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# Newsletter



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### US Ambassador's Field Visit to KISAN Surkhet

Her Excellency US Ambassador Ms. Alaina B. Teplitz and her team visited KISAN's field at Jajarkote, Surkhet on 11th Feb, 2016. Her Excellency and team was accompanied by KISAN's Chief of Party Mr. Phil Broughton, Senior Regional Manager, Rabindra Patel and District Coordinator Laxmi Tiwari.

The main objective of the visit was to interact with farmers regarding technologies disseminated and promoted by KISAN. Also, the visit was to evaluate the coordination of KISAN project and Business Literacy Program (BLP) project funded by USAID. Her Excellency was impressed by the work done by KISAN at the field level. High and low plastic tunnels were replicated by farmers after the demonstration by KISAN. After KISAN project's efforts to link the Agrovets, MFIs and cooperatives to the farmer's group, farmers have started earning good income between Rs. 30,000 to 90,000 in one year by vegetable production only. With a smile on her face, Ms. Rita Karki, an active farmer said "We are self dependent and we do not have to depend on our husband for money now".



### Bageshwori village of Banke recognized for Cucumber production

Pavitra Kandel of Bageshwori 5, Manakamanapur, Banke has been involved in commercial cucumber production. According to her, it was hard for her family to survive solely on her husband's income and now she is reaping the income of more than 1.5 lakh per year from cucumber production. Similarly, Motilal Kandel of Manakamanapur who has a cow farm has also extended his business to commercial cucumber production and earns more than one lakh in a season. Another farmer Ms, Devi Sapkota is also involved in cucumber production in about 5 kathas of land. In her words "Cucumber production is four times more beneficial than any other crop production". The farmer group of six male and 16 female, involved in commercial cucumber production aim to make their village as Cucumber Village. Currently,, more than 5 bighas of land is under cucumber cultivation. The KISAN Project has also helped them by providing the farmers with tube well worth of Rs 40,000 and seeds. These farmers have also planned to grow off season vegetables after this season. They have submitted a proposal to small and medium farmer's income project (RISMFP) to get possible support in off season vegetable production.



### Joint Monitoring of Project activities in Kapilvastu

The vegetable farming initiated by tunnel technology provided by KISAN project was monitored on 24th Chaitra, 2072 in Kapilvastu. The team consisting of administration and agricultural officers, NGOs, media personnel's jointly monitored Agriculture commodities collection center (Nimihwa VDC-7, Pachehara) and the vegetable farm of two farmers in Semrauti of Pakadi VDC. On the occasion, Babhuti Kewat, a leading farmer and Chairperson of Collection Center established three years ago, said that the project has helped the local farmers a lot and now the village is popular for vegetable production. The farmers of Pachehara has been benefitted by more than 50 thousand to 3 lakhs rupees per farmer per season. The vegetables of the area are being sold in markets of Odari, Gajehada, Jeetpur etc. The team was also informed about another leading farmer of the area, MrDurga Prasad Bhusal who has been benefitted from cucumber farming. Bishwo Pokharel, DC, of Kapilvastu informed that the collection center has collected 141 MT of vegetables, which generated a profit of Rs.31 lakh in a season (January to March). The team also monitored the cucumber and bitter gourd farm (a total of 10 kattha land) of Mr Babu Singh Yadav and Ghanshyam Harijan who told that they have sold more than 400 Kg of cucumber during the season. KISAN has been providing technical support and trainings to about 6000 farmers of 24 VDCs comprising 289 farmer groups.

### TOT on Fresh Semen AI in Pigs conducted at Pokhara, Kaski

Artificial Insemination (AI) using fresh semen of boars has been in practice in many other countries but has not been introduced in Nepal. Hence, the project has initiated this activity to improve the dissemination of improved genetic material of pigs in the country. This program has been initiated with a training on Fresh Semen production of boars at Pokhara Livestock Pvt. Ltd., Lekhnath-2, Kaski from 12th Jan 2016 to 17th Jan 2016 with the assistance of Dr. Kevin Rozeboom, SGI, USA. The participants were trained on boar training, use of dummy and semen collection.. The participants were grouped and trained on collection and processing of boar semen .

They were made familiar with the equipments being used in collecting, filtering and processing of semen and testing of semen for sperm motility using microscope. The trainees were also made familiar with slide warmer, micropipette and metro sperm; processing equipments using mixing vat; packaging using sealing machine and storing unit.

On the last day of training the participants were demonstrated to inseminate the sows on heat. The training was also useful to teach the trainees about heat detection techniques.



