



**Government of Nepal**

**Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development**

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**Implementation Progress Report**

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# ACRONYMS

AITC	Agriculture Information and Training Center
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease 19
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CTOs	Cluster Technical Officers
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
FANSEP	Food and Nutrition Security Enhancement Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBS	Farm Business School
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLT	Field Level Technicians
FY	Fiscal Year
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme
GoN	Government of Nepal
HNGs	Home Nutrition Gardens
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LoA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSNP	Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan
MSP	Multi Stakeholder's Dialogue Platform
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NFS	Nutrition Field School

PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAs	Productive Alliances
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PMIS	Project Management Information System
PMU	Project Management Unit
PCUs	Project Cluster Units
RM	Rural Municipality
SM	Social Mobilizer
SP	Service Provider
TA	Technical Assistance
ToF	Training of Facilitators
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TV	Television
WB	World Bank

# **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Food and Nutrition Security Enhancement Project (FANSEP) is designed to enhance the food and nutrition security of targeted communities of Terai and Mid-Hills districts of Nepal through the set of project interventions under various components such as (a) Climate and Nutrition Smart Technology Adaptation and Dissemination, (b) Income Generation and Diversification; (c) Improving Nutrition Security; and (d) Project Management, Communication, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The project aims to reach nearly 65,000 beneficiaries (of which 65% women) directly over the period of five years. The total funding of this project is US\$ 28.7 million of which Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP) contribution is US \$ 22.7 million and the Government of Nepal (GoN) contribution is US\$ 6 million. The grant agreement was signed between GoN and IDA (World Bank) on November 14, 2018. Pursuant to this a grant agreement (TFOA8013) responsibility of technical assistance (UTF/NEP/077/NEP), worth of US\$ 4.6 million, was given to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on July 18, 2019.

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 Corona Virus Disease (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.

### **1.1 Project Development Objective**

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to enhance climate resilience, improve agricultural productivity and nutrition practices of targeted smallholder farming communities in selected areas of Nepal. Climate resilience in this project is defined as beneficiaries' ability to withstand and recover from climatic shocks, particularly droughts, heavy and erratic rainfall. This would be achieved through the promotion and adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices as well as diversification in crops grown and additional income generation. Nutrition security will be realized through increased crop and livestock productivity, diversified production, increased household income, improvement in score on food insecurity experience scale and improved dietary intake for pregnant and nursing mothers and children between 6 to 24 months.

### **1.2 Overall Design**

The four main interrelated components of FANSEP contribute for the attainment of overall project development objective. These components combined will enhance the role of the agriculture sector in contributing to socioeconomic development, including sustained improvement in the key dimensions of

food and nutrition security (that is, availability and stability of food supply), accessibility, and food safety. Gender equity, social inclusion and citizen engagement, and building resilience to climate and other risks will be cross-cutting themes across all components.

### **1.3 Project Components**

**Component A: Climate and Nutrition Smart Agriculture Technology Adaptation and Dissemination.** The objective is to improve productivity and post-harvest management of crops and livestock by promoting appropriate climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive technologies through improved extension and research services and efficient dissemination to producers. Attention will be given to ensure inclusion of women and youth, and other vulnerable segments of the rural population, in addition to strengthening the decentralized government structures for effective service delivery at the local level.

**Component B: Income Generation and Diversification.** The objective is to improve and diversify the income-generating capacity of targeted beneficiaries by reducing transaction costs through investments in critical business skills and productive assets, supporting value-added activities, and building market linkages.

**Component C: Improving Nutrition Security.** This component aims to address the underlying causes of malnutrition by making the food system responsive to these causes to provide adequate, safe, diversified, and nutrient-rich food.

**Component D: Project management, communication, and M&E.** The main objectives are to (a) ensure effective strategic and operational planning, implementation, and M&E of project activities, and attendant efficient use of funds, as well as coordination of interventions across Components A, B, and C implemented by participating stakeholders and strategic partners (for example, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO]); (b) evaluate the project's outcomes and impacts on beneficiary groups, with special focus on midterm and final results; and (c) communicate efficiently to various public and private entities on project activities, outcomes, best practices, and lessons learned.

