the municipality in FFDs, monitoring and meeting is effective for good collaboration/supports.
- Demonstrations are key to convince farmers on the superiority of technology in enhancing yields and their incomes.
- Village-based seed enterprise was effective for providing access to quality seeds to the farming community in the project area and beyond

Success story

Lentil Farming in Leased-in lands: Opportunity for Income Generation for Landless People

Cases of rice-fallows as a result of absentee landlords, unprofitable wheat crop and poor soil conditions are prevalent in the IFAD project intervention areas of Siraha district. At the same time, there are some communities like Saday who are land-poor and depend on wage earning for their livelihoods. When IFAD/ ICARDA project was introduced in the area and clusters demonstrations initiated in 2016/17, and it caught the attention of the landless community and based on their interest they were selected for the cluster demonstrations in leased-in lands in 2017-18. The poor farmers had good lentil harvest. This had a demonstrative effect among the land poor farmers. They were interested to go for lentil farming through leasing-in lands



Facilitation meeting between landowner and landless people

from the land owners. At the request of the land-poor farmers, FORWARD Nepal, facilitated their meetings with the land owners, as a result the landowners agreed to provide their land to the landless people for growing lentil (Photo 1).

The six members Bachhu Saday, Birendra Saday, Jitendra, Mantu, Nandi Lal and Devnarayan Saday used to grow wheat in leased-in lands only to get in loss every year due to high cost of wheat production. After participation in the facilitation meeting, the landless people entered into contract with the land-owners for the 2018-19 season and cultivated lentil in 2.5 ha adopting all the technology package e.g. improved seed, seed priming, DAP fertilizer and rhizobium application promoted by IFAD/ICARDA project. They were able to realize total production of 2,390 kg lentil from 2.5 ha. After sharing 50 percent of the produce to the land-owner, they got 1,195 kg lentil worth NPR 108,630 from selling lentil at NPR 90 per kg. They were very happy with the money received from lentil sale. Mr Nandi Saday, (Photo 2) an active member of Saday community, was happy with lentil yield of 1050 kg/ha from leased-in land. Thus, lentil farming in leased-in land is taken as an opportunity for income generation by the landless/land poor Saday community. The land-owners were also happy to provide lands to land-poor farmers for growing lentil. During our interaction, the farmers expressed that they would bring more area under lentil in leased-in lands, as the crop provided them the much needed cash for meeting their household expenses, and for education of children in addition to availability for protein rich pulses for consumption.



Landless farmer Nandi Saday happy with lentil from leased-in lands

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS (SEDRA)

Introduction

Sustainable Economic Development of Rural Areas (SEDRA) project is funded by KfW Development Bank Germany through Business and Finance Consulting (BFC) Company. The project aims to support and develop micro, small, and medium enterprises in the rural areas of Nepal through agri value chain financing. The project has Global IME Bank, Om Development Bank, FORWARD Nepal and Samriddha Pahadas implementing partners in Nepal, and the role of FORWARD Nepal is to prepare the Techcards for 54 crop species and 9 animal types, and capacity building of partner banks and selected private enterprises on good agricultural practices (GAP) and agricultural technology (AT).

Accomplishments

Agriculture techcards have been designed for automatic computation of production costs, returns, profitability, and cash flow on monthly basis to facilitate lending through the banks. To begin with, FORWARD Nepal piloted the preparation of techcards of 5 crops species namely maize, mango, lentil, rice and wheat, and two animal types namely poultry and dairy. This was followed by techcards preparation of 36 crops and 7 animal types through information received from farmers' interviews, farm visits, expert consultation and secondary data from the government.

Table: Summary of crop and animal techcards prepared in 2018-19

Description	Crops/ commodities
Annual crops (25)	Broadleaf mustard (rayo), buckwheat, capsicum, cucumber, ginger, groundnut, jute, millet, mungbean, blackgram, niger, pumpkin, radish, rapeseed mustard (tori), soybean, sunflower, tobacco, turmeric, watermelon, wheat, tomato, maize, lentil, rice, asparagus
Perennial crops (11)	Cardamom, coffee, kiwi, mandarin orange, mango, pear, pineapple, plum, strawberry, sugarcane, tea,
Animal types (7)	Buffalo, goat, yak, pig, poultry, sheep, dairy

For the capacity building of partner banks and selected private enterprises on good agricultural practices (GAP) and agricultural technology (AT), TOT training materials were prepared for maize, rice, wheat, cauliflower, tomato, ginger, potato, sugarcane, goat, poultry. TOT sessions were held for staff of partner banks and farmers at Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Butwal and Janakpur. Biosecurity and housing in poultry and GAP on crops were dealt with in TOT and farmers trainings facilitated by experts from FORWARD Nepal.

