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## Regional Workshop on The Preparation of National Reports on the Implementation of the International Treaty

11-13 December 2018

Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
National Agriculture Science Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi

### Asia Regional Workshop on the Preparation of the National Report on the Implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

As a member of the Compliance Committee for the Asia Region, Mr. Anil Kumar Acharya, Program Coordinator, NSAFP, CEAPRED participated as a resource person in three days Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Reports on the Implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held on 11-13 December 2018 at National Agriculture Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi. The workshop was organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the FAO Office in India. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) to enhance the capacity of Asian National Focal Points to prepare and submit the national reports on implementation of the International Treaty; (ii) to provide an overview on the major areas of work and a brief update on the status of intersessional processes; (iii) to facilitate discussion and coordination on ongoing policy and operational processes under the International Treaty.

During the workshop, Mr. Acharya had a presentation and facilitation on brief background of ITPGRFA, Nepal's implementation status-ongoing policy and operational processes, and about the national reports on the implementation of the international treaty.



The successful completion of the workshop was due to the active participation from 14 National Focal Points, observers and experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Thailand including others 16 personnel (2 from Treaty Secretariat, 1 from FAO and rests 13 from different institutions of India).



## Enhance Input Supply to Farmers Through Grower Schemes

KISAN II reached out to 29 Agrovets and cooperatives and were able to benefit 612 farmers and enhance their input supply through grower scheme. This activity leads to increase in customer numbers of grantees for their business expansion. Under this scheme, agrovets were able to introduce new vegetable seed which are better than existing varieties. For example; Shikha agrovets from Nepalgunj introduced Endom 9502 variety of tomato seed instead of Shrijana. Endom variety of tomato provided more yield and income during rainy season as compared to Shrijana variety. Similarly, in case of cauliflower Nimpo and white top variety have provided more income to farmers as compare to Silver cup. Cabbage seed variety T621 provided higher yield as compared to Green coronet. In addition to variety selection, farmers were able to receive advice on crop production and improved management practices by agrovets. Due to this activities, agrovets were able to increase their business through the sale of inputs to the farmers. Similarly, cooperative like Bihani Madhyawarti Multipurpose cooperative(BMMC) in Bardia and Atma Nirbhar cooperatives from Kavre are providing necessary production inputs to their members for season and off season vegetable production. BMMC is linked with Dahit Agro-center and Shikha Agro center to provide the necessary production inputs like quality seeds, fungicides, pesticides, micro-nutrients, plastic sheets etc.



*Shikha Agro-center selling seeds to their costumers*

## Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Conducted in Kathmandu

KISAN II engaged a consultant to update and develop training materials on GAP and initiated training to stakeholders including GON staff and private sector staff involved in safe food production. Four batches of GAP training have been planned. Two batches of training will be held in Nepalgunj and two in Kathmandu. Out of the two batches of training planned in Kathmandu, one batch was successfully completed in this trimester. A total 35



*Good Agriculture Practices conducted in Kathmandu*

participants from DFTQC, Agriculture Knowledge Centers, Bhat Bhateni, NAgro, Nanglo and agrovets participated in the training. The remaining three batches of training will be conducted in the beginning of the second trimester in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj. The training was very useful for the participants and everybody expressed appreciation for the facilitator's efforts to deliver the sessions smoothly. Currently Nepal is very focused on safe use of pesticides under GAP often ignoring the safety of the fresh products due to pathogenic micro-organisms. Fresh vegetables can be easily contaminated by micro-organisms like E coli, Salmonella and others making people sick if enough precautions are not taken during production, harvesting, transportation, packaging and marketing. The training topics covered were the water quality and management,

soil management, and potential food safety hazards and possible sources of contamination, including the three major types of food safety hazards: chemical, biological, and physical contamination on farm and during distribution. Further discussions focused on practical steps to be taken to minimize the risks of contamination.

## Training on Agro- Ecological Approach for Sustainable Intensive Agriculture, Israel

MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a training course on Agro ecological approach for sustainable Intensive agriculture during 21 Oct- 9 Nov, 2018 at MATC - MASHAV's International Agricultural Training Center, Shefayim, Israel. The main objective of the course was to share Israel's experience, policies and practices, and intended to decrease negative impacts of intensive agriculture on environment and promote the development of a sustainable agriculture. MASHAV through this training, further aimed to join the international community and contribute to meet mainly, the holistic vision of the SDG2 within the 2030 plan of the United Nations. The course also intended to create a framework for discussion and analysis to evaluate possible adaptation of new strategies and technologies to the conditions of each participating country. There were altogether 21 participants from 15 different countries, especially from Asia, Latin America and Africa, representing universities, ministries and Non-government organizations, working for the agriculture development of their respective countries. CEAPRED with an objective to develop the capacity of its staff in climate change and adaptation aspect, nominated Mr. Sunil Dhungel, Program Manager, for this training. CEAPRED in partnership with ICIMOD, ASIA, OIKOS and Punto.sud have been implementing different climate resilient agriculture projects in the country. Hence the training was believed to bring some innovative technologies and agro ecological approached in the sector through learning, exposure and sharing during the training. The components of the training were lectures, field visits to the production and processing plants and seminars. The major subjects under the course were as follows:



