



Asia Pacific workshop organized on empowering farmers through IPM



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Kathmandu- The Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) in collaboration with the Government of Nepal organized a 4-day Asia Pacific workshop on Empowering Farmers through Integrated Pest Management Farmers Field School (IPM FFS) in Support of Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production in the context of Climate Change in Kathmandu from 27 February to 2 March 2017.

Inaugurating the workshop, Ms. Radhika Tamang, Minister of State for Agricultural Development of the Government of Nepal, said that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field School (FFS) has been significant contributor in improving public and environmental health.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Government of Nepal in international conventions like FAO Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention, Minister of State Ms. Tamang expressed confidence that natural and biological control will gain momentum towards achieving a sustainable and feasible approach to replace chemical pesticides.

Dr Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative in Nepal and Bhutan, said that FAO support to the IPM program significantly contributed in the areas of human resource development, mainstreaming and institutionalization of IPM FFS in the country.

Dr Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer of FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific and Executive Secretary of

APPPC, said that FFS has been a successful approach to enhance the knowledge, skill and overall capacity of farmers.

Speaking from the chair, Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural development, hoped that the workshop will find a way-forward to address the emerging challenges like impacts of climate change and conservation of pollinators. He further highlighted that the IPM FFS approach has been successfully adopted and mainstreamed in the government extension system as an effective extension tool to empower the farming community.

Mr. Dila Ram Bhandari, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma, the Director of Plant Protection Directorate welcomed the participants and extended their best wishes for successful completion of the workshop.

29 experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the workshop. The participating experts made presentations on experiences gained in the implementation of IPM-FFS and the process of farmers' empowerment to support sustainable intensification of crop production in the context of climate change in their respective countries. The participants also observed pesticide residue testing facility at Kalimati vegetable market and visited few of the on-going FFS activities in Kavre district.

Initiative to reduce risks arising out of the unregulated cross-border movement of livestock and poultry



Kathmandu - A two-day Cross Border consultation meeting of veterinarians of the Gangetic plain countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal was jointly organized by FAO and SAARC Secretariat on 27-28 March 2017 in Kathmandu. The purpose of the consultation meeting was to develop a shared understanding of the risks of the transmission of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs), its impact due to cross border movement and to develop minimum joint strategies and mechanisms to reduce the risks arising out of the unregulated cross-border movement of livestock and poultry.

Speaking in the inaugural session of the meeting, Dr Yubak Dhoj GC, Secretary at the Ministry of Livestock Development, appreciated the efforts of the veterinarians of Nepal for controlling the outbreak of livestock diseases, despite the resources constraints.

Stating that the Region has common disease in human beings, animals and environment, Dr GC commended the efforts of the SAARC countries to control TADs.

Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, Representative of Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for Nepal and Bhutan, said that FAO provides technical assistance and advocacy support to the member countries for good management of animal health and control of TADs including emerging zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Somsak further elaborated that the global strategies for the progressive control of key livestock diseases, including Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Highly Pathogenic Avian

Influenza (HPAI) and Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), have been launched by FAO to address the global concern for these diseases.

Mr. Sangye Rinchen, Director Environment, Natural Disasters & Biotechnology (ENB) of the SAARC secretariat also addressed the meeting. He mentioned that in South Asia, the high impact TADs including Avian Influenza (AI) are causes of concern due to their impact on economics of livestock production and on livelihood of farmers besides the threat of emerging zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager, Emergency Center for Trans- boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) at FAO-Regional Office for Asia Pacific led the technical sessions and presented on account of best practices on cross-border dialogue held among ASEAN countries. Other presentations included value chain studies, animal movement and risks and opportunities for safe trade, country updates through gallery walks, group discussions and plenary session were made during the technical sessions. The meeting acknowledged and considered the expert inputs from the different prospective.

A set of recommendations were formulated for continuing and improving the cross-border coordination mechanism among the Gangetic Plain Countries. The participants also reviewed and updated cross border status as regard to livestock value-chains. 30 veterinarians from the four countries and FAO experts from Nepal and Regional office attended the meeting.

Scaling up efforts for green, clean and safe vegetable production



Lalitpur- Final results sharing meetings of two FAO supported Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) entitled “Strengthening pesticide management in agriculture to reduce risks to health and environment (TCP/NEP/3502)” and “Building Agribusiness Capacity of Smallholders Farmers to Market Safe Produce of Good Quality (TCP/NEP/3503)” implemented by the Plant Protection Directorate and the Agribusiness Promotion and Marketing Development Directorate of the Department of Agriculture respectively were organized in Lalitpur on 28-29 March 2017.

The focus of the TCP/NEP/3502 project was on reducing pesticide risks in agriculture and ensuring food safety, whereas the project TCP/NEP/3503 aimed at contributing to enhance market-oriented production, improved income of smallholder farmers and enhanced access of consumers to safe and quality produce.