Agricultural entrepreneurship among female-headed remittance receiving households in Nepal

The research project "Agricultural Entrepreneurship among Female-headed Remittance Receiving Households in Nepal" is funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Technology (JSPS) and led by Hiroshima University, Japan. This is a 4-year project running from April 2017 to March 2021. This project aims to assess the factors determining entrepreneurship behavior, focusing on female-headed remittance receiving households. The major roles of FORWARD Nepal as a research collaborator in this project are to provide expertise inputs on the research design and pre-testing-finalization of data collection instruments; support the principal investigator in field activities including data collection and logistics; lead the process of hiring/training research assistants; monitoring the data cleaning and entry processes; and contribute as a co-author in the publication of research findings.

In the FY 2018/19, field activities were conducted at Bharatpur Municipality-25, Shukranagar applying various research tools and methods, and field data collection and entry was completed and submitted to the lead project partner, the Hiroshima University. During the reporting year, we were not directly involved on any kind of project activities and the data analysis and write-up activities is being done by the Hiroshima University, Japan. However, we have planned for sharing of research findings of the project with the project stakeholders

at village Tole, Ward and Municipality levels in the next FY 2019/20, and a final report (research paper) will be developed and published.

Facilitation of riverbed farming initiatives in Banke, Siraha, Saptari, Morang and Jhapa districts

FORWARD Nepal successfully completed the three year project “Facilitation of riverbed farming initiatives” funded by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. The project activities were implemented among riverbed farming groups in Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, Siraha, Banke districts since 2016/17 to December 2019. Results of all the project interventions were reported to the donor during 2017/18 and there was no field activity except monitoring and follow up during the period July to December 2018. The monitoring and follow up was conducted through the Project Officer in consultation with the donor. The final settlements of project account with Helvetas Intercooperation was done in December 2018.

Monitoring & verification of community development programme (CDP)

DFID had awarded a contract to DAI Consortium for the "Monitoring and verification of the Community Development Programme (CDP) Phase 2" and as one of the project-implementing partners of DAI, FORWARD Nepal had deployed its four staffs (Field Engineers) to the CDP project districts for the monitoring and verification of infrastructural works.

All the monitoring and verification of the CDP were completed and reported to the lead project partner, DAI in the last fiscal year 2017/18. As a result, there were no any field activities during the reporting year and only the final settlements of project account with DAI was done in reporting year in October 2018.

COLLABORATION AND LINKAGE WITH DONORS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN FY 2018-19

FORWARD Nepal emphasizes programme implementing in collaboration and partnership with GOs, I/NGOs, research institutions, academia, private sectors, and community based organizations as appropriate for greater impacts of its programmes, resource generation/

sharing, and sharing of knowledge and learning. The organization also has MOUs signed with some institutions. In the FY 2018/19, FORWARD Nepal has worked with several donors and development partners as given below:



For a world without hunger



List of publications

- Building Community Enterprises of Small-holders (BCES) in Bangladesh and Nepal- Success Stories produced & published by FORWARD Nepal, 2018.
- बगर-खेती प्रविधि हाते-पुस्तिका, तृतीय संस्करण: बैशाख २०७६
- Four quarterly bulletins of FORWARD Nepal

Trainings, Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, and Visits

Trainings, Workshops, Conferences, and Meetings participated by FORWARD Nepal's staff and project stakeholders