## **2. PROGRESS AGAINST RESULT FRAME WORK**

At the initial phase, project focused mainly on the establishment of offices, procurement of necessary items, staff arrangements and agreement with FAO for Technical Assistance (TA). In addition, from the March 2020, project is also affected by the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic to implement the project activities in the field. The necessary guidelines, manuals and training curricula required for the project are prepared, which will be very helpful for all project personnel to implement FANSEP interventions. In the meantime, as a response to COVID-19 Pandemic, FANSEP reached to 21,759 beneficiaries (male: 12265 and female: 9494) with agricultural assets (40.06 MT seeds of rice, vegetables, finger millet and forage).

## **3. PROGRESS OF THIRD TRIMESTER AND ANNUAL PERIOD**

The physical progress made during third trimester and cumulative progress made during Fiscal Year (FY) 2076/77 (July 16, 2019 to July 15, 2020) is presented in this chapter. In the FY 2076/2077, the physical and financial progresses are: 42.16% and 40.67%. In the same way, the physical and financial progresses in third trimester are 35.46% and 29.98%, respectively. During this period, FANSEP also submitted concept note for additional financing to complement the project activities and achieving pre designed project development objective. The progresses made under various project components are described separately under following sub headings.

### **3.1 Progress on Component A: climate and nutrition smart technology adaptation and dissemination**

This component will directly support the PDO through the introduction and promotion of climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices by availing adapted technologies and better performing plant and animal genetic resources and capacitating farmers to master skills for improved agronomic and animal husbandry practices.

To enhance effective implementation of this component and validation of the climate and nutrition smart agricultural technology to increase crop and livestock productivity and dietary intake of pregnant & lactating women and children below 2 years, project has made a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) on 23 December 2019.

Under this component, all the preparatory documents such as training curricula, technical manuals and tool kits for 14 days Training of Trainers (ToT)/ Training of Facilitators (ToF) and five/eight days' refresher course for FFS (Crop, and Livestock - dairy, goat, and poultry) has been prepared. Operational guidelines for implementation of dairy, goat and backyard poultry promotion program interventions of the project are also drafted. Preparation of FFS guidelines and diary (crop, dairy, goat and poultry) has been completed. The potential climate smart technologies<sup>1</sup> have been identified, which can be promoted for validation and adoption at farmer's production environments.

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.

#### **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. Field technicians from service providers of FAO TA were mobilized to support distribution of these seeds with adequate safety measures in to mitigate the effect of COVID-19. Altogether, 21,759 beneficiaries (male: 12265 and female: 9494) were benefitted with 40.06 MT seeds of rice, vegetables, finger millet and forage.

#### **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 to 2929 beneficiaries (male: 1995 & female: 970) 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.

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<sup>1</sup> animal shed improvement and manure management, production of green forage and plantation of fodder trees/ shrubs and perennial pasture including drought/ water logging tolerant varieties and prevention and control of infectious/ trans boundary animal diseases, cross-breeding with productive breeds to reduce emission intensities etc.

**Table 1. Rice seed distribution**

District	Rural Municipalities	Quantity (Kg)	Beneficiaries			Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income NPR ('000)
			Male	Female	Total			
Mahottari	Pipara	4975	171	77	248	111	333	7700
	Ekdara	3600	151	117	268	80	240	6000
Dhanusha	Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	7750	524	167	691	172	516	11550
	Dhanauji	6075	206	308	514	135	405	9300
Saptari	Aurahi	1350	77	9	86	22.6	101.7	2847.6
	Bariyarpatti	2175	136	1	137	36.3	163.35	4573.8
Siraha	Rajgadh	3697	173	28	201	61.75	277.87	7780.36
	Bishnupur	870	79	3	82	14.55	65.47	1833.16
Gorkha	Barpak Sulikot	100	6	2	8	2	6	360
Dhading	Gajuri	100	3	1	4	2	6	360
Sindhupalchok	Indrawati	2540	199	29	228	42.33	105.83	2963.33
	Lisankhupakhar	1740	117	80	197	20.8	52.1	1458.33
Dolakha	Tamakoshi	1500	89	143	232	33.33	83.3	2333.3
	Kalinchok	444	28	5	33	7.4	18.5	518
<b>Total</b>		36916	1995	970	2929	741.06	2374.12	59577.88

Source: FANSEP Cluster offices and compiled by M&E team, PMU FANSEP, July 2020

### 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 Kg of Finger millet seeds were distributed to 452 beneficiaries (male: 269, female: 183) in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok districts. The following table summarizes the distribution of Finger millet seeds in the project area.

