

Sharing learning of Local Infrastructure for Livelihoods Improvement (LILI)  
in the F2F meeting of SDC of Agriculture+Food Security network  
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## Guiding questions

- General introduction about the context in which the project is located: size and type of farming; economic situation; agricultural policy; support to farmers; social environment etc.
- Key principles of SDC's intervention: predominant focus; how are broader issues as gender, sustainability etc. addressed; how is the intervention taking up policies, hypothesis of change etc.
- Outcomes and impact of the intervention: economic benefit; social benefit; was the approach appropriate; need for adjustment, etc.

## **Guiding question 1**

**General introduction about the context in which the project is located: size and type of farming; economic situation; agricultural policy; support to farmers; social environment etc.**

Typical Nepalese hill farm terrain



## **General introduction:**

- Among the poorest countries of the world with 25% people being poor
- Became net food importing country since late eighties
- The poverty rate of discriminated groups is almost twice the national average
- Most of the poor are in rural areas and poverty is closely associated to a poor access, stagnant agricultural growth and rural economy
- Migration of male youth from rural areas became the bitter reality
- 26% HHs are women headed
- Farm labor shortage and feminization of agricultural tasks ever increasing
- High need of technologies and response mechanisms to make small farm holders economic, efficient and relevant through enhanced land and labor productivity

## **Agriculture:**

- 65% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and contribute 35% of the GDP
- Agricultural sector in Nepal has made progress in several indicators of well-being and development
- Income per capita and productivity of agricultural labor have increased, poverty has reduced, and malnutrition has declined
- However, the sector is in a low development stage: irrigation coverage has increased by less than 1% every year from 40% in 95/96 to 54% in 10/11
- The weak performance of agriculture sector has created strong incentives for a large part of the most productive labor force (the ones in 20 to 40 age group) to seek employment abroad. The departure of migrants has reached the level of more than 400,000 in 2012/13.

## **Irrigation-A missed opportunity**

- Out of 2.64 million hectares (ha) cultivable land in the country, 1.76 million ha(s) is irrigable
- Irrigation facility - 54% of irrigable land
- 15% irrigated in the hills , 81% in Terai
- Year round irrigation – 18% of irrigable land

# **Relevance to national priorities and Swiss cooperation strategy**

## **Beneficiary**

For beneficiaries / farmers high, the availability of water for irrigation is of outstanding importance for improving livelihoods of farmers

## **Alignment with local priorities**

VDC/DDC: viable model for addressing the priorities of marginalized farmers, key sub-sector of district economy, potential coverage 40%

## **Alignment with national strategies**

National: viable model for addressing marginal farmers, adoption of approach by DoLIDAR

National policy: in line with Local Irrigation Development Plan, Agriculture Development Strategy

Swiss Cooperation Strategy: Thematic focus, i.e. food security, and principles: Targeting Disadvantaged Groups, fighting inequality

**Small irrigation serves the small holders – addresses more the DAGs**

## **Guiding question 2**

**Key principles of SDC's intervention: predominant focus; how are broader issues as gender, sustainability etc. addressed; how is the intervention taking up policies, hypothesis of change etc.**



# Specificities of the project-LILI

## **Goal:**

Improved food security of small farmers in the rural areas (Minimum 50% of farmers with less than 5 Ropani (in case of pond irrigation) and 9 Ropani (in case of canal irrigation) of land under FMIS during the time of project selection)

## **Outcome 1:**

Small farmers and DAGs, manage and maintain farmer - managed irrigation systems (FMIS) and derive benefits in an equitable way Groups of the (economically) poor who are suffering from gender/caste/ethnicity based social discrimination

## **Outcome 2:**

DDCs/VDCs, local service providers (agricultural/ technical/ social) and local resource person (LRP) respond to priority needs for FMIS

## **One of the outputs related to gender, sustainability..:**

- Socially discriminated groups are proportionately represented in User Committees (indicators All UCs have following representation:
  - Proportionate by caste
  - 40% women
  - at least one member in key position from socially discriminated groups
  - one from tail of the canal
- UCs are aware of issues of women, DAGs and landless-poor











### **Guiding question 3**

**Outcomes and impact of the intervention: economic benefit; social benefit; was the approach appropriate; need for adjustment, etc.**

