



CEAPRED

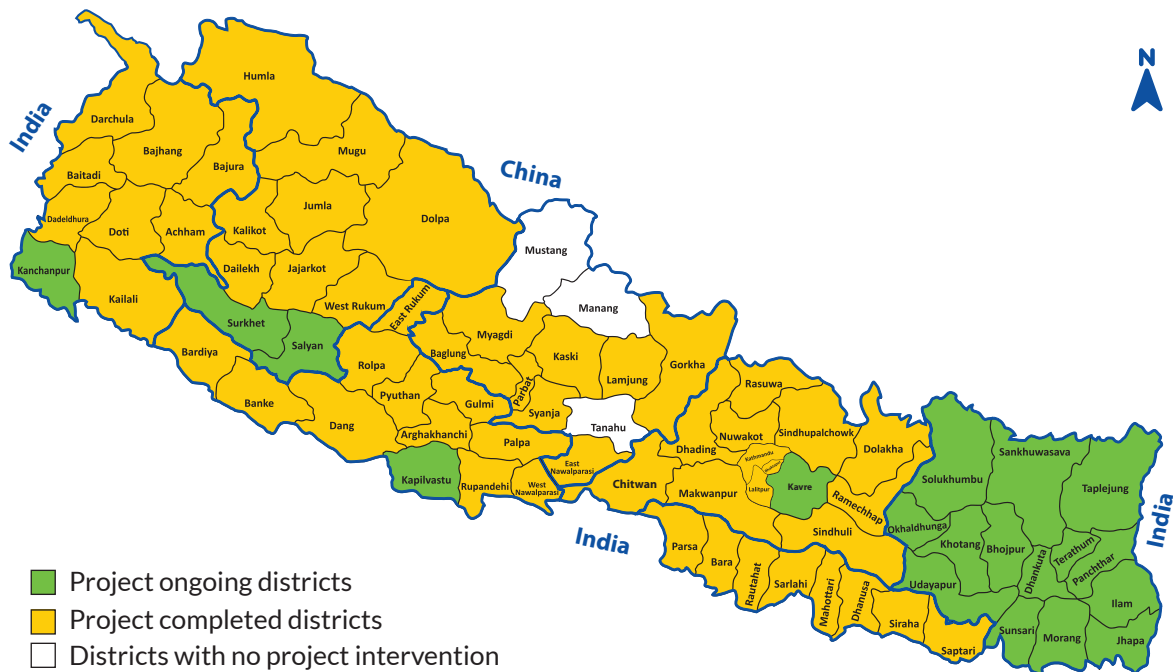
ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

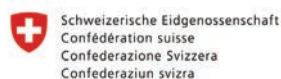
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COVERAGE AREA



OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL, DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



ACRONYMS

ADH	Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany)
GA	General Assembly
AWO International	Arbeiterwohlfahrt
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.
CEAPRED	Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development
CLC	Community Learning Center
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture
ED	Executive Director
EU	European Union
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FSNH	Food Security Nutrition and Health
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
HHs	Households
HI-CAS	Integrated Climate Adaptation Solutions for Hindu Kush Himalaya
HI-REAP	Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Program
IASPs	Integrated Adaptation Solution Packages
IPLCs	Indigenous People and Local Communities
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
MSD	Market Systems Development
MWU	Mid-Western University
NAMDP	Nepal Agricultural Market Development Program
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPR	Nepali Rupee
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
RM	Rural Municipality
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
VIA	Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

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MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON

It gives me a great pleasure to present the Annual Report 2025/26 of Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED). The report presents our major achievements, experiences, and contributions toward improving the livelihoods and resilience of disadvantaged and marginalized communities across Nepal during the reporting period.

For more than three decades, CEAPRED has remained committed to inclusive and sustainable development through evidence-based policy research, innovative field interventions, capacity strengthening, and strategic partnerships. Over the years, we have evolved as a learning organization, continuously adapting to changing development contexts while remaining focused on the needs of vulnerable communities. CEAPRED's development efforts remain focused on three core thematic areas: Rural Poverty Reduction and Livelihood Enhancement, Sustainable Ecosystem and Environmental Management and Action Policy Research.

Under these thematic areas, CEAPRED promoted climate-resilient agriculture, strengthened agricultural value chains and agro-based enterprises, and advanced food and nutrition security and sustainable natural resource management. It also expanded livelihood, vocational skills, and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and marginalized communities.

The reporting year observed important progress in climate adaptation and resilience, sustainable agricultural production, renewable energy applications, market-oriented enterprise development, vocational skills enhancement, and inclusive community development. These efforts were undertaken in collaboration with government institutions, development partners, research organizations, private

sector actors, local governments, cooperatives, and community organizations.

CEAPRED's more than three decades of engagement enabled the organization to reach over 615,000 households across Nepal, particularly poor and marginalized communities, through interventions addressing poverty, food insecurity, environmental challenges, and social exclusion. While this achievement is significant, persistent challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, rural unemployment, and socio-economic inequalities continue to affect vulnerable communities, underscoring the need for innovative, inclusive, and sustainable development solutions.

CEAPRED therefore remains committed to developing, demonstrating, and promoting solutions that strengthen resilient livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and inclusive economic opportunities. We believe that lasting development is possible when people are empowered with knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities to shape their own futures.

I sincerely appreciate the dedication of CEAPRED staff, the active participation of communities, and the continued trust and support of our donors, government institutions, development partners, private sector collaborators, civil society organizations, and well-wishers. Their partnership has been fundamental to our achievements. Together, we can contribute to a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Nepal.

Sincerely,



Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, PhD
Patron



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2025/26 CEAPRED. The report provides an account of the organization's work and achievements during a year shaped by increasing climate risks, evolving development priorities, and growing expectations for more accountable and locally responsive development.

Over the years, CEAPRED has remained a trusted development partner, working with communities and institutions to address poverty, strengthen livelihoods, promote sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, and generate practical knowledge for development. Our institutional journey has been characterized by a willingness to learn, adapt, and respond to emerging needs while remaining firmly grounded in our mission and values.

With a long history of field engagement, CEAPRED recognizes that development is not achieved through isolated interventions. It requires strong institutions, capable communities, meaningful partnerships, and solutions that can be sustained beyond individual projects. This understanding continues to shape our institutional direction and the way we work with government, development partners, communities, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

During the reporting year, CEAPRED continued to translate its institutional mandate into action through interventions in livelihood development, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, market and enterprise development, vocational skills, and environmental management. Our works increasingly emphasized approaches that connect community needs with markets, technologies, services, local institutions, and policy processes. This has enabled CEAPRED to remain relevant to both immediate livelihood priorities and longer-term development challenges.



Since its establishment, CEAPRED has served thousands of households across Nepal, with a strong focus on poor, marginalized, and vulnerable communities, particularly women and Indigenous communities. This scale of engagement represents an important institutional legacy.

At the same time, we recognize that the challenges facing these communities are becoming more complex. Climate change, environmental degradation, limited employment opportunities, migration, food and nutrition insecurity. Persistent socio-economic disparities require development organizations to be increasingly adaptive, accountable, innovative, and firmly grounded in evidence. This is what we learned from our past experiences of more than three decades. In this context, the Executive Committee remains committed to strengthening CEAPRED's governance, institutional sustainability, and strategic direction. We will continue to promote sound governance, transparency, accountability, effective resource management, and organizational learning while ensuring that CEAPRED remains responsive to the changing development environment. Strengthening institutional systems and investing in organizational capacity will be essential to maintaining the quality and credibility of our work.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Executive Director, management team, and all CEAPRED staff for their professionalism and dedication. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our government counterparts, development partners, donors, local governments, private sector actors, research institutions, community organizations, and other stakeholders whose continued collaboration and trust have enabled CEAPRED to deliver meaningful results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Munni Sharma'.

Munni Sharma, PhD
Chairperson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a privilege to present CEAPRED's Annual Report 2025/26, reflecting another year of continued commitment, learning, and action in support of inclusive and sustainable development in Nepal. Over more than three decades, CEAPRED has built a strong institutional foundation through its engagement with poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities, while continuously adapting its approaches to respond to changing development needs.



During the reporting year, CEAPRED remained focused on strengthening livelihoods and economic opportunities while responding to emerging challenges related to climate change, food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability, employment, and social inclusion. Our programs promoted climate-resilient agriculture, strengthened agricultural value chains and market systems, supported agro-based enterprises, expanded vocational skills and entrepreneurship opportunities, and advanced sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems. Particular attention was given to women, youth, smallholder farmers, and marginalized communities, with the aim of enabling them to build more secure and resilient livelihoods.

