

CEAPRED NewsLetter

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Organic Village training conducted by CEAPRED staff in Bhutan

Mr. Ram Deo Shah, Agriculture Technician in RMS project conducted an international training in Bhutan from 6th – 15th August 2019. Recognizing his expertise in facilitating agricultural trainings, Agriculture Research Center of Bhutan invited him to share his work experiences of RMS and the entourage was sponsored by ICIMOD. Mr. Shah trained a total of 43 participants on various subjects like Jholmal, Jiba Amrit, Amrit Jal and Management of Compost Manure –their benefits, ingredients necessary to prepare, technicalities of preparation and their various uses. A practical training of preparing Jholmal was conducted the following day.

It was a great learning experience for Mr. Shah, as along with providing his extensive knowledge on Jholmal, he also learnt from other expert trainees from Sikkim and Zaika. Mr. Ram Sharan Sharma, from Sikkim trained the participants regarding Sikkim Organic,

its procedure of organic certification and the technicalities of Organic Production. He also taught the participants regarding Vermic Bas and its preparation techniques. Similarly, a skilled trainer from Zaika shed some light on Bakashi Manure.

The international training visit ended with a field visit to the RMS sites at Thimpu. The farmers were given necessary suggestions to enhance sustainable production. Overall, the visit was quite a remarkable experience where both the trainers and the participants learned from each other to contribute and create a sustainable and productive future in agriculture.

(Note: Mr. Ram Deo Shah has been in association with CEAPRED for more than a decade as an Agriculture Technician and has always been overwhelmingly commended by farmers for his contributions in the projects he serves)

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) - Identification and Management.

National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) Nepal, declared the invasion of the Fall Armyworm in Nepal on 12 August 2019 at Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Center (PQPMC). After the declaration of Fall Armyworm (FAW), it was an urgent need to create awareness on identification and management of the pest at province level for different stakeholders. Therefore, KISAN II organized Training of Trainers (TOT) on FAW Identification and Management in collaboration with Agriculture Development Directorate (ADD) of Karnali province in Surkhet.

The event was inaugurated by Secretary of Ministry of Livestock Management Agriculture and cooperative (MoLMAC) of Karnali province and chaired by Agriculture Director. The TOT was facilitated by senior scientist from NARC, plant protection officer from PQPMC and IPM Coordinator from iDE Nepal. A total 47 participants from Agriculture Development Office Karnali province, Private sectors, KISAN II staff, iDE staff participated in TOT. At the end of



Honorable Minister Ms. Binita Chaudhary inaugurating the training, Sudurpaschim Province

TOT, participants were able to identify different stages of pest and their damage symptoms, learned about the surveillance, monitoring and scouting procedures and management practices. A decision to form a district level FAW taskforce was made that would organize trainings and awareness campaign in the district.



Province Secretary inaugurating the FAW TOT

Similar TOT has been planned for Far west province in trimester II. Since its declaration, the pest has been identified in Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur, Gulmi, Dang, Banke, Kanchanpur, Kailali, Salyan, Pyuthan, Rolpa districts. Parallel trainings were also held in Sudoor Paschim Province on 17-18 November 2019 in Dhangadhi. The TOT was inaugurated by Honorable Minister of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative, Sudurpshchim Province, Ms. Binita Chaudhary. A total 45 participants from province government, private sectors and Project staff participated in the programme.

30th Annual General Meeting held

CEAPRED organized its 30th Annual General Meeting at CEAPRED HQ on 27 September 2019 (10th Ashwin 2076). Mr. Shambhu Sharan Prasad Kayastha, Vice Chairperson of CEAPRED chaired the meeting. Executive Committee member Dr. Ram Chandra Lammichhnae carried the program forward. He welcomed all the members and requested their active participation. After this Executive Director presented CEAPRED's progress in Fiscal Year 2075/76 (July 2018-July 2019). Mr. Khanal shared all the important details from the beneficiary coverage details to household incremental income impacts from vegetables, livestock, fish, coffee and off-farm intervention. Moreover, he informed the members regarding CEAPRED's support to infrastructures along with a major emphasis on socio-economic

