

Message from the Chairperson

This period witnessed a great irreparable disaster caused by the earthquake of 25th April, 2015 and its subsequent aftershocks especially of 12th May, 2015 in the 14 mountain districts of central Nepal. It killed about 9,000 people, injured more than 23,000 people and damaged more than 800,000 houses and physical infrastructures and rendered hundreds of thousand families homeless. We are gravely hurt and saddened by the most tragic loss of human and animal lives, property and physical infrastructure caused by the earthquake. People in the affected areas are still struggling to cope with the impacts.

CEAPRED's greatest priority at the moment is to join hands with the numerous organizations within and outside country that are extending support to the victims – to provide water to the thirsty, food to the hungry and shelter to the homeless. We express our deep, heart-felt condolence to the families and relatives of the deceased, and commit ourselves to work in every way we can, as part of our organizational priority, towards an early recovery and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims. In fact, we have already initiated some programs towards this direction.

As part of our organizational policy to adapt to changed contexts, including climate change, we announce the version of the news letter to replace its print version, which we had been publishing since we started our operation about twenty five years ago. We hope this will increase our reach to larger mass nationally and internationally. We welcome your suggestions for subsequent improvement in the contents and layout.

Thank you.

*Hari K. Upadhyaya, PhD
Chairperson, CEAPRED*

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Celebrating CEAPRED's Silver Jubilee

Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) celebrated its Silver Jubilee on April 23rd, 2015. To commemorate this glorious moment, a modest function was organized at the Himalayan Hotel, Lalitpur. The event was attended by about 160 guests representing high level dignitaries like Hon. Nil Kantha Upreti, Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Jaya Mukunda Khanal, Secretary/Ministry of Industry and other high level government officials. The guest of honor of the function was Honorable Finance Minister, Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, who enlightened the audience with some wonderful memories he had with CEAPRED and expressed that the milestones it has achieved today from where it started was indeed praise worthy.



Similarly, the guest of honor, Mr. Keshab Badal, Honorable Member of the Constituent Assembly and the President of National Cooperative Federation, shared his views on how CEAPRED as a non-governmental organization has been contributing to the improvement of the lives of farmers and bringing about social transformation across Nepal. Another guest speaker, Mr. Jean Francois, the Head of Cooperation from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), appreciated the positive socio-economic impacts that SDC and CEAPRED, working together for a decade now, has created in the project area.

An array of exhibition was displayed on the occasion which was explained by Ms. Subhechcha Shrestha to our chief guests and all the other interested viewers. A video documentary depicting the achievements of CEAPRED in twenty five years was presented in the program.



A total of 15 staff of CEAPRED family were honored and awarded as the longest serving employees at the occasion. The award winners were Ms. Sushma Rajkarnikar, Mr. Dibyeshwor Pd. Shrestha, Mr. Jagat Gole, Mr. Motiman Limbu, Mr. Narayan Pd. Sedain, Mr. Devi B. Mainali, Mr. Badri Yadav, Mr. Kishor Dhakal, Mr. Keshab Pandey, Mr. Mohan Thapa, Mr. Bishnu D Bhatta, Mr. Basu Upadhyaya, Mr. Ram

Deo Sah, Mr. Jibril Mohammad and Mr. Uma P. Tripathi.

The Chairperson of CEAPRED, Dr. Hari K. Upadhyaya, in his closing remarks, expressed his gratitude to all who contributed to the growth of CEAPRED as an institution and supported in the programs of the organization, in particular to donors, government agencies, non-government sector, private and community organizations, staff and above all to the communities who proactively participated and owned the program. Dr. Upadhyaya expressed his thankfulness to the guest of honor and other speakers for their words of encouragement and praise of CEAPRED. He also thanked all organizations that have supported CEAPRED over the last 25 years and hoped to celebrate the golden jubilee of the organization in 2040!



CEAPRED's Support to Earthquake Victims

On April, 25th 2015, earthquake shock measuring 7.6 Richter scale and the aftershocks particularly of 12th May measuring 6.8 Richter scale hit the mountain and hill districts of central Nepal, particularly in 14 districts, which killed about 9000 people, injured more than 23000 people and damaged more than 800,000 houses and physical infrastructures and rendered hundreds of thousand families homeless.