CEAPRED also continued to strengthen the linkage between field experience, evidence, and policy. Through action-oriented research, knowledge generation, learning, and engagement with government and development stakeholders, we sought to translate practical experience into evidence that can inform policies, planning, and development practice at local, provincial, and national levels.

The progress and achievements presented in this report are a reflection of the collective efforts of our staff, communities, partners, and stakeholders. I sincerely appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the CEAPRED team, whose commitment continues to drive the quality and effectiveness of our work. I am equally grateful to our development partners, donors, government institutions, private sector actors, local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders for their continued trust, collaboration, and support.

Looking ahead, CEAPRED will remain focused on delivering high-quality, evidence-based programs that respond to the priorities of communities and the evolving development context of Nepal. We will strengthen our systems, partnerships, technical capabilities, and learning practices to improve program effectiveness and accountability. At the same time, we will continue to invest in our people and institutional capacity, foster practical innovation, and ensure that lessons from our field experience inform future programming and development practice. With the commitment of our team and the continued support of our partners, CEAPRED is well positioned to expand the quality, scale and its contribution in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaya Mukunda Khanal'.

Jaya Mukunda Khanal
Executive Director

1. OVERVIEW OF CEAPRED

Introduction

Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1991. The main focus of the organization is to empower the poor and marginalized communities by strengthening the food security and livelihoods of disadvantaged groups, especially women and smallholder farmers.

Over time, CEAPRED has emerged as a significant contributor in the areas of rural poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, and sustainable environmental management. This has been possible through strong partnerships with government agencies, the private sector, bilateral donors, and international organizations engaged in agricultural development, climate change adaptation, and environmental sustainability.

By sharing its expertise, knowledge, skills, and innovations with both public and private actors, CEAPRED has built a collaborative culture that defines its values and operations. This approach has positioned the organization as a trusted partner, increasingly recognized by the government and international agencies in the areas of agriculture development and climate change adaptation.

Vision

High, inclusive and sustainable rural and agricultural growth capable of contributing to poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of the poor in Nepal.

Mission

To widen improved, sustainable livelihood options for poor and the disadvantaged communities in a gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly manner.

Objectives

The overall objective of CEAPRED is to reduce poverty, improve food and nutrition security and empower women, deprived and disadvantaged communities, so that they can live a decent life -socially, politically and economically. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To promote commercial high-value agriculture, livestock and agro-processing activities based on local and natural comparative advantages.
2. To introduce production technologies that safeguard human health and the environment.
3. To design and deliver specialized package of development services to ensure active participation, decision-making and benefit sharing by the deprived and disadvantaged groups including women.
4. To organize, train and institutionalize local community groups so that the development process is locally owned, managed and sustained.

Target beneficiaries

CEAPRED primarily serves poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized communities, with a particular focus on women, youth, Dalits, and ethnic minorities. Its secondary beneficiaries include private sector actors and business communities involved in value chain development, as well as community-based organizations (CBOs), and cooperatives that help facilitate the delivery of development services at the grassroots level.

Implementation Strategy

Poor and marginalized communities often face limitations in organization, skills, capacity, and confidence, making it difficult for them to fully benefit from development initiatives. To address these challenges, CEAPRED applies comprehensive three-pronged strategies:

1. **Social Mobilization:** This approach builds confidence and collective strength among disadvantaged groups. By involving them in identifying their challenges, opportunities, and priorities, social mobilization lays the foundation for planning and implementing activities that reflect their actual development needs.
2. **Capacity Building:** CEAPRED emphasizes strengthening the skills and abilities of women, poor, and marginalized groups. This helps ensure that they are prepared to pursue identified priorities and make meaningful contributions to project results.
3. **Local Institution Building:** This component focuses on establishing community-based organizations that enable poor and marginalized communities to sustain and expand development initiatives. These institutions empower communities to manage their own development pathways, even beyond the period of external support.

Through these strategies, CEAPRED has enabled the poor and marginalized groups it has been working with to overcome barriers, participate actively in the development process, and gain lasting benefits from development programs.

Governance

CEAPRED is governed by an Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly every four years. The Executive Committee is responsible for shaping organizational policies, providing overall strategic direction and overseeing the effective governance of the organization. However Executive Chairperson and other executive members serve CEAPRED voluntarily, reflecting their commitment to the organizational objectives and mission.

Day-to-day operations are led by the Executive Director (ED), who oversees planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs to ensure that interventions remain aligned with CEAPRED's strategic objectives. The ED is supported by a team of professionals and staff with expertise across different areas, enabling



the effective implementation of programs. This governance and management structure promotes transparency, accountability, and strategic focus in advancing CEAPRED's mission of sustainable development.

During the reporting period, the Executive Committee held five meetings to deliberate on key agendas. As per established practice, the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was conducted on Friday, September 5, 2025.

Due to personal reason, Chairperson Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya resigned from his post and the 218th meeting of Executive Committee held on November 5, 2025 accepted his resignation. He was then conferred on the title of Patron of Center*, as the Center's statute has a provision of appointing the Founder Chairperson to the title of Patron. Being Patron, he now holds special duty to guide the Executive Committee on policy making, redefining the scope of works, program operation and management, and institutional working culture of Center.

The meeting of the same date, after accepting the then Chairperson's resignation, has appointed the then Vice Chairperson Dr. Munni Sharma to the position of Chairperson in accordance with the provision of the statute of Center. Later, the newly appointed Chairperson nominated Mr. Indra Raj Pandey as Vice Chairperson and Mr. Mahesh Kharel as Executive Member for the remaining period of the present ninth Executive Committee. The statute of the Center has bestowed upon this authority to the Chairperson.

* Center refers to CEAPRED.

PATRON



Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, PhD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Munni Sharma, PhD
Chairperson



Mr. Indra Raj Pandey
Vice Chairperson



Mr. Bharat Prasad Upadhyay
Treasurer



Ramchandra Lamichhane, PhD
Member



Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai
Member



Ms. Sarala Sharma Poudel
Member



Mr. Mahesh Kharel
Member



Pius Raj Mishra, PhD
Advisor to the Executive Committee

CEAPRED's ORGANOGRAM



2. HIGHLIGHT OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the past 35 years of operation, CEAPRED has successfully completed 119 projects, achieving notable progress across several key areas. The organization is currently implementing two projects as part of its continued efforts to address emerging development priorities. Over the course of operations, the organization has worked in 74 districts and reached 615,290 households organized into 27,684 groups, comprising 18% Dalit, 31% Janajati and 51% other groups. Among the beneficiaries reached, two-thirds of them were female.

CEAPRED has supported the establishment of 348 rural/farmer cooperatives with an almost equal representation of female and male members. A total of 197,106 training events have been organized, cumulatively engaging 3,443,966 participants.

During 2025–2026, CEAPRED focused on climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, food and nutrition security, skills development, market systems and inclusive community institutions. It strengthened climate resilience and local ownership through initiatives such as HI-CAS and HI-REAP. It has supported farmers and local communities in adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices and nature-based solutions, while promoting sustainable management and rehabilitation of local water and natural resources. Further, CEAPRED has contributed to strengthening climate resilience, sustainable natural resource management, and local ownership through initiatives such as HI-CAS and HI-REAP. The interventions have also strengthened collaboration with local governments and encouraged greater local ownership and investment in community-based climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.

HI-REAP supported farmers, including women, to acquire knowledge and apply practices related to climate-resilient agriculture and nature-based solutions. The project also facilitated the monitoring of springsheds and the upgrading of selected spring sources. Local government ownership was excellently demonstrated by Namobuddha Municipality's investment in spring-source rehabilitation activities. This is the evidence that if proper technologies are given, Municipalities adopt them.

The year also delivered measurable improvements in youth livelihoods and household food and nutrition security. Skill Up! trained 333 young people, 69% of whom were female, while 773 youth, including 744 females, participated in Farmers' Field Schools; more than 80% adopted multiple climate-resilient technologies. Under FSNH, 330 households adopted improved agricultural practices, with food production increasing by 17–35% and household income by 15–30%, while dietary diversity increased from 10% to 76%.

CEAPRED also contributed to more inclusive economic opportunities and stronger local institutions. NAMDP (Sahaj) supported more than 1,780 full-time equivalent jobs, benefitted 43,400+ farmers, and mobilized significant amount in private-sector investment. At community level, women and disadvantaged groups increasingly strengthened their leadership roles, while local governments and community institutions assumed greater responsibility for sustaining project-supported initiatives beyond external project support.

