

Madhab didn't Give Up his Farming

How SFL Became the Support System of the Lost Farmer

Madhab Sapkota, a 42 years old small holder farmer, is a permanent residence of Dhulikhel Municipality, ward 2 of Kavrepalanchowk. Agriculture is the major source of income in his family of 4. Majorly he produces fresh vegetables and spices.

Madhab started farming in his 10 ropani land where he grew 30 different varieties of vegetables. Due to dearth of modern agriculture knowledge, he had been using traditional practice in his farm. Although, he tried improving his knowledge with the help from supporting agencies, the production didn't increase. He also got some loan from his family and established a tunnel in a small area. However, he was still unable to earn enough to sustain himself and his family. "I was totally frustrated at that time. I was very new in the farming with little money to establish the farm and add modern technologies. Once I was even ready to quit farming. All thanks to the support from project staffs, I was able to return in agriculture business."- Said Madhab. With the support from project staffs, Madhab participated in trainings, group meetings and consultation with the technicians and sustained his farm with input supply.



In 2020 "Speed for Life" was launched in Dhulikhel. Madhab enrolled himself in "Kirsi Tatha Pasupalan Farmer Group". Later, on the recommendation from the group, Madhab became a model farmer and established a farm with climate friendly smart practices. "I was very happy. I thought, whatever the support I would receive, would help me to continue this business. Hence, I accepted the proposal" - Said Madhab.



Model farms include spices and vegetable seed production areas. These farms also work as a model for proper technology dissemination, demonstration and learning center. Further, these farms act a resource center for multiplication of the local germ plasm for increased production among the local communities, adopting improved climate friendly smart practices and introduction of modern techniques of production and conservation.

The project supported Madhab technically and with inputs (such as plastic tunnel, mulching plastic, drip irrigation sets, sprinkle set, garden pipes for irrigation, different types of pheromone traps, soil solarisation plastic, sprayer, seeds of vegetable, spices for demonstration, staking net, insect net, plastic drums for preparation of bio pesticide, EM, etc.).

Madhab used these materials and input support from the project and extended his farming area. "The technical support from the project during

the establishment was very crucial. The project staffs taught and helped me in the establishment of this farm"- said Madhab, grateful to the project.

At present, Madhab in his farm has established 13 plastic house in 5 iron & 8 bamboo (1 supported from project), demonstrated the plastic mulching technology and installed the drip irrigation system. Further, use of the garden tools, sprayers, fruit fly traps and other pheromone traps, preparation and use of the Jhol Mal 1, 2 and 3 in the crops can be observed in his 105 Square meter model farm. Madhab receives regular technical & input support from the project. The farmers from other communities visit his farm and learn about modern agricultural practices.

Madhab has managed to make some long term customers in the village by delivering chemical free vegetables. The winter crops seed was provided to Madhab on reduced price. He earned approx. NPR 3, 20, 758.00 in this season in total (including the income from model farm area).

"I was once ready to quit the farming and shift to other business. However, the support from the project made me feel secure to continue farming on a regular basis"- said Madhab. "I will continue farming, I am in a happy space, and, am forgetting all the troubles I suffered when I was abroad. Moreover, I am earning a very good amount of money."- Smiles Madhab.

The project aims to establish such youths in farming sector and improve their livelihoods. It is due to the project contribution and support that held me in the farming sector and helped me extend my business. "I wish to receive more support and technical guidance in future as well. I still have a lot to learn and inspire the local youths" – said Madhab with lot of hopes.

Major crops grown: Cucumber, Tomato, Beans, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Bitter Gourd, Bottle Gourd , Onion, Garlic, Chilly

Project support:

- Selected model farmer
- GAP training
- Drip set, 1 Plastic mulch, IPM tools, silpaulin plastic, sprinkler, green net support
- Regular follow up
- Total land Coverage: 7 Ropani
- Total Plastic house 13 Bamboo plastic house 8, iron pole ph. 5
- Agriculture Knowledge Center (AKC) Support: 50% subsidy 5 iron poled plastic house, 1 mini-tiller and 4 roll of plastic mulch.

Sale record: continue

Tomato 5052 Kg @ Rs38 per kg = NPR.191, 976

Cucumber 1876 Kg @ 32 per kg = NPR 60,032

Chilly Capsicum 1250 Kg @ 55 per kg = NPR 68,750

Total Sale Amount: NPR. 3, 20,758