### Fresh Semen AI in Pigs conducted at Jhapa, RARS, Tarhara, Sunsari and Pokhara

Following the TOT on fresh semen AI, three trainings were organized for the commercial farmers to make them acquaint with the technology and use it in their own farm for breeding/ upgrading of their stocks. The first training on it was organized at Kulung Bangur farm (12th -17th April, 2016) through the farm itself and the project facilitated for it. This training was followed by a second training ( 2nd May- 7th May, 2016) at Regional Agriculture Research Station, Pig Research Unit Tarhara, Sunsari on the

same modality and a third training at Pokhara Livestock Private Limited Kaski (16th May-21st May, 2016). These trainings were participated by 12, 13 and 14 participants including 6 women participants. All trainings were successful to impart new technology and skills to the farmers on pig breeding and reproduction. Following the training, one women trainee in Pokhara has inseminated the sow in her farm with fresh semen obtained from PLPL.

Dan Bdr. Singh (CEAPRED) informed that the training for semen production has been aimed to disseminate the technology for genetic improvement in pigs fastly and cheaply as fresh semen is 70% cheaper than natural insemination. The fresh semen can be used within 5 days of collection and one ejaculation can inseminate 10-15 sows at one time. This technology is cheaper and can be carried out after simple training, will reduce the rearing cost of boars and disseminate good genetic merits of the animals quickly



### Pork festival in Pokhara

The Second National Pork Festival organized by Pigs Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (PEAN) was a three day long festival organized in Pokhara stadium. The festival was thronged with heavy participation from local people, Chiefs of Department of Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture Development as well as other related institutions.

The festival inaugurated by Hon. Vice-president Nanda Bahadur Pun, was able to attract the surfeit of visitors with its main attraction as pork cuisine training to cooks/chefs, free of cost for preparing variety of pork meat items. A total of 230 chefs/cooks participated the pork cuisine trainings provided by the experienced and renowned chefs of Gate College, Kathmandu. This training was supported by SAMARTH pig sub sector program. Many people purchased meat from Thapa Meat House, the distributor of Pokhara Livestock Pvt. Ltd. which is also Nepal's only largest and modern technique pork producer. "It was difficult for us to manage the crowd. People not only bought the meat but also attended various trainings with enthusiasm" stated Raju Thapa, owner of Thapa Meat House. The cuisine competition sponsored by SAMARTH, CEAPRED was also held on Sunday among the trainees of Saturday. The program with slogan "Healthy pork white meat" included various entertainment programs like folk songs and laughter shows performed by various artists. Mr Purushottam Neupane, the greatest folksinger of Nepal also added spark to the festival by his beautiful folk songs.



### Jholmal increases income of Danuwar Community

The disruption of river by sand factories and use of excessive chemical fertilizer in Bhoterumti had greatly affected the Danuwar community residing in Mahadevsthan -9 leaving behind the infertile land along with the dead fishes in the river which previously used to be the source of daily livelihood for them. The condition there however, has been greatly transformed after the intervention of Center for Environment and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED). CEAPRED has been giving practical trainings on management of water, crops, soil and fertilizers, using drip irrigation utilizing household waste water, prepare improved compost manure and Jholmal that distract the insect-pests and diseases in crops and increases productivity. The community has formed a Farmer's group and is engaged in vegetable farming.

***"We never thought we could earn so much by farming in such a less land" beamed Suntali, a resident of the Danuwar Community.***

CEAPRED has been providing improved seeds, trainings on improved technologies for the communities involved in vegetable farming and implementing Climate Smart technologies in three VDC i.e. Mahadevsthan, Nayagau, Patlekhet of Kavre district from which the farmers are benefitting on management of water, crops, soil, manure and fertilizers.



### NPC Vice Chairperson visited Climate Smart Village in Kavre

The Honorable Vice Chairperson (VC) of the National Planning Commission (NPC) of Nepal, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, together with Dr. David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD and Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, Chairperson of CEAPRED visited Climate Smart Village (CSV) being piloted within the framework of Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Program (HICAP) by CEAPRED in partnership with ICIMOD in Kavre district of Nepal on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016. They were welcomed by the women's group members.