Community institutions and GESI-responsive approaches were further strengthened during the year. Under HI-CAS project, CEAPRED

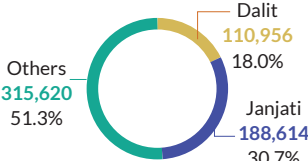
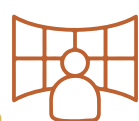
supported inclusive community groups and Integrated Adaptation Solution Packages (IASPs) User Committees, with emphasis on women's leadership, and participation of Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, persons with disabilities, youth and elderly people, alongside transparent decision-making, accountability and safeguarding. These efforts contributed to stronger local mechanisms for managing resources, sustaining community assets and continuing inclusive climate adaptation actions.

CEAPRED continued to invest in learning, partnerships and institutional capacity building.

Collaboration with local governments, private-sector actors, financial institutions, universities and development partners helped connect community knowledge with technical expertise, markets and resources. International learning and experience-sharing opportunities further enabled CEAPRED and its partners to exchange practical lessons on climate-resilient agriculture, market development, entrepreneurship and inclusive programming, strengthening the organization's capacity to adapt and scale effective approaches.



Cumulative achievements as of June 2026

Districts covered  74 Out of 77	Households Covered  615,290	Groups formed  27,684												
Female Member  66.2% 407,597	Male Member  33.8% 207,693	Donor Breakdown  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Donor</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dalit</td> <td>110,956</td> <td>18.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Janjati</td> <td>188,614</td> <td>30.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>315,620</td> <td>51.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donor	Count	Percentage	Dalit	110,956	18.0%	Janjati	188,614	30.7%	Others	315,620	51.3%
Donor	Count	Percentage												
Dalit	110,956	18.0%												
Janjati	188,614	30.7%												
Others	315,620	51.3%												
Cooperatives Registered (Ag and Multipurpose)  348	Female Member  48.2% 16,741	Male Member  51.8% 18,000												
Number of Training Events Organized  197,106	Total Participants  3,443,966	Total Female Participants  71% 2,443,381												
Micro-Irrigation Support (waste water collection pond, Treadle pumps, Drip irrigation, Sprinkler irrigation)  80,159	HHs benefitted  90,534	Command area  3,838 Ha												
Community Managed Small Irrigation Support (Shallow tube well, Lift Irrigation, Surface irrigation etc.)  7,417	HHs benefitted  92,076	Command area  72,361 Ha												
Culverts/ Foot bridges  34	Cooperative/Community/ Collection Centers  614	Drinking water schemes  1,352												
Micro-hydro power  10	Animal sheds  3,007													

3. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2025-2026

3.1 Integrated Climate Adaptation Solutions for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region (HI-CAS) Project

The Integrated Climate Adaptation Solutions for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region (HI-CAS) project is a collaborative initiative of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED), with financial support from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)-Global Affairs Canada (GAC). In Nepal, the project is being implemented in Roshi Rural Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district and Dhankuta Municipality of Dhankuta district. The project seeks to strengthen the climate resilience, livelihoods, food security, and adaptive capacity

of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), with particular attention to women, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods and climate resilience of approximately 16,500 Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) in Nepal by promoting gender-responsive Integrated Adaptation Solution Packages (IASPs). These packages bring together springshed management, renewable energy for irrigation, and agrobiodiversity conservation as complementary climate adaptation solutions. The project also seeks to strengthen local



Community consultation and participation in the planning process in Roshi

institutional capacity, promote gender-responsive policies and guidelines, increase access to climate finance, and demonstrate inclusive and scalable adaptation approaches that generate co-benefits for ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture, and community well-being.

The project targets 2,000 poor, marginalized, and vulnerable IPLC peoples as primary direct beneficiaries, with approximately 60 percent women, through engagement in springshed management, renewable energy, agrobiodiversity, capacity building, and policy advocacy. Further, 2,000 people as secondary direct beneficiaries are expected to be benefited through improved food security, water access, and livelihood opportunities, while approximately 12,500 community members are expected to get benefits indirectly from improved ecosystem services, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

CEAPRED, in collaboration with ICIMOD and local governments, made significant progress in establishing the institutional and community foundations required for implementation of IASPs. A national project launch event in Kathmandu and two local launch events in Roshi Rural Municipality and Dhankuta Municipality

were organized to introduce the project, strengthen stakeholder ownership, and establish a common understanding of project's objectives and approaches. A Country Project Advisory Committee was also established to provide strategic guidance and strengthen coordination among the stakeholders.

At community level, 25 GESI-responsive community groups were formed across Roshi and Dhankuta. These groups received capacity-building support on the Integrated Nutrition Garden Model, accompanied by practical establishment of 25 nutrition gardens. The approach promotes household-level food and nutrition security while encouraging the participation and leadership of women and other community members. In addition, nine GESI-responsive IASP User Committees were formed. These committees will play an important role in operation, management and maintenance of community adaptation assets, conservation of springs and water resources, promotion of agrobiodiversity, and implementation of locally appropriate climate adaptation actions.

Significant technical progress was also made in springshed management. Detailed feasibility assessments, designs, and cost estimates were completed for interventions at nine selected spring sources - four in Dhankuta and five in Roshi. The planned interventions are expected to support irrigation across a net command area of approximately 40 hectares of land and benefit around 250 beneficiaries/right holders. These interventions aim to improve water availability while strengthening community-based management and conservation of spring sources.

At both the project sites, Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) has been initiated as part of action research to identify improved and locally suitable millet varieties. Farmers are evaluating different millet varieties under local conditions to identify better-performing options that can



Farmers engaged in nutrition garden training



National launch event of the HI-CAS project

complement or provide alternatives to traditional varieties. This farmer-led approach is expected to strengthen local decision-making, promote agrobiodiversity, and contribute to climate-resilient agricultural production.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) remains a core consideration throughout the HI-CAS project. Therefore, CEAPRED supported the integration of GESI considerations into project planning, community mobilization, institutional development, and IASP implementation. A GESI analysis was undertaken to better understand the differentiated roles, needs, barriers, access, and decision-making power of women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, persons with disabilities, youth, elderly people, and other disadvantaged groups in relation to natural resources, agriculture, water management, and climate adaptation. Community consultations in Roshi and Dhankuta helped ensure that local knowledge and the perspectives of diverse community members informed the development of the IASP approach and related protocols.

Emphasis was placed on ensuring meaningful participation and leadership of women and marginalized groups, rather than focusing solely on numerical representation. Community discussions highlighted women's significant responsibility for household water collection and care work, as well as the need to strengthen their voice and influence in decisions relating to water resources and adaptation investments. To create a more enabling environment for women's participation, approaches such as women-focused discussions and consultations prior to mixed community meetings were promoted. GESI considerations were also incorporated into the formation and functioning of community groups and IASP User Committees, with attention to inclusive representation, transparent decision-making, accountability, and equitable access to project benefits.

As part of institutional strengthening, CEAPRED facilitated the development of GESI-responsive byelaws for IASP User



Women participating in community consultation in Dhankuta

Committees and community groups. The byelaws provide a framework for the operation, management, and maintenance of IASP assets, conservation of springs and water resources, community-led environmental conservation, and inclusive decision-making. They also promote the participation and leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, persons with disabilities, youth, and elderly people,

monitoring of barriers to inclusion, a safe and respectful group environment, transparency and accountability; and coordination with local governments and other stakeholders.

CEAPRED also initiated capacity-building of executive and general members of community groups on group operation, leadership, accountability, transparency, record keeping, savings and credit, and social mobilization. These interventions are intended to strengthen the capacity of community institutions to manage resources effectively, maintain project-supported assets, mobilize members, and sustain inclusive climate adaptation actions beyond the project period. Safeguarding considerations were integrated throughout project implementation, including awareness of safe participation, appropriate complaints and feedback mechanisms, and preventing potential risks to community members and project participants.

Overall, the HI-CAS project has established a strong foundation for locally led, inclusive,

Governance, Coordination and Joint Ownership of the HI-CAS Project

In 2026, the HI-CAS project achieved important milestones in strengthening governance, coordination, and joint ownership in Nepal. The national project launch and inaugural meeting of the Project Country Advisory Committee (PCAC), held at ICIMOD headquarters, brought together representatives from government agencies, development partners, technical institutions, and other key stakeholders to provide strategic guidance and oversight for project implementation. Similarly, two local level project launch events were also organized in Roshi Rural Municipality and Dhankuta Municipality.