# Achievements and Learning from LLI

## Socio-economic Impact

- Increased food sufficiency [50 to 100% months]
- Healthier diet (vegetables)
- Income increased by 50 to 100% [4'500 – 11'000 / HH] [1'200 – 3'000 / ropani]
- 269 completed and 95 ongoing schemes covering 2'700 ha land, 13'408 hhs (62% DAG)
- Schooling of children increased
- Seasonal migration to India changed significantly

# **Sustainability of the impact**

**Impacts will last, more so if linkage to agriculture extension and marketing can be improved**

**Incidence of poverty in irrigated areas is half than that in rainfed areas**

**Small irrigation systems are more effective than medium or large systems in targeting Dis-Advantaged Groups (DAGs)**

**Targeting smallholder farmers and influencing their land and water management offers greatest opportunity for reducing poverty and helping DAGs**

**In LILI the irrigation schemes helped to increase food sufficiency by 50 to 100%**

**Increased and diversified production improves the nutritional diet and through marketing of surplus, farmers increased income by more than 100%**

**Offer optimal 'backward and forward linkages' to farmers for delivering the identified complementary services**

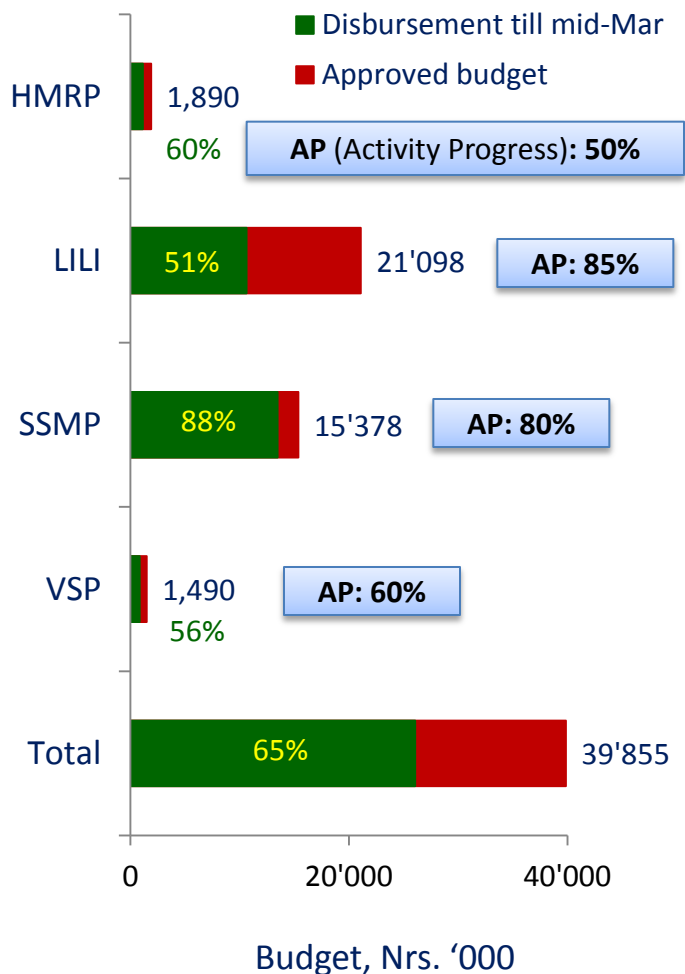
**Providing an alternative option to possible migrants and returnees in productive agriculture  
Work with the national and the local governments – on developing strategies, policies and implementation.**

**Institutionalizing District Irrigation Master Plans - bringing legitimacy to the long term plans by discussing and getting it approved in the council.**



**How things functioning at the field level?**

# 2013/14 year's budget, outcomes & partners: Ramechhap District



Approved budget & status of disbursement & progress till mid-Mar for the FY 2013/014

H  
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- 1.5 mt maize seed (out of marketed 10 mt) exported to other districts (**28% of DPP-targeted seed requirement**),
- DADO, HCRP-Dolakha & DOS Gorkha.

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- 22 FMIS (10 PI, 12 CI) covered command area of 154 ha (**11.1% of DPP target**) benefitting 879 hhs,
- Out of 879 hhs, 447 hhs linked with agricultural services (AFEC-SSMP),
- MSWC & TSS.

