**IN THIS ISSUE**

1. PGS certified “SINDHUKA” Trademark Launched

2. A Five day residential training conducted on PGS and Organic Agriculture Dhulikhel, Kavre

3. Organization of orientation for farmer groups and cooperatives on climate resilient technologies

4. Nepal Coffee Enterprise Promotion Summit 2019

5. Joint Monitoring of the RMS site by local government partners

6. Third Compliance Committee Meeting (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture/ITPGRFA)

7. Training to Agrovets/LTAs

8. Partnership Agreement signed with Ficus Biotech Private Limited

9. Success Stories (Kisan II and NAMDP)

10. Completed Projects (Hamro Coffee, DCCRA)

11. New Projects (RMS, TCF-ADS)
**PGS certified “SINDHUKA” Trademark Launched**

“Sindhuka” a PGS certified brand of organic agriculture products has been launched in Banepa on 23rd Feb 2019. The facilitation to promote “Sindhuka” brand is done by the project “Development of Climate Change Resilient in Agriculture (DCCRA)” which is being implemented in Kavre, Sindhupalchowk and Sindhuli districts by CEAPRED in partnership with ASIA Onlus, OIKOS and Punto.sud with funding from Government of Italy. The project aims to increase food production of higher quality sustainably while applying climate change adaptation practices using optimum natural resources and reducing use of synthetic chemicals. In order to encourage this prospect, SINDHUKA trademark has been promoted and launched in Kavre.

A workshop was organized in Banepa of Kavre to launch “SINDHUKA” trademark. The participants present in the workshop were from DCC Kavre, Banepa Municipality, Kavre Krishi Bazar, Youth Agro forum, representatives from different cooperatives, Organic Agri product traders from Kathmandu and local market.

The Sindhuka’s name and its organizational symbol are registered trademarks (“Sindhuka’s Trademarks”) of Fulbari Agriculture Cooperative, located at Namobuddha Municipality ward # 2, Patlegaun, Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal. Sindhuka brand is registered in Department of Industry, Government of Nepal with registration number 1.

**A Five day residential training conducted on PGS and Organic Agriculture Dhulikhel, Kavre**

A five day residential training was conducted on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and Organic Agriculture from 21-25 January 2019 at Dhulikhel, Kavre. A total of 30 participants from Kavre, Sindhuli and Sindhupalchowk participated in the training. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in DCCRA is a system of quality assurance of the products, not a system of production. Both PGS and third-party certification systems are based on the same principles of organic agriculture, so allowable inputs in PGS certified organic agriculture are generally the same as those in third-party certified organic agriculture. The fast growth of the PGS movement over the last few years reflects the need to include smallholder farmers in the organic movement. In developing countries like Nepal, most of the third-party certified farms rely on distant export markets to cover the cost of certification, so products from those farms are not available to local consumers. By bringing more farmers into a system of committed organic production, and linking that to direct and local sales, PGS offer much wider access of organic products to local consumers. PGS initiatives directly link up consumers and farmers and help to provide organic food at a lower cost to poor consumers. Meeting the needs of smallholder farmers and local consumers,
PGS initiatives are poised to grow even more quickly, as awareness of organic products continues to grow globally. In turn, PGS have become integral to the future growth of the organic movement. Without them, organic will remain the bastion of the rich and educated leaving the small farmers and consumers unable to benefit. So the organization has conducted two orientations and one, five days residential training on PGS and organic agriculture with the following objectives.

- to build the capacity of the participants, strengthen their knowledge and skill on key concept of PGS including key steps and tools to enable them to transfer the knowledge and skill to farmers.
- to establish and facilitate PGS group in the project areas.
- to allow an opportunity for the participants to understand on marketing linkage of organic product, partnership building among organic vendors/shops and so on.

The training was conducted on participatory model providing and facilitating equal participation from the resource person and participants. It was based on relevant lecture sessions and practical field exercises together with participatory discussions, games, group interaction, group work and presentations and brain storming.

The overall impression of the training was found productive in terms of skills and knowledge transfer in a participatory way. The content of the training and the materials used for different sessions were based on the real need of PGS farmers. The training has made the participants determined in the production of organic produce following the standards of the PGS. It is believed that capacity of the participants has strengthened through increased knowledge and skills on key concepts on organic production and PGS implementation to enhance the life of the farmers and small holders through organic farming practices. PGS will be established at local level for quality assurance in the project areas. Acquired knowledge and skills in the training will allow the opportunity for the participants to understand on marketing linkage of organic product, partnership building among organic vendors/shops and offer every beneficiary farmer with individual or group certificate and access to market their products.