**Table 2. Finger millet seed distribution**

District	Rural Municipalities	Foundation Seeds		Beneficiaries			Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income ('000)
		Quantity (kg)	Coverage area (Ropani)	Male	Female	Total			
Dhading	Benighat Rorang	90	180	55	55	110	9	15	825
	Gajuri	90	180	13	4	17	9	15	825
Sindhupalchok	Indrawati	50	100	8	1	9	3.27	2..29	64.12
	Lisankhu Pakhar	162	324	79	45	124	7.33	5,13	143.64
Dolakha	Tamakoshi	90	180	34	45	79	4.5	3.15	88.2
	Kalinchok	209	418	80	33	113	10.45	7.31	204.82
		691	1382	269	183	452	43.55	47.88	2150.78

Source: FANSEP Cluster offices and compiled by M&E team, PMU FANSEP, July 2020



## Distribution of Vegetable Seeds

Vegetable is considered as one of the important food items in Nepal, which is rich in nutrition and income generating business for the rural households. During the Covid-19 pandemic 1664.72 kg of vegetable composite seed packages were distributed to 17,352 beneficiaries (male: 9247 and female: 8105) 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 (0.15 ha.) 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**

District	Municipalities	Vegetable seeds (Kg)	Beneficiaries			Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)	Estimated production (Metric ton)	Estimated total income ('000)
			Male	Female	Total			
Mahottari	Pipara	56.15	402	348	750	25.13	630	9228
	Ekdara	56.15	276	417	693	25.13	630	9228
Dhanusha	Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	76.15	486	542	1028	34.09	855	12515
	Dhanauji	77.05	294	723	1017	34.49	865	12663
Saptari	Aurahi	99.1	582	418	1000	37	444	6504
	Bariyarpatti	99.1	587	413	1000	37	444	6504
Siraha	Rajgadh	98.6	619	207	826	36.85	442.2	6477
	Bishnupur	98.6	918	229	1147	36.85	442.2	6477
Gorkha	Barpak Sulikot	40.625	241	206	447	2	30	900
	Gandaki	40.625	109	129	238	2	30	900
Dhading	Gajuri	40.625	361	239	600	2	30	900
	Benighat Rorang	40.625	386	214	600	2	30	900
Sindhupalchok	Indrawati	169.38	817	1110	1927	63.42	938.29	23722.45
	Lisankhupakhar	214.48	637	605	1242	70.92	1050.79	26534.95
Dolakha	Tamakoshi	204.48	1139	906	2045	65.92	975.79	24659.95
	Kalinchok	246.98	1393	1399	2792	83.42	1238.29	31222.45
<b>Total</b>		<b>1664.72</b>	<b>9247</b>	<b>8105</b>	<b>17352</b>	<b>558.22</b>	<b>9075.56</b>	<b>179335.8</b>

Source: FANSEP Cluster offices and compiled by M&E team, PMU FANSEP, July 2020

## 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 in Saptari and Dhanusha Cluster. 1026 beneficiaries (male: 790 and female: 236) were supported with forage seed (Teosinte) and forage sets (Napier). The table below summarizes the distribution of forage seeds/sets in the selected project districts and municipalities.

**Table 4. Distribution of Forage Seeds/Sets**

District	Municipalities	Forage seeds (Teosinte, Sudan - Kg)	Forage sets: Super Napier sets (no)	Beneficiaries			Estimated Coverage Area (ha.)		Estimated production (Metric ton)		Estimated total income ('000)	
				Male	Female	Total	Forage seeds	Forage sets	Forage seeds	Forage sets	Forage seeds	Forage sets
Siraha	Aurahi	225	1500	177	24	201	7	0.167	262.5	20	787.5	100
Saptari	Bishnupur	275	1500	397	75	472	8	0.167	320	20	960	100
Dhanusha	Dhanauji	80	0	42	30	72	3	0	60	0	240	0
	Mukhiyapatti Musarniya	80	0	56	29	85	3	0	60	0	240	0
Mahottari	Pipara	68	0	69	22	91	2	0	40	0	204	0
	Ekdara	60	0	49	56	105	2	0	40	0	180	0
Total		<b>788</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.334</b>	<b>782.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2611.5</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: FANSEP Cluster offices and compiled by M&E team, PMU FANSEP, July 2020

