



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Food and Nutrition Security Enhancement Project (FANSEP)

Report on COVID-19 Response Activities

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Project Management Unit

Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur

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I. Introduction

The Food and Nutrition Security Enhancement Project (FANSEP) is funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), supervised by the World Bank (WB) and the technical assistance is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) of the United Nations. The project is implemented in 16 Rural Municipalities (RMs) of four mid-hills districts (Gorkha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha), and four terai districts (Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha and Saptari) of Nepal.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted agricultural production. As the pandemic spreads, the smallholder farming communities are hit hard due to the disruptions in supply chains in delivering public services such as agricultural assets and services. Such disruptions in peak farming season affected food and nutrition security of small holder farming communities. In this backdrop, the FANSEP promptly decided and responded to the smallholder farmers to enhance the access of quality seeds to increase agricultural and livestock productivity and sustain food and nutrition security.

II. Implementation Arrangement, Coordination and collaboration

Despite the ongoing lockdown in the country, PCUs strongly coordinated with the local government (Rural Municipalities), district administration offices, local service providers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), research centers of the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and government farms to supply the quality seeds to the farmers. Seeds were handed over to the rural municipalities to ease the target and reach the needy communities as aimed by the project. The technicians from the PCU and local service providers were mobilized to distribute the seeds at rural municipalities.

Key Achievement

Seed distribution

The certified and improved seeds of rice, finger millet, vegetables and fodder/forage/grass were distributed in close coordination and consultation with the rural municipalities.

Distribution of Rice Seeds

Rice is one of the staple food crops in Nepal, which is mostly grown during the rainy season. In the irrigated areas, early rice is also commonly practiced. FANSEP distributed 36.916 MT of rice in four mid-hills and four terai districts of Nepal. The following table summarizes the distribution of rice seeds in the project area.

Table 1. Rice seed distribution

Cluster	District	Rural Municipalities	Variety	Quantity (Kg)	Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income ('000)
Dhanusha	Mahottari	Pipara	Lalaka Basmati, Kalanamak, Swarna Sub 1, Sawa Mansuli sub1, Bahuguni 1 & 2, Ram dhan, Radha 14,	4975	111	333	7700

			Hardinath Hybrid F1, NR 2167				
		Ekdara	Lalaka Basmati, Kalanamak, Swarna Sub 1, Sawa Mansuli sub1, Bahuguni 1 & 2, Ram dhan, Radha 14, Hardinath Hybrid F1, NR 2167	3600	80	240	6000
	Dhanusha	Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	Swarna sub 1, Lalaka Basmati, Bahuguni 1, Bahuguni 2, Ram Dhan, Radha 14, Hardinath Hybrid F1, NR 2167, Kalanamak, Sawa Mansuli sub1	7750	172	516	11550
		Dhanauji	Swarna sub 1, Lalaka Basmati, Bahuguni 1, Bahuguni 2, Ram Dhan, Radha 14, Hardinath Hybrid F1, NR 2167, Kalanamak, Sawa Mansuli sub1	6075	135	405	9300
Subtotal				22400	498	1494	34550
Saptari	Saptari	Aurahi	Bahuguni 2, Swarna sub 1	1350	22.6	101.7	2847.6
		Bariyarpatti	Bahuguni 2, Ram, Swarna sub 1	2175	36.3	163.35	4573.8
	Siraha	Rajgadh	Bahuguni 2, Ram, Swarna sub 1	3697	61.75	277.87	7780.36
		Bishnupur	Bahuguni 2	870	14.55	65.47	1833.16
Subtotal				8092	135.2	608.39	17034.92
Gorkha	Gorkha	Barpak Sulikot	Khumal 4	100	2	6	360
	Dhading	Gajuri	Khumal 4	100	2	6	360
Subtotal				200	4	12	720
Sindhupalchok	Sindhupalchok	Indrawati	Makwanpur 1, Khumal 4, Khumal 8, Mallika	2540	42.33	105.83	2963.33
		Lisankhupakhar	Machha puchhre 3, Lumle 2, Chhomrong, Sukhha 3	1740	20.8	52.1	1458.33
	Dolakha	Tamakoshi	Chaite 5, Sukhha 3, Hardinath 3	1500	33.33	83.3	2333.3
		Kalinchok	Khumal 4, Khumal 8, Hardinath 3	444	7.4	18.5	518
Subtotal				6224	103.86	259.73	7272.96
Grand Total				36916	741.06	2374.12	59577.88

Distribution of Finger Millet Seeds

Finger millet is considered as one of the most nutritious cereals with high nutrient contents such as carbohydrate, protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals. It has a huge potential to enhance food and nutrition security of the small holder farmers. FANSEP distributed 691 Kgs of Finger millet seeds in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok district. The following table summarizes the distribution of Finger millet seeds in the project area.

