

## **Project Title: Promotion of agriculture and livestock business practice for Women through self-help approach**

**Start Date: January 2013**

**End Date: April 2014**

**Location: Dhap VDC of Darchula District**

**Donor: National Agricultural Research and Development Fund (NARDF)**

**Collaborating Organizations: DADO Darchula, DLSO Darchula and CRDS-Nepal**

**Budget: NRs.999,100.00**

**Synopsis:** This project was initiated with the aim of encouraging the women population through self-help approach; particularly disadvantaged, Dalit and indigenous group, to be economically active, thus ensuring the maximum utilization of human resource (including the female population) for overall socio-economic status build-up of the district. The project also aimed to improve socio-economic status of target groups by strengthening the local institutions and mobilizing communities to adopt market-oriented production practices. The project focused on assisting women farmers for production of seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables including small livestock production, thereby increasing household income. As a result, 151 households directly benefited from the project, both economically and through social empowerment.

The farmers involved in the project had an opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge from economic activities such as small-scale agriculture entrepreneurship. Capacity building of farmers played significant role to develop their potential. Production of seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables and small livestock business (goat husbandry) helped them to increase their income. Similarly many households were benefited from the commercial production of ginger and turmeric. So the project was successful in promoting agriculture and livestock business practice as a good source of income for local farmers.

**Project title: Promoting wider dissemination of True Potato Seed (TPS) Technology in the remote hill districts for enhancing food security**

**Start Date: August 2007**

**End Date: March 2010**

**Location: Dailekh (Baluwatar and Odhari VDCs) and Kalikot (Odanku and Chilkhaya VDCs)**

**Donor: National Agricultural Research and Development Fund (NARDF)**

**Collaborating Organizations: NPDP- Khumaltar, DADOs of Dailekh and Kalikot**

**Budget: NRs.1,996,032.00**

**Synopsis:** The hilly districts of Nepal generally face food scarcity problem due to the low productivity of cereal crops including potato. Every year the Government of Nepal spends a significant amount in the transportation of food in the hilly areas to meet the food demand of local people. As such, the project was initiated with the aim of minimizing the food insecurity problem through the introduction of improved technology by utilizing True Potato Seed (TPS) for food production.

The project was successful in increasing production and improving the accessibility of quality potato seeds in the project areas. It also helped the farmers to reduce the production cost of potato crops while minimizing the incidence of diseases and pests. Enhanced production of potato contributed to food security in the target areas. The project was designed in such a way that a large number of potato growing farmers and other key stakeholder were directly involved through participatory action research that helped in wider dissemination and scaling-up of the projects after its termination.

It is estimated that about 300 farmer households were directly benefited from the project.

**Project Title: Development of agricultural market network to enhance the market access of agricultural products of rural farmers.**

**Start Date: July 2009**

**End Date: July 2012**

**Location: Pyuthan District**

**Donor: National Agricultural Research and Development Fund (NARDF)**

**Collaborating Organizations: DADO, Pyuthan and Kalika Development Center, Bijuwar, Pyuthan**

**Budget NRs.2,916,005.68**

**Synopsis:** Funded by NARDF, the project focused on different VDCs of Pyuthan district by connecting them to develop a network of agricultural markets. Resulting from the project intervention, an effective and sustainable market network flourished in the district that helped to modernize agriculture. The project was successful in establishing various collection centers of agricultural products (mostly fresh produce) for exporting outside the district. This ended the monopoly of middleman to set market price of agricultural produce and helped the farmers to bargain and garner reasonable price of their farm products.

The project also played a key role in developing social and market infrastructure through networking. Collective effort of farmers resulted in the formation of Agricultural Cooperatives and specialized production groups. SDRC-Nepal also facilitated the implementation of income generating activities related to agricultural production and livestock husbandry that uplifted the economic condition of farmers.

This project led to the formation of six agricultural cooperatives and establishment of six vegetable collection centers. It is estimated that 900 farmer households directly benefited from the project.