- Sustainable agricultural development in Israel – Policies and Strategies
- Intensive agricultural production: Genetic resources, Pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation management, Implementation of agro-technologies
- Adaptation to climate change in Israel Agriculture
- Breathing life into agriculture: Biodiversity aspects of intensive agriculture
- Agriculture waste management – the story of Israel
- Aspect of sustainability in agriculture – few examples from Israel
- Growing & production Vegetables for, high yield, improved quality with high efficiency, sustainability and better profitability.
- Integrated National and Regional Planning for Sustainable Development
- Managing cover crop profitability
- Increase Efficiency in the Orchard by Choosing the Correct Means: Soil conservation, Water and wastewater management,
- Livestock management
- Education, research and extension

The 21 days training course organized by MASHAV was very useful and also a great learning opportunity for the staff to explore on the areas in which Israel has a competitive advantage, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; climate change adaptation, entrepreneurship, innovation and community development. The professional training was based on a “train the trainers” approach to institutional and human capacity building which will, promote the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process of the organization.



## Partnership signed with Women Cooperative and Organic Farm

Sahaj signed a partnership agreement with Shree Safal Samajik Udhayami Mahila Sahakari on 1 August 2018 in Surkhet. Shree Safal Samajik Udhayami Mahila Sahakari is a cooperative for women. It has 49 saving groups for women, with total of 950 share members. The partnership between Sahaj and the cooperative aims to improve linkage between farmers and traders through cooperative for demand-based season and off-season vegetable production primarily in Surkhet. This partnership will create awareness among 375-women member farmers on production of vegetable crops/varieties (season and off season) according to market demand, provide training on financial literacy and attempt to eventually increase the income of its women member farmers.



Further it signed a partnership agreement with Ashapuri Organic Farm at the Swiss contact Nepal office premises in Kathmandu on 20 September 2018. Ashapuri Organic Farm has been working directly with farmers to promote organic farming for the past 16 years. Their expertise lies in providing specialized training to farmers, developing nursery to supply quality sapling, assisting in organically certifying the land, and procuring the produce from the farmers. The partnership agreement was signed by GB Banjara, Team Leader of Sahaj and Prem Lama, Chairman of Ashapuri Organic Farm. The partnership agreement seeks to increase the income of smallholder farmers in rural hills by training them on cultivating high value agricultural products and buying back the produce from the farmers.



## **An Interaction Program Held in Biratnagar by FNCCI**

An interaction program for stakeholders involved in the agriculture sector in State 1 was jointly organized on 30 September 2018 in Biratnagar by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry State 1, (FNCCI S1) and Sahaj. The objective of the programme was to establish a platform for dialogue among the stakeholders on the scope for agriculture sector development in the State 1. State legislatures, elected representatives from municipalities, government authorities and representatives of private sector and commercial farmers actively participated in the programme.

## **Director from ASIA Onlus HQ in Italy visits CEAPRED head-office**

On 21st Dec 2018, Director from ASIA Onlus HQ in Italy, Mr. Andrea Dell' Angelo visited CEAPRED head office and held an official meeting with the Executive Chairperson, Dr. Hari K. Upadhyaya, Executive Director, Mr. Jaya M. Khanal, Program Director, Mr. Keshab Datta Joshi and other senior management team of CEAPRED, where everyone shared their views regarding the ongoing project DCCRA, its progress and nature of work. Mr. Angelo added how impressed he was with CEAPRED's work ethics and shared his interest to collaborate with CEAPRED in longer run and also build the ongoing partnership in the wider spectrum.

CEAPRED through its project Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP) - Resilient Mountain Village (RMV) provided technical support to frame the four years Agriculture Development Strategic Plan at Dhulikhel Municipality.

## **Evaluation Mission from Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Visited Sindhuli, Sindhupalchowk and Kavre**

Mr. Andrea Stroppiana from Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Kavre, Sindhuli and Sindhupalchowk for mid-term evaluation from 25-27 September 2018. David Cecchi and Yogesh Subedi from ASIA and Ganesh Acharya with Field Project Coordinator Shyam Ghimire from CEAPRED also joined the team. Mr. Stroppiana observed the model farms, nursery of fruits and vegetable, demonstration farms and use of climate change adaptation technologies for safe food production in commercial scale in all three districts. A brief interaction meeting with community in each districts was followed after the observation. Mr. Stroppiana also participated in the meeting with Mayor and ward chairs of Namobuddha Municipality, where he appreciated the ongoing progress of the project.