Distribution of relief packages in Kavre and Nuwakot districts

To support the earthquake victims in some of the most affected areas of Kavre and Nuwakot, CEAPRED contributed about 1.6 million rupees in cash and kind including one million rupees to Prime Minister's disaster relief fund. The in kind support included tents, blankets, food items (rice, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, noodles and some emergency medical supplies) and three hundred thousand rupees to Nobel Hospital Pvt. Ltd., Sinamangal to buy medicines for the earthquake victims.

Emergency Response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015, in the Poorest Wards of Baluwa VDC, Kavre

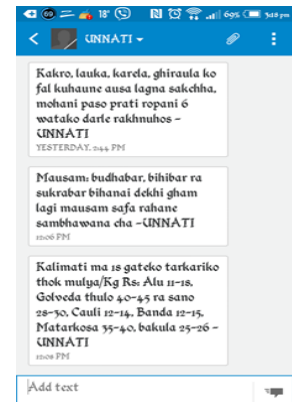
In collaboration with Association for the International Solidarity in Asia (ASIA-Nepal), CEAPRED, launched a new project for the Emergency Response to the massive earthquake. The project “Emergency Response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015 in the poorest wards of Baluwa VDC, Kavre” was implemented from July to October 2015. The project aims to promote vegetable farming for home consumption and sale of nutritious vegetables by the earthquake affected families. The expected outcome is to provide, support to 1,600 HH for home gardening and 800 HH for commercial vegetable farming and 200 families under the plastic tunnels.



Until the mid of September 2015, the project has been successful in mobilizing 1,602 HHs from three wards and organizing 70 home gardening groups. Vegetable seed kits for kitchen garden were distributed to all 1,602 HHs. Those all HHs were provided orientation on home gardening. 838 HHs were also provided with semi-commercial vegetable production training. The future activities envisioned are training on Jholmol and distribution of Drums and Jivatu, construction of tunnels for off season vegetable farming.

ICT in Agriculture

CEAPRED initiated a pilot program to disseminate agricultural information to its beneficiary farmers through SMS in two ongoing projects - Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Program (HICAP)’s Climate Smart Village (CSV) in Kavre and UNNATI project in Sindhuli. This mobile technology based farm advisory service is expected to help farmers take right decision regarding their agriculture production and marketing. At present, technical message is provided to the farmers once a week. About 40 % farmers suggested providing information related to plant protection including organic pesticide preparation and its use while 10 % of them expected to get post harvest information.



Agro-Vet Training Held in Palpa and Dang



KISAN project, implemented by CEAPRED/WINROCK conducted “Capacity building training for Agro-vets” at Tansen, Palpa on 9th and 10th June 2015. A total of 25 agro-vets from four districts in the Western region along with Palpa, Gulmi, Argakhachi and Kapilvastu were trained. Similarly, 34 Agro-vets (7 female members) from Rapti cluster were trained at Ghorahi, Dang on 5th–6th June 2015. The training was focused on the advantages and disadvantages of chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides and its appropriate use to achieve constructive results. Furthermore it also focused on the type of needful recommendations for farmers and its delivery process. Lastly the agro-vets were also trained about preparation of their business plan for their sustainable growth.

IPM Tools Demonstration through IPM Learning Center

IPM-Innovation Lab (IPMIL) implemented by CEAPRED has established IPM learning center at Surkhet and Banke sites to demonstrate the IPM tools. There are four IPM learning centers - two in each district. The learning center has demonstrated different IPM tools and components. The IPM tools included were soil solarization, nylon net for the nursery to prevent the plants from virus infection, different insect traps available in the markets which can also be made locally, plastic tray with coco-peat for the production of healthy seedlings, bio-pesticides used for the disease and insect management, water technology (drip irrigation), tricho-compost demo, moisture conservation through plastic mulching etc.



After the establishment of the IPM learning center, between December 2014 to June 2015 there were several visits from farmers groups, cooperatives, projects (KISAN, IAPAC, MAWTW Local NGOs etc.), government bodies (DADO, ASC) etc. Altogether there were more than 500 visitors (only in Surkhet site). After the IPM learning center visit at Sahare-5, Surkhet, DADO, Surkhet requested IPMIL to establish the IPM learning center at the DADO premises. In coordination with DADO the IPM learning center has now been established at the DADO premises as well.

