



HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO continues to support Government-led efforts to address and coordinate the response to food security and livelihood needs in the six most severely-affected districts:** Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dolakha.
- **Since April 2015, FAO has reached 240 000 households** with agricultural assistance.
- FAO supported a **Joint Assessment on Food Security, Livelihoods and Early Recovery Report** (released in November 2015), which provides a detailed analysis of the emergency response and its impact on farming families. The key findings include:
 - overall significant recovery in terms of food security amongst the affected population.
 - resilience and recovery demonstrated by households in the assessed areas since the earthquakes.
 - positive impact on affected families due to well-targeted response efforts.
 - general availability of basic staples (cereals and pulses) in areas difficult to access (high hills and remote rural areas), but decreased availability of more diversified and expensive products such as vegetables, seeds, agricultural tools and veterinary drugs.
 - continuous monitoring of vulnerable populations is required given the lower-than-expected rainfall during the monsoon season, early onset of winter and uncertainty of the ongoing border crisis.
- **FAO is now focused on longer-term recovery and resilience work** that is critical to help vulnerable farmers rebuild their livelihoods by investing in the following activities:
 - Prevent post-harvest losses by providing grain and seed storage metal bins.
 - Ensure spring vegetable and maize crop planting through seed distribution.
 - Support production of staples and high value crops by repairing small-scale irrigation schemes through community work.
 - Improve nutrition and promote income generation by distributing materials and provide training for the construction of protective plastic tunnels for winter vegetable production.
 - Keep animals healthy and productive by providing mineral mixture, training to produce mineral blocks and material to rehabilitate animal shelter.
- The **ongoing border crisis and the resulting import challenges** have significantly affected operations. However, FAO has been able to effectively identify alternative local procurement options to meet the needs of its beneficiaries.

BACKGROUND

Two major earthquakes struck the Western and Central Regions of Nepal on 25 April and 12 May 2015 (7.8 and 7.3 magnitude, respectively). Millions of people were affected throughout the country – four out of five people in the worst affected districts depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. FAO continues to work in a close collaboration with the Government of Nepal and Food Security Cluster partners to assist the vulnerable population, including support for early recovery activities.

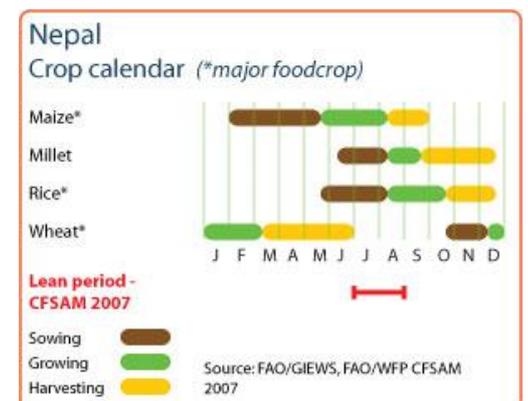
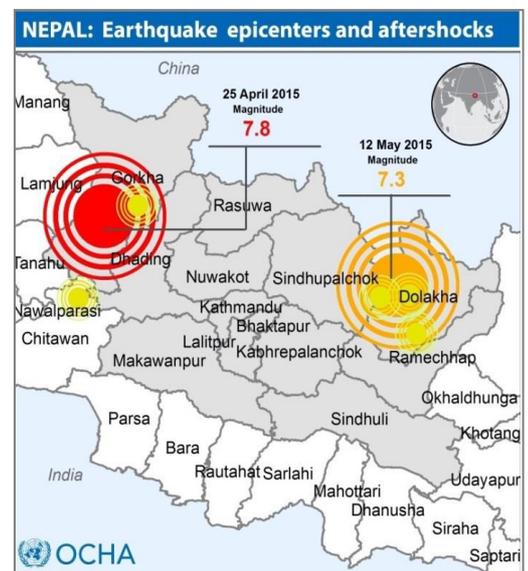
AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS AND PRIORITIES

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

Two-thirds of Nepali population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. The earthquake affected houses, livestock, food and seed stocks and standing crops. Similarly, damaged infrastructure including markets, roads, terraces and irrigation systems, further exacerbated the problems faced by the agriculture dependent communities, leaving poor families even more vulnerable.

❖ **Farmers need support for winter and spring planting and harvest**

Farmers need immediate grain storage capacity to avoid post-harvest losses of their rice and maize crops. Provision of more vegetable seeds is critical to ensure a nutritionally diverse diet and generate income. The distribution of maize seeds is a priority for spring. In addition, support is needed to rehabilitate critical irrigation infrastructure that was damaged by the earthquakes.



❖ **Critical need to protect livestock**

Livestock are a reliable source of food, income and draught power for rural families and are costly to replace. Livestock losses can be prevented with timely veterinary services, improved feed and rehabilitated shelter. Farmers and government partners are being provided technical support and training in these areas to ensure the adoption of these practices.

FAO RESPONSE

An FAO-supported **Joint Assessment on Food Security, Livelihoods and Early Recovery** – for which the results were released in November 2015 – highlighted that in the past nine months, significant progress has been made in reviving the agriculture sector in the aftermath of the earthquakes. Nevertheless, the assessment identified a critical need for long-term recovery and rehabilitation work.

In response, FAO is working in close collaboration with the Government and local agencies to address this need, supporting early response, recovery and rehabilitation. Working with local Non-governmental

Organization (NGO) partners with an understanding of the local context and traditional knowledge has helped to facilitate ownership and leadership of the recovery and rehabilitation activities. FAO is working with six different local NGO partners in the six worst affected districts. Partnerships with local civil society organizations have allowed FAO to ensure that its Accountability to Affected Populations strategy – which outlines measures for local participation and knowledge sharing – is adhered to throughout the response.

As of January 2016, FAO has already assisted:

- 42 000 households with 5 kg bags of rice seeds, to provide months of staple food;
- 40 000 households with grain and seed storage bags, to protect food and seed salvaged from collapsed homes;
- 80 000 households with packets of mixed vegetable seeds to improve nutrition, including fast-growing varieties which can be harvested in as little as a month;
- 20 000 households with 25 kg bags of animal feed supplements, to keep surviving animals healthy and productive;
- 25 385 households with 25 368 tonnes of wheat seeds in six districts; and
- 500 areas have been identified for the installation of drip irrigations systems for plastic covered tunnels for off-season vegetable production.

FAO's ongoing recovery and resilience work includes support for:

- Crop production: wheat seeds (10 kg bags) for 31 000 vulnerable households (starting in January 2016).
- Grain/seed storage metal bins: durable metal bins for 15 000 households.
- Vegetable production: additional vegetable seeds for 60 000 households to foster better nutrition, and plastic tunnels and training for 240 women's groups (6 000 households) for off-season vegetable production in winter and spring.
- Irrigation repair: rehabilitation of 15 small irrigation schemes managed by the user's groups; drip irrigation for 600 plastic-covered tunnels for off-season vegetable production benefiting women's groups in high mountain dry areas.
- Livestock feed: 85 machines for producing urea molasses mineral blocks for livestock growers in six districts; training of 2 000 farmers to make multi-nutrient mineral blocks; and supplementary animal feed for 105 000 households to boost livestock health.

Food Security Cluster

Working in partnership for an effective, coordinated and evidence-based response.

Co-led by FAO and WFP



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