Title of Trainings /workshop / conference / meeting	Organizer	Place	Date	Participant/s
Agri-tech data card orientation	BFC	Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur	July 25, 2018	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal, and Livestock Expert Dr. Shreeram P Neopane
Dairy for Development in Nepal	Annapurna Milk Production Cooperative Limited	Gitanagar, Chitwan	July 21, 2018	Dr. Subhash Chaudhary & Dr. Aashish Dhakal,
Programme review and revision meeting	FORWARD Nepal	Chitwan	July 29, 2018 and September 01, 2018	Executive Committee
Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Soil Testing and Information Technology	Development Voyage Private Limited (DVPL),	Kaski	August 10 – 12, 2018	BCES project staff
Project consultation meeting with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for collaboration on ICARDA mandated crops/commodities	FORWARD Nepal	FORWARD Liaison Office, Lalitpur	August 15, 2018	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Mr. Krishna Mohan, Livelihoods Programme Manager of CRS Nepal
Conducted the Focused Group Discussion (FGD) & data collection for preparing of Agri Tech Cards of selected animal types	SEDRA	Shreenagar Agro Farm, Butwal	August 16-19, 2018	Dr. Shreeram P. Neopane Agri/Livestock Expert for SEDRA project
Second Annual Review and Planning Meeting	FAD/ICARDA	Dhaka, Bangladesh	September 12-16, 2018	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Mr. Sudarshan Bista
A kick-off workshop of Regional Programme for promoting a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition smart villages in Bangladesh, Nepal and India	WHH	Janakpur	September 17-21, 2018	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen, Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary and Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel, along with his project team
Presentation and discussion of the technical proposal on Baseline study of Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises of Livestock Value Chain for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth in Nepal II (SLVC II)"	Heifer International Nepal	Skype meeting with HI England	September 20, 2018.	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane, and Dr. Shreeram Prasad Neopane
Introduce tools/control systems of risk management for WHH project management.	WHH Country Office Nepal	Kathmandu	September 24 – 27, 2018	Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal
Review and closure meeting in participation of the project (BCES) team from partner organizations	WHH Country Office Nepal	Kathmandu	September 25, 2018	Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal
VCA (Vulnerable Capacity Assessment) training	Plan International Nepal	Makwanpur	October 10-12, 2018	Mr. Suraj Khanal
Nutrition Project Inception Workshop	WHH	New Delhi, India	October 26-28, 2018	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen & Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary
Official procedure for importing of sexed semen from India or a third country	Dairy for Development in Nepal (DDIN)	Pokhara	November 13, 2018,	Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary along with Project Manager, Mr. Sharad Adhikari, Practical Action

Title of Trainings /workshop / conference / meeting	Organizer	Place	Date	Participant/s
Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination training	Dairy for Development in Nepal (DDIN)	Pokhara	November 14, 2018	Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary along with Project Manager, Mr. Sharad Adhikari
Nutrition Smart Village Project inception meeting	FORWARD Nepal	Paroha Municipality of Rautahat and Rajgadh Rural Municipality of Saptari district	November 21 and 27, 2018,	Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary and concern stakeholders
Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) training	Plan International Nepal	Sunsari	November 22-24, 2018	Project staffs
Workshop on Agro-biodiversity, agro-biodiversity strategy (ABS) and farmers' right	NARC	Lalitpur	December 17, 2018.	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane
Capacity Building Training to Emergency Response Team (ERT)	Welthungerhilfe (WHH),	Lalitpur	December 26-28, 2018	Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal
WHH partners' meeting	WHH	Lalitpur	January 18, 2019	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen
Riverbed Farming (RBF) Alliance Meeting	GIZ	Lalitpur	January 24, 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane
Baseline Survey of Nutrition Project	WHH	Saptari and Rautahat	January 26 and completed on February 02, 2019.	Project all staffs
26th General Assembly meeting of MDFN	Market development Forum Nepal (MDFN)	Lalitpur	February 13, 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane,
Anticorruption Campaign	Diyalo Pariwar	Chitwan	February 28, 2019.	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari
Capacity Development Training on DRR/CCR, Gender Transformative Safe School"	Plan International	Itahari, Sunsari	March 29-31, 2019	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari Ms. Rashu Thakali, Ms. Geeta Gurung
TOT training on Nutrition Security Micro Planning	WHH	Jharkhand, India	April 04 – April 06, 2019.	Mr. Deependra Adhikari
Integrating Talent Development into Innovation Ecosystems in Higher Education (INNOTAL)	Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)	Bharatpur, Chitwan	April 12, 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane
Bid Information Meeting	Winrock International	Kathmandu	April 19, 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane and Mr. Purna Bahadur Chemjong
Province level interaction on disaster risk reduction meeting	Federal Ministry of Home Affairs with support of DFID.	Janakpur	April 28, 2019	Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel
13th Outreach Research Workshop and Research and Extension Education (REE) workshop	NARC	Khumaltar	April 28-29, 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane
Regional Annual Partners Review Meeting	Nutrition Small Village project	Lahan, Siraha	April 28-30.	Participants from Bangladesh, India and Nepal
Inclusive Development of Economy Programme closing and launch of Local and Provincial Economy Development Programme	GTZ	Kathmandu	09 May 2019	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen

Title of Trainings /workshop / conference / meeting	Organizer	Place	Date	Participant/s
Meeting of humanitarian organizations on DRR	Li-Bird and NPP.	Sauraha, Chitwan	16 June 2019	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari
Third Project Review and Planning Meeting	IFAD/ICARDA	Bhubaneshwor, India	1-5 July 2019	Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Mr. Sudarshan Bist
Quarterly Meeting and Revision of Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) Manual	Nutrition Project (WHH)	Gaur, Rautahat	24-28 June 2019	Dr. Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary, Mr. Deependra Adhikari and Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu,
Preliminary Mid-term Review of Nepal's Seed Vision 2013-2025 and Validation Workshop on Hybrid Seed Production Guidelines	Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) and CIMMYT	Lalitpur	02-03 July 2019	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane

External visitor at FORWARD Nepal and its project sites

Visitor/s	Date of Visit	Place of Visit	Objective/Activity
Mr. Achyut Luitel, Dr. Sujan Piya, Dr. Bijaya Bajracharya, Ms. Menila Kharel and Mr. Bhim Shrestha -Practical Action Kathmandu	14th December 2018	Namuna Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Manhari - 3, Bhundrung, Makwanpur	Interaction with the Executive Committee of the Cooperative and Smallholder dairy farmers
Emma Griffiths – Practical Action, UK; Sujan Piya, Bijaya Bajracharya and Upendra Shrestha – Practical Action Nepal	16th April 2019	Panch Pandav Milk Producer Cooperative Ltd., Madhyabindu - 4, Madanpur, Nawalpur	Interaction with the Executive Committee of the Cooperative and Smallholder dairy farmers about the progress of project activities
Programme Manager of WHH Country Office Mr. Sushil Ghimire	July 10-11, 2019	Karjanha and Kalyanpur	Livelihood project monitoring.
Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director, WHH	June 30-July 1, 2019	Siraha and Karjanha of Siraha district	Project monitoring and flood response visit.
Ms. Asja Hanano, Country Director, WHH	Feb. 24, 2019	Karjanha and Kalyanpur, Siraha	Project monitoring
Finance team of WHH; Laxmi Dhakal and Latika Gautam	Dec. 27 2018	Field Office, Siraha	Financial review of projects
Dr. DK Choudhury, IFAD project Manager	April 1-5, 2019	Banke, Kailali	Progress Review and Monitoring of IFAD project
Dr. Aqeel Hasan Rizvi, Senior Food Legume Breeder	April 1-5, 2019	Banke, Kailali	Progress Review and Monitoring of IFAD project
Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire (Programme Manager, WHH)	12-15 Feb 2019	Rautahat	Field visit, orientation on NERP, LANN, SIFS and planning process to project staff
Mr. Nawal Kishor Yadav (ED Aasaman Nepal) and Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire (PM, WHH)	27 August 2019	Rautahat	Planning of NSV project sub-activities
Ms. Asja Hanano (CD, WHH) and Nawal Kishor Yadav (ED, Aasaman Nepal)	22-23 February 2019	Rajbiraj Office, Malekpur	Meeting with project staff and interaction with Community at Malekpur
Mr. Sushil Raj Ghimire (PM, WHH)	9-12 July 2019	Saptari and Rautahat	Field visit and interaction with social mobilizers, excellent group leaders and barefoot planners
Mr. Vianne Labe (Consultant, WHH)	13 September 2019	Malekpur & Fakira, Rajgadh, Saptari	Interaction with EGL and visit to NERP camp
Dr. Saroj Chandra Neupane (Director, Province Health Training Center)	23 October 2019	Malekpur Health Post	Visit of health post and interaction with health facility and interaction with operation management committee

Members Board, Honorary, Founder, Advisory, Professional, and Auditors

Executive Board Members of FORWARD Nepal 2075/076 to 2077/078 (2018/19 to 2020/21)

S.N.	Name	Position
1	Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha	Chairperson
2	Prof. Dr. Durga Devkota	Vice-Chairperson
3	Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana	Secretary
4	Ms. Sunita Shrestha	Treasurer
5	Mr. Prabin Poudel	Member
6	Prof. Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha	Member
7	Ms. Sabita Chepang	Member
8	Mr. Toya Gautam	Member
9	Ms. Maiya Giri	Member

FORWARD Nepal's Honorary Members

S.N.	Name	Address	Email
1	Prof. Dr. John R. Witcombe	Centre for Advanced Research in International Agriculture Development (CARIAD), Bangor University, UK	j.r.witcombe@bangor.ac.uk j.r.witcombe@yahoo.com
2	Dr. Dave Harris	Principal Scientist (Agro-ecosystems/Climate Change), ICRISAT-Nairobi (Regional hub ESA) PO Box 39063, Nairobi, Kenya	daveh548@gmail.com
3	Dr. Krishna Dev Joshi	Wheat Improvement Specialist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), NARC CSI Complex, Park Road, Islamabad, Pakistan	kdjoshi@mos.com.np

Founder Members of FORWARD Nepal

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen	FORWARD Nepal	Management
2	Mr. Gam Bahadur Gurung	Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RNN)	Soil Science
3	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	FORWARD Nepal	Natural Resource Management
4	Dr. Ramesh Raj Pokharel	Currently in USA	Plant Science
5	Dr. Dinesh Neupane	Currently in Denmark	Livestock
6	Mr. Ram Mani Poudel	Vocational Education and Technology Academy (VCTA), Palingtar-10, Gorkha	Livestock & Dairy Production and Management
7	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari	FORWARD Nepal	Finance