empowerment of the communities including women and deprived people. It was an enriching presentation, that was successful in laying the foundation to carry the program forward. In the next segment, Dr. Pius Raj Mishra, Treasurer/CEAPRED, presented the Audit Report of Fiscal Year 2075/2076. After the presentation, the forum was opened for addressing the queries of the members. All the questions/queries raised by the members were addressed by the Executive Director and the Treasure. At the end, the chairperson of the meeting Mr. Kayastha delivered his closing remarks with his appreciation to all the working staff and members for their sound contribution to help build CEAPRED to serve the underprivileged people of Nepal by sustainable increasing



30th AGM held in CEAPRED HQ

SUCCESS STORIES

Jiri Municipality to go Organic in three years

1

Sahaj is a joint initiative of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland. It is mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is designed as a 12-year programme with three consecutive phases. Starting from March 2016, the project recently completed its first phase in December 2019. It works in three core sectors - goat, maize and vegetable - and two cross-sectors - crop protection and post-harvest. Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) in partnership with SDC has been implementing Sahaj for four years now.

In what looks like a very good example of federalism in action, Jiri Municipality of Dolakha district is planning to go all-organic within year 2022 and develop the town as a hub for organic fruits and vegetables by eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Tanka Bahadur Jirel, mayor of Jiri Municipality claimed that his team is working extensively to advocate for organic farming and currently they are making farmers aware of harmful effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and potential benefit of going organic.



Training the farmers for organic certification in Jiri, Dolakha

In order to achieve his goal to go organic, Jirel in January 2018 invited Prem Bahadur Lama, chairperson of Ashapuri Organic Farm of Kavre district, which is promoting organic farming in various parts of the country, to collaborate with the municipality. After its registration with the government in 2007, Ashapuri is working to promote organic farming practice through production, processing and marketing of certified organic products. The farm produces a variety of crops that includes fruits, fresh vegetables and herbs, which serves domestic as well as international markets.

According to Jirel, the farmers in his municipality are already using minimum level of chemical pesticides and it is not only logical but also feasible to go fully organic so that they get a higher value of their produce. “We are all aware of the harmful effects of pesticides on human health causing diseases we have never heard about,” said Jirel. “Going organic will not only eliminate the risk of such diseases but also provide opportunity to the farmers to increase their income as organic products have good market in urban areas like Kathmandu.”

As a part of initiative, Ashapuri will make Jiri farmers aware of their potential to cultivate vegetables like potato, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, radishes, peas etc. and high value agricultural crop like chia seed, quinoa etc. and capacitate them with better cultivation practices, provide them with the right inputs and buy back their produce.

For instance, Ashapuri is constructing a nursery of high value crops in the municipality to provide high quality saplings to the farmers. Similarly, the buy back guarantee from the farm will solve the farmer’s major bottleneck, which is access to market. Due to remoteness

and high transportation cost, limited volume of production, farmers were having difficulty accessing market in the past. The local government on the other hand will support the company in building sheds for nursery and will provide machineries and seed when required.

As Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme-Sahaj was also exploring the possibility to work with different agribusiness companies to promote cultivation of high value agricultural products, it found Ashapuri Organic Farm as a capable partner given their expertise in organic farming and their willingness to invest further in the business targeting additional smallholder farmers. Sahaj signed the pact with Ashapuri in September 2018.

SAHAJ pledged its support to Ashapuri to set up internal control system (ICS) to certify land of Jiri as organic and to provide training to the farmers on post-harvest management, organic farming system and in off season farming. Apart from these, Sahaj also supported to establish a Nursery and in marketing the products of Ashapuri.

