



**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **FAO continues to support Government-led efforts to address food security and livelihood needs in the six districts most severely affected by the earthquakes:** Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dolakha.
- **FAO has already reached more than 130 000 vulnerable households with emergency assistance**, helping them to produce more food, protect existing food stores and improve the nutrition of families and livestock (providing rice seeds, grain storage bags, vegetable seeds and animal mineral supplements).
- While emergency interventions to improve food security and nutrition are still needed – particularly in remote areas – **now is also a critical time to help vulnerable farmers begin early recovery and rebuild resilient livelihoods.**
- **FAO will help Nepal’s farmers cope better with future crises** by investing in these early recovery activities:
  - Prevent post-harvest losses by providing immediate grain storage capacity.
  - Ensure vegetable and winter wheat crop planting through the provision of seeds.
  - Avoid a failure of upcoming winter crops by repairing small-scale irrigation infrastructure through community work.
  - Keep animals healthy and productive through the provision of mineral mixture, winter fodder seeds and equipment and training to produce mineral blocks.
  - Improve nutrition and promote income generation by helping rural women’s groups to develop year-round vegetable production.
- **In early June, the Nepal Food Security Cluster (FSC) released the ‘Agricultural Livelihood Impact Appraisal’** – an FSC exercise led by FAO – containing the first detailed analysis of the earthquakes’ impact on the crops, livestock, seed, farming tools and fertilizer of farming families in the six most affected districts. Key findings included:
  - very significant impact on stored crops (particularly rice, maize, millet) and seed availability (particularly rice, millet).
  - significant animal losses (cattle 16 percent; poultry 36 percent), animal health risks and reduced production.
  - damage to irrigation and other agricultural infrastructure
  - high agricultural tool loss, reduced household access to fertilizer and steep reduction in farm labour availability.
- **FAO also supported the Government’s Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**, taking a lead role in the agriculture sector component.

**BACKGROUND**

**Two major earthquakes struck the Western and Central Regions of Nepal on 25 April and 12 May (7.8 and 7.3 magnitude, respectively).** Millions of people were affected in a total of 39 districts, out of 75 districts countrywide. The affected areas range from Nepal’s largest cities (Kathmandu and Pokhara) to highly vulnerable rural areas.

FAO continues to work closely with the Government and FSC partners to meet the needs of affected populations, including supporting early recovery.

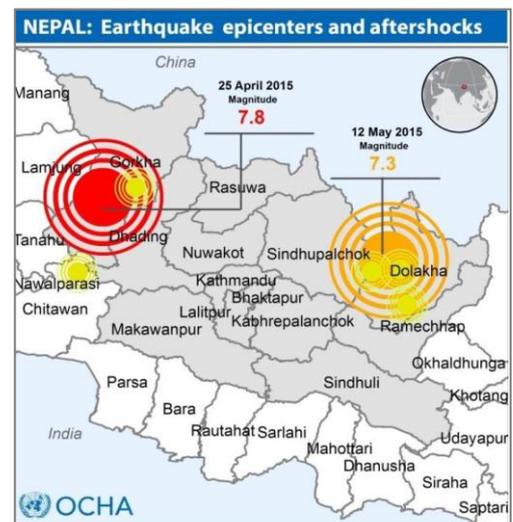
**AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS AND PRIORITIES**

❖ **High impact on food security and agricultural livelihoods.**

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for two-thirds of Nepal’s population, including many subsistence farmers. Affected families lost livestock, food and seed stocks, standing crops and agricultural inputs, while facing market disruptions and constrained movement of emergency assistance. Irrigation and drainage canals were also damaged.

❖ **Farmers need support now to protect the upcoming rice and maize crops (to be harvested in October), and to plant wheat for the winter season.**

Farmers need immediate grain storage capacity to avoid post-harvest losses of the rice and maize crops. Provision of more vegetable seeds is critical to ensure a nutritionally diverse diet and generate some income. Distribution of wheat seeds is now a priority for the winter season. Farmers also need mineral supplements and fodder seeds to protect the health and productivity of surviving livestock.