FORWARD Nepal's Advisory Board

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota	Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal	Director, Directorate of Agriculture Research and Extension, Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur
2	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	Bharatpur-12, Chitwan	Natural Resource Management
3	Mr. Jagannath Bhandari	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan	Advocate/Notary Public Pairabi Legal Office, Bharatpur, Chitwan
4	Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal	Lalitpur-14, Nakhipot	Member of Upper house and former NPC member
5	Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti	Kathmandu	Executive Director of Nepal Center for Contemporary Research (NCCR)

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
6	Dr. Dil Bahadur Gurung	Gaindakot Municipality-1, Milan-chowk, Nawalparasi	Member of National Planning Commission and former, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
7	Dr. Shyam Prakash Chand	Department for Communities and Local Government, London, UK	ERDF and RGF Fund Manager, Department for Communities and Local Government, (DCLG), UK

FORWARD Affiliated Professionals

S.N.	Name	Current Address	Expertise
1	Dr. Tejendra Chapagain	Currently at Department of Plant Agriculture University of Guelph, Canada	Plant Science
2	Dr. Ram Chandra Bastakoti	Freelancer	Agri-economics
3	Dr. Luni Piya	Associate Professor, Hiroshima University	Rural Economics
4	Dr. Niraj Prakash Joshi,	Hiroshima University, Japan	Agri. Economics
5	Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel	Bagdol, Lalitpur-44	Animal Science
6	Prof. Dr. Sunila Rai	Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan	Aquaculture & Fisheries

FORWARD's Statutory Auditor (2018/19)

S.N.	Name	Engagement Partner	Address	Contact Phone & Email
1	C.A. Anil Joshi	Kuber & Company, Chartered Accountants	Kathmandu P.O. Box 890	01-4416547, anil@kuber.com.np

Interns at FORWARD Nepal

S.N.	Name	University	Country	Duration
1	Ms. Aina Kajisawa	Hiroshima University	Japan	One Month (23rd August 2018 to 23rd September 2018)
2	Ms. Mungunzul Badamvaanchig	Hiroshima University	Japan	One Month (15th February 2019 to 19th March 2019)

FORWARD Nepal Staff in the FY 2018-19 (July 17, 2018- July 16, 2019)

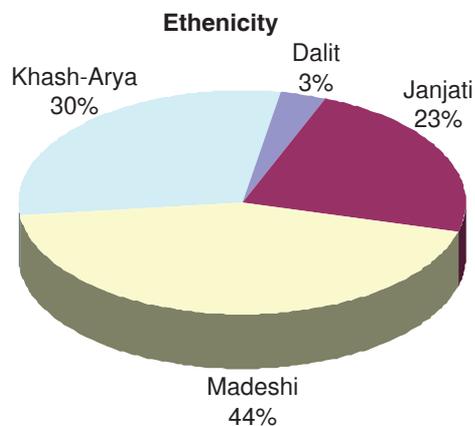
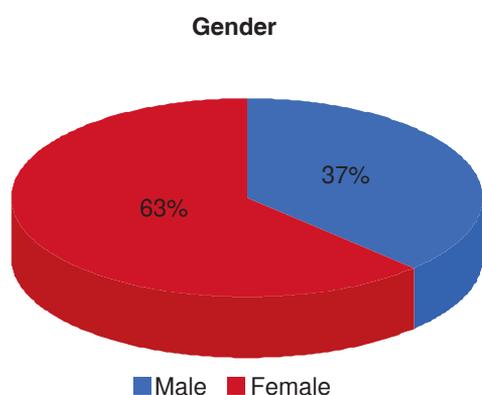
A list of regular staff who worked for FORWARD Nepal in 2018/19.