Such support from Sahaj has boosted the confidence of Lama to expand his work base to Jiri. “It would have been difficult for me to work and invest all alone without any support due to the financial risks involved in this project,” said Lama. “As Sahaj came forward to bear some of such risks, I was confident to expand my business to Jiri.” Until now, Ashapuri has conducted training on organic farming and grading and sorting of potato. Furthermore, a team of experts from Ashapuri is working on to provide organic certification to the farmers of Jiri, which is expected to be completed by October 2019

Jahada and Dhanplathan Rural Municipalities to Increase Income of Small Scale- Goat Farmers

2

Sahaj is a joint initiative of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland. It is mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is designed as a 12-year programme with three consecutive phases. Starting from March 2016, the project recently completed its first phase in December 2019. It works in three core sectors – goat, maize and vegetable – and two cross-sectors – crop protection and post-harvest. Center for Environmental and

Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) in partnership with SDC has been implementing Sahaj for four years now.

After Nepal embarked on the journey of federalism with three tiers of governments, different local governments have launched various programmes in association with the private sector to increase the income of smallholder farmers.



Goat breeding management

Two rural municipalities of Province Number 1—Jahada and Dhanplathan—have launched similar initiatives which integrates investment and the role of private goat breeders and the rural municipality to supply improved goat breeds and goat management information to small scale goat farmers of the two rural municipalities. The initiatives were also to address the most prominent problems faced by the goat rearers of Jahada and Dhanplathan, which is low growth rate. Despite being the most common livestock reared in Jahada, the goats are very small due to inbreeding, poor management practices and lack of proper feed.

After the rural municipalities identified the potential goat farms, Sahaj assessed their interest and investment capacity to provide breeding service to the small-scale goat farmers. Out of those farms recommended, Sahaj along with the rural municipalities finalized seven farms in these two municipalities. Sahaj signed the memorandum of understanding with Jahada and Dhanpalthan to assist those firms. As a part of the understanding, Sahaj is providing technical and financial support to four farms in Jahada and three in Dhanpalthan to establish those farms as resource centers for improved breed goats. With technical support from Sahaj, these goat farms are co-investing in the business model whereby these farms are being developed into the enterprises that sell breeding service from improved bucks and supply improved breed kids along with management information to small-scale goat farmers of the region.

With better breed goats and breed/goat management knowledge now available in the village, the rural municipalities expect that the small-scale goat farming households will improve their goat farming practices, and thus increase their yearly income by selling goats of higher weight at higher price.

Kailash Prasad Mandal, chairman of Jahada Rural Municipality is optimistic that his initiative will become a successful business model to increase the income of the small-scale goat farmers and plans to replicate it in future with other goat farms. “If this model becomes successful, our municipality will invest more on commercial goat farms that provide breeding service as well as better goat breed,” said Mandal.

Kamal Prasad Timilisina, senior livestock technician at Dhanpalthan Rural Municipality was also upbeat about the business model. “As farmers have also made significant investment in their business, they won’t back out and it will be successful,” he said. “Such was not the case in the past, when we used to subsidize them with goats and cash without their investment.”

Experts also believe that the model will bring positive changes in the near future. “When I visited Jahada and Dhanpalthan four years back, I saw good potential for goats farming. But the farmers were not getting good returns due to poor management practices and inbreeding, which was rampant in the region,” said Dr Sushil Kumar Adhikari, Chief of Veterinary Hospital and Livestock Service Expert Centre in Morang district. “With Sahaj, rural municipalities and private goat farms joining hands, I can see the enthusiasm among farmers.”

Private firms which were part of the initiative were euphoric about the partnership and are hopeful that their investments will give them good returns as well as have a positive impact in the community. “I was willing to make an investment in a commercial goat farm but had no idea about low cost shed construction, improved breed and importance of improved fodder/forage,” said Ajit Kumar Singh, proprietor of Jahada-based Aarati Krishi Farm. “I am thankful for this partnership, as I have built a model shed, planted improved varieties of fodder/forage and bought two boer bucks.”