**Food Security Cluster**

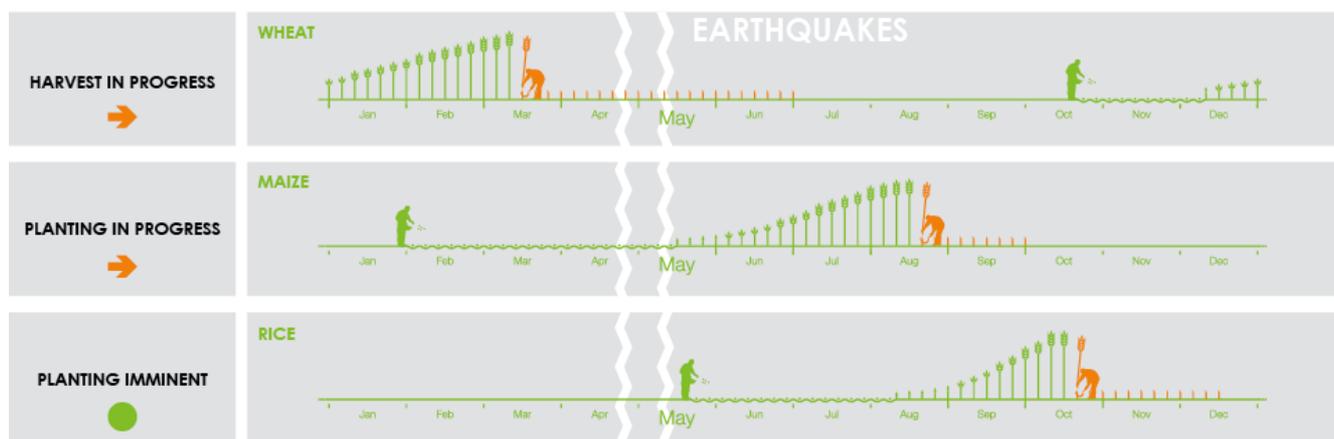
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❖ **There is also a critical window to preserve livestock.**

Livestock are a continuous source of food, income and draught power for rural families, and costly to replace. Further livestock losses can be prevented with timely veterinary services, feed and shelter.

❖ **Irrigation repair is crucial, especially for winter crops.**

The earthquakes seriously damaged irrigation infrastructure, which rural communities rely on for their crops, livestock and families. If not repaired quickly, this will seriously affect winter food production. Prevention and stabilization of landslides would also help to protect irrigation infrastructure and farmland.

**FAO RESPONSE**

**Immediately following the earthquakes, FAO:**

- activated a number of its emergency response protocols
- mobilized funds from its own resources to kick-start response
- deployed an emergency response team
- assessed agricultural damages in six districts.

**FAO has already distributed:**

- 5 kg bags of rice seeds to 40 000 households, to provide months of staple food
- grain storage bags to 40 000 households, to protect food salvaged from collapsed homes
- packets of mixed vegetable seeds to 65 000 households to improve nutrition, including fast-growing varieties which can be harvested in as little as a month; and
- 25 kg bags of animal feed supplements to 20 000 households, to keep surviving animals healthy and productive.

**In the coming weeks, FAO will provide:**

- 12 kg bags of wheat seeds to vulnerable households to provide months of staple food
- winter fodder seeds to 32 000 households and more animal mineral mixture to 105 000 households, to further boost the health and productivity of livestock
- more grain storage bags to avoid losses of valuable food; and
- more vegetable seeds to more than 45 500 households, for better nutrition

**FAO priorities include**


Grain/crop storage

Crop production packages (e.g. wheat and other cereal crops, vegetables)

Irrigation repair

Livestock feed

Veterinary supplies

Animal shelter

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