Training on Safe Use and Distribution of Pesticides at Sindhuli

In the partnership with District Agriculture Development Office, UNNATI project implemented by CEAPRED organized a six day long training from May 29th - June 3rd 2015 at Sindhuli, where all staffs from UNNATI project participated. Post training examination was held for the participants. Out of 30, 29 participants were successful to get merit score. This triumphant result has made them realize, their dream of running an agro vet business in their own community stronger than before. To add on that, the presence of Ms. Deepa Shrestha, a female participant gave a positive impression that women are equally capable as their male counterparts. Senior Agriculture Development Officer Mr. Homraj Bista, Agriculture Extension Officer; Mr. Sujan Amgai, Plant Protection Officer and Mr. Devraj Adhikari conducted the training as trainers. During the training, farmers expressed how absence of agro vet in the community created difficulties for them as they had to go far to purchase seeds and pesticides. But now after the training and the successful result of the examination, farmers from Nepalthok, Gwalter and Mahottari have articulated their desire to open a shop providing seeds and pesticides and other agriculture related goods to help farmers in the most convenient way.



Creating Better Functioning Pig Market System in Nepal

CEAPRED has been implementing the NMDP-SAMARTH Pig sub sector project, in seven districts (Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Sunsari, Jhapa, Dhankuta and Kaski) of the country. In general, the traditional pig farming in Nepal is mainly limited to certain social and cultural groups involving farmers from the disadvantaged and ethnic community. Majority of the involved are landless or small farmers with five or less pig holdings. The concentration however is mainly seen in the regions dominated by the people belonging to secluded caste and other marginalized groups including Tharu, Magar, Rai, Limbu, Mushahar etc.



Poor genetic quality of the pig seed stock associated with poor quality of pig feeding have negatively affected the production of desired quality of piglets, which, undermines the productive performance of smallholder pig

farmers to limit their economic benefits. To address these major constraints the pig project developed and implemented six different interventions.

The project piloted the intervention by trainings to Pig Market agents and village breeder farmers to improve their technical knowledge in the areas including boar selection, linkage with pure breed boars and also the breed exchange programs among the Pig Market agents that provide breeding services to the smallholder pig breeders. This facilitation has resulted to reduction in inbreeding in pig population, increased boar selection by pig market agents and expansion of their services to smallholder pig farmers resulting improvement of piglet production practices by the commercial pig breeder farmers.

The program has also facilitated in developing and improving the capacity of four Grandparent Pig seed stock (GPS) farms through delivery of trainings on AI using frozen semen. The project also has linked the national GPS farms with Swine Genetic International, USA for importing quality frozen boar semen. The result of this intervention has been the importation and use of 900 doses of quality frozen boar semen of Landrace, Yorkshire, Duroc, Hampshire, Large Black, and Berkshire breeds Swine Genetic International, USA and development of the software for pig genetic evaluation for top boar semen production and utilization.

In the production side, the program has focused on developing and strengthening a sustainable pig seed stock production system to improve the breed and their productivity. It is simultaneously looked into supporting functions as well as the policy gaps to ensure that the entire market system changes for the benefit of poor pig producers. In order to strengthen the supporting functions, pig project is facilitating various activities in different aspects of pig production and marketing.

In order to reinforce the market system changes brought about by the program in the pig sector, the project will continue its focus on breed development, disseminating good husbandry practices, hygienic pig and pork production practices and create business enabling environment to facilitate the trade and marketing of quality pork and various pork products.

Vegetable Seed Program - A Successfully Completed Program

CEAPRED entered in vegetable seed production in 1998 when it started the program with its own core fund in Dolakha and thereafter received support from DANIDA from 2001 to 2003. To build on the success of DANIDA support and continue this effort, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported CEAPRED in implementing Vegetable Seed Project (VSP) since 2004 till 2014.



During last four year CEAPRED's contribution in vegetable seed production and marketing was more than 1,100 MT contributing 15% of national seed requirement¹ and about 30% of the domestic production². The annual income from seed per HH ranged from NRs. 3,000 to NRs. 296,850 with an average annual income of NRs. 20,484. On-farm hybrid tomato seed production was initiated in 2011 in collaboration with HRD/NARC through farmers of Kavre, Parbat, Rukum, Dailekh and Baitadi. CEAPRED has its own seed testing laboratory accredited by SQCC/GoN and providing seed testing services to the seed companies and farmers.