Members in the inaugural meeting endorsed the PCAC's Terms of Reference, clarifying its roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. The Committee will play an important role in strengthening high-level stakeholder engagement, promoting inter-institutional coordination, enhancing accountability, and supporting the timely resolution of implementation challenges.

Together, these national and local initiatives established a strong foundation for inclusive, coordinated, and accountable implementation of HI-CAS. They also fostered a shared understanding of the project's objectives, expected outcomes, target beneficiaries, and its commitment to feminist and human rights-based approaches.



and integrated climate adaptation in Roshi and Dhankuta. The establishment of community institutions, completion of technical feasibility studies, initiation of climate-resilient agricultural research, and systematic integration of GESI and safeguarding considerations provide a solid basis for the next phase of IASP implementation. Moving forward, the project will focus on

translating these foundations into tangible adaptation benefits through the implementation of springshed and renewable-energy-based irrigation interventions, strengthening agrobiodiversity and climate-resilient agriculture, enhancing the capacity of community institutions, and supporting inclusive mechanisms for climate finance, policy engagement, and scaling of successful adaptation solutions.

3.2 Skill Up! Empowering Vulnerable Youths Through Competencies and Decent Income for Sustainable Perspectives

The Skill Up! Project - Empowering Vulnerable Youths through Competencies and Decent Income for Sustainable Perspectives, is funded by BMZ and implemented by CEAPRED in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH). The project aims to promote inclusive economic development by creating employment opportunities, supporting economic prosperity, promoting a green economy, protecting the environment, and strengthening inclusive development in Surkhet and Kanchanpur districts.

During 2025–2026, Skill Up! Project, phase II focused to expand market-relevant skills, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people while promoting green and climate-resilient livelihoods. The project has adopted an integrated approach that combines technical and vocational training with life skills, digital literacy, business development, practical incubation, mentoring, start-up support and linkages with financial and market actors. This approach enabled youths not only to acquire new skills but also to build their confidence, practical experience and support needed to apply those skills for employment and income generation.

During the period, 333 young people received training in a range of market-oriented and green trades, including advanced tailoring

and garment fabrication, nature guiding, goat farming, commercial vegetable production, poultry farming, boutique and fashion design, bamboo craft, electrical and plumbing services, beekeeping, Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) services and commercial turmeric production. Women accounted for 69% of the trainees, demonstrating strong participation of young women in both agricultural and off-farm livelihood opportunities. In addition to these short-course trainings, the project established 41 Farmers' Field School (FFS) groups, reaching 773 young people, including 744 women (96%). Through regular practical sessions, FFS participants developed skills in commercial vegetable production, climate-smart technologies, food security and nutrition, marketing and farm record keeping. The encouraging participation of women, particularly through the FFS program, reflected the potential of targeted interventions and locally appropriate livelihood opportunities to strengthen young women's economic engagement.

Recognizing that technical skills need to be complemented by broader competencies, CEAPRED provided life skills and digital literacy training to 1,106 young people, of whom 88% were women. The skills acquired through training by FFS members and youth participating in various vocational trades have



Participants making bamboo products during bamboo craft production training in Shuklaphanta, Kanchanpur

strengthened their confidence, communication techniques, decision- making ability, and ability to engage with digital platforms. The project also strengthened local training capacity through a Training of Trainers (ToT) program, under which 13 participants, including three women, were trained to facilitate deliver business, life and digital skills. To support quality and consistency in training delivery, six training manuals were developed covering life skills, soft skills, digital literacy, business literacy, and digital marketing and communication skills.

The project further strengthened the capacity of two targeted Green Vocational Schools- *Shree Jan Jyoti Secondary School* in Surkhet, and *Shree Krishna Secondary School* in Kanchanpur- through the provision of laboratory equipment, furniture, printers and training materials. Fruit and ornamental saplings were also planted around the schools to promote greener and more environmentally friendly learning environment. Environmental awareness campaigns, including other related activities were organized to mark World Environment Day, 2026 engaging students and school stakeholders on environmental

issues and practices. To improve access to skills development for young people with disabilities, four youths received scholarship support to participate in different skills training programs.

Importantly, the project focused on helping young people transition from training to practical experience and enterprise development. A total of 124 youth, including 114 women (92%), participated in internship at private commercial farms through vegetable and goat enterprise incubation programs. These practical opportunities enabled participants to strengthen their technical and entrepreneurial capacities through hands-on experience in vegetable production, nursery management, irrigation, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling and organic fertilizer preparation. In addition, 151 trained youth, including 80 women (53%), received start-up kits to establish or expand their businesses. The project also created digital profiles for 770 beneficiaries, while 350 trained youth received IT-related services, strengthening their access to digital information and opportunities.



Mentoring and access to finance further supported the transition from skills development to entrepreneurship. A total of 125 entrepreneurs, including 110 women (88%), participated in mentoring sessions covering business communication, digital marketing, production technologies and post-harvest management. Similarly, 40 youth, including 30 women (75%), were linked with financial service providers and support to let them better understand loan application procedures and requirements. These interventions complemented technical training by addressing some of the practical challenges faced by young entrepreneurs when establishing or expanding their enterprises and helped strengthen their readiness to engage with financial and business services.

Climate resilience was another important dimension of the project. In collaboration with municipal governments, CEAPRED established 10 Climate-Smart Technology Demonstration

and Learning Centres, providing practical platforms for learning and knowledge exchange on water management, crop management, soil fertility management, organic fertilizer preparation - including Jhol Mal and Bokashi Mal, and integrated pest and disease management. Five additional centres are in progress in Surkhet and Kanchanpur during the period. The practical nature of these centres contributed to the adoption of climate-resilient practices - 620 of the 773 youths trained through Farmers' Field Schools (more than 80%) adopted more than four climate-resilient technologies and organic inputs, while 35 youth trained through the Green Schools also adopted climate-resilient technologies and organic inputs. The project continued to raise awareness of organic products and working towards establishing designated sales outlets in collaboration with municipalities and other development initiatives. Awareness of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) initiatives is also being promoted with support from the provincial government.



Business starter kit support to Village Animal Health Workers in Krishnapur, Kanchanpur



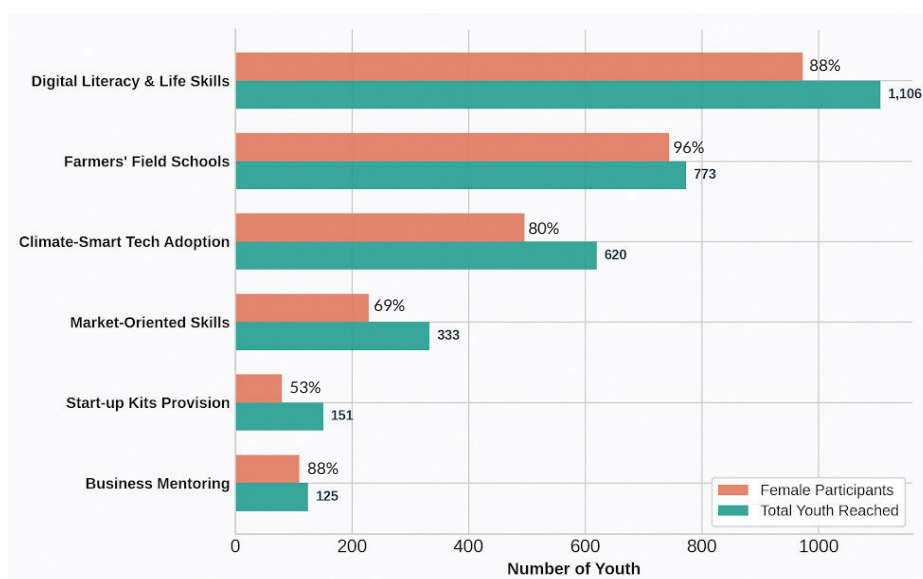
Business Incubation support for goat raising entrepreneur

The project also strengthened the foundations for sustainability and local ownership by engaging municipal governments, private sector actors and financial institutions. Three municipalities provided leverage funding for skills training, while more than 50 youth received municipal support for strengthening their enterprises in Surkhet and Kanchanpur. The two Green Vocational Schools were supported to strengthen their engagement with municipalities for resource mobilization and management. Similarly, coordination with financial institutions also helped the trained youth become more familiar with available financial services and loan requirements. These partnerships have strengthened local ownership and created opportunities for project-supported services and investments to continue beyond direct project support.