PGS initiatives directly link up consumers and farmers and help to provide organic food at a lower cost to poor consumers.
Organization of orientation for farmer groups and cooperatives on climate resilient technologies

A total of 20 farmer groups from Kavre districts were oriented on climate resilient technologies promoted by the RMS project being implemented by CEAPRED in partnership with ICIMOD. The main objective of the program was to make the farmers familiar about different resilient technologies like homemade bio-pesticides, water harvesting technologies, IPM technologies, irrigation technologies, mulching practices etc. The farmers were made familiar about the resilient technologies and measures to be considered while preparing and using those technologies. The farmers were also made aware about the benefits of using such technologies in the community and its positive impact on human health and environment.

Nepal Coffee Enterprise Promotion Summit 2019

“Nepal Coffee Enterprise Promotion Summit 2019”, held on 15th -16th April 2019 was organized by Nepal Tea and Coffee Development Board with the support of European Union. CEAPRED was one of the co-organizers of the Summit. The two-day Summit gave an energizer to the public and private organizations along with coffee producers and cooperatives to promote Coffee sector in Nepal for its import substitution and export promotion.

Joint Monitoring of the RMS site by local government partners

Joint monitoring of the RMS trial sites and knowledge park was carried out by the representative from Dhulikhel Municipality. The Mayor, Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju on 5th June, 2019 visited the RMS trial site and knowledge park together with the ward chairperson and other representatives from Dhulikhel Municipality. During the visit, Mayor mentioned that the practices RMS team is carrying out at farmer’s field should be replicated by all the farmers in the Municipality which in near future helps Dhulikhel municipality in producing safe food for the consumers.

On 14th June 2019, Vice Mayor along with ward chairperson and different representative of Pachkhal Municipality visited the RMS trial site at Baluwa, Kavre. During the monitoring visit the vice Mayor explained the technologies to be novel and beneficial to the farmers and will incorporate such program while planning the activities for agriculture in coming years.
Third Compliance Committee Meeting (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture/ITPGRFA)

As a member of the Compliance Committee representing from the Asia Region, Anil Kumar Acharya (Program Coordinator, NSAFP) participated in the meeting held on 31 Jan-1 Feb 2019 organized by FAO Rome, Italy. The event was organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Training to Agrovets/LTAs

A three days training was provided to agrovets and LTAs from 6th – 8th February 2019 to implement the proposed activity (Training to Agrovets/LTAs) scheduled from 6th-8th February at CEAPRED. A total of 6 LTAs and 6 Agrovets from all the project districts had come to participate in the training. Experts from CIMMYT, CEAPRED, CEAPRED Foundation, HRD (Horticulture Research Division), NCPVSCD (National Center for Potato, Vegetable and Spice Crops Development), SQCC (Seed Quality Control Center), AFU (Agriculture and Forestry University) were the resource person for the training.

During the opening session, Program Coordinator/NSAFP gave a warm welcome to the participants and highlighted the objectives of the training program. Mr. Jaya M. Khanal, Executive Director of CEAPRED expressed his views on behalf of CEAPRED and elaborated more on the project and its scope and coverage. Subsequently, representative from CIMMYT, Ms. Shailaja spoke about the importance of the program and gave her best wishes for the successful completion of the program.

At the closing session, Mr. Jaya M. Khanal gave his final remarks and thanked all the front liners of the project for their efforts on completion of the 1st year. He mentioned encouraging views and gave key guidelines to all the participants about how the project's activities will be implemented effectively and efficiently to meet the objectives of the project.
Partnership Agreement signed with Ficus Biotech Private Limited

Sahaj-NAMDP on April 15 signed a partnership agreement with Ficus Biotech Private Limited, an agribusiness company to increase farmers’ access to disease-free potato seed through tissue culture and promotion of pre-basic seeds (PBS). Pre-basic seed potatoes are disease-free potato minitubers produced via tissue culture. Use of such seed reduces the disease infestation, one of the major problems faced by the potato producers and increases the productivity. GB Banjara, Team Leader of Sahaj and Anuroop Manandhar, Chairperson, Ficus Biotech signed the pact on behalf of their respective organizations. The partnership between Sahaj and Ficus Biotech aims to test a business model to stimulate demand for PBS of potato among the farmers. In line with the agreement, Ficus Biotech will also pass on technical information (production techniques and profitability of using PBS seeds) to the farmers. The logic behind the partnership is that the farmers (even those in non-commercial production areas) will purchase the quality seeds if they have access, know about the profitability of using such seeds and are aware of proper production techniques.