With the joint efforts from NSB/SQCC and different concern stakeholders (VSP, HMRP, SEAN etc.) seed policies and regulations were amended and SQCC preparing directives and enforcing decentralized source seed production and licensing of Crop Inspector for quality assurance through private sector. It also initiated and established **Internal Quality assurance services** providing training to cooperative members and also linked this system with SQCC, DADO and Agriculture Service Center (ASC) technicians. VSP/CEAPRED supported to prepare National Seed Vision 2013-2025 and Agriculture Development Strategy preparation. SQCC was

¹ Current annual vegetable seed demand is 1750 MT. which is expected to increase by 30 MT annually (VDD 2010)

² Domestic production is around 950 MT vegetable seed as reported by SEAN, (2010)

provided with a consultant to prepare implementation modality and develop monitoring tool for Seed Vision 2013-2025.

The key lessons learnt indicate that there is still a need of capacity development - technical and overall business management support for seed cooperatives and Central Federation of Seed Cooperatives - to further strengthen their linkage and networking with entrepreneurs and GoN institutions for seed production and marketing domestically and globally.

Vegetable Seed has both the comparative and competitive advantage for the local markets as well as exports to nearby Indian markets and Bangladesh.

New Initiatives

CEAPRED Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NARC and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)

CEAPRED signed MoU with Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) on 9th of September, 2015 (the 23rd of Bhadra, 2072) and with Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) on 30th of September, 2015 (13 Ashwin, 2072).

The main purpose of the MoU with NARC is to develop a sustainable partnership between the institutions for implementing the programs and projects in the areas of mutual interest for technological advancement aimed at improving the livelihoods of the Nepalese people. Dr. Yam Raj Pandey, Executive Director of NARC and Mr. Bharat Prasad Upadhyay, Executive Director of CEAPRED, signed the MoU at the NARC headquarters, Singh Durbar Plaza, Kathmandu, Nepal. The MoU with AFU is done with a positive intension to encourage research activities on a variety of topics in the agricultural sector. In order to promote this idea, students from AFU, receiving grants from CEAPRED will be engaged and supervised for the research activities with the involvement of CEAPRED experts as member of the thesis committee. Prof. Naba Raj Devkota, Directorate of Research and Extension of AFU and Mr. Bharat Prasad Upadhyay, Executive Director of CEAPRED, signed the MoU.

HIMALICA Project Launched

Center for Environmental and Agricultural, Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) launched a new project recently, in collaboration with International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Udayapur district. The project "HIMALICA" aims to enhance the Rural Livelihood and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas. The program aims to support vulnerable mountain communities in the HKH region in mitigating and adapting to climate change to improve their livelihoods. The overall objective of this pilot project is to increase community resilience, reduce risks and improve livelihoods by supporting target beneficiaries to produce more food with climate adaptive agricultural practices and value chain upgrading. The expected outcomes of HIMALICA is increased income of the target households through improving productivity and production system among the value chain actors and also boost better resilience of local stakeholders in dealing with the effects of climate change and other risks associated.

Success Story

Revival of Holeri Collection Centre in Rolpa to ease market access to farmers

USAID-funded Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) project implemented by CEAPRED/WINROCK/DEPROSC is working with smallholder farmers in 20 districts of West, Mid-West, and Far-West regions to advance their agriculture production skills for improving their livelihoods. Market linkage is important to scale up commercial agriculture production and KISAN facilitates to establish and strengthen the existing markets so that farmers could easily access markets to sell their produces for income generation.

Holeri Collection Centre in Rolpa was established in 2011, however it was not operating its activities. DADO and Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA) initiated to invigorate this collection center and KISAN also joined hands with DADO. KISAN designed appropriate interventions and helped to restructure the MPC with active farmers and traders after identifying the major challenges. KISAN conducted various trainings for the members to ensure its continuous operation. Through KISAN trainings, the members learnt about MPC management, its strengthening and production planning for the market transaction. KISAN also supported the MPC to assess the market situation to determine the demand and supply of vegetables and weaknesses in the value chain. KISAN provided material support such as crates, weighing scales, price list board, record keeping book etc. With all this support, Holeri Collection Centre (CC) operated again on September, 2014. The farmers are now encouraged to produce more vegetables after the revival of Holeri MPC which created an opportunity for market sale in fair prices and created a source of income for farmers. President of Holeri MPC, Mr. Dipendra Buda and a local farmer, Mr. Yam Bahadur Dasaudi said *“We are really happy our collection center start functioning once again. KISAN has not only helped to revive our collection center but also encouraged us to plan for smooth operation. After revival of Holeri CC, our farmers are able to ensure regular income source.”*



Transaction between farmers and local traders in Holeri collection centre after its revival