Annual Program Review planning and meeting of NSAFP

As per invitation letter of CIMMYT on 29-30 Sep, for the participation in the annual program review and planning meeting at Nepalgunj, on behalf of CEAPRED, Program Coordinator of NSAFP participated and presented the NSAFP status and next year plan in the meeting. After presentation of CEAPRED, Dr. Abdu informed that the existing size of demonstration plot has been reduced. In the closing session, Program Coordinator gave closing remarks by acknowledging the organizer for the invitation, followed by ensuring to the stakeholders (presented in the meeting: seed companies, NARC programs/stations, CIMMYT, SEAN) that CEAPRED is always ready for the collaboration and partnership with you all to work jointly for the promotion of vegetable sector in Nepal.



Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA

As per invitation from the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); Mr. Anil Acharya, Program Coordinator of NSAFP participated as an expert in the event from 7-11 October in New Delhi. He also presented a paper on "The Compliance Procedures and the Works of the Compliance Committee".



Norwegian Minister's Visit to RMS site at Chaurangefedi, Kavre

Minister of International Development of Norway Mr. H.E. Dag-Inge Ulstein along with the ambassador Mr. H.E. Lasse Bjørn Johannessen and officials from the Royal Norwegian Embassy visited the climate smart village at Chaurangefedi, Kavre on 5 November 2019 under RMS project. The Mayor of the Namobuddha Municipality Mr. T. P. Sharma (Timilsina), DG of the ICIMOD Mr. David Molden, delegates from CEAPRED, ICIMOD, and municipality along with the members from farmers group welcomed the ministers and officials to the model village.

During the visit, the minister observed the locally made liquid fertilizers and pesticides (Jholmal 1, 2 & 3), waste water harvesting ponds, rain water harvesting technique,



Norwegian minister during the welcome ceremony, Kavre

improved cowshed, soil cement tank, ICT service, IPM tools and alternative energy sources used by the farmers in the area to cope with the existing change in climate patterns. Mr. Johannessen expressed his deep gratitude to the farmers group for their effort in producing safe food and reducing the use of the chemicals pesticides in their production system.

He mentioned how farmers adopting simple and low cost technologies are helpful in maintaining the ecosystem and the village is a good example of balanced ecosystem services. He was unable to visit the knowledge park due to time limitations. However, Mayor of Namobuddha Municipality gave him a brief explanation regarding the matter on their way back. After the minister and the Norwegian delegates returned, Mr. Molden together with ward chairpersons, CEAPRED and the farmers visited the Knowledge Park. He was impressed to see the technologies in the park so well displayed and invited the farmers from Radha Krishna Krishak Samuha to visit the Knowledge Park at Godavari and expressed his interest to develop a similar IPM technology display section on ICIMOD's Knowledge Park at Godavari.



Farmer interacting with the minister during his visit



Capacity Building Training on Climate Resilient Technology and Organic Agriculture

One day capacity building training on climate resilient technology and organic agriculture to the staff from municipality, agriculture branch and local government bodies was organized at Sarathi Hotel, Dhulikhel on 15 December 2019. The main objective of the training was to build up the capacity of the participants on modern technology and techniques regarding the climate change and organic agriculture. Trainer from Agriculture Training Center, Hariharbhawan and CEAPRED, Nayabato facilitated the training.

A total of 19 (5 F / 15 M) participants from different government organizations and local governing

bodies from three different municipalities namely Dhulikhel, Namobuddha and Pachkhal had participated on the training. The participants were made familiar with the climate resilient technologies and organic agriculture

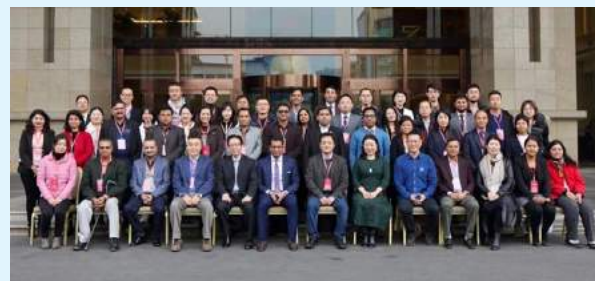
practices promoted by RMS project in their pilot sites. The participants expressed the trainings to be beneficial in planning the activities regarding climate resilient practices and organic agriculture in the municipality.