### 3.2 Progress on Component B: Income Generation and Diversification

This component is designed to strengthen the household and community capacities in managing their productive assets more efficiently, stimulating market linkages, raising their income, and building their resilience to climate risk. To improve and diversify the income-generating capacity of targeted beneficiaries, FANSEP has prepared training tool kits, curricula and manuals for conducting ToT/ToF (officers/technicians/farmer facilitators) and Farm Business School (FBS) and farmers' trainings. Training curricula for FBS ToT/ToF have been endorsed and approved by Agriculture Information and Training Centre (AITC) Technical Curriculum Committee. A draft "small and matching grant implementation guideline" for farmers'/mother groups has been prepared, which includes eligible criteria and simple business plan format as well. A draft of the Implementation Guidelines for Farm Business School, "Formation and Implementation of Productive Alliances (PAs) and Multi-stakeholders' Dialogue Platform (MSP)" and FBS manual has been prepared. Learning materials such as leaflets and flipchart about Productive Alliances, Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Platform and Farm Business Records were prepared, which will be useful for the field technicians, producer farmers and concerned stakeholders to understand about the basic concept of productive alliances, multi-stakeholder's dialogue platform and their role for business promotion and income generation activities of FANSEP.

In addition, approximately 56,221 beneficiaries have been selected based on the eligibility criteria of FANSEP.

### **3.3 Progress on Component C: Improving Nutrition Security**

This component aims to help address the underlying causes of malnutrition by making the food system responsive to these causes with the view to providing adequate, safe, diversified, and nutrient-rich food. To leverage income, productivity, and women's empowerment impact pathways for improved dietary diversity and care practices through the support of FANSEP interventions, the project has prepared all necessary documents such as project specific curriculum, technical guidelines and training manuals for the Nutrition Field School (NFS), the 14 days' ToF/ToT and the 5 days' refresher training and these are approved by AITC as required by the government of Nepal.

These resources will be used to enhance the institution and human resource capacity for providing nutrition education and awareness raising. To identify potential NFS facilitators, a guideline for the participants' selection for the NFS TOF has been drafted. Along with this, a technical guideline/manual was developed for the one-day orientation / training to school teachers, students, front line extension workers, women groups, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), Social Mobilizers (SMs), Multi Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) II officials who are working on food based approach and dietary diversity for the nutrition security. For the promotion of nutrition intervention, learning materials were prepared, which are focusing on food and nutrition security, use of nutrient dense dietary diversity, balanced diet, consumption of animal source food (egg), breast feeding, complementary feeding for children, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Importance of Golden 1000 days, food taboos, food processing, preservation and storage, HNG promotion, WASH, sick child feeding etc.

### **3.4 Progress on Component D: Project Management, Communications and M&E**

FANSEP has already established its offices at four clusters that look after two districts & four rural municipalities. These clusters are located in Sindhupachok (for Dolakha & Sindhupalchok), Gorkha (for Dhading and Gorkha), Saptari (for Siraha and Saptari) and Dhanusha (for Mahottari & Dhanusha). M&E team is regularly implementing monitoring and evaluation activities. Project Implementation Manual (PIM) has been prepared, which is a key guiding document to implement FANSEP interventions. To set the baseline for key result indicators and identify the status of beneficiaries before the project intervention, Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) is leading a baseline study. Questionnaires for baseline study and methodology have been finalized. DIME has also hired 'New Era' the consulting firm for managing and mobilizing enumerators to collect the data against the baseline questionnaires and methodologies. However, the field movement and mobilization of enumerators have been halted due to COVID-19 pandemic. A draft Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategy of FANSEP has been prepared and submitted to World Bank for approval. Project Management Information System (PMIS) has been owned by the project and is operational. The required M&E tools for each project component have been prepared and integrated into PMIS. FANSEP website has been prepared and is also linked into the PMIS. Progress report including physical and financial are regularly shared with the World Bank as required. Annual progress review and planning workshop was carried on 24 July 2020 in presence of secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD), all FANSEP staff including PCU chiefs and experts of FAO TA. Key achievements, issues, challenges and way forward of FANSEP were discussed during this annual review and planning workshop.