S.N.	Name	Position	S.N.	Name	Position
1	Mr. Netra Pratap Sen	Executive Director	14	Mr. Lok Bahadur Khadka	Project Coordinator
2	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane	Programme Director	15	Dr. Swotandra Dangi	Project Officer
3	Mr. Yam Bahadur Thapa	NRM Specialist (Part-time)	16	Mr. Suraj Khanal	Project Officer
4	Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal	Programme Manager	17	Mr. Dig Bijay Dhakal	Project Finance Officer
5	Ms. Ashmita Pandey	Senior Programme Officer	18	Mr. Tanka Prasad Acharya	Agriculture Officer
6	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Bhandari	Project Monitoring & Internal Audit Officer	19	Mr. Hari Prasad Gupta	Agriculture Officer
7	Mr. Ramesh Jung Shahi	Finance Officer	20	Mr. Santosh Sen Chaudhary	Agriculture Officer
8	Mr. Ram Dayal Tharu	Admin & Procurement Officer	21	Ms. Kiran Kunwar	Disaster Risk Reduction Officer
9	Mr. Suraj Sharma, ACCA	Account Officer	22	Ms. Heman Paneru	Monitoring & Verification Officer, Sub Engineer
10	Dr. Bedanand Chaudhary	Project Coordinator	23	Mr. Nirajan Goit	Monitoring & Verification Officer, sub Engineer
11	Dr. Subhash Chandra Chaudhary	Project Coordinator	24	Mr. Bhaskar Bhatta	Monitoring & Verification Officer, Civil Engineer
12	Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel	Project Coordinator	25	Mr. Sudarshan Bista	Farm Facilitator/ Agriculture Officer
13	Mr. Deependra Adhikari	Agriculture Specialist			

S.N	Name	Position
26	Mr. Pankaj Kumar Chaudhary	Project Account Officer
27	Ms. Sushila Chaudhary	Project Account Officer
28	Ms. Geeta Gurung	Admin Associate
29	Ms. Sakchha Timilsina Subedi	Admin Associate
30	Ms. Rashu Thakali	Admin Associate
31	Ms. Bimala Shrestha	Field Facilitator
32	Mr. Mohan Kumar Basnet	Field Facilitator
33	Ms. Anjana Rai	Field Facilitator
34	Mr. Durga Bahadur Basnet	Field Facilitator
35	Mr. Omkar Raj Kafle	Field Technician
36	Mr. Chhon Bahadur Praja	Field Facilitator

S.N	Name	Position
37	Mr. Damber Prasad Mandal	Field Technician
38	Ms. Sabita Biswas	Social Mobilizer
39	Mr. Deepak Paswan	Social Mobilizer
40	Ms. Rina Kumari Majhi	Social Mobilizer
41	Mr. Raj Kumar Lama	Driver
42	Mr. Dharma Raj Mahato	Cook
43	Mr. Dipendra Tharu	Security Guard
44	Mr. Raju Shrestha	Programme Helper
45	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Chepang	Office Attendant
46	Ms. Aarati Kumari Yadav	Office Attendant

FORWARD Nepal's staff by gender and ethnicity in the 2018/19



Financial Report 2018-19 (2075/76 B.S.)

The following chartered audit firms and institutions were involved in auditing of FY 2018/19 (2075/76) FORWARD Nepal's account.

Period of audit	Project audited	Audit Firm of institution
December 07-09, 2018	BCES Project account and its field activities	SWC Audit team, Mr. Hari Bahadur KC (SWC Evaluation Team Leader), Mr. Sushil Sapkota (SWC Financial Evaluator), Mr. Bhojraj Upreti (SWC Evaluation team member) and Mr. Arun GC (Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development)
January 03-11, 2019	Donor Project Audit was conducted by WHH Nepal for BCES Project (account from January 01 to September 30, 2018)	Raj MS, Kathmandu
August 27, 2019 to October 3, 2019	Statutory Audit of FORWARD Nepal for FY 2075/076 B.S. (2018/019 A.D.)	Kuber & Co., Kathmandu

Annual Audit Report (2075/76 (2018-19))

KUBER & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Thirbum Marg, Gyaneshwor
Kathmandu, Nepal, P O Box No.: 890
Phone: 00977 1 4436372, 4416547
Email: info@knco.com.np
URL: www.knco.com.np

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To,
The Members,

Forum for Rural Welfare & Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal),
Chitwan, Nepal

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of 'FORWARD Nepal' (Entity), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position at 31 Ashad 2076 (16 July 2019), Statement of Income & Expenditure, Statement of Changes in Fund Balances, Fund Accountability Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give true and fair view of the financial position of FORWARD Nepal as at 31 Ashad 2076 (16 July 2019), and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ICAN's *Handbook of Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAN's *Handbook of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

We draw your attention to audit findings, as included in the 'Management Letter' section of our report which identify internal control weaknesses and audit recommendations to address them, which we came across during the course of our audit. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the



KUBER & Co.

Chartered Accountants

going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financials statement as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with NSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with NSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal financial controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.


C.A. Anil Joshi,
Partner,
Kuber & Co.,
Chartered Accountants



Place: Kathmandu
Date: 18.09.2019

**Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for
Development**
Bharatpur-2, Chitwan

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st Asadh, 2076 (16 July 2019)

In NRs.

