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CEAPRED participated in “International Mountain Day 2015”

Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, the chairperson of CEAPRED, participated as a key note speaker in a talk program hosted by ICIMOD on the 11th of December 2015, to mark the “International Mountain Day”. The key theme of the program for discussion was the challenges and opportunities of mountain products for better livelihoods of mountain people in Nepal. On this occasion, Dr. Upadhyaya shared his view points on challenges and opportunities in the sector based on CEAPRED’s experience and learning from other development initiatives in Nepal. Dr. Upadhyaya’s presentation, citing the example of the success of a pilot program on commercial off-season vegetables implemented by CEAPRED in early 1990’s along the Dharan-Basantpur road corridor of Eastern Nepal, highlighted the fact and figures of growth of the sub-sector nationwide since then. After the presentation, there was an active question answer session. The program came to an end by awarding four winners (1 from Sri Lanka, 2 from India and 1 from Nepal) who put in huge contribution to sustainable environmental management. On the whole, the program was informative and it definitely brought optimistic vibes among all the participants.



Transferring IPM technology, package and module training to FTF KISAN staff and Local NGOs



IPM-IL, Surkhet organized a two- days integrated pest management technology, package and module training at Surkhet from November 22 - 23, 2015. The training was organized for the agriculture technicians and local service providers. In the training 24 participants (Male: 16 and Female: 8) from FTF KISAN (Surkhet, Dailekh and Jajarkot) and NGOs from Surkhet participated. The participants learnt about IPM technologies related aspects, IPM packages developed by IPM-IL program and the practical knowledge on the technologies such as seedling preparations using plastic trays, use of bio-

pesticides, locally made bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, pheromones and traps. The participants also visited the IPM demonstration centre at Sanoharre where they observed the IPM techniques and technologies demonstrated in the field. The participants also interacted with the farmers of Sanoharre who were applying the technology. As per the response of the participants, the training proved to be highly successful in meeting its objectives. IPM-IL in Nepal is a joint initiative of Virginia Tech-University, IDE Nepal and CEAPRED in collaboration with NARC, HICAST and DoA under USAID funding.

HIMALICA project field visited by Government of Nepal professionals



A pilot project on Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation- HIMALICA is being implemented in Udayapur district by CEAPRED in partnership with ICIMOD with the financial support of European Union. The project is working in two wards (7 and 8) of Bagaha VDC and two wards (5 and 9) of Rauta VDC targeting the rural poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable families. Total 345 beneficiary households are organized in 17 groups with representation of Dalit, Janajati and others HHs as 12.75%, 60.29% and 26.96% respectively.

The field monitoring program of HIMALICA project at Rauta VDC was organized by Bird Conservation Nepal and Navaprat Nepal on Dec 15, 2015. The monitoring team comprised of CDO of Udayapur, DADO, DFO, representative of DDC, DLSO, Irrigation division, BCN, Navaprat, reporters of Barua Times and project staff of HIMALICA/CEAPRED. The program was chaired by the forest user group representative Ms. Kumari Aale. The team also visited sites of Rauta VDC where HIMALICA project is being implemented. They had an interaction program with farmers of the VDC to know about their perception about the project's work. Farmers happily said that this is the first time they are growing vegetables in their farms. When vegetables started giving its production they were so surprised to see that vegetables can also be grown in the land where they used to grow millet and buckwheat. They expressed thankful note to HIMALICA/CEAPRED for making them realize that vegetable cultivation can be one of the best way of increasing their income. With this they also shared their plan to grow vegetables in a commercial scale.

Senior Agriculture Development Officer of Udaypur also expressed his interest in jointly working with CEAPRED in Rauta as well as in Bagaha after observing the positive changes in the field. The monitoring team appreciated HIMALICA project for its effective implementation in field level which contributed in generating income of rural poor.

British Ambassador visited pig farm at Pokhara

His Excellency the British Ambassador for Nepal, Mr. Richard Samuel, visited the Pokhara Livestock Pvt. Ltd on 12th Dec 2015. He observed the farm situated at Rithapani, Lekhnath Municipality. The pig subsector project of the NMDP- SAMARTH program funded by the DFID is being implemented by CEAPRED. Mr. Samuel during his visit expressed how impressed he was on the exemplary work on Artificial Insemination (AI) being carried out under the project.

This very first attempt of using Pig AI for genetic improvement in the country is showing its effectiveness to benefit the small pig farmers in terms of increased productivity and income more efficiently. Dr. Rajesh Chowdhary of Samarth/CEAPRED also informed Mr. Samule about the plan on providing such techniques to the large number of small farmers of Nepal in the coming days.

Beginning from only 190 pigs, the farm has presently maintained a herd size of 1,100 pigs under improved management, as told by the farm manager Mr. Shyam Bahadur Thapa Magar. To add to that, he also informed that they are in the process of building an improved slaughter house, which will be ready in the near future.