The implementation experience generated several important lessons for future youth

livelihood programming. Early and continuous coordination with local governments proved critical for aligning interventions with local priorities, facilitating implementation, and leveraging municipal resources. The exceptionally high participation of women, particularly in Farmers' Field Schools and off-farm green trades, demonstrated the value of targeted outreach and livelihood opportunities that respond to local realities. The project also demonstrated that combining technical skills with life skills, business literacy and digital literacy provides young people with a stronger foundation for employment and entrepreneurship than stand-alone technical training. Similarly, demonstration-based learning, internships, exposure visits, and hands-on incubation accelerated the adoption of climate-smart technologies and strengthened both technical and entrepreneurial capacities. In addition, linkage development with private farms, training providers, agro-vets, cooperatives, financial institutions and markets proved

Female Participation in Different Programs



essential in helping young people translate training into practical livelihood and enterprise opportunities.

Overall, Skill Up! Phase II demonstrated that skill development becomes more meaningful and sustainable when young people are supported beyond the training classroom, including practical experience, mentoring,

enterprise support, finance, markets and climate-resilient technologies. By combining these elements and strengthening collaboration with local governments and private sector actors, CEAPRED has contributed to more inclusive, green and resilient livelihood opportunities for youths, with female emerging as particularly active participants and beneficiaries of the program.

3.3 Food Security, Nutrition and Health (FSNH)

The Food Security, Nutrition and Health (FSNH) project, funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH Germany) and implemented by CEAPRED in collaboration AWO International, was dedicated to fostering inclusive economic development in Buddhabhumi Municipality of Kapilvastu district. The main objective of the project was to improve food security, nutrition, health, and reproductive health among poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households. Particular attention was given to Tharu and Dalit communities, as well as women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, and children. The Project was completed in October 2025 with 18 months of implementation.

The FSNH project reached 1,895 direct beneficiaries (935 female and 960 male) from 330 households, with an additional 3,052 indirect beneficiaries in Buddhabhumi Municipality. The project established and mobilized 15 women's groups with 330 members and 15 adolescent girls' groups with 161 members, providing sustained community platforms for action on food security, nutrition, WASH and reproductive health. Importantly, 14 of the 15 women's groups were formally registered with the municipality, strengthening their institutional status and potential access to future government support.

A baseline study conducted at the beginning of the project found that many households were unable to produce enough food throughout the year and had limited knowledge of balanced diets, health insurance, hygiene, and safe food and water practices. The project subsequently contributed to measurable improvements in household food production, income, and dietary diversity. All 330 beneficiary households adopted improved agricultural practices through home gardens, climate-smart demonstrations, and technical training. Food production increased by 17–35%, with 76% of beneficiary households reporting an increase of more than 20%. Household income increased by 15–30%, with 71.7% of beneficiaries reporting an increase of more than 20%. Most significantly, the proportion of beneficiaries consuming food from more than four food groups (fruits/vegetable, grains/cereals, protein and dairy products) increased from 10% at baseline to 76% at endline, demonstrating a substantial improvement in dietary diversity and nutrition.

Access to year-round agricultural water and climate-resilient production was also strengthened. Eight irrigation schemes, including shallow tube wells and water-lifting systems provided irrigation access to 110 households and approximately 35 hectares of agricultural land. The project also promoted climate-smart and organic farming practices, including integrated pest management, bio-fertilizers, and bio-pesticides. These interventions helped households increase production while reducing reliance on chemical inputs and promoting more sustainable farming practices.

A key achievement of the project was its emphasis on women's leadership, inclusion, and sustainability. Women held key leadership positions in all 15 women's groups, while two female Local Resource Persons (LRPs) supported continued technical and community-level engagement. The beneficiary composition included 60% Tharu, 18.48% Dalit, 15.76% Madhesi/Janajati and 5.76% Brahmin/Chhetri, reflecting the project's deliberate outreach to

marginalized communities. By linking agriculture, nutrition, WASH and reproductive health interventions with legally registered community groups and locally based resource persons, the project created a foundation for sustaining benefits beyond the project period.

During implementation, the project faced several challenges, including insufficient groundwater at some irrigation sites, limited budget for medicines, low participation in the health insurance schemes, and changes to the sanitary pad distribution plan. However, the project team succeeded to implement project activities in coordination with local government and other partners. For example, when health insurance enrolment was lower than expected, additional mobile health camps were organized to improve access to essential health and reproductive health services.

Despite the challenges, the project significantly expanded access to reproductive health, WASH and nutrition services. Eight mobile reproductive health camps provided services to 1,791 women and adolescent girls, including gynecological examinations, Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) screening, ultrasonography, blood sugar testing and pregnancy testing. Four health posts were equipped with essential reproductive-health and malnutrition-screening equipment, while 600 people from 124 households were enrolled in the government health insurance scheme. In addition, WASH facilities were improved in four schools, benefiting approximately 2,977 students and teachers, and 400 women and adolescent girls received reusable sanitary pads produced by trained local women.

Overall, the FSNH project contributed to improved food security, nutrition, household income, access to health services, and community capacity among vulnerable households in Buddhabhumi Municipality. Its integrated approach demonstrated the value of addressing food production, nutrition, health, WASH, and community institution-building together to improve the wellbeing and resilience of vulnerable and marginalized households.



3.4 The Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Program (HI-REAP)

The Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Program (HI-REAP) was funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and implemented in partnership with ICIMOD. The program strengthened the resilience of mountain communities by promoting GESI-responsive agroecology and springshed management as Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Building on the pilot phase across six districts, HI-REAP consolidated and expanded its results in Surkhet, Salyan, Khotang and Kavre. A key achievement was strengthening community capacity to adopt practical, affordable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. A total of 210 farmers, including 124 women (59%), gained knowledge on climate-resilient agriculture and NbS. Farmers subsequently began applying practices such as Jholmal, Integrated Pest Management, and elevated nurseries,

contributing to more resilient production systems and improved food and nutrition security. Community Learning Centres (CLCs) served as important platforms for continued farmer learning, peer exchange and collaboration. A CLC established at Mid-West University also helped connect farmers' knowledge and experience with university students and emerging agricultural professionals.

The program also generated tangible results in water security and spring-source conservation. Six springshed sites were brought under regular monitoring, supported by systematic collection of spring recharge and rainfall data, while four priority springshed sites were upgraded and maintained. Conservation measures, including 1,700 saplings, two ponds, 152 trenches and 10 check dams, strengthened water recharge



Training relevant stakeholders on establishing CLC and CRA as NbS in Surkhet



Exposure visit of relevant stakeholders to CLC site in Khotang

and spring source protection. Local government ownership of springshed management also increased, as demonstrated by NPR 525,575 invested by Namobuddha Municipality to rehabilitate landslide-affected spring sources. These interventions strengthened the capacity of communities to understand, monitor and protect critical water resources, while reinforcing the link between ecosystem management and household water security.

GESI remained a defining element of the program's implementation and results, with women comprising 62% of participants, and gaining increased opportunities for leadership and participation in community-level climate and natural resource management. The program also fostered stronger collaboration

among communities, municipalities, academic institutions, and other stakeholders, creating local platforms for learning and collective action. Importantly, the formal handover of all CLCs to their respective municipalities strengthened the prospects for continued learning and institutional ownership beyond project direct support.

Despite implementation challenges - including delays, staff turnover, adverse weather, local disruptions, access restrictions, and the early termination of donor support - HI-REAP established a strong foundation for scaling climate-resilient agriculture, community-led springshed management and GESI-responsive Nature-based Solutions through local government systems, policies and budgets.

3.5 Nepal Agricultural Market Development Program (NAMDP- Sahaj) Phase II

The Nepal Agricultural Market Development Program II (NAMDP), locally known as Sahaj, was a bilateral initiative between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Nepal, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The program was implemented through a consortium led by Swisscontact in partnership with Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED), with a focus on strengthening agricultural markets and livelihoods in Koshi Province. Building on the achievements of its first phase (2016–2020), which focused on improving smallholder farmers' access to commercial markets and increasing farm incomes, Sahaj Phase II (2020–2025) placed greater emphasis on commercialization, value addition, innovation, investment, and forward market linkages. Through a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach, the program worked with private and public sector actors to improve agricultural and non-agricultural services, strengthen the business environment, and create opportunities for smallholder farmers, women and disadvantaged groups.

Over the course of its implementation, Sahaj contributed significantly to inclusive employment, increased farmer incomes, and private sector investment in Koshi Province. The program supported the creation of more than 1,780 full-time equivalent jobs in the local economy, of which 34% were taken up by women and 40% by people from disadvantaged groups (DGs). In addition, more than 43,400 farmers benefitted from increased incomes, including 34% women and 46% farmers from disadvantaged groups, demonstrating the program's contribution to more inclusive agricultural growth.