### **3.5 Progress on Procurement Management**

FANSEP has procured the required goods and services in the fiscal year 2019/2020. Following sections briefly describes on progress made under the procurement necessary for the project.

### 3.5.1 Procurement of Goods and Services

As per the procurement plan, FANSEP has procured 20 motorcycles and scooters for PMU and PCUs, hired financial management specialist (1), one procurement specialist (1), consultant to update PIM (1), 20 desktops, 20 laptops, 16 printers, furniture, machineries & equipment (AC, sound system, multimedia, projector screen etc.), reconstruction and maintenance of office rooms, hired consulting firms to develop project websites and PMIS. The details are given in the table below.

**Table-5: Progress on procurement management**

S.N	Procurement Activity	Unit	Total Target Year 2019/20	Progress by Trimesters			Cumulative Progress	Remarks
				July – Oct.	Nov - Feb	Mar-June		
1	Procurement of Motorcycles and Scooters for PMU and PCUs	number	20		20		20	
2	Procurement of financial management consultant for 5 years	Person	1			1	1	Consultant on-boarded from 16 July 2020.
3	Individual Procurement Specialist for four (4) years (intermittent input)	Person	1			1	1	Consultant will onboard on 10 August, 2020
4	Hiring of Individual Consultant for updating Project Implementation Manual (PIM)	Person	1			1	1	PIM updated and under revision at PMU and WB
5	Procurement of Machinery and Equipment's for Office (AC, Vacuum Cleaner, Heater, UPS)	Set	1			1	1	
6	Procurement of Desktop for PMU and PCUs	Number	20			20	20	
7	Procurement of Furniture and Furnishing in Program Hall,	Times	2			2	2	
8	Procurement of Machinery and Equipment's for program hall (AC, Sound System, Multimedia, Screen, etc.)	Times	2		1		1	
9	Procurement of Laptops for PMU and PCUs,	Number	20			20	20	
10	Procurement of Printers	Number	16		16		16	

11	Reconstruction and maintenance of office rooms,	Times	1			1	1	
12	Hire Consulting firm to develop project Website,	Number	1			1	1	Website operated as fansep.moal d.gov.np
13	Hiring Firm for updating PMIS,	Number	1			1	1	PMIS has been launched

### 3.6 Financial Progress Status

The detail financial progress of the project is given in below table:

**Table 6: Category wise Expenditure (by trimester and cumulative) in fiscal year 2019/20 (in NRs.)**

Category	Cumulative Expenditure Upto FY 2018/19	Trimester wise Expenditure of 2019/20			Total Expenditure of FY.2019/20	Annual Cumulative Expenditure Up to 2019/20	Total Progress % of FY 2019/20 (Compare to Budget)	Total Cumulative progress % up to 2019/20	
		First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester					
1	Goods, Works, Non-consulting Services, Consulting services, Training and Incremental operating Costs	81,467,077.92	20,372,915.57	142,801,456.17	43,579,496.28	206,753,868.02	288,220,945.94	40.67	9.21
2	Matching Grant Under Part B.2 (c) of the project	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
3	Small Grant Under Part C.2 (c) of the project	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>81,467,077.92</b>	<b>20,372,915.57</b>	<b>142,801,456.17</b>	<b>43,579,496.28</b>	<b>206,753,868.02</b>	<b>288,220,945.94</b>	<b>40.67</b>	<b>9.21</b>

## **4. PROGRESS OF FAO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The immediate objective of FAO Technical Assistance (FAO-TA) was to provide technical backstopping/assistance to Food and Nutrition Security Enhancement Project (FANSEP) in implementing project activities and contributing in achieving outputs and outcomes as set forth in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD). Within the framework of agreement made between FAO and the Government of Nepal (GoN) and in line with the agreed actions of Aide-memoire of the World Bank (WB) implementation support missions, FAO TA is providing technical backstopping/assistance at the central, cluster, district and Rural Municipality (RM) levels for the implementation of project activities covering technical issues of component A (crop and livestock), Component B (income generation and diversification) Component C (nutrition and behavior change communications), Component D (project management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting) and environmental and social safeguards. FAO TA provided technical assistance on the preparation of operational guidelines, Terms of Reference (ToR), strategies, training tool kits, manuals, learning materials etc., which are crucial for the implementation of relevant activities in each project component. FAO TA leads some capacity enhancement activities such as Training of Facilitators, Refresher training to farmers and conducting model Farmer Field School (FFS), Nutrition Field School (NFS) and Farm Business School (FBS).