Closing Workshop of UNNATI held

The Closing Workshop of UNNATI, a project implemented by CEAPRED in partnership with CARE Nepal under financial support of EU in Sindhuli and Mahottari districts along BP highway, was held at the Hotel Yak and Yeti on 8th Dec, 2015. The workshop jointly organized by CEAPRED and CARE Nepal was an opportunity to share the project's impacts, learning, challenges and the vision for way forward. The project staff, the representatives from related government and non-government organizations and the beneficiary cooperative members and the office bearers participated in the event.

The event was chaired by Mr. Yogendra K. Karki, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD). Mr. Anil C. Neupane, Project Manager of UNNATI facilitated the event. On behalf of the organizers, Mr. Bharat Prasad Upadhyay, Executive Director of CEAPRED, welcomed all the participants. His welcome remarks highlighted the concept underlined while developing the proposal and briefed about the objectives of the project. Video presentation of the project achievements was made to demonstrate the success in terms of its contribution to enhancing women empowerment in the project areas. The overview of the project achievements was presented jointly by the respective project managers of CEAPRED and CARE Nepal. The presentations focused on the outputs/outcomes of the project based on log frame and also highlighted the key challenges and recommendations for way forward. The success of the project is also due to strong partnerships with public, private, NGOs and local bodies that will impart sustainability.

Similarly, the cooperatives' representatives from Sindhuli and Mahottari also delivered their brief reflections stating the contribution of the project towards their local institution building. Mr. Sagar Dhakal, Senior Social Development Officer from DDC, Sindhuli and Senior Agriculture Development Officer, DADO from Mahottari also shared that the project made tremendous achievements by implementing agriculture-based program directly benefiting the poor farmers located in the areas along BP highway where significant interventions similar to those of Unnati project were not made before. They concluded their remarks with the commitment of continued assistance as required in coming days. Ms. Yamuna Ghale, Senior Program Officer from SDC and Mr. Mim Hamal, the representative from EU also appreciated the achievements made by the project even in the shorter span of time. Likewise, Mr. Tek Bahadur Bam, Regional Agricultural Director of Central Development Region and Co-chair of the Central Advisory Committee of the project, started his remarks with reference to the hallmark created about twenty-three years ago by CEAPRED at Sidhuwa of Dhankuta in fresh vegetable production and marketing. The impacts then created are still growing till date. Mr. Popular Gentle, Acting Country Director of CARE Nepal, on behalf of the organizers, expressed vote of thanks to all the participants. He also expressed a sense of satisfaction over the success of the project. Mr. Yogendra K. Karki, the Chair and the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development in his closing remarks, openheartedly appreciated the achievements made by the project even in a shorter period of time.

CEAPRED presented a paper in Bangladesh



Dr. Bhoj Raj Joshi, Liaison Manager of CEAPRED, recently visited Bangladesh to participate in the workshop on “Regional Dissemination Forum on Green Financing for Sustainable Development and Accessibility for Rural Communities” organized by APRACA and Bank of Bangladesh. Dr. Joshi presented a paper on “Public-Private Partnership vis-a-vis Green Finance for Sustainable Development in Nepal and highlight the Agricultural Perspective in the Forum.

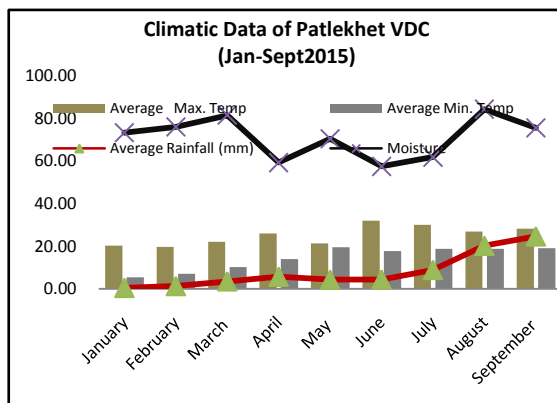
This forum of financial institutions involved in agricultural financing had the participants from Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Bangladesh along with the officials from APRACA (Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association). The overseas participants were about 20, among which, three (two from Agriculture Development Bank and one from CEAPRED) were from Nepal. The forum was inaugurated by Dr. Atihur Rahman, Governor of Bank of Bangladesh. Following the inaugural session, three papers were presented on i) Financing Renewable Energy Technologies (Rets) for Countryside Development: A South Asian Perspective by Prasun Kumar Das, Project Manager APRACA; ii) Financing Green Technologies For Countryside Development: The Southeast Asian Perspective by Marlowe U. Aquino, Project Manager, APRACA and Public-Private Partnership *Vis-A-Vis* Green Finance For Sustainable Development In Nepal: The Agriculture Perspective by Dr. Bhoj R. Joshi, Liaison Manager, CEAPRED, Nepal.