Both the projects having duration of two years were implemented in the districts of Kavre, Dhading, Bara and Kapilvastu. The two projects were complementary to each other and focused on strengthening the capacity of the IPM farmers groups and participating farmers supported by the Integrated Pest Management Programme in the past. The major thrust of these projects were directed towards reducing pesticide misuse in agriculture through promoting IPM-based Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and eco-friendly pest management practices as well supporting the farmers and traders in production, promotion and marketing of safer crop products. The projects also heavily focused on creating awareness among the consumers on adverse effect of pesticides on human health, environment and benefits of using safer crop products to minimize the health risks.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that both the public and private sector should be involved with commitment and dedication to ensure the supply of safe food to the consumers.

He also suggested the concerned authorities to find out solutions to the problems related to the price fluctuation in the vegetable markets that appears from time to time as burning issues causing financial threats to the vegetable farmers.

Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative in Nepal and Bhutan, said that the projects have played a role to initiate and establish common platform for strengthening the government’s capacity on the residual monitoring and effective management of pesticide legislation and safe use. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Nepal, especially to the Plant Protection Directorate Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agricultural Development for the continued collaboration and cooperation with the FAO towards successful completion of the projects.

Speaking from the chair, Mr. Dila Ram Bhandari, the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, said that legal, administrative and technical interventions of the projects have been instrumental to produce manpower in pest management and educate the farmers on the market streamlining. He also thanked the FAO for the technical and financial assistance to both the projects.

Mr. Iswor Rijal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Agricultural development and Dr. Binod Saha, Assistant FAO Representatives also addressed the meeting.

Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma, the Director of the Plant Protection Directorate, who is also the National Project Coordinator of TCP/NEP 3502 and Mr Laxman Poudyal, Director of Agribusiness Promotion and Marketing Development Directorate and National Project Coordinator of TCP/NEP/3503 projects made detailed presentations on the achievements of the respective projects.

The meetings were attended by the government officials and FAO experts, representatives of farmers and consumer forums.

Nepal making headway to improve livelihood in rural areas

Achham- Currently, the Government of Nepal has mobilized funds received from Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to improve the food security and livelihoods of the people in the hills and mountains of the Far and Midwest regions.

Jashu Rana, 35 year woman of Kuntabandali VDC in Achham district, is facing the same situation like most of the women of the district. After her husband left home for India in search of work, she was toiling hard to look after her 4 sons aged between 5 to 15 years. Cattle rearing was the only source of income of Jashu. She had an old shed where goats were kept along with cows and buffaloes. She used to keep 8-10 goats. Because of lack of knowledge on goat rearing, her 4-6 goats died every year. The loss made her anxious. She thought of giving up goat rearing. In April, 2016, she heard about Farmer Field School to be conducted in her village by Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP) with the technical assistance of FAO. In collaboration with District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) of Achham, AFSP helped the villagers to form Workali Women Goat Rearing Reform Group (WWGRRG), which is a women group of the farmers having 25 rural women as its members. Jashu was also enrolled in the Group as a member. AFSP conducted Farmers Field School (FFS) on goat rearing for the members of the Group. FFS on goat rearing was conducted for a period of 15 months to provide training to the 25 members of the Group on goat rearing.

During the training, AFSP distributed grants to the members of the Group to construct improved sheds for goat rearing. The Group members also received forage and fodder seeds. Awareness on Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), also known as sheep and goat plague, is another important knowledge the Group received during the training.

For the first time in her life, Jashu witnessed vaccination of goats in the village to control PPR. She constructed the improved goat shed after receiving grants from the project. Improved process of goat rearing that she learnt in the FFS proved to be a boon to her. Jashu regained her confidence to keep up goat rearing.

According to Dr Mahesh Prasad Shreevastav, the District Technical Officer (Livestock) of AFSP, Jashu and the members of the WWGRRG learnt techniques to keep their goats healthy. Currently, she has 30 goats and earns NPR 70 000 per year from goat rearing. FFS proved to be a powerful medium in the process of empowering rural women. Encouraged by her



success she achieved within a year, Jashu says that she is planning to go for commercial goat rearing by upscaling her current status as a small holder.

Pesticide risk reduction training

Lalitpur-Two-day training on pesticide risk reduction and management was organized by the FAO Project on “Strengthening pesticides management in agriculture to reduce risk to health and environment (TCP/NEP/3502)” on 22-23 March 2017.

The training, participated by Plant Protection Officers of the Government of Nepal, was focused on reducing the health and environmental risks connected with the use of pesticides.

The training also highlighted the need of increasing public awareness on safe management of pesticides in order to make farmers in the rural areas aware of the risks involved in handling of pesticides.

During the training, the facilitators and participants had in depth discussion on the different aspects of the effectively managing, regulating and reducing pesticide risk in line with the FAO Code of Conduct.

The training was facilitated by experts from Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) and FAO namely Prof. Resham Bahadur Thapa, Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma, Dr. Damodar Sedhai, Prof. Shyam Lohani, Mr. Bhakta Raj Palikhe and Mr. Rajiv Das Rajbhandari.



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