Ficus Biotech is an agribusiness company established by biotechnologists. The company produces high-quality plants by using plant tissue culture technology. Its aim is to promote plantation of high-quality high value plants.

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). Under the first phase of the project— from March 2016 to December 2019—Sahaj works in the area of goat-rearing, maize and vegetable sectors, and crop protection and post-harvest cross-sectors. It adopts an Inclusive Markets approach, commonly known as Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) or the Market System Development (MSD). Sahaj is jointly implemented by Swiss contact and Center for Environment and Agriculture Policy Research, Extension and development (CEAPRED).

The logic behind the partnership is that the farmers (even those in non-commercial production areas) will purchase the quality seeds if they have access, know about the profitability of using such seeds and are aware of proper production techniques.
SUCCESS STORIES

R.H. Agrovet doubled its sale of rice seeds and other inputs after carrying out varietal demonstrations at the farmer’s field

Mr. Hiralal Katharina proprietor R.H. agrovet of inhabitant of Joshipur-1 Kailali running an agrovet in Joshipur market has completed I. Sc. in agriculture and is a migrant returnee of Gulf countries (Israel). He started, his own agrovet and is an active partner of KISAN II under MoU. Initially, he was engaged in agrovet business with traditional way waiting the customer at his shop whole the day. He has about 500 regular customers even divided among different agrovets of Joshipur.

After partnership with KISAN II, he got the business idea to increase his customer reach by carrying out different demonstrations at the farmer’s field jointly with farmers. Thus, he carried out several rice and vegetable demonstration at different sites in different municipalities of Kailali districts. Now, he has more than 1000 regular customer who get direct technical support and procure agriculture input from him.

His demonstration in rice crop was very successful, in which he collaborated with Sun rise seed company, Dang, to get quality seeds of fine and medium fine rice varieties, and sold among the farmers. In addition, he also brought seeds of maize and vegetable crops and supplied through its dealers. Altogether, he conducted 10 demonstrations of rice and 20 demonstrations of vegetable and maize.

After those demonstrations, the demand for those seeds and related inputs increased rapidly resulting into increased sale and income of R.H. agrovet. For the next season he has booked 200 bag Garima, 100 bag Surbhi gold, 50 bag Akash and 25 bag Sundram seed with the Sunrise seed company (Lamki Dang). His sale is now nearly doubled and his annual income reached to NPR ~6000,000. in FY 2018/19, from 8000,000.0 in last FY.

From his increased income, he could invest in procuring land of 0.5 katha in the main market area of Joshipur and willing to expend his business all over the district.

Proprietor of R.H. Agrovet, Mr. Hiralal Katharina sharing his success story of benefits of carrying varietal demonstration at FF
Ms. Mina Devi Chaudhary, a 30 year’s old, women, member of Phulwar Cooparative, resident of Bardagoriya Rural Municipality-6 Baskoti of Kailali district’s, has 11 family members (6 females, 5 males) including 4 children. She is a member of Milan farmer group of Phulwar agriculture cooperative Baunia, Kailali. She has taken membership of cooperative since 2071 B.S. Since then, she took several loans from the cooperative for household purpose, and the repayment was very difficult because her earning was mostly dependent upon her labor work. Before participating in KISAN-II supported activities, her understanding was that the cooperative is only for saving and credit and disbursing loan and taking heavy interest out of it.

