



PPCR:BRCH-AMIS Project

Second Trimester Newsletter-AMIS



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Newsletter
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Message from National Project Director

The current fiscal year 2015-16 proved to be a very busy and productive year with several new progress. Although the country was rocked by the devastating earthquake and unrest situation in the Terai, Project Management Unit (PMU) tried their best to achieve expected goal reaching the targeted groups in pilot districts. We are therefore happy to introduce first issue of 'AMIS-Newsletter'. This issue highlights information on signing ceremony between Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and Nepal Telecom (NT), establishment of Audio Notice Board and Toll Free Number in MoAD, District Level Project Implementation

Workshops in Chitwan, Morang, Jhapa, Saptari, Bara and Banke. Roving Seminars in Kavre, Rupandehi, Chitwan, Morang, Sunsari and Banke. Furthermore, Publication and Dissemination of brochure on "Hamro Krishi" a mobile application, progress made by NARC and decisions made after Mid Term Review carried by World Bank.



Major Highlights of the trimester

- ✓ Letter of Agreement between MoAD and NTC for KISAN SIM
- ✓ Establishment of Audio Notice and Toll Free Number in MoAD
- ✓ District Level Project Implementation Workshop in Chitwan, Morang, Jhapa Saptari, Bara and Banke
- ✓ Roving Seminars in Kavre, Chitwan, Rupandehi, Sunsari, Bara and Banke
- ✓ Publication and Dissemination of brochure about "Hamro Krishi" mobile application in English and Nepali Language
- ✓ Mid Term Review –by World Bank Team
- ✓ NARC Progress

Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and Nepal Telecom for KISAN SIM Services, SMS, Internet, Toll Free and Audio Notice on December 31, 2015

The signing ceremony of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) for PPCR: Building Resilience to Climate-related Hazards Project-Agriculture Management Information System (AMIS) Project and Nepal

Telecom was held on 31st December 2015 at MoAD, Singh Durbar Kathmandu, Nepal for KISAN SIM services. The agreement was an effective partnership to contribute on timely delivery of agro climatic and weather information under Early Warning System

(EWS) in favor of farmers and farming communities for increasing agricultural productivity and reducing losses from climatic hazards.

Welcoming the gathering, Mr. Shiv Nandan Prasad Shah, National Project Director of PPCR:BRCH-AMIS highlighted

Letter of Agreement (Contd.)

objective is to diminish the impacts of extreme climate related hazards, protect lives and assets, and support agricultural livelihoods by establishing multi-hazard information and early-warning systems (EWS), upgrading the existing hydro-met and Agricultural Management Information Systems (AMIS) and improving the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecast for farmers. He further shared that, delivering KISAN SIM cards will not only contribute for efficient agro climate and weather information to farmers and agriculture communities but also help farmers to take a right decision at right time

Joint Secretary of MoAD, **Dr. Shyam Prasad Paudel** appreciated PPCR-AMIS Project for its contribution towards ICT for agriculture as a platform to deliver agricultural information to farmers via SMS, and 'Hamro Krishi' mobile application to know about crop and animal disease, weather forecast, fertilizer dose, and agri-market. He further encouraged partnership and collaboration between MoAD and NTC for this social service to distribute 5,500 KISAN SIM along with 15 MB internet package saying that Nepal's agriculture is still dependent on nature rather than farming in controlled environment in developed countries like Europe, Israel, Japan etc. "In this context, this kind of service will definitely help farmers to be aware with real-time information during the crop cultivation period together with estimation of fair market price for their products", said Mr. Paudel. In a nutshell, he inspired project

increasing the agriculture production and reduce the adverse impact of climate change. Mr. Rajendra Nakarmi, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Nepal Telecom (NT) shared that this occasion was to formalize the letter of agreement and sign LoA between two institutions. Furthermore, he expressed his pleasure to develop partnership with MoAD saying that "our partnership is service oriented partnership rather than profit oriented partnership as we did with Ministry of Health to support women health workers in previous days". He further stressed that this activity is also service oriented because NTC is

team to increase ICT service for agriculture that contributes in Early Warning System (EWS), Agri-market information, cultivation practices, insect-pest and disease management. Further, he put his concern if Nepal Telecom would bring this service to free in days to come for long term sustainability. The Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed by National Project Director Mr. Shib Nandan Prasad Shah, and Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Rajendra Nakarmi in presence of Joint Secretary Mr. Shyam Prasad Paudel, Project Management Unit (PMU) and representatives from Nepal Telecom and World Bank. In total 13 people participated in this signing ceremony.



going to provide service to farmers in subsidized rate.