Initiated in 2014, across four villages – two in the lower hills and two in the upper hills in Kavre - the pilot was extended to include four more villages in 2015. Altogether, it has 1,089 participating farmers, along with the involvement of 82% women farmers. The visitors interacted with the CSV participant farmers and the professionals from ICIMOD and CEAPRED involved in implementation of the pilot. The team observed different climate smart technologies promoted by the project and adopted by the farmers to address the climate change effects. They observed the adoption of water smart technologies (e.g. collection of waste water and its application for irrigating of the vegetables using drip system, mulching practices etc.), soil nutrient smart technologies (e.g. preparation and application of Jholmal 1, 2, and 3 as organic fertilizer and pesticide), crop smart technologies (e.g. tunnel farming, mixed cropping, inter cropping), IT smart practices (e.g. SMS for technical messages, weather forecasting and market price information). The farmers shared their experience on how they have been able to reduce the climate induced risks through adoption of climate smart practices. The team also visited one of the meteorology stations installed by the project which is managed by a higher secondary school at Hanumansthan of Patlekhet VDC and interacted with the school teachers and the students on how they were using the weather information.



### Pakistan's minister of state visits Climate Smart Village in Kavre (CSV)

Honorable Minister of State, Government of Pakistan, Marvi Memon, who is also Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), paid a visit to Climate Smart Village in Kavre district in early March along with a small delegation from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain

Development (ICIMOD) and Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED). As Chairperson of the BISP – the largest single social safety net program in Pakistan's history – the Minister wanted to learn more about best practices and technologies for

empowering women.

Ms. Memon was welcomed by the women's group in CSV site Kalche Besi; one of eight villages in Kavre, where CSV is being piloted under the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Program (HICAP). Over the day, the minister observed the simple, affordable, replicable and climate friendly practices adopted by farmers in the village and was introduced to the CSV concept that introduces six different smart interventions: nutrient smart, water smart, crop smart, energy smart, ICT smart, and future smart. The CSV approach draws from Food and Agriculture Organization's Climate Smart Agriculture, and is adopted in a mountain context. Ms. Memom also was interested in understanding the novel and simple concept of equipping communities with tools to improve their resilience to climate change and other changes, particularly in agriculture.



## Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (HIMALICA)

### District Coordination Committee meeting held

A District Coordination Committee meeting of HIMALICA project was held on 18th January, 2016. The meeting was conducted with an objective to form the district coordination committee, share progress and future plan of the project and to interact with district line agencies for coordination, collaboration and partnership for effective implementation of the existing program and plan. Representatives from district line agencies such as District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Women Development

Office (WDO), District Soil Conservation Office (DISCO), District Forest Office (DFO), District Livestock Service Office (DLSO), District Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and from projects - ICIMOD supported project "Flood Affected Areas in Southern Belts", "Rauta VDC Action research" and "ICT Action Research" enthusiastically participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Local Development Officer (LDO). It focused on formation of district level program coordination committee for better planning and implementation

of the program and sharing about the planned activities of the HIMALICA project and preparing good environment for close coordination, collaboration and partnership with concerned stakeholders. All the participants supported the idea of coordination, collaboration and partnership. The program was concluded by the chairperson's remarks and suggestions for close coordination and partnership in program with district line agencies. The meeting is scheduled to be organized once in every six months.

## Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (HIMALICA)

### Executive Director of CEAPRED visits the project sites of HIMALICA

The official visit of the Executive Director, Mr. Jaya Mukund Khanal and Program Director, Mr. Keshab Datta Joshi from CEAPRED was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the project sites of (HIMALICA) in Udayapur. The main purpose of the visit was to monitor the ongoing program of HIMALICA and support the project staff for the betterment of the project achievement.

The team visited the sites of Saune on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 observing the off-season crucifers (Cauliflower and Cabbage) vegetable nursery and other field visit accompanied by the Project Coordinator and Agriculture Technician. The program was extended in Saune cluster only 22 days ago by formation of 4 farmer groups comprising of 100 HHs. After the

field observation, the team interacted with participating farmers about the possibility of commercialization on vegetable with climate change adaptation. Afterwards, on the same day a district level stakeholder meeting consisting of district officials CDO, LDO and DADO was held at the District Administration Office Gaihat, Udayapur. The meeting participants appreciated the project implementation approach and the project outcomes which was made possible in such a short time frame.

On the next day, the team visited the vegetable fields of farmer group members of Murkuchi



Rauta cluster and Bagha Cluster and interacted with the group members. The group members seemed pleased and contented with the project achievements and their involvement in the program. The visiting team of CEAPRED was also satisfied after observing the field activities and appreciated the hard work of project staffs in the field.



### Joint Monitoring Visit in Udayapur by District Stakeholders

A joint monitoring field visit by district stakeholders was organized by HIMALICA in Udayapur on 15th May 2016. It was a successful visit where the district stakeholders interacted with the farmers at the ground level and observed their production and problems in the field.





*Cauliflower Production Block from KISAN Project at Banke District*



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