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- 3,500 hhs adopted  $\geq 2$  SSM practices (**14% of DPP target**),
- 2,193 hhs earned worth of  $\geq$  Nrs. 20,000 /hh from vegetable/cash crop sale,
- 144 ELF's (86 new ELF's) mobilized to serve 280 FGs (6,160 hhs) (**9% of DPP target on ELF development**),
- AFECs, FtF Committee, CHURDEP, JYC, MSWC, SSYC, SYS, TSS.

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- 8 mt vegetable seed produced (**114% of DPP target**) - 5.5 mt seed worth of Nrs. 8,37,302 marketed till now,
- 51 mt fresh vegetable worth of Nrs. 15,31,130 marketed,
- DADO.

# Synergies within & beyond

- 67% of sampled (237) hhs from 14 FMIS reported at least 50% increase in maize yield,
- LILI-facilitated UCs given priority by AFECs for agricultural support,
- 212 hhs from LILI-FMIS covered by SSMP, HMRP, VSP, PAF in 4 irrigation schemes in road corridor VDCs,

- 20 ELFs & 5 VSP-facilitated farmers trained on HG technologies,
- DSCC members trained on decentralized agriculture extension system,
- 2 ELFs trained on cardamom production, 4 ELFs on Kiwi production by DADO,
- DDC contributed in institutionalization of agri-programme in AFEC-upscaling VDCs,

- LAPA preparation and implementation via AFEC in 18 VDCs,
- Agricultural & forestry programme planning & implementation via AFEC.



Murkhauli Canal Irrigation Scheme of Bijulikot 5



Cardamom training organized for Leader Farmers by DADO

# **How the learning is being further used in upcoming programme under Agriculture Growth Initiative (SIP, NASDP, NAMDP)**

Design of new programme-Small Irrigation Programme

## **Outcomes**

Small farmers and disadvantaged groups use, manage and maintain farmers-managed irrigation system and derive benefits in an equitable way, and

Local bodies and local service providers respond to priority needs of small farmers related with small irrigation.

One of the outputs: Improved agriculture practices (linkage with agriculture programme)

# Beneficiary and outreach

## Small farmers

- The subsistence farmers commanding from 0.5 to 1.0 hectares in size comprise 27 percent of rural families and farm 24 percent of the total.
- They are mostly subsistence producers with minimal all year round irrigation facility for survival as purely subsistence farmers.
- Those farmers with half to one hectare of land could achieve a substantial increase in family income from improved farming practices if all year round irrigation is made available to them.

## Landless and near landless

- Comprise nearly half of the rural population but command only 15 percent of the land.
- Half are landless and half have less than 0.5 hectares of land.
- Very little can be done to raise the income of this group through increased agricultural productivity.

For the First phase of 4 years:

**27,000 Subsistence farmers household holding 0.5 – 1 ha per phase, out of which 6'700 are estimated to be the women headed agriculture dependent households.**

**Implementation strategy: Complementarity and strong linkages with agriculture extension programme**

# Nepal Agricultural Services/Market-Development Programme

## NASDP

### Institutional arrangement:

Complimentary with SIP and NAMDP in particular

### Defining common indicators:

Specially with SIP on productivity enhancement, introduction of improved technologies, cash crops and market management technologies with NAMDP

### Linking with national and local state programme and priorities:

Specially with the Local State building programme through the support in implementation of District Periodic Plan (DPP)

Linking with other development partners such as ADB, EU, JICA, USAID, DANIDA programme

## NAMDP

### Phase 1 Impact targets

- 30'000 semi-commercial and commercial producers increase their net annual income by NRS 20'000 (approximately \$ 200), of which
- **30% are women-led production units;**
- 2000 new employments are created for **poor and disadvantaged people.**

### Phase 1 Outcomes

- Increased **access** to improved market systems and embedded services for small and poor producers leads to higher sale volumes;
- Increased **value addition** leads to higher returns for primary producers and creates additional jobs in emerging processing industry;
- Increased in-country MSD/M4P **capacities** lead to positive and sustained practice change.

**Thank you for this opportunity to share Nepal based case  
and  
happy to learn from your experiences!**