Ms Sarita Gurung and her husband using a modular dryer to dry large cardamom in Taplejung

Sahaj mobilized significant private sector investment in Koshi Province, strengthening the foundation for sustainable, market-driven agricultural development. By working closely with agri-businesses, service providers and government partners, the program helped address constraints to investment, promoted innovation and strengthened linkages between smallholder farmers and value-added agricultural markets. The project contributed to advancing inclusive market systems creating opportunities for employment, enterprise development, and improved livelihoods across Koshi Province.

4. UPCOMING PROJECTS

4.1 Building Community Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security and Disaster Risk Reduction in Salyan District, Nepal

With the financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, and in partnership with AWO International, CEAPRED is preparing to implement a new three-year project titled “Building Community Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security and Disaster Risk Reduction” in Bangad Kupinde Municipality of Salyan district, Karnali Province. Scheduled for implementation from September 2026 to August 2029, the project aims to address the underlying causes of food insecurity, malnutrition, climate vulnerability, and limited livelihood opportunities faced by vulnerable and marginalized communities in the area.

The project will directly benefit 2,217 households (9,882 individuals) across all twelve wards of the municipality, with particular focus on smallholder farmers, poor and food-insecure households, women-headed families, Dalit and Janajati communities, persons with disabilities, and households vulnerable to climate-induced disasters. The initiative will support improved food and nutrition security by enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting diversified and climate-resilient farming systems, improving access to nutritious food, and strengthening local food systems. It will also focus on increasing communities’ capacity to adapt to climate change and disaster risks through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, natural resource management, water harvesting technologies, and disaster risk reduction measures.

In addition, the project will strengthen local institutions, including farmer groups, cooperatives, community forest user groups, and disaster management committees, while fostering collaboration with local government

and other stakeholders. By integrating livelihood improvement, nutrition promotion, climate resilience, and community empowerment, the project is expected to contribute significantly to sustainable food systems and improved well-being of vulnerable households.

The project has been designed in response to the multiple and interconnected challenges of communities in the municipality, where poverty, food insecurity, climate change, and out-migration continue to undermine rural livelihoods. Bangad Kupinde Municipality has been identified as a priority intervention area due to its high prevalence of food insufficiency, low agricultural productivity, limited access to services and markets, and increasing exposure to climate-induced hazards such as droughts, erratic rainfall, landslides, and floods. The project will therefore adopt an integrated approach that simultaneously addresses agricultural development, nutrition improvement, livelihood diversification, and climate adaptation to build resilient communities capable of withstanding future shocks and stresses.

The initiative will also contribute to strengthening local governance and sustainability by aligning project interventions with municipal development priorities and government programs. Through capacity building of local institutions, promotion of community ownership, and facilitation of linkages with public and private service providers, the project aims to ensure that benefits continue beyond the project period. The lessons, innovations, and successful models generated through this intervention are expected to provide valuable insights for scaling up climate-resilient food and nutrition security initiatives in other vulnerable areas of Karnali Province and beyond.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

(International Learning and Knowledge Sharing Visits)

Program	Date & Location	Participant	Key Areas of Learning and Exposure
Cross Learning Exposure Visit under the HI-REAP Project	8–13 December 2025, Uttarakhand, India	Ms. Suchita Uprety, Program Manager	Climate-resilient agriculture, agricultural diversification, value addition, quality certification, farmer markets, and value-chain development.
Global Annual Review Workshop under the Skill Up! Project	3–7 November 2025, Sierra Leone	Mr. Rambhakta Neupane, Project Coordinator	Skills development, green jobs, youth entrepreneurship, labour-market linkages, exchange of experiences and good practices, and results-oriented project management.

Through these international learning and knowledge-sharing engagements, CEAPRED strengthened its collaboration with international partners and gained exposure to diverse approaches, innovations, and good practices relevant to its program areas. Under HI-REAP, farmer representatives from Kavre, Khotang, and Surkhet also participated in the cross-learning exposure visit, gaining direct peer-learning and practical exposure to climate-resilient agriculture, agricultural diversification, value addition, and market-oriented farming practices.

The opportunities gained through these engagements provided opportunities to reflect on experiences from other contexts and identify approaches that could be adapted to Nepal's local context. These opportunities



Global Annual Review Workshop in Sierra Leone

also contributed to broadening institutional perspectives, strengthened professional capacity, promoting peer learning among farmers and practitioners, and informed future program design and implementation.

6. STORIES OF CHANGE

6.1 A Journey Towards Healthier Living: Story of Fachkaiya Women and Kamana Adolescent Group

Fachkaiya Women Group and Kamana Adolescents Group from Buddhabhumi Municipality were actively engaged in the FSNH (Promotion of Food Security, Nutrition and Health) project implemented by CEAPRED. The women's group, consisting of 24 members, was formed on 28 May 2024, and the adolescents' group, consisting of 17 members, was formed on 2 July 2025. Altogether, 41 members from both groups participated enthusiastically in every event organized by the project. Inspired by the impactful initiatives led by CEAPRED, the groups joined the project to improve their knowledge and practices related to nutrition, hygiene, and reproductive health.

As part of the intervention, three events on food diversification awareness and food preparation practical sessions were successfully conducted with the group. Ms. Bishnu Tharu, chairperson of the Fachkaiya Women Group, shared that, earlier they were unaware of the importance of a balanced diet and the different food groups. However, through the three events, members learned about energy-giving foods like rice, potatoes, and ghee; body-building foods such as meat, milk, pulses, and eggs; and protective foods like fruits, salads and green leafy vegetables. They changed their food consumption habits, shifting from eating large quantities irregularly



Orientation on balanced diet, Buddhabhumi Municipality



Group discussing on WASH, Buddhabhumi Municipality

to consuming smaller portions of diverse foods (three to four times a week). Member of Fachkaiya Women Group, Ms. Niruta Tharu shared how they replaced junk food with homemade, nutritious snacks for their children, such as jaulo (prepare by mixing rice, grains, eggs, vegetables, egg and ghee and cooked it for a while), eggs, fruits, rice pudding and chickpeas. Additionally, Laxmi Tharu, the vice-chairperson of the Kamana Adolescents Group, shared how their behavior around food and nutrition has changed. “We have stopped consuming junk food on a regular basis,” she said. “Previously, we used to cook green leafy vegetables for a long time, but now we’ve learned that overcooking reduces their nutritional value.” She further added, “We are now aware of the nutritional pyramid and have learned which foods are beneficial for our health and how much we should consume.”

Jiujariya Tharu, member of Fachkaiya Women Group, also has reflections on past practices and the positive shift they have made. She admitted, “In the past, we did not feed colostrum to newborns and introduced supplementary food as early as five months of baby born. But now, we understand the importance of feeding colostrum

within the first hour of birth and the necessity of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.” She emphasized that they not only practice these improved behaviors themselves but also encourage others to do the same. The group is now well aware of the health issues caused by nutrient deficiencies and imbalanced diets, such as malnutrition, wasting, pellagra, anemia, xerophthalmia (night blindness), osteoporosis, dry skin, and scurvy. They shared that they now prioritize healthy foods to ensure the well-being of their families.

The group also completed five events on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and reproductive health awareness sessions. These sessions significantly transformed their hygienic behaviors. They learned the importance of drinking purified water and the diseases caused by contaminated water. They also became aware of personal and environmental hygiene practices. Ratan Kumari Tharu mentioned that previously, handwashing was limited to after using the toilet, but now they follow proper handwashing practices at key moments like before meals, food preparation, and after touching dirt. They also started brushing their teeth twice daily and

changing sanitary pads every four hours during menstruation, even when bleeding is light. In the past, they did not change sanitary pads every 4 hours unless the bleeding was heavy. Community clean-up events have been initiated, highlighting their commitment to collective hygiene every month.

Additionally, the women and adolescents gained vital knowledge on reproductive health, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, STDs, newborn care, the importance of the Golden 1000 Days, and health insurance services. “I didn’t know the importance of regular antenatal checkups before,” said Kausilya Tharu, a member of the group “But now we are aware and regularly follow maternal health care practices.”

Furthermore, Pramila Tharu, Vice Chairperson of the Fachkaiya Women Group, shared their experience of participating in a cervical health screening camp organized through the project, which was a first-time opportunity for many.