As a less land women farmers, she used to cultivate potato and little leafy vegetables at a small area for home consumption. After this MoU, she got opportunity to participate in commercial vegetable production training which changed her whole way of thinking. Her group earlier named as saving and credit group, is now reformed as farmer’s group in which there are now 35 members committed commercial vegetable production. Phulwar cooperative has mobilized one JTA staff who trained Mina on market led production plan, vegetable nursery management, cultivation practices and insect and pest management. She also got a loan of NPR 5000.0 from the cooperative for purpose of vegetable production. After the training, she decided to cultivate chillies (variety: NS-170) in about one kattha (333.33 M2) of land, cauliflower (variety: Nympho hybrid) in one kattha (333.33 M2) of land. After few months, she sold 200 Kg of chilly in the market, on average price of NPR 75/Kg, and earned about NPR15000.0 from chilly and she also sold 250 kg of cauliflower at average rate of NPR 30/ Kg and earned about NPR 7500.0. Thus, her total earning within 5-6 months was about NPR 22,500.0. This will increase as her chilly was still at fruiting and harvesting stage. She estimated that her earning from chilly only would reach more than NPR 35,000.0.

This earning was possible only due to financial support and agriculture support received from Phulwar Cooperative. Due to increased income from commercial vegetable cultivation, it has eased her to repay the loan timely. She is able to pay the education fees of her four children and her household expenses are also met. She expressed, thanks to the cooperative and their staffs who made a positive contribution in increasing her income. She has production plan to cultivate, cabbage and onion in the next season in about two kattha (666.66 M2) of land.

Vegetable cultivation, a new enterprise
18-year-old Arati Bhatta lives in Ward No. 7, Shuklaphata Municipality in Kanchanpur in Sudurpashchim Province with her mother, two brothers and a sister. Arati is a student and is also engaged in agriculture. She has a total of 3 bighas of land, out of which the family uses only 2.15 bighas for farming. Arati elaborates, “We grow maize, rice-wheat and potatoes across seasons in the land. My family members and I rely on agriculture as a primary source of income.”

Arati had been using the retained maize seeds from last year’s harvest. “Last year in 2017/18, I used the maize seed that was produced at home in 10 katthas of my land. I got a total of 450 kgs of maize, wherein I was able to reap 45 kgs from 1 kattha. I sold 200 kgs of it for NPR. 20 per kg at the market making a modest sum of NPR 4,000.”

This year in 2018/19, Baijnath Anaj Kharid Bikri Kendra (BAKBK) offered to buy back the maize produced by the farmers in Shuklaphata. They also linked the farmers in Shuklaphata with the supply of improved open-pollinated maize seeds. Arati learned about this and bought 10 kgs of the improved variety of seeds. BAKBK purchases food grains from the farmers and then sells it to the market. The company has been in operation since the last ten years and is involved in trading of several cash crops like paddy, wheat, mustard, lentils and maize.

Sahaj partnered with BAKBK in April 2018 to encourage commercial maize farming by linking the smallholder farmers with quality seeds and technical support. Under Sahaj’s partnership, BAKBK expanded its maize trading volume from Kanchanpur district. For this, it identified production sites and selected interested maize
Yadav Singh Kathayat, a resident of Amargadhi – 3, Dadeldhura in Sudurpaschim Province, is a member of the Dadeldhura Farmers’ Cooperative Society (DAFACOS). He is also a commercial seed producer. Kathayat has been involved in commercial seed production of local potatoes and spinach since 2015 and heads a local seed production group. With him, his wife, sons and daughter-in-law are engaged in farming. He had been using old variety local seeds as he did not have access to first generation quality potato seeds, resulting in poor germination of the seeds and low yield. However, last year, he was able to purchase first generation of potato seeds from DAFACOS, which is one of the partner company of Sahaj project. He bought 750 tubers (dana) of cardinal variety potato seeds from DAFACOS and decided to test the performance of the new seeds in his land.

Kathayat shares, “Not only did I receive new seeds, but also advice and information on how to grow them properly from DAFACOS. After this, I sowed the new seeds in 0.5 ropanies of my land.” At the same time, he also sowed the local seeds in more than three ropanis of land to see the difference in the germination rate and the productivity between the two varieties. He noted significant difference in the productivity of the new seeds and the old seeds. According to him, “The productivity improved by 50% with the new seeds, while the productivity of local seeds remained the same as last year: The 750 tubers of new potato seeds yielded 300 kgs of potato seeds while 750 tubers of local seeds yielded about 200 kgs of potato seeds. Not only that, when we sell the seeds, there is a significant gap in the price we get for the local seeds and the new seeds. The local seeds fetch us Rs. 25/kg, while DAFACOS has agreed to buy back the new seeds for Rs. 60/kg.”