After the TA agreement made in 18 July, 2019 and onboard of TA specialists in December 2019, FAO TA is providing regular technical assistance to PMU for planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of FANSEP activities as envisioned in the TA agreement and Project Appraisal Document (PAD). All the TA personnel are recruited, oriented, placed in respective duty stations and mobilized to support FANSEP interventions. FAO TA is providing inputs to FANSEP according to the work plan and budget, as mentioned in FAO TA agreement. All the recruited central and cluster project personnel<sup>2</sup> are delivering services continuously and no vacant positions are left at the moment.

All eight service providers are selected, oriented and assigned to support implementation of the field level activities of FANSEP. In line with the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with service providers (SPs), all 96 Field Level Technicians (FLTs) and project facilitators for FANSEP interventions (crop, livestock and nutrition) are recruited and placed in their respective Rural Municipality (RM) to support the implementation of FANSEP interventions. Due to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic, the orientations to FLTs and project facilitators have been affected. Therefore, FAO TA oriented SP's focal persons and their FLTs and project facilitators in this transition period via Zoom (an online platform) to support implementing FANSEP interventions at rural municipality level as planned by Project Cluster Unit (PCU). Frequent communication and interactions with SPs and FAO TA personnel have minimized the gaps on the roles and responsibilities of SPs and their staff to mobilize for the planned activities of FANSEP. FAO TA centre team has regularly organized zoom meeting and interactions with its cluster team and SPs to enhance effective technical assistance to FANSEP. Furthermore, FAO TA center and cluster team organized a field mission in February/March 2020 (just before the lock down) and instructed SPs and their staff to support FANSEP interventions and clarified their roles and responsibilities to implement FANSEP activities and deliver the expected results of the project.

FAO TA team participated in the interactive meeting during the WB implementation support mission held in January 2020. In addition, regular and frequent meetings with PMU were organized for smooth coordination and collaboration. Several meetings with individual experts and the PMU counterpart have been organized to implement FANSEP activities smoothly.

FAO TA has already submitted the project inception report, which is aligned with updated PIM. Technical experts from TA assisted to prepare training curricula, guidelines, manuals, strategies and learning materials required to implement FANSEP activities for each component of FANSEP. Regular technical backstopping, support to PMU, PCUs and SPs have been ensured. FAO TA is also providing technical assistance to review and update the progress against the agreed actions of the implementation support mission of the World Bank.

FAO TA also supported PMU to develop a project concept note for additional financing to complement the project activities, which was submitted through the supervising entity (World Bank).

FAO TA was provided the first installment budget (US\$ 1,000,656) for 2019 was received by FAO in December 2019. The cumulative expense till June, 2020 was US\$ 519,488. The total balance against cash received till June 2020 is US\$ 481,168. Therefore, the certain proportion of FAO TA activities planned for 2019 are now shifted in 2020 and subsequent years.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD**

FANSEP has nominated a focal person to facilitate discussion and plan actions related to environment and social safeguard both at project management unit and project cluster unit. Grievance Redress Committees both at center and cluster level have established and being operational to address the

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<sup>2</sup> 8 central level consultants, 2 Cluster Technical Officers (CTOs) -M&E, 4 CTOs – Crop Value Chain, 4 CTOs – Livestock Value Chain and 4 CTOs – Nutrition cum Behavior Change Communications, and 1 admin and finance staff, 1 support staff & 2 drivers

grievances related to the FANSEP interventions. Under this section, a concept note related to drudgery reduction technology, environment and social safeguard compliance technical document, gender strategy and action plan, 5-days environment and social safeguard related training booklets, learning materials on environment and social safeguards have been drafted, which will be utilized during implementation of FANSEP activities as required. Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) related measures were ensured in the training curricula, guidelines and manuals for FFS (crop, livestock), NFS, and FBS, ToF, Refreshers and other learning materials. Environment and social screening checklists for sub-projects under small and matching grants were prepared.