### *Converting a Dream to Reality: Once a Buyer now a Seller*

Looking at her hands she describes, "My hands full of mud doesn't bother me, but gives me a feeling of contentment and pride", says Ms. Kabita Bhujel of Namobuddha municipality ward 4, who became the member of Batabaran Krishak Samuha formed by CEAPRED/DCCRA in 2017. She is a farmer and a nursery grower. Before joining the CEAPRED group she used to sell buffalo milk for her living, which barely gave her enough return to meet her ends. At the time of joining the CEAPRED group she dreamt of growing vegetables and selling at the market.

Turning her dreams to reality she now has two tunnels, she is growing cauliflower in 3 ropanis of land and cabbage, tomato, broad leaf mustard, coriander and chilly jointly in 2 ropanis of land with regular supervision and suggestions from the field staff of CEAPRED. Members from her group and neighbors come to her for seedlings of different vegetables and medicinal plants. Till date, she has earned Nrs. 20,000 from tomato harvested from one tunnel, Nrs. 65,000 from the cauliflower, cabbage, chilly and coriander and Nrs. 25,000 by selling the seedlings of cauliflower and cabbage.

She also stated that the cost of cultivation is also low by using the bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides in the field. She has now practiced climate smart technologies like drip irrigation, Jholmal 1, 2 and 3, mulching, tray nursery, livestock waste management, tunnel and plastic pond in her field through the support of CEAPRED. She also claims that the produce from her field are safe and good for health. Ms. Bhujel is immensely grateful to the organization as it turned her dream into reality and is very positive to the concept of standard raising program of this organization.





## Projects Completed

### Building Community Enterprises of Small holders (BCES)

Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research and Extension (CEAPRED) has successfully completed its 3 years Building Community Enterprise of smallholders (BCES) project starting from 1st October 2015 to 30th September, 2018. The project was jointly funded by BMZ and WHH with 75% and 25% respectively. The overall purpose of the project was to combat poverty and food insecurity of the most vulnerable sections of the society in Salyan and contribute to the improvement of income and livelihood of the target groups. Project activities have been implemented in two Gaupalikas and one municipality of the district through 105 farmer's groups in 2,736 households, comprised of 2,129 (78%) women and 607 men members. During the project period, 105 farmers' groups were mobilized for increased production of fresh vegetables, spices and seeds of different vegetable crops. 105 resource farms have been established to provide for demonstration and three community enterprises have been established for the production, processing and marketing of three different agricultural products. 12 Collection Centers have been established and made functional to facilitate marketing of surplus production of small holder's farmers and 30 CRPS and 105 resource farms have been established to support the CE, CC and the farmers in technical as well as managerial support.



The project was successful in achieving its targeted objective and impacts by judicious use of available resources within specified time frame. Farmers, CRPs, CEs and CCs were well capacitated to continue and operate the identified Agri- business, even after the phase-out. Community enterprise will continue functioning and assisting beneficiaries for marketing of surplus. Visible project impact at field level was vividly reflected in the views from farmers, local leaders and different stakeholders who have been directly involved in the project from the very beginning and contributed a lot for the success of the project in various ways.

### Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Program (HICAP)- Climate Resilient Mountain Village (CRMV)

Aiming to help address climate change issues and implement the concept of "Climate Smart Village" through introduction of climate smart technologies in agriculture, ICIMOD and CEAPRED jointly designed a pilot project under HICAP in Kavre district in May 2014. After the implementation of CSV program farmers were encouraged and motivated to cultivate seasonal vegetables in their own farm which has doubled their income as compared to the past. HICAP/CRMV successfully completed its 5 years' tenure recently in December 2018.



The project benefitted 1094 HHs by providing Capacity building as well as orientation to farmer groups regarding climate change, IPM technology, Jholmal preparation, waste water collection, crop rotation, mixed cropping, Exploration of farmer to Biogas Company and livestock insurance company had been conducted. It has been found that there is 100% adoption of Jholmal practice in the project sites. The 1st year result had shown that Srijana and Dalila tomato varieties are found to be the best varieties in the lower sites during the rainy season than other varieties: Sudha and Kiran. Farmers have realized the importance of plastic tunnel and cowsheds management and have scaled it up by their own. With the tremendous efforts of the project, it can also be revealed that there is decreasing demand of chemical fertilizer in the agro-vets nearby the project sites. Demonstration on varietal testing of wheat as well as Jholmal demo in potato, mustard and wheat has been set up in the project sites. To learn about the importance of residue management, demonstrations comparing it with farmers' practices have been conducted. Farmers in the project site were provided with ICT service through SMS in mobile about market price of agriculture product in every three days' interval, weather forecast in every seven days' interval and technical issue and solution of agriculture crop and livestock in every three days' interval.





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