Through their active involvement in the FSNH project, the members of Fachkaiya Women Group and Kamana Adolescents Group have become empowered with knowledge and practical skills, transforming their lifestyles and promoting better health and nutrition practices in their families and communities. Their journey stands as an inspiring example of how community-based initiatives can lead to sustainable behavioral change and healthier futures.

6.2 From Training to Transformation: Rama’s Garden of Hope

Rama, 43, a farmer from Narayanatar, Roshi Rural Municipality-1, Kavrepalanchok, is a member of the GESI-responsive Narayanatar Community Group formed under HI-CAS. A mother in a family of nine, Rama owns eight ropanis of land, but changing climatic conditions, pest and disease pressures, and limited knowledge of water and crop management made year-round vegetable production difficult. Her household mainly relied on cereal crops, seasonal vegetables, potatoes, dried vegetables, and soybeans, and maintaining a diverse supply of fresh vegetables was often a challenge.

Her farming practices began to change in March 2026, when she participated in CEAPRED’s Integrated Nutritional Garden training. She gained practical knowledge on selecting diverse crops and varieties for different seasons, water and nutrient management, and integrated pest management. Her farm was subsequently established as a demonstration plot, where she and fellow farmers practiced climate-resilient techniques and cultivated a diverse range of crops, including cucumber, bitter gourd, amaranth, eggplant, cowpea and okra.

Today, Rama’s garden tells a very different story. Her household now harvests a variety of fresh vegetables throughout the season, improving the diversity of food available at home. The garden has also created a small surplus, allowing her family to share vegetables with relatives and sell them to neighbours.

“Earlier, we used to struggle to meet our household vegetable requirements, but now we even send vegetables to our son and daughter-in-law in Kathmandu, while neighbours also visit our home to buy them.”

Rama’s experience demonstrates how community-based capacity building, practical learning, and climate-resilient agricultural practices can translate into tangible household-level benefits. What began as a community training initiative has helped turn a once-unreliable vegetable supply into a source of better food diversity, household confidence, and surplus production.

Her garden now serves not only her family, but also as a practical learning space for other

farmers-showing that with the right knowledge, locally appropriate practices, and inclusive community support, rural households can strengthen their nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience to climate-related challenges.

Similarly, through continued support under HI-CAS and the implementation of Integrated Adaptation Solution Packages (IASPs), the 552 group members are expected to apply their knowledge, access improved opportunities and resources, and strengthen their household food and nutrition security, livelihoods, resilience and participation in decision-making. Together, these emerging changes demonstrate the project's potential to move beyond reaching communities to enabling meaningful and lasting improvements in the lives of women, Indigenous Peoples and other disadvantaged groups.



Rama, harvesting pumpkin shoots, cucumber and cowpea from her nutrition garden

6.3 From Struggle to Sustainable Livelihood: The Inspiring Journey of Babli Chaudhary

Babli Chaudhary, from Krishnapur Municipality-4, Kanchanpur, comes from a farming family with long struggled with financial hardship. Before joining the Skill Up! Project, she cultivated vegetables on just 1 to 2 katha of land, however limited technical knowledge and inadequate access to quality agricultural inputs and resources constraints resulted in low productivity and income to adequately support her family livelihoods.

With support from the Skill Up! Project, Babli who has passed SLC, participated in a 60-day Commercial Vegetable Production Training. The training equipped her with practical knowledge and skills in climate-smart techniques, organic farming practices, integrated pest management (IPM), marketing, and business planning. She further enhanced her technical capacity through a Vegetable Enterprise Incubation Program in



Babli harvesting vegetables from her farm



Babli with her newly purchased auto-rickshaw for transporting vegetables to market

Chitwan, where she received hands-on training in nursery management, irrigation, post-harvest handling, and preparation and use of organic fertilizer.

Applying these newly acquired skills, Babli has begun adopting improved production techniques/practices on her farm. With the support of business starter kits provided by the project, she is successfully transitioning from traditional farming to a commercial vegetable enterprise.

Transformation and Achievements

After completing the training, Babli applied her newly acquired knowledge and skills to expand her farming enterprise by leasing additional land, increasing her cultivated area to 16 katha. She now produces a diverse range of both seasonal and off-season vegetables such as Snake Gourd, Pumpkin, Long Beans, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Tomato, Okra year-round, making farming a reliable source of income.

Earlier, she earned around NPR 150,000 from paddy, pulses, and limited vegetable production. This has now increased to around NPR 400,000,

significantly improving her family's economic condition and access to nutritious food. Her success has also inspired other young women in the community to engage in commercial agriculture.

She has recently purchased an electric tri-cycle to transport vegetables to local markets. She also supports other farmers by facilitating the marketing of their produce, strengthening market linkages within the community through her tri-cycle.

Her achievements have inspired many young women in the area to pursue commercial vegetable farming as a viable livelihood opportunity. She shares,

"With the support of the Skill Up! Project, I received training and technical support that helped me improve my farming and turn it into a stable source of income. I am now financially independent, my family's living conditions have improved, and I am also supporting other farmers in my community. This experience has shown me how practical skills can change rural livelihoods"



6.4 From a Neglected Spring to Local Ownership: Dhankuta Municipality Invests in Community-Led Springshed Management

CEAPRED/HI-CAS project played an important role in coordinating and arranging discourse between local community, ward and Dhankuta municipality. What began as a small community action around the neglected Thambosat spring source in Dhankuta has evolved into a promising example of local ownership and government co-investment in springshed management.

Previously, water from the spring was flowing onto the road without proper collection or protection. Through sustained engagement among CEAPRED, community members, ward representatives, and Dhankuta Municipality, the community moved from identifying the problem to taking collective responsibility for protecting and managing the spring.

A seven-member inclusive spring user committee, comprising Indigenous Peoples and local community members, was established, with five women, including two in leadership positions, ensuring meaningful participation of women in local water-resource decision-making. The group took early ownership by joining coordination discussions with local government and organizing a spring-source clean-up campaign. These actions helped build trust and demonstrated that community commitment could translate into stronger institutional support.

The emerging community ownership was reinforced through a concrete commitment from Dhankuta Municipality, which allocated NPR 200,000 for construction of an intake and collection chamber and related springshed management measures at Thambosat. This represents an important shift from externally supported action towards locally financed and institutionally owned water-resource



Community members actively involved in the construction of gutter and collection chamber

management. Following the intervention, four community groups comprising 76 members, 63 women and 13 men are benefiting from the improved spring system, with strong representation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, ethnic minorities, and other disadvantaged groups. Thambosat demonstrates how small spark and inclusive community action can unlock local government investment and create a foundation for sustainable, community-owned springshed management.

6.5 From Homemaker to Entrepreneur: Manisha's Journey of Empowerment

At 32, Manisha Fauja from Barahatal Rural Municipality-5, Surkhet, has transformed her life from a homemaker into a confident entrepreneur. Once dependent on her husband's income of labor migration in India, she struggled to support her family despite repeated attempts to earn an income through a small retail shop and tailoring. Limited education, technical skills, and business knowledge prevented her from turning these efforts into a sustainable livelihood. Today, she successfully runs Manisha Boutique, earning a steady monthly income and inspiring other women in her community to pursue entrepreneurship.

Everything changed when Manisha joined the Skill Up! project. Through Boutique and Fashion Design Training, she gained tailoring skills, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, along



Manisha at her boutique



Manisha's briefing about her boutique to CEAPRED staff

with the confidence to start her own business. With a business starter kit provided by the project, she established Manisha Boutique.

Today, Manisha earns around NPR 20,000 per month, contributing to support her family and reinvests in her business. She promotes her products through TikTok, manages her finances using the Karobar App, and has expanded her network by participating in the 9th Women Expo 2026 in Lalitpur, Nepal. She has also diversified her products to meet growing customer demand.

With strong support from her family, Manisha successfully balances her business and household responsibilities. Her journey has inspired many women in her community to pursue skills training and self-employment.

"I am deeply thankful to the Skill Up! project for giving me the skills, guidance, and tools to transform my life. Today, I run my own boutique, earn a steady income, and support my family. This journey has given me confidence and independence, and I hope it inspires other women to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams," says Manisha.

Looking ahead, Manisha hopes to expand her boutique, reach more customers through digital platforms, and mentor aspiring women entrepreneurs. Her greatest dream is to grow her business enough to bring her husband back home from India so they can build a secure future together in Nepal.