## **5. PROGRESS ON AGREED ACTIONS OF THE SECOND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION**

FANSEP team is regularly reviewing the agreed actions and implementing the activities as planned by the project. Despite the effect of COVID-19 pandemic, the project team is able to complete most of the agreed actions from the second implementation support missions which are stated below:

S.N.	Activities	Responsibility	Due Date	Reason for not completion	New due date	Remarks
List of Activities completed from second mission						
1	Hire Consultant to update PIM	PMU			Completed	
2	Hire Consultant/firm to create/update the Website	PMU			Completed	
3	Hire MIS Consultant/firm	PMU			Completed	
4	Operationalize the GRM guidelines and set up GRM mechanism	PMU/ PCU			Completed	
5	Complete hiring of FAO TA staff	PMU/FAO TA			Completed	
6	Identify climate and nutrition smart agricultural technologies	PMU/FAO TA			Completed	
7	Orientation program on GAP/GHP/GMP/HACCP	PMU			Completed	
8	Provincial level orientation program	PMU			Completed	
9	Finalize the overall project activities along with cost tabs	PMU			Completed	
10	Prepare Project Audit Account of FY2018/19	PMU			Completed	
11	Draft structure of project website and PMIS	PMU/ FAO TA			Completed	
12.	Website owned and launched by the project	PMU			Completed	FANSEP website operated as “ <a href="http://fansep.moald.gov.np">fansep.moald.gov.np</a> ”
13	MIS system owned and operated by project that allows electronic data collection	PMU			Completed	MIS system owned and operated and further development process is ongoing.

14	Prepare FFS, NFS and FBS manuals	PMU/FAO TA			Completed	Preparation of 6 FFS manuals (Crop, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, FBS and Nutrition) completed.
15	Prepare FFS, NFS and FBS curricula	PMU/FAO TA			Completed	Preparation of 12 Curricula on ToT /ToF and refresher training completed.
16	Prepare guidelines for the implementation of Component A, B and C's activities	PMU/FAO TA			Completed	Preparation of 12 Program implementation guidelines completed.
17	Prepare M&E training materials for cluster/district and municipality technicians	PMU / FAO TA			Completed	
18.	Orientation to FLTs (service providers) on project activities and provide instructions to start group formation	PMU/ FAO TA			Completed	Online orientation to cluster level TA officers has been completed for orienting SP's FLTs.
CoVID-19 response Activities to implement for current FY (2019/2020)						
17	Seasonal vegetable seed distribution	PCU			Completed	1664.72 kg of seasonal vegetable seeds have been distributed to the needy farmers in targeted project Rural Municipalities.
18	Seed distribution of paddy	PCU			Completed	36.916 MT of paddy seeds have been distributed to the needy farmers in targeted project Rural Municipalities.
19	Seed distribution of finger millets	PCU			Completed	691 Kg of finger millet seeds have been distributed to the needy farmers in targeted project Rural Municipalities.
20.	Seed distribution of forage and grass	PCU			Completed	788 Kg of Teinte and Sudan grass seeds and 3000 sets of Napier have been distributed to the needy farmers in targeted project Rural Municipalities.
Ongoing activities						
1	Hire FM Specialist	PMU	March 15, 2020	Due to pandemic COVID-19 and current lockdown situation in Nepal	July 16, 2020	Financial Negotiation and draft negotiated contact completed on June 18, 2020, Letter of intention to award has been issued on July 1,2020. Notification of award and contract will be completed by July 16, 2020.
2	Hire enumerators to carry out the Beneficiary Selection Process	PMU	March 15, 2020	Hiring enumerators' process is canceled.	Not applicable	Beneficiary selection process is ongoing from PCU in support of service provider's technician without hiring enumerators.