Particulars	Sch	Current Year	Previous Year
Assets:			
Non Current Assets			
Non Expendable Assets	1	7,504,305.96	8,939,955.80
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank	2	10,818,049.83	6,612,885.63
Advances	3	14,674,533.27	15,016,977.85
Total		32,996,889.06	30,569,818.54
Funds and Liabilities:			
Funds			
Restricted Fund		6,734,081.85	1,808,558.75
Capital Assets Fund		509,222.79	660,555.87
Unrestricted Fund			
Unrestricted Fund		19,483,889.91	23,548,400.34
Gratuity Fund		3,651,409.00	3,508,178.00
Current Liabilities			
Payables	4	2,618,285.51	1,044,125.58
Total		32,996,889.06	30,569,818.54



Ramesh Jung Shahi
Finance Officer



Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha
Chairperson



Neera Pratap Sen
Executive Director



As per our report of even date



CA. Anil Joshi
Partner
Kuber & Co.,

Chartered Accountants
Date: 18 September 2019
Place: Kathmandu

**Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development
(FORWARD Nepal)**

Bharatpur-2, Chitwan

Statement of Income & Expenditure

For the period 01 Shrawan 2075 to 31 Ashadh 2076 (17 July 2018 to 16 July 2019)

In NRs.

Particulars	Sch	Current Year	Previous Year
Income:			
From Unrestricted Funds		11,466,491.58	15,636,460.74
From Restricted Funds		56,830,834.32	74,030,792.94
Total		68,297,325.90	89,667,253.68
Expenditure:			
From Unrestricted Funds	5		
FORWARD Nepal-Core Fund		11,466,491.58	15,636,460.74
From Restricted Funds	6		
Dairy Project (Practical Action)		9,990,382.00	234,421.00
Livelihood Project		21,909,394.82	-
Nutrition Project		5,058,449.00	-
SSI Project Sunsari		4,087,827.50	-
Morang Project		9,137,482.15	21,592,146.84
BCES (WHH)		3,257,311.85	9,711,102.00
Bces Supplementary (WHH)		54,561.00	181,000.00
DAI Phase II		1,076,981.00	1,474,717.11
RbF 2017/2018		310,166.00	586,321.70
DAI Phase I		-	1,408,019.30
Equal Access International		-	1,999,318.00
Heroshima University Japan		-	812,980.50
Elives ADRA		-	20,119,568.36
Elives IDE		-	14,618,699.63
IFAD Phase I		-	227,272.50
IFAD Phase II		1,948,279.00	1,065,226.00
Total		68,297,325.90	89,667,253.68

As per our report of even date



Ramesh Jung Shahi
Finance Officer



Netra Pratap Sen
Executive Director



CA. Anil Joshi
Partner
Kuber & Co.,



Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha
Chairperson



Chartered Accountants
Date: 18 September 2019
Place: Kathmandu

Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD Nepal)

Bharatpur-2, Chitwan

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the period 01 Shrawan 2075 to 31 Ashadh 2076 (17 July 2018 to 16 July 2019)

Particulars	Opening Balance	Transfers	Adjustment	Fund After Adjustment	Funds Received During the Year	Funds transferred to Income	Closing Balance
Restricted Fund Balances							
Dairy Project (Practical Action)	404,479.00	-	-	404,479.00	9,462,433.00	9,990,382.00	(123,470.00)
Livelihood Project (WHH)	-	-	-	-	26,431,392.15	21,909,394.82	4,521,997.33
Non Expendable Assets	-	-	-	-	6,144,666.20	5,058,449.00	1,086,217.20
SSI Project (Plan International)	-	-	-	-	4,285,869.26	4,087,827.50	198,041.76
Morang Project	-	-	-	-	9,137,482.15	9,137,482.15	-
BCES (WHH)	53,316.50	-	-	53,316.50	3,203,995.35	3,257,311.85	-
DAI Phase II	-	-	-	-	1,076,981.00	1,076,981.00	-
Elves ADRA	7,766.61	-	-	7,766.61	(7,766.61)	-	-
Elves IDE	(87,178.57)	-	-	(87,178.57)	87,178.57	-	-
RfF 2018	(25,567.85)	-	-	(25,567.85)	335,733.85	310,166.00	-
IFAD Phase II	1,401,182.06	-	-	1,401,182.06	1,598,392.50	1,948,279.00	1,051,295.56
Bces Supplementary (WHH)	54,561.00	-	-	54,561.00	-	54,561.00	-
Total Restricted Fund - Current Year	1,808,558.75	-	-	1,808,558.75	61,756,357.42	56,830,834.32	6,734,081.85
Unrestricted Fund Balances							
Core Fund Balance	21,941,054.85	-	-	21,941,054.85	7,511,904.84	10,880,088.58	18,572,871.11
Social welfare Fund	1,233,679.38	-	-	1,233,679.38	80,644.32	586,403.00	727,920.70
Community Welfare Fund FORWARD	158,032.86	-	-	158,032.86	25,065.24	-	183,098.10
Total Unrestricted Fund - Current Year	23,332,767.09	-	-	23,332,767.09	7,617,614.40	11,466,491.58	19,483,889.91
Total Fund - Current Year	25,141,325.84	-	-	25,141,325.84	69,373,971.82	68,297,325.90	26,217,971.76

