



Background

Almost 66% of rural households in Nepal are engaged in or depend on agriculture, but the sector is still based on low-value cereals and subsistence production with only 13% of output traded in markets. . Most agricultural holdings can be classified as subsistence family farms (64%) with only 3.1% classified as commercial farming operations. The Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) and the Nepal Agriculture and Food Security Country Investment Plan (2010) state that the low and almost stagnant agricultural productivity and production amidst a growing population is resulting in chronic food security problems, and that there is “limited agricultural commercialization and diversification” which combine to exacerbate food security and nutritional issues in the more rural areas of Nepal. According to the Sub Regional Hunger Index for Nepal (NHI), 2009, the World Food Programme (WFP) considers the Terai (plains) regions to be most affected by underweight persons, as compared to hill areas.

Project Design

The Initiative for Agriculture Productivity and Commercialization (IAPAC) project through its proposed action will leverage proven development models and approaches implemented through previous EU actions to directly improve the lives of 16,000 smallholder households who are both prone to food insecurity, and dependent on agriculture for subsistence. The action will also develop sustainable networks of collection centres, capacities, and service providers that will play an important role to commercialize agriculture in three key Midwestern districts and be a national model. This action supports government policies as detailed in the Nepal Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) which is currently being finalized, the Multi Sectoral Nutrition Plan, and other key government policy documents. It will also promote linkages for agricultural trade and marketing through the development and strengthening of farmer groups’ linked to rural collection centres managed by elected marketing and planning committees (MPC) and through the formation of three district and a regional apex committee of collection centres to facilitate market access and to advocate for investment in smallholder commercial agriculture. In addition the action will improve health and nutrition through training targeted for woman with children under 2 years of age and through increasing the consumption of adequate amounts of nutritious foods.

District Coverage
Banke, Dang, and Rolpa

Sector
Agriculture, Nutrition
and Food Security

Direct Beneficiaries
16,000 households

Donor
European Union and
co-financed by Austrian
Development Center

Project Period
3 years

Budget
Euro 933,333

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Project Goal

To strengthen the participation of key stakeholders of civil society in decision-making and service delivery towards improved food security and nutrition through increased agricultural development in geographic areas with high prevalence of under-nutrition and food insecurity.

Project Activities

- Build agriculture capacity of existing GoN and other agriculture extension service providers and link them to market planning committees and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
- Integrate high value crops into the cropping system through crop calendars
- Facilitate collaboration of existing GoN and other agriculture extension service providers to work in partnership to introduce new technologies
- Leadership and Management training
- Cultivation and processing of essential oils through Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs)
- Develop Community Business Facilitators
- Build a Network of Existing Input Suppliers
- Technical support on biogas, solar PV for MUS and water pumping, Hydraulic Ram pump (hydam) integrated into the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) process
- Development and Implementation of LAPA (VDC level) for relevant agriculture stakeholders to access funds for sustainable technologies:
- Health and nutrition training for young mothers from vulnerable and marginalized populations
- Capacity building of marketing and planning committees (MPC) and rural cooperatives that manage collection centres:
- Establish market linkages with the private sector through facilitated forums and trainings
- Leadership and management training, and coaching for value chain actors in the agricultural sector (ROLDP for VDC cluster level)
- Formation of pocket level and District Participatory Market Chain Approach (PMCA)
- Establishing and strengthening of business planning of collection centres and distillation units

Expected Outcomes

- Improved capacity and quality of agricultural extension and research
- Increased utilization of improved agricultural inputs
- Enhanced utilization of natural resources including land, water, and soils
- Increased resilience to climate change and disasters
- Improved nutrition related behaviours
- Enhanced access to diverse quality foods and intake of micronutrients
- Developed competitive value chains that increase benefits to smallholder farmers increased
- Enhanced access and cooperation between smallholder producers, input providers, output traders and consumers



Austrian
Development Cooperation

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Nepal



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