Participant of Capacity Building Training on Climate Resilient Technology and Organic Agriculture at Hotel Sarathi, Dhulikhel

Participation on Ecosystem Based Adaptation Symposium

Three day symposium on Ecosystem Based Adaptation was organized by ICIMOD and Chengdhu Institute of Biology under China Academy of Sciences from 17 to 19 December, 2019. The main objective of the symposium was to bring together selected national and international experts and professionals from the HKH region in order to discuss and come up with concrete recommendations on various facets of EbA in the Himalaya. A total of 30 regional experts from different HKH regions including Nepal, China, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Bangladesh had participated on the symposium. Mr. Kiran Bhusal, Project Coordinator of RMS / CEAPRED had participated on the program and presented the paper with title “Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Increasing Agriculture Productivity of Small Holder Farmers in Mid Hills of Nepal”. During the symposium existing knowledge and best practices on EbA in the Himalaya/regions were presented. Several priorities for research options on EbA were identified and concluded with documenting the best practices and existing traditional knowledge and collaborating with the organizations working for EbA in the region.



Participant of EbA symposium Chengdu, China



Kiran Bhusal, project coordinator of RMS presenting the findings of RMS at EbA symposium

Adapting the Agriculture Development Strategy to the Federal System in Nepal: ADS Orientation and Planning Workshop

The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS 2015-2035) is the major initiative of the government of Nepal to transform the agriculture sector into a competitive, sustainable and inclusive sector that brings economic growth, improved livelihoods, job creation and provides food and nutrition security. The ADS presents the

overall guiding strategies for agriculture development in Nepal including a rationale based on the assessment of current and past performance of agriculture sector. With this prospective vision in the background, The European Union has provided budgetary and technical cooperation support to Contribute to Agriculture and

Rural Development (CARD) in Nepal. The Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) to the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) is being implemented by DT Global in cooperation with CEAPRED and Agro Enterprise Centre (AEC). The CARD is expected to support Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD)



Participants from the workshop, Dhulikhel, Kavre

in implementing the ADS through policy dialogue, budget support and capacity building measures.

It should be noted that Nepal had unitary governance system when ADS was formulated. The country has adopted federal system of governance after the promulgation of new Constitution of Nepal creating Seven Provinces and 753 municipalities. Considering the constitutional provisions as well as the mandate of National ADS Implementation Committee (NADSIC) it is crucial to adjust the ADS programs and institutional structure as per the federal structure of Nepal. In this context, the TCF to the ADS organized a three-day workshop from 13-15 November 2019 at Dhulikhel, Kavre with the aim to critically reflect the ADS Targets and Indicators, ADS Implementation Action Plan, and discuss the ways on orientating and adapting ADS into the Federal Governance Structure of Nepal.

87 participants attended the workshop including 13 female. Among the total participants, 47 were from different provinces representing Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC) and related agencies. Other participants were from the MoALD, other federal level agencies, development partners and EU ADS TCF team including partners. The workshop sessions included presentations, group exercises and interactive sessions.

Team Leader Dr David Kahan provided a quick overview of EU Technical Cooperation Facility to the Agriculture Development Strategy. He elaborated that TCF has adopted twin-track approach: (i) Broad communications and planning support to all municipalities; and (ii) Selecting a small number of municipalities, as pilot sites in each of the provinces, to demonstrate the appropriateness of interventions targeted to the local level. Dr Yubak Dhoj GC,



Secretary, MOALD Dr Yubak Dhoj GC delivering his remarks

Secretary, MoALD reiterated the importance of ADS in transformation of agriculture sector in Nepal. In order to roll out the ADS at all levels of government, firstly its adoption is crucial. Similarly, planning by aligning the vision and actions set forth in ADS helps rolling out the ADS. The TCF could play important role in this regards. Dr GC expressed the hope that this workshop will guide provincial planning teams to prepare annual plans in line with the ADS Action Plan for implementation.