Manisha's story demonstrates how skills training, entrepreneurship support, and determination can empower women, create sustainable livelihoods, and inspire positive change in their communities. Skill Up team monitoring and interacting with Manish's Boutique Shop

Story/PC: Archana Gautam

6.6 A Journey of Hope and Independence: Purna Radi Magar's Path to Financial Empowerment

Purna Radi Magar resides in Birendranagar-12, Surkhet, where she lives with her family of five members, including her husband, son, and in-laws. She has completed primary education. Her husband has been working in Saudi Arabia for the past 12 years, while her in-laws live in the village. As a result, Purna has been independently managing household responsibilities and raising her son. To support her family, she previously worked as a home-based tailor, stitching clothes on customer orders. Her income was seasonal and irregular, ranging from NPR 6,000 to 8,000 per month. Despite her efforts, limited tailoring skills and lack of business knowledge restricted her ability to increase income and expand work.

Although engaged in self-employment, Purna lacked confidence to grow her tailoring business. Villagers occasionally placed orders, but the income remained modest and inconsistent. She had limited technical skills as well as no exposure to financial management, market understanding, or customer handling. Financial constraints further prevented her from investing in business expansion. Despite strong determination, she could not achieve meaningful progress in her livelihood. After migrating to Birendranagar Municipality, her limited skills were not competitive enough in the urban market. As a result, she was compelled to focus mainly on household responsibilities and childcare,

reducing her engagement in income-generating work.

Purna later joined the Skill Up! Project, implemented in Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet. Motivated to improve her livelihood, she enrolled in the Advanced Tailoring (Garment Fabrication) training course and was selected among 20 participants. During the training, she showed strong dedication and eagerness to learn.



Purna at her work

Although she had basic tailoring experience, she lacked knowledge in garment fabrication. After completing the training, she became skillful to stitch various garment products with improved quality and precision. She also gained life skills and basic business management knowledge, which strengthened her confidence and entrepreneurial understanding.

After completing the training, Purna's life changed significantly. She is now employed at Jaymata Hojiyari Garment, Birendranagar-11, Surkhet, working on a piece-rate basis depending on production. Her monthly income has increased to approximately NPR 18,000–20,000, a substantial improvement compared to her previous earnings. This stable income has strengthened her financial independence and improved her ability to support her household. She now spends her earnings on household

needs, her son's education, health, and nutritious food, and is also able to save some amount regularly. Along with income improvement, she has gained technical skills, confidence, and basic business knowledge, contributing to her overall empowerment.

"There were times I felt helpless and uncertain about my future, struggling with limited skills and no stable income. The Skill Up training became a turning point in my life. Today, I earn on my own and support my family with hope and dignity." She shares.

"I want to improve my skills further and start my own garment business. My long-term dream is to bring my husband back to Nepal and build a self-sustaining family enterprise. I also hope to create jobs for skilled people in my community and support other women like me to become economically independent." She further adds.

WORK FORCE DIVERSITY

During the fiscal year, CEAPRED had 53 full-time staff members, comprising 20 females and 33 males, representing diverse caste and ethnic backgrounds. Following the completion of two projects (Sahaj-NAMDP and FSNH) and the termination of another FCDO-funded HI-REAP project, CEAPRED continued implementing two projects (HI-CAS and Skill Up!) with 33 full-time staff, including 12 females and 21 males.

To strengthen field-level operations and promote the use of locally available expertise, CEAPRED also engaged 11 local community resource persons across different projects. CEAPRED continued to promote a diverse and inclusive workforce. While diversity is maintained at senior and executive levels, the recruitment and

retention of female in senior positions remains a challenge. To address this, the organization focused on increasing the representation of female at the mid-management level and supporting their professional development through coaching and capacity-building opportunities, with the aim of preparing them for future leadership roles.

Inclusion was also promoted by providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates and individuals from marginalized groups, enabling them to gain practical experience and develop professional skills. Through these efforts, the organization remained committed to promoting equity, inclusion, workforce diversity, and the professional growth of individuals from diverse background.

7. AUDIT REPORT



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Management of Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of CEAPRED which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 32 Ashadh, 2083 (16 July 2026), Income and Expenditure Account, Statement of Cash Flow, Statement of Changes in Reserves and a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of CEAPRED at 32 Ashadh, 2083 (16 July 2026), and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standard for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements* section of our Report. We are independent of CEAPRED in accordance with the *ICAN's Handbook of Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Nepal, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standard for Not-for-Profit Organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities of the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with NSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with NSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risk and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material



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misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management,
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the entity to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on the requirements of Income Tax Act 2058

To the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, in the course of our audit, CEAPRED has performed its functions in accordance with its objective and we did not come across cases of where income tax has not been withheld as required by Income Tax Act 2058.



Aman Uprety
Partner

Place: Kathmandu, Nepal
Date: August 21, 2026

UDIN: 260907CA00451mAVWA

Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)

Statement of Financial Position
As at 32 Ashadh 2083 (16 July 2026)

Amount in NPR

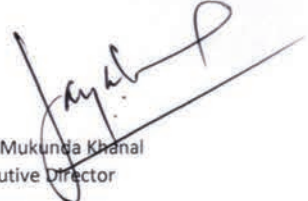
Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
		NPR	NPR
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4.1	32,656,253	33,689,923
Intangible Assets	4.2	866,572	1,087,023
Long Term Investments	4.3	16,870,377	16,870,377
Other Non-Current Assets	4.4	43,468	43,468
Total Non-Current Assets		50,436,670	51,690,791
Current Assets			
Short Term Investments	4.5	231,500,000	201,500,000
Inventories		-	-
Account Receivable/ Advances	4.6	18,810,482	29,883,308
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.7	24,604,182	51,863,100
Total Current Assets		274,914,664	283,246,408
Total Assets		325,351,334	334,937,200
Liabilities and Reserves			
Accumulated Reserves			
Accumulated Surplus	4.8	248,085,731	251,751,936
Restricted Fund	4.9	8,630,337	(5,326,426)
Designated Fund	4.10	18,178,842	17,067,253
Capital Reserves	4.11	33,522,828	34,776,949
Total Accumulated Reserves		308,417,738	298,269,712
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Benefit Liabilities		-	-
Other non-current liabilities		-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-
Current Liabilities			
Account Payable	4.12	16,767,810	36,397,746
Employee Benefit Liabilities	4.13	165,786	269,742
Provisions		-	-
Total Current Liabilities		16,933,596	36,667,488
Total Liabilities		325,351,334	334,937,200
Total Liabilities and Reserves		325,351,334	334,937,200

Significant accounting policies and notes to account 4.20

Schedules 4.1 to 4.20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements


Naresh Joshi
Finance Manager


Basu Upadhyaya
Head of Administration and Finance

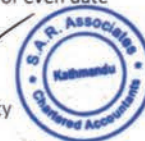

Jaya Mukunda Khanel
Executive Director


Bharat Prasad Upadhyay
Treasurer


Dr. Munni Sharma
Chairperson
Center for Environmental
and
Agricultural Policy Research,
Extension and Development

As per our report of even date


Aman Uprety
Partner
S.A.R. Associates
Chartered Accountants



Date: August 21, 2026
Place: Lalitpur, Nepal



Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the year ended on 32 Ashadh 2083 (16 July 2026)

Amount in NPR

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
		NPR	NPR
Income			
Incoming Resources	4.14	62,194,727	186,817,428
Finance Income	4.15	12,706,953	13,848,633
Other Income	4.16	406,100	192,121
Total Income		75,307,780	200,858,182
Expenditure			
Staff cost	4.17	32,013,387	111,649,304
Program Expenses	4.18	39,111,732	72,919,001
General Administrative Expenditure	4.19	2,852,194	5,762,288
Depreciation and Amortization		2,054,518	1,813,408
Other Expenses		-	-
Total Expenditure		76,031,831	192,144,001
Net Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax		(724,051)	8,714,181
Income Tax Expenses- Previous Year		-	103,126
Income Tax Expenses- Current Year		2,942,154	3,224,051
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(3,666,205)	5,387,004
Appropriation of Surplus			
Allocation to Accumulated Surplus		(3,666,205)	5,387,004
Allocation to Endowment Fund		-	-

Significant accounting policies and notes to account 4.20

Schedules 4.1 to 4.20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements


Naresh Joshi
Finance Manager


Basu Upadhyaya
Head of Administration and Finance


Jaya Mukunda Khanal
Executive Director


Bharat Prasad Upadhyay
Treasurer


Dr. Munni Sharma
Chairperson

As per our report of even date


Aman Uprety
Partner
S.A.R. Associates
Chartered Accountants

Date: August 21, 2026
Place: Lalitpur, Nepal





CEAPRED

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