In order to ensure that his potatoes are growing well, he receives continued monitoring and
technical support from DAFACOS. DAFACOS has also provided cold storage facility for its members, where the seeds can be stored for more than six months without quality degradation. Earlier, he would store seeds in sacks and rags, which would either degrade the quality of the seeds or would make them unusable. This resulted in reduced profits and occasional loss for him.

“I am very satisfied with the new seeds - the production of seeds has increased by 50%. My family and I will continue to use the new seeds for further potato seed production,” he happily shares. He states that the production of potato seeds is not very difficult and is suitable to the climate there. This is what makes producing potatoes attractive for farmers like him. There are other farmers from neighboring areas who have observed the changes in yield of the new seeds as compared to the old seeds in his land. He expects that more than 200 farmers will use the new seeds by next year.

Sahaj partnered with DAFACOS on 1st January 2018 to provide technical services and quality seeds to the potato farmers. Under the partnership, DAFACOS also provided assurance to the farmers that they would buy back the seeds produced by the farmers. This encouraged the farmers to increase the production of potatoes and earn a good income from the sales. Prior to the intervention, DAFACOS was supplying local potato seeds from around the region that were either low in quality or were retained from previous years, leading to lower germination rate. DAFACOS coordinated with Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC); developed linkages with seed producers in Kavre, Province 3; and purchased 8,000 kgs of first-generation potato seeds of cardinal and desiree varieties. The seeds were then supplied to 138 members of the cooperative at a subsidized rate. Yadav Singh Khatayat is one of many farmers who has benefitted from activities of Sahaj partners such as DAFACOS.
Hamro Coffee - Expanding Opportunities for Nepalese Coffee Farmers and Traders

Hamro Coffee- Expanding Opportunities for Nepalese Coffee Farmers and Traders was a two years’ project from Mar 2017 – Jun 2019, funded by EU/ICCO. The project operated in six districts of Nepal namely - Kaski, Syangja, Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhpalchok, Nuwakot. The overall objective of Hamro Coffee was “Increased income of small holders through an enhanced, market driven specialty coffee sector.” ICCO cooperation (ICCO) together with co-applicants Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) and Nepal Coffee Producers Association (NCPA) aimed to achieve this goal by realizing outcomes and activities that expand across production, processing, marketing and institutional strengthening. The action was primarily focused on enhancing the quality and quantity of coffee cherries produced, and upgrading primary processing to ensure quality of green beans that would lead in the long term to increased demand of unique Nepalese feature specialty coffee in the domestic and international niche markets. Further, the implementation of proposed project was to remove access barriers from “Farm to Cup” and embed knowledge, skills, technologies and linkages across all the actors in the coffee value chain.

The Key Successes of the project can be summarized as follows:

- Better organized and capacitated primary coffee cooperatives/ farmer groups technically guided by Extension Service Providers (ESP) at local level on orchard management and improved farming practices.
- Development of Coffee Production Manual recognized by the government.
- Establishment of better information and service channels for input supply through ESP and collaboration with the private sector.
- Quality management at farm level: grading and sorting techniques with piloting prototype of Coffee Harvest Bag among coffee farmers for increased efficiency.
- Reduction of quality loss at primary processing centers and successive processing and storage services, through the upgrade of 14 primary processing centers.
- Trainings on quality control aspects and good management practices in ensuring the quality of the specialty coffee for lead farmers, pulping operators, cooperatives and traders.
- Trainings on preliminary Q-grading, cupping, preparing micro-lot samples and record keeping to ensure traceability.
Key Results:

- 6000 farmers benefitted from 14 Primary Processing Centers
- 28 Extension Service Providers (ESP) provided services to 73 Farmer groups and Cooperatives
- 79,550 Coffee saplings planted under the supervision of ESPs
- 3300 farmers trained on Orchard Management and Improved Farming practices
- 300 Farmers supported with Agro-tools
- 30% of harvest time saved through the use of Harvest bag
- 4kgs (approx) of additional coffee cherry yield per plant
- 3350 farmers oriented on Coffee Production manual

