

SUMMARY AND PROGRESS OF FIRST CALL PROJECTS

Project Title: Improvement of vegetable marketing system through farmers co-operative in Chitwan and Dhading Districts of Nepal (082/059/060)

Project Co-ordinator: Mr. Basanta Ranabhat

Address: Ecological Service Centre, Bharatpur, Chitwan

Duration: 3 years [Nov 2003 to Oct 2006]

Budget: NRs. 1,595,463

Location: Fulbari and Sukranagar of Chitwan and Gajuri (Malekhu) of Dhading districts.

Purpose: To establish farmers' managed marketing systems through co-operatives

Outputs:

1. Awareness, sensitization and realization on effective group working for co-operative marketing developed.
2. Improved vegetable production technology [including post-harvest losses and intermediary processing of vegetable] disseminated.
3. Information flow system for vegetable prices developed and institutionalized at local and regional level.
4. Strong and effective farmer co-operatives for vegetable production and marketing established.
5. Finding and learning disseminated by ESC and partner organizations.

S. N.	Activities	Progress
1.1	Consulting meeting, training, workshop of the vegetable growers	Sukranagar and Fulbari VDC of Chitwan and Gajuri VDC of Dhading district have been selected for the implementation of the project. Two groups in each site were formed. Due consideration have been given to the farmers interested in all season vegetable production. Two days consultative meeting organized in each site. Participatory discussion were made on the modalities for the implementation and future possibilities
1.2	Group formation and support to the group for effective run	Seven days on the job training of 5 group members (at least one from each project site) in Sidhuwa Multipurpose Cooperative, Dhankuta completed. These intern farmers learnt about operation of different groups in a single cooperative, working procedure, marketing mechanism of the cooperative.
1.3	Exposure visit on Sidhuwa, Kathmandu and other potential market	Exposure visit to Multipurpose Sidhuwa Cooperative, Sidhuwa Dhankuta of the group members were organized two times. There were altogether 37 and 31 participants in first and second exposure visit.

1.4	On the job training/internship of some potential farmers on Sidhuwa	Altogether six participants representing one farmer from each vegetable grower group have participate in on the job training at Sidhuwa Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. Sidhuwa Dhankuta. These intern farmers learnt about the vegetable production techniques, operation of different groups within one cooperative, organizational management and marketing mechanism
2.1	Series of training on production, post harvest and intermediary processing of vegetables to vegetable growers in different locations on different aspects to their demand and potentiality of production	Three days training on post harvest were organized for six vegetable growers separately in first year at field level. The training covered reduced of post harvest losses of fruit and vegetables in the project sites and focus on the theoretical and principal aspects of the post harvest losses of perishable commodities and consequents quality deterioration of these products. Similarly, another 5 days training were also organised in second year. These two training covers all the group members of the six groups.
2.2	Exposure visit of farmers to minimize the post harvest losses and intermediary processing	Four days two exposure visits to Central Campus of technology, Dharan wren organized one each in first and second year of the project. During the visit, farmers learnt and shared about techniques and skill on reduction of post harvest losses of fresh vegetables.
3.1	Establishment of at least two price collection centers and collection of information daily basis at two places	Information about retail and wholesale prices of fresh vegetables is the basic requirement for the planning of vegetable production. Collection of information on retail price of seasonal fresh vegetables has been initiated and recorded at Ecological Services Centre, Narayngarh, Chitwan and Resource Identification and management Society (RIMS-Nepal) in Gajuri Dhading. Information of vegetable price has been collecting from Kalimati fresh vegetable and fruit market, Kathmandu and Narayani Vegetable Market, Chitwan.
4.1	Consultation and meeting with farmers to form cooperative	One day meeting was organized in each VDC. Meeting was organized to discuss about the legal procedure for the registration of cooperative.
4.2	Logistic and management support to register farmer cooperative	Farmers are organized for working through cooperative for improvement in the existing farming system. These cooperative are supported with stationeries and other logistic for effective run. One cooperative in Fulbari, Chitwan and one in Gajuri, Ddhading is already formed. One in chitwan is in registration process. Activity is continued till end of the project.
4.3	Training on Cooperative management, financial management and market mechanism, negotiation	Three days training were organized to all six farmers' groups for two times for the effective run of the cooperative. First training focused on concept, origin, importance and role of collective effort, role and responsibilities of cooperative members and status of cooperative in Nepal, process of registration, government policies for the promotion and development of cooperative and possible challenges for the establishment of cooperative. Second Training focused on accounting system, and other daily accounting package for the effective run of the cooperative.
4.4	On the job training/internship at least one cooperative staff from each cooperative in Shidhuwa cooperative	Four members (two from Sukranagar, one from Fulbari and one from Gajuri) have participated in seven days on the job training in Sidhuwa Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. Sidhuwa, Dhankuta. Farmers participated in OJT were well informed about success story for effective running cooperative. These farmers were trained on management, financial and marketing network for the vegetable production during their stay at Shidhuwa.

4.5	Visit in different market places and negotiation with traders, middleman, wholesalers and retailers	Establishment of networking for effective marketing is vital for the successful agricultural business. Therefore, due consideration has been given for the establishment of marketing network with the participation of vegetable growers. For this purpose one day interacting workshop on the role of entrepreneurs in production, processing and marketing of products at Narayangarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chitwan. Farmers from Suknagar and Fulbari, traders, consumers, representatives from GOs and NGOs have participated in the workshop. Project also organized exposure visit to potential market places in Pokhara and Chitwan to improve the negotiation skill of farmers and to establish marketing linkage between traders and producers.
5.2	Documentation and reporting	Documentation and reporting of the activities mentioned above is continued.