



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Agricultural Development
PPCR: Building Resilience to Climate-related Hazards Project
Agriculture Management Information System
(IDA Grant_TF 013665_NEP)

A Report on
Preparation and Organization of Roving Seminar
(10 – 12 December, 2014)

in
Kavrepalanchowk district

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nepal was selected as one of the nine pilot countries for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). The PPCR is a program of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), administered by the Multilateral Development Banks (in Nepal the Asian Development Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank) to support implementation of country-led programs and investments. The overall objective of the PPCR is to demonstrate ways to integrate climate risk and resilience into core development planning. Nepal accepted the offer to participate in the PPCR on May 13, 2009.

The first step in the PPCR process was development of a Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR). Nepal's SPCR was developed by the Government of Nepal in partnership with the World Bank, IFC and ADB. The SPCR preparation process was designed by a group of consultants (one competitively recruited international consultant and three competitively recruited national consultants) that were hired and supervised by Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE), financed through an advance of PPCR funds. The proposed approach was reviewed and approved by a large stakeholder group (including (I) NGOs, Government Ministries, development partners, private sector and academicians.)

The Building Resilience to Climate related Hazards (BRCH) Project has four components:

- a. Institutional strengthening, capacity building and implementation support of DHM;
- b. Modernization of observation networks and forecasting;
- c. Enhancement of the service delivery system of DHM; and
- d. Creation of an agriculture management information system (AMIS).

The DHM related components will focus on public weather service that provides weather and impact forecasts, and information services for vulnerable communities and the key weather dependent sectors of economy. Hydromet stations that will be upgraded are spread throughout the country and the exact location depends on the detailed design. End to end early warning systems will be piloted in 2 river basins in the western and eastern parts of Nepal. The basins will be selected based on objective criteria.

Component D will be piloted in 25 districts. These districts will be selected based on objective criteria such as agriculture productivity, vulnerability to floods and droughts, as well as mobile and radio connectivity.

The project is estimated to cost US\$ 31.3 million, financed by the Climate Investment Fund (CIF: US\$ 15 million in credit and US\$ 16 million in grant) and by the government of Nepal (US\$ 0.3

million). The implementation period is estimated to be five years starting from 30 April 2013 to 30 November 2018.

2. THE ROVING SEMINAR

Nepal is one of the fourth most vulnerable countries in the world to the impact of climate change and variability. The Nation is predominantly agricultural country from which it gains more than one third of its GDP from agriculture sector. The agriculture sector alone employs two-thirds of the total population for their livelihoods. Major portion of arable land is rainfed. The general scenario of the country necessitates to discuss resources and strategies, including capacity building required for promotion of sustained efforts in disaster reduction and mitigation and to better understand the potential risks and uncertainties to agriculture. The roving seminars will add to a great extent in this direction.

The Roving seminars is the part of capacity building which brings DHM, MoAD (including AMIS experts, agriculture extensions, NARC) and farmers groups together to raise the awareness of weather and climate impacts on agriculture, communicate the use of AMIS decision support tools, and solicit feedback from farming communities to improve the tools.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of PPCR/BRCH/AMIS is organizing a series of roving seminars for farmers in 25 districts of Nepal as part of Component D. Agricultural Management System (AMIS) at MoAD. These seminars are intended to:

1. To sensitize the farmers about the weather and climate information as the same effect agricultural production on their farms
2. To secure farmer self reliance, through helping them better informed about effective / climate risk management by sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural production

Preparations for the Roving Seminar (10 & 11 December, 2014):

The following preparations were undertaken, for successful organization of the seminars at Kavre district:

1. A team of PMU comprises of an agrometeorologist (Mr. Sami Kunwar), social and communication specialist (Mr. Chiranjibi Rijal) and international roving seminar expert (Prof. Dr. Vasiraju Radhakrishan Murthy) visited both DADO and DLSO of Kavrepalanchowk district.



Meeting with DADO Dhulikhel



Meeting with DL SO Dhulikhel and Subcenter



2. A team of PMU visited farmers fields and assessed the knowledge of the farmers on influence of weather and climate on their farming. They also carefully noted the issues of weather and climate that need immediate attention in the roving seminars. The “indigenous weather knowledge of the farmers” was recorded. The farmers knowledge, opinion and experiences on influence of weather on all crops in general and rice crop in particular were recorded and problems / issues at field level are identified



3. Display material on weather measuring and other meteorological equipment, diagrams on influence of weather on different phenophases of crops etc., were prepared on flex
4. The general climatology of Bhakundebesi of Kavre district was presented in a synopsis form on a large sized display rexin cloth.

Roving Seminar at Bhakundebesi:

The seminar was organized in Bhakundebesi village in Kavre District. The district experiences weather of all four seasons viz., pre- monsoon (March to May) Summer monsoon (June to September) Post monsoon (October- November) and winter (December to February). The performance of crops depends on weather changes from season to season. The Bhakundebesi is found to be rain shadow area where rainfall occurrence is very low.

Rice is predominantly grown during summer monsoon season when the weather is hot and humid. Wheat is cultivated during post monsoon and winter when the weather is cool and dry. Mustard is also cultivated during post monsoon and winter where the land is relatively elevated and flat, to ensure no stagnation of rain water due to western disturbances. The other major crops grown include maize during summer monsoon. The vegetables viz., tomatoes, brinjal, leafy vegetables are grown where ever there are supplemental irrigation facilities.

The seminar was facilitated by Tharka Bahadur GC around at 11AM

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Ghimire of BRCH project has briefly described about project background, its objectives and different project components under DHM and Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD). He also explained about weather, climate and climate change status of Nepal and need for the adaptation and resilience strategies for the agricultural sectors.



International Roving Seminar Expert, Prof. Dr. V.R.K. Murthy has first of all highlighted on climate change and agriculture. Then he talk about usefulness of roving seminar to farmers. Mr. Chiranjibi Rijal and Mr. Sami Kunwar has translated his English delivery into Nepali language to farmers.

Mr. Sudeep Kayasta from DHM has talk about importance of weather and climate in agriculture and also highlighted on meteorological equipment like rain gauge and thermometer.

Mr. Alok Sharma from NARC has talked about NARC role to aware farmers in weather and agriculture issues.

Finally, After each official spoke on the technical aspects the farmers interacted with scientists and administrators. The farmers are given appropriate answers on weather and climate related issues of their concern.