- Establishment of national level database Coffee Management Information System (MIS) platform under the ownership of Nepal Tea and Coffee Development Board (NTCDB)
- Organization of Coffee Boot Camp, a week long business development workshop, for 10 coffee entrepreneurs to support them in development of their business strategy.
- Coffee Profiling and Cupping certification of different samples from project districts based upon the quality attributes of the coffee they produce.
- Identification of viable products for coffee tourism (Nuwakot, Kaski) and promotion of Nepalese especially coffee in trekking and hiking routes (Ghandruk, Mardi, Ghale Gaun).
Development of Climate Change Resilient Agriculture in Nepal (DCCRA)

Despite many challenges including, being unable to access markets and obtain fair prices for the products, used to using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, poor access to quality inputs, inadequate collection centers, market price fluctuations and climate risks, the project has found been a very well-conceived project - largely due to its relevance and the closely integrated series of activities that were implemented making this an exemplary project in many ways. The project has seen as having been totally relevant to priority needs of the target groups, addressing peoples’ livelihoods, food security, environmental protection and income generation. Majority of the beneficiaries with new knowledge, confidence and skill on different climate smart agriculture practices have allowed to practice better and more diversified agricultural systems, with significant changes seen in terms of vegetables, spices and herbs production and marketing. Essential links have been made in all three project districts with external traders and the private sector.

Some of the most effective achievements of this project has been the collection center and PGS implementation that is the first time, that the beneficiaries have actually come together to work collectively, which has been a very positive undertaking. Considering the overall budget and the short timeframe, the efficiency with which this project has been implemented - in challenging situations - and the overall impacts seen are quite high.

The project was very effective to transfer useful technical know-how to the target group and the beneficiaries are appreciating a lot what was done for them feeling relevant and useful what they received from the project. Overall, the project had a good balance between hardware provisioning, such as agricultural inputs, and software in the form of technical training,
management skills and social mobilization. Given the poor levels of awareness before project, this combination was imperative, and the time invested by field staff in mobilizing people and helping them compose and run self-help groups is a major achievement which will likely last and continue to benefit communities. To see the impact, it would be interesting to analyze increased farmers’ income levels from the sale of safe products and on the environmental protection where new techniques are adopted. Looking on its sustainability, there is important possibility of Municipality/ Gaupalika to have the role after phase-out. A high proportion of households reported having seen a significant – positive – change to their average household income in the past two years. Reasons given for this include savings, increased food security (seeds and vegetables), new assets such as livestock and, importantly, confidence in agri business. Household incomes though have not only improved, but have also diversified. This initiative has made significant progress in helping people move to more secure, resilient and sustainably-based activities. Key to this has been the closely integrated nature of project design and delivery, which has effectively resulted in new business schemes such as Collection Centers and safe food production that are now being run fully by community members, combined with comprehensive training packages.
NEW PROJECTS

Resilient Mountain Solution (RMS)

The Resilient Mountain Solutions (RMS) is a new initiative jointly piloted by CEAPRED and ICIMOD in Kavre and Dadeldhura districts of Nepal. The initiative aims to equip people with simple and affordable technologies and knowledge required to build long-term resilience. Its overall goal is to enhance the resilience of women and men to socioeconomic and environmental changes, including climate change. To operationalize the initiative, it has five major components and one cross cutting component. The five major components are:

a) Knowledge generation and application, b) Building resilience through innovative solution packages, c) Gender, social inclusion and governance, d) Regional scaling and policy uptake, e) Communication and outreach; and the cross cutting component is on Capacity building. To obtain the goals, the project has started its activities in two districts namely Kavre and Dadeldhura. The project has started the field test of Jholmal 1, 2 and 3 to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and to find out their efficacy in controlling the pests and increasing the soil fertility. The project has also supported the farmers with the IPM technologies, mulching, trainings etc so as to make them aware and move towards resilience.

Technical Cooperation Facility to the Agriculture Development Strategy (TCF-ADS)

Technical Cooperation Facility to the Agriculture Development Strategy is a three years’ project (1st April 2019 – 31st March 2022) funded by the delegation of European Union to Nepal. CEAPRED in association with AECOM and AEC will provide technical assistance to MOALD and 7 provinces for implementation of ADS throughout the country. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, climate resilience, improve the competitiveness of the sector and to generate higher and more equitable incomes in rural areas of Nepal.
Coffee instructor from USA interacting with a coffee farm

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