"In this context, this kind of service will definitely help farmers to be aware with real time information during crop cultivation period together with estimation of fair market price for their products".

Project Implementation Workshops

One day district level project implementation workshop on "Agriculture Management Information System" under PPCR: BRCH Project has been organized in Chitwan, Morang, Jhapa and Saptari between November 2015-March 2016 in order to share about project objectives, outcomes, outputs, and major progress until date and implementation plan ahead. The implementation workshop brought PMU into realization regarding inclusion of key stakeholders during project implementation, farmers' group selection, crop and livestock insurance, establishment of agro-call centre not only in DADO but also in the level of extension services like "Krishi Sewa Kendra" for two way communication and to enhance capacity of government stakeholders at different level.

Saptari-The implementation work-

Jhapa and Morang - Likewise, MoAD/AMIS organized one day district level Implementation Workshop on 4th and 6th Falgun, 2072 in Jhapa and Morang district. This is the first workshop of its kind to introduce the project in districts in order to spread its goal/objective and activities among the stakeholders/farmers/people. The National Project Director, Agriculture officer, Account officer and M&E consultant, from AMIS/PMU have participated the event as organizer and

shop was inaugurated by Chairperson Mr. Bhagirath Yadav –Senior Agriculture Development Officer-Saptari on 11th March 2016. Mr. Roshan Mehta Agri-Extension Officer-DADO Saptri gave welcome speech. After inauguration, Mr. Yadav highlighted the importance of immediate and short-term weather forecasts and agro-advisories and longer-term information about improved varieties, seeds, climate smart technologies and market developments. The project in a nutshell was presented by Mr. Shib Nandan Prasad Shah, National Project Director. He shared about project objectives, outcomes, outputs, major progress until date implementation plan along with roles and responsibilities of DADO, DLSO and other stakeholders. Furthermore, he shared about affected agriculture land in last 10 years due

chief of DADO and DLSO represented the event including other district level stakeholders such as representatives from I/NGO, journalist, local farmers/media and many others participants. Workshop was held in DADO's Meeting halls. Followings were the a value guests of the workshop at DADO; Chairperson: Meghnath Timilsina (Chief District Agriculture Development Office-DADO) Chief Guest: Ishwor Prasad Rijal (Joint Secretary-MoAd and Chief of Monitoring and Statisti-

to natural and climatic hazards. Likewise, he shared trend of loss in production of major stable crops like rice, maize, millet and buckwheat in last 4 years.

Mr. Manoj Thankur from NARC shared about activities implemented by NARC for instance digitization, agro-advisory bulletin, information dissemination etc. Mr. Kiran Raj Mishra, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant from AMIS Project shared about selection criteria to select VDC and farming communities fair distribution of AMIS infrastructure like rain gauge, thermometer, mobile phone and KISAN SIM. In addition, his video demonstration regarding "Hamro Krishi" mobile application caught a sight of every participants with great interest.

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Other guests: Representatives of many district line agencies including NGO, INGOs, Farmers, Journalist etc.

Chitwan: Similarly, on 30th November 2015, district level project implementation workshop was implemented in Chitwan district with similar goal/objectives. More than 30 participants were in the workshop.

Establishment of Audio Notice and Toll Free Number in MoAD

Audio Notice Board Service as a value added service to Toll Free Number has been added to MoAD effective from December 2015 as a supplementary service of PSTN VMS (Voice Mail Box Service) in which the mailbox can be used as a Notice Board by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD). The MoAD can record their information in telephone (subscribed for Audio Notice Board Service Facility) so that

when a person calls that telephone number, recorded notices are played. Audio Notice Board is adding value to existing telephone service providing efficient customer friendly interface with farmers and concerned