Table 2. Finger millet seed distribution

Cluster	District	Rural Municipalities	Variety	Foundation Seeds		Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income ('000)
				Quantity (kg)	Coverage area (Ropani)			
Gorkha	Dhading	Benighat Rorang	Kabre kodo 1, 2	90	180	9	15	825
		Gajuri	Kabre kodo 1, 2 and Sailung 2	90	180	9	15	825
Subtotal				180	360	18	30	1650
Sindhupalchok	Sindhupalchok	Lisankhu Pakhar	Kabre kodo 1, 2, Dalle, Okhle and Sailung 2	212	424	10.6	7.42	207.76
		Dolakha	Tamakoshi	Kabre kodo 2	90	180	4.5	3.15
	Dolakha	Kalinchok	Sailung 1, Kabre 2	209	418	10.45	7.31	204.82
				511	1022	25.55	17.88	500.78
Grand Total				691	1382	43.55	47.88	2150.78

Distribution of Vegetable Seeds

1664.72 kgs of vegetable composite seed packages were distributed in four mid-hills and terai districts of Nepal. Composite seed packages of vegetables including brinjal, squash, chilly, okra and beans were distributed to increase income of the households. One composite packet is expected to cover around 3 ropani of the land. The project also promoted the production of vegetables to increase the consumption and nutrient intake of the smallholder farmers, and distributed composite packets of vegetables including cowpea, beans, okra, broad leaf mustard, radish, pumpkin, beans, bitter gourd and chilly (akabare), considering the agro-climatic conditions and demand of the farmers. The table below summarizes the distribution of vegetable seeds in the project area.

Table 3. Distribution of vegetable seeds for income promotion and nutrition security

Cluster	District	Municipalities	Vegetable seeds (Kg)	Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income ('000)
Dhanusha	Mahottari	Pipara	56.15	25.13	630	9228
		Ekdara	56.15	25.13	630	9228
	Dhanusha	Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	76.15	34.09	855	12515
		Dhanauji	77.05	34.49	865	12663
Subtotal			265.5	118.8	2980	43634
Saptari	Saptari	Aurahi	99.1	37	444	6504
		Bariyarpatti	99.1	37	444	6504
	Siraha	Rajgadh	98.6	36.85	442.2	6477
		Bishnupur	98.6	36.85	442.2	6477
Subtotal			395.4	147.72	1772.4	25962
Gorkha	Gorkha	Barpak Sulikot	40.625	2	30	900
		Gandaki	40.625	2	30	900
	Dhading	Gajuri	40.625	2	30	900
		Benighat Rorang	40.625	2	30	900
Subtotal			162.5	8	120	3600
Sindhupalchok	Sindhupalchok	Indrawati	169.38	63.42	938.29	23722.45
		Lisankhupakhar	214.48	70.92	1050.79	26534.95
	Dolakha	Tamakoshi	204.48	65.92	975.79	24659.95
		Kalinchok	246.98	83.42	1238.29	31222.45
Subtotal			841.32	283.68	4203.16	106139.8
Grand Total			1664.72	558.22	9075.56	179335.8

Distribution of Forage Seeds

The year round availability of fodder and forage seeds are very important to increase the meat and milk productivity. Therefore, the project distributed 628 Kg of forage seeds (Teosinte), 160 kg forage seed

(Sudan) and 3000 sets of Super Napier from Saptari and Dhanusha Cluster. The table below summarizes the distribution of forage seeds/sets in the selected project districts and municipalities.

Table 4. Distribution of forage seeds/sets

Forage seeds/Sets distribution										
Cluster	District	Municipalities	Forage seeds (Teosinte, Sudan - Kg)	Forage sets: Super Napier sets (no)	Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)		Estimated production (Metric ton)		Estimated total income ('000)	
					Forage seeds	Forage sets	Forage seeds	Forage sets	Forage seeds (3rupees per kg)	Forage sets (5rupees per kg)
Saptari	Siraha	Aurahi +Bariyarpatti	225	1500	7	0.167	262.5	20	787.5	100
	Saptari	Bishnupur+Rajgad	275	1500	8	0.167	320	20	960	100
Dhanusha	Dhanusha	Dhanauji	80	0	3	0	60	0	240	0
		Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	80	0	3	0	60	0	240	0
	Mahottari	Pipara	68	0	2	0	40	0	204	0
		Ekdara	60	0	2	0	40	0	180	0
Total			788	3000	25	0.334	782.5	40	2611.5	200

Issues/Challenges and way forward

- The seeds were not sufficiently available in the market to meet the demand of the farmers as the seed market was also disrupted.
- The ongoing lockdown decision of the government affected smooth mobility, transportation, and distribution of seeds to the beneficiaries.
- The coordination and collaboration among the PCUs, the rural municipalities, local service providers, the FAO TA team and the initiatives taken by the local communities helped in the smooth implementation of COVID-19 response activities.

Pictures

Seed distribution from Dhanusha Cluster



Seed distribution from Saptari Cluster



Seed distribution from Gorkha Cluster



Seed distribution from Sindhupalchok Cluster