Similarly, other team members along with important stakeholders presented an overview of ADS from its coordination mechanisms, transitions with the government, and the value chain implementation in the provincial level. The workshop highlighted a range of strategic follow-up actions with the technical backstopping support from the TCF to the provincial planning team for these activities.

- Organise a series of ADS orientation workshops for municipal mayors and administrative officers - in all municipalities
- Organise planning/ M&E training program for municipality planning/ agriculture staffs.
- Select priority municipalities as pilot sites (approx. 3 per province) for intensive planning, M&E capacity building and implementation

The workshop also agreed the need of: (i) Developing coordination mechanism among three tiers of government to facilitate technical linkages; and (ii) Developing the plan to collect the data. Participants expressed the view that the workshop was very useful in facilitating the planning aligned with ADS. The provincial participants assured that they will cooperate and work in collaboration in future activities related to planning, monitoring and evaluation.



Rice varietal demo Tikapur, Kailali

NEW PROJECTS

SPEED for Life: Spices and Seeds Value Chain Improvement for Rural Development in Nepal, Enhancing Women and Youth Empowerment”

CEAPRED in partnership with ASIA Onlus has recently started implementation of “SPEED for Life” project from 1st November 2019. It is 24 months project, which aims to support the livelihood of 3,500 small-scale farmers in the rural municipalities of Dhulikhel, Namobuddha, Temal, Helambu and Melamchi in Kavrepalanchowk and Sindhupalchowk districts by improving agricultural production and the sale of seeds and spices of high commercial value. The project activities will be carried out to improve the production of local varieties of seeds that will satisfy the demand in local markets, thus leading to an increase in the average income of the producers. Other activities are aimed at improving the production, marketing and primary transformation of spices with potential

for export, such as ginger, turmeric and chili. CEAPRED in close coordination with ASIA will be responsible for implementing project activities in the field, engaging local authorities and ensuring local ownership of the development process.

In the long term, a change is expected regarding the living conditions of the populations of the target districts, who will be the key actors of socio-economic development in the agro-food sector. Through the increase of agricultural production, and consequently income, farmers will be able to support their families. They will also be able to take advantage of basic services, helping to develop the welfare system.

Skill Up! Strengthening Skills Development, Creating Future Perspectives

Skill Up! Strengthening Skills Development, Creating Future Perspectives is a project funded by BMZ and implemented by CEAPRED in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH). It is part of global Skill up program initiated to accelerate the inclusive economic development activities to the least developed Provinces (province 6 and 7) in Nepal which ensures economic growth (prosperity), environmental protection (planet) and inclusion of most vulnerable and marginalized population groups (people) in the developmental mainstream. It is a 42 months project effective from 1st November 2019 to 30th April 2023.

The project is being implemented in Surkhet and Salyan districts of province 6 (Karnali) and Kanchanpur district of Province 7 (Sudur

Paschim).. The intervention will promote the inter-province learning sharing and exchange as well as evidence fine-tuning for policy influence. The youth (gender balanced and inclusion of minority groups) is the primary target group of the project and at least 2,994 (50% women) individuals will directly be benefitted from the skill transfer activities, including in-house courses (478 youths) and extension-based training approach/ farmer field schools (2,516 farmers). The project targeted the marginalized population groups such as women, Dalit and tribal/ ethnic minority. The project also targets to establish at least 15 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). CEAPRED will partner with field-based institutes such as technical schools/ colleges, private company and cooperatives to implement the program.



Participants from the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA and delete ADS Training and Varital demonstration in Kanchanpur



Varietal demonstrations in , Kanchanpur



Use of super grain bag coach, Kanchanpur



ASIA training



Farmers Field Day, Syaule Kailali



Bottle gourd demonstration, Jhalari, Kanchanpur



Staking technology and high yielding varieties of Bottle gourd



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