



Nepal and FAO

Building food and nutrition security through sustainable agricultural development

Nepal and FAO have enjoyed close cooperation since the country joined FAO in 1951. Established in 1977, the FAO Country Office has reached 40 years of permanent presence in Nepal, providing support in its areas of comparative advantage and in line with national priorities. To date, the Organization has supported the implementation of over 300 projects in the field of agriculture, livestock, and forestry development, food security, nutrition, rural income generation, agricultural value chains, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN

NEPAL

Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Nepal is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Climate change adaptation in agriculture

Climate-related hazards such as floods, drought, hail storms and temperature extremes, as well as pests and diseases, soil erosion, deforestation and desertification, are recurring events in Nepal and are posing severe threats to the country's agriculture sector.

A project aiming to reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacities to respond to the impacts of climate change and variability for sustainable livelihoods in agriculture sector is being supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under its Least Developed Countries Funding (LDCF) window. Developed and implemented in line with the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Reduction Management Priority Framework for 2011-2020, the project commenced in September 2015 and will be completed in August 2019. The project is aligned with FAO-Adapt, an Organization-wide programme that provides general guidance and principles as well as priority themes, actions and implementation support to FAO's multidisciplinary activities for climate change adaptation.

Matching FAO's expertise to Nepal's development priorities

FAO assistance in Nepal is shaped by the 2013-2017 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which identifies four priority areas for technical cooperation:

- **Food and nutrition security and safety**, aiming at improving agricultural productivity through enhanced national and local capacities
- **Institutional and policy support**, strengthening analytical and technical capacities from policy and programme formulation to implementation and monitoring
- **Market orientation and competitiveness**, promoting market-oriented production and value addition, through enhanced technical and institutional capacities
- **Natural resource conservation and use**, including adaptation to climate change, with a focus on improved land registration and management practices for sustainable production in a conflict free environment

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the **National Agriculture Sector Development Priority (2010)**, and the **Nepal Agriculture and Food Security Country Investment Plan (2010)**. The CPF supports FAO's Strategic Framework as well as its regional priorities, and is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Nepal.

As the country is undergoing prolonged social, political and economic transformation, flexibility has been assured for the adjustment of CPF priorities as necessary, especially in view of the adoption of the new **Agriculture Development Strategy and Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA)** in the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake.

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Strengthening emergency preparedness for highly pathogenic avian influenza

Technical assistance to strengthen emergency preparedness for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Emerging Pandemic Threat-2 (EPT-2) programme, which is technically supported by FAO. The project activities are implemented through Nepal's Department of Livestock Services in line with the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS), jointly developed by the World Health Organization, FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

"Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

FAO is working in close collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services, focusing primarily on providing emergency response through a global programme that supports global, regional and country level. The activities include coordination, capacity

building and the development of strategic partnerships to control and eliminate HPAI, as well as to mitigate the risk of emergence of a human influenza pandemic.

Policy intervention

FAO, together with the UN Country Team in Nepal, has been collaborating with the Government to achieving the objectives of the national Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035); UNDAF 2018-2022; the Sustainable Development Goals; and Nepal's commitment to international charters and treaties. In conjunction with its support to the Agricultural Development Strategy, FAO has also supported the Government in formulating its Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action (FNSPA), and continuously supports Nepal in its aim to graduate to middle-income status by 2030.

From farm labourer to farm owner

Meghnath Kewat, 45, is a hard working farmer from the Kapilvastu district in Nepal. He shares a house with his brothers and their families – an extended family of

21 people. They started with less than 1ha of land on which they used to grow sweet potatoes, groundnut, pulses, rice and wheat. The income from the land was not enough to support the household. After attending the Farmers Field School (FFS), conducted back-to-back by Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects, he learned to grow a healthy crop, including how to protect the crop from pests and diseases.

With savings from his income, Meghnath was able to purchase a piece of land and his family now owns 1.5 ha. They have become farm owners and no longer need to work on other farms elsewhere. Moreover, the increased income has allowed him to enroll the children in better schools.

Women's empowerment through livestock farming

Like most of the women of the mid-hills of Nepal, Jashu Rana, 35, is facing livelihood challenges in Achham district. After her husband left home to search of work in India, she worked hard to look after her four sons aged between five and fifteen. Cattle farming was the only source of income, and she had an old shed where goats were kept along with cows and buffaloes. She used to keep eight to ten goats, but, because of the lack of knowledge on goat rearing, four to six goats died each year.

In April 2016, Jashu heard about the Farmers Field School to be conducted in her village under the Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP) with the technical assistance of FAO. In collaboration with District Livestock Service Office of Achham, Jashu attended the Farmers Field School on goat farming. She learned about goat vaccination to control *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), and also improved her goat shed after receiving grants from the project. As a result, she currently has 30 goats and earns US\$700 per year from this activity. As evidenced by Jashu's experience, the Farmers Field School approach has proved to be a powerful means of empowering rural women.