Sessions on Day 2 and 3 were occupied by presentations and field visits. There were presentations from banks and financial institutions of the participating countries. Field visits were organized to observe an electricity bulb producing factory and two villages in Sripur and Gazipur where the farmers were involved in vegetable production supported by BRAC, Bangladesh.

Success stories

Story 1: Climate Smart Technologies Allured Vegetable Producers of Dry Land Areas

This spring, Ms. Kamala Timalsina tried to cultivate bitter gourd differently by applying innovative climate smart practices. At that time she was not even sure about its success. Ms. Timalsina lives in Kalchhe village ward no. 8 which is located at the bottom basin of Patlekhhet VDC. The area is linked with Araniko Highway through an agricultural road that has eased the market connectivity. Kalchhe has hot and humid climate during spring and summer seasons with very low rainfall of 1.26 mm (February, 2015). The area is facing problem of inadequate water for irrigation due to drying off of rivers. Due to their hardship in managing water for irrigation, farmers still grow cucurbit which has been their one of the major means of income generation.



Source: Metrology station, Hanuman Higher Secondary School, Patlekhhet.

In May 2014, CEAPRED implemented a “Climate Smart Village Project” in partnership with ICIMOD which established demonstration plots in cooperation with lead farmers of the groups. Various climate smart water management, crop management, and nutrient management practices and other climate smart practices were demonstrated. Inspired with the demonstration, this spring Ms. Timalsina planted bitter gourd in 500 m² land practicing paddy straw for mulching to reduce moisture loss from evaporation. Mulching is not a new practice in agriculture. It has been extensively used in dry season farming as protective technique for reducing soil evaporation and providing favorable temperature for crop growth. This improved technology involves interventions such as covering the

soil with dry paddy straw. Ms. Timalsina experienced healthy crop growing resulting into fruiting beginning of the month of April, which was not a case before. Due to adoption of smart farming practice, the crop fetched 1.5 times more income (about NRs. 50,000) as compared to the last years’ income. She explained, “This year, the long harvesting duration of six months as a mulching effect made it possible to fetch more income than before. Before, vines lasted for only four months i.e. till mid of August resulting in short harvesting period.” She also added that this year she got better price of bitter gourd ranging from NRs. 20-50 per kg.



Similarly, one of the factors contributing to higher production was irrigation. To get sufficient water

(give a short title of the photo)

for irrigation she constructed waste water collection plastic ponds. This way she was able to collect waste water which enabled her to harvest substantial amount of water from her daily household chores for the vegetable production. Furthermore, she was taught by the project staff to prepare *jholmol*, a bio-fertilizer cum bio-pesticide formulation, from locally prepared farm yard manure and cattle urine. She used Pheromone traps, cow urine and *jholmol* for controlling insects in Bitter gourd. All these practices reduced her workload in collecting water in the dry period and similarly helped her in reducing use of pesticides this year.

Getting all these benefits from the climate smart technologies she has now fully adopted the technologies and has stood as a pioneer farmer in her locality in practicing and suggesting the climate smart technologies to her group members.

Story 2: My husband is a family man now: The contribution of Vegetable farming

Surdarshan Ghimire is a 58 years old social worker of Gouribas VDC ward no 3 of Pattu Village. He was once elected as a Vice-Chairperson of local Village Development Committee in Gouribas. Convinced with the concept of vegetable production as a source of income he became a member of Godavari Fresh Vegetable Production group formed by Unnati Project. He received nursery management training from the project and received four saplings of bottle gourd which he cultivated in his land. He was surprised with the production he got from those four saplings. He harvested almost 2,500 bottle gourds of which he sold 1,500 and earned Rs. 1,000. After having good benefits from bottle gourd production he started vegetable production year round regularly in three kattha (...sq. meter) land. From this size of land he earned around Rs. 50,000 to 60,000 per year by cultivating varieties of vegetables like bottle gourd, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage etc inside the plastic tunnel.

Vegetable production has not only increased his family income but also changed his daily life routine. His wife is much happier now-a-days as he spends most of the time with his family members than before. In the past, he used to spend all his day going one place to another for nothing but now-a-days he is busy in farming. His life enhanced his wife's marketing skills too. Now - a - days, his wife uploads the vegetables on vehicles and goes alone in the market at Bardibas and sells those to traders or sometimes sell them in the market herself. Due to this motivation from her husband, his wife has become more interested in vegetable production and is now more committed. She now buys household necessities like sugar, pulses, tea, soap, clothes and also medicine from the income of vegetable production. Previously she had to request money for the above mentioned purpose to her husband, son and daughter in law. But now she is a confident working woman, who does not have to depend on anybody else others for her household expenses. Sudarshan Ghimire has presented himself as an example of successful vegetable farmer in the village. The villagers have been impressed from his dedication and his transformation into becoming a successful farmer in a short span of time.