As per our report of even date

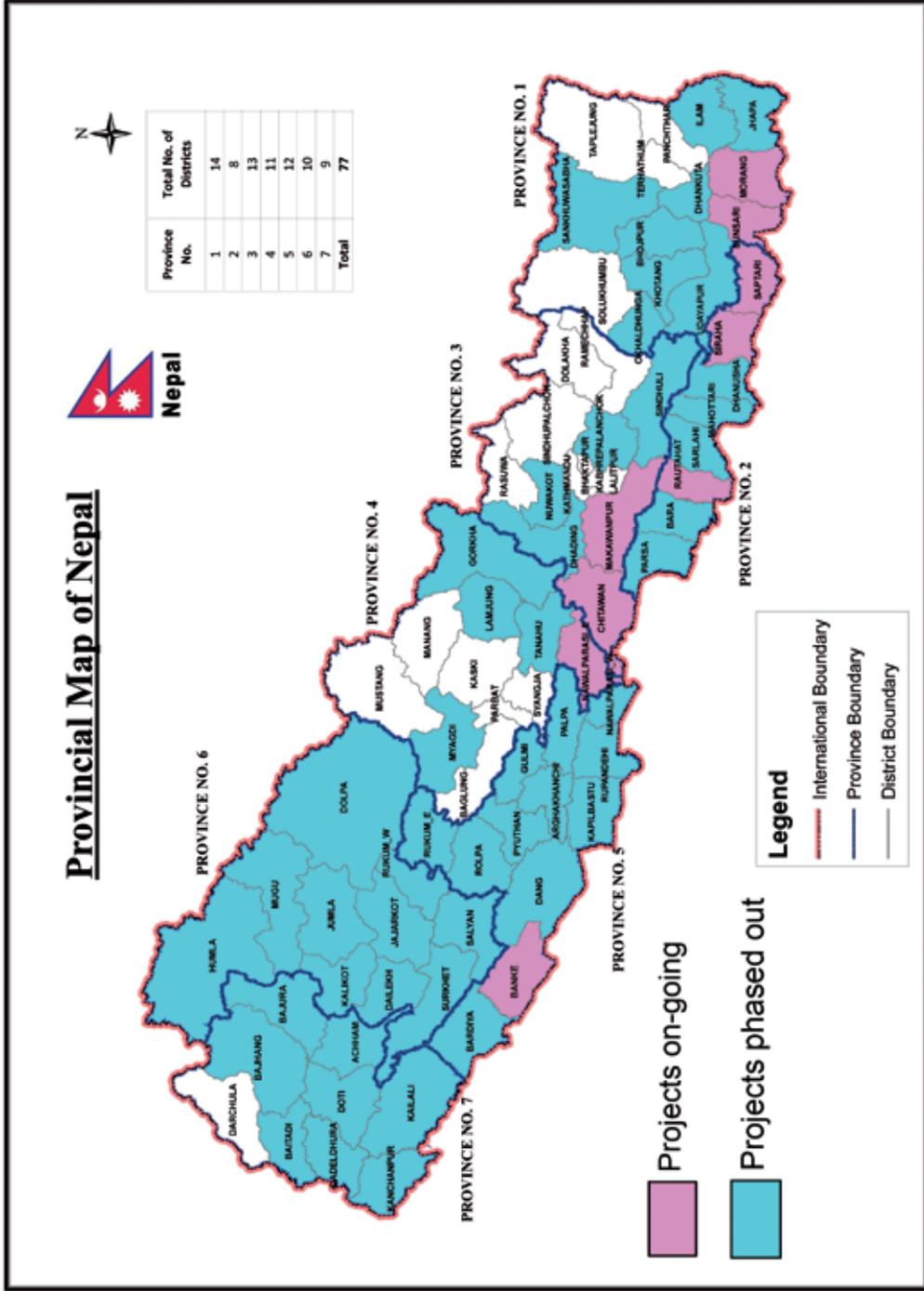
[Signature]
Ramesh Jung Shahi
Finance Officer

[Signature]
Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha
Chairman

[Signature]
Netra Praap Sen
Executive Director



Geographical Coverage





FORWARD Nepal



22nd Annual General Assembly & 10th Convention - 2075