3	Beneficiary Selection process completed	PMU/PCU /DIME/FAO TA	March 15, 2020	Due to pandemic COVID-19 and current lockdown situation in Nepal.	4 <sup>th</sup> week of August, 2020	The total 45280 HH and 56,221 individual beneficiary selections have been completed. The rest is ongoing from PCU in support of service provider's technician.
4	Baseline Survey completed	DIME/PMU/ PCU/FAO TA	March 30, 2020	Due to pandemic COVID-19 and current lockdown situation in Nepal.	End of October 2020	Consulting firm hired by DIME. A comprehensive feedback is provided on Questionnaire and methodologies.
6	Hire Procurement Specialist	PMU/WB	March 15, 2020	Due to pandemic COVID-19 and current lockdown situation in Nepal	July 16, 2020	Financial Negotiation and draft negotiated contract completed on June 17, 2020, NOL received from WB on draft negotiated contract on June 25, 2020. Notification of intention to award has been issued on June 26, 2020 with 10 working days of standstill period activated. Notification of award and contract will be completed by July 16, 2020.
6	M&E strategy approved by the World Bank	PMU/FAO TA	March 15, 2020	Discussion extended with concerned personnel	Waiting for Approval	M&E strategy is prepared, feedback received from WB are incorporated and submitted to WB for approval.
New actions						
1	Conduct ToF and refresher ToF	FAO TA	April 15, 2020	Affected by Covid-19 outbreak to complete on time.	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of July 2020	Basic preparation to conduct ToF and refresher ToF has been completed.
2	Develop strategy for seed production /supply	PMU/FAO TA	March 31, 2020	Affected by Covid-19 outbreak to complete on time.	First week of July	Revised draft prepared.
3	Identify suitable cultivars and technologies for project areas in collaboration with NARC	PMU/TA/ NARC	June 30, 2020		4 <sup>th</sup> week of July 2020	A meeting was held with ED-NARC on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 and agreed to form technical committee for identification and publication of suitable improved package of practices for project areas.
4	Training on environmental and social screening to PMU and PCUs	PMU/ FAO TA	March 15, 2020	Postponed due to pandemic Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown.	4 <sup>th</sup> week of August 2020	Preparation of training materials has been completed.
5	Orientation to FLTs (service providers) on project activities and provide instructions to start group formation	PMU/ FAO TA	March 25 – 31, 2020	Postponed due to pandemic Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown	First week of July 2020	Orientation to FLTs will be carried out before starting the group formation.

6	Start Group Formation Process	PMU/ FAO TA	1 <sup>st</sup> week of April	Postponed due to pandemic Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of July	A group formation guideline has been prepared and shared to all PCUs. All the FLT's are deployed in field and will carry out the group formation.
7	Complete M&E training in all clusters	PMU / FAO TA	March 31, 2020	Training postponed due to pandemic Covid-19 and will be carried out after finalization of M&E strategy once the situation on Covid-19 comes to normal.	4 <sup>th</sup> week of August, 2020	Prepared draft M&E training materials and templates and carry out the training at cluster level in August 2020. Training will be organized once the COVID impact is normalized.

### **Plan to Resume the Project Activities soon after the lifting of lockdown**

The project has planned to carry out following major activities at field level:

1. Conduct field orientation program to field level technicians (FLT's), who will be engaged to expedite the formation of producer groups utilizing the list of selected beneficiaries.
2. Beneficiary selection survey will be expedited from PCUs with the assistance of SP's FLT's
3. Conduct ToT/ToF and refresher to prepare around 50 FFS facilitator.
4. Start Baseline survey from DIME
5. Start group formation process at the project targeted rural municipalities applying adequate safety measures respecting the guidance from the Government of Nepal

## **6. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS & WAY FORWARD**

Due to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lock down decision of the government, the planned activities of FANSEP are being affected.

1. Group formation, conducting baseline study, training activities (ToF / Refreshers, etc.) and other FANSEP interventions are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Where possible, FANSEP will implement the planned activities with adequate safety measures respecting the guidance from the Government of Nepal and instruction from the World Bank.
2. Starting of model FFS for crop, dairy, goat and assisting PMU/PCUs to establish demonstration plot and trainings to lead farmers for promoting adoption of improved CSA technology.
3. Approval of guidelines from the government has been delayed. A meeting with technical committee and steering committee will be organized to expedite this process.

## SOME GLIMPSES OF FANSEP ACTIVITIES



FANSEP WEBSITE (fansep.moald.gov.np)



Project Management Information System (PMIS)



Discussion with FAO for effective technical assistance



SP's technician carrying out beneficiary selection survey



Annual review and planning workshop 2020



Seed distribution in Sindhupalchok cluster



Beneficiary Selection in Saptari PCU



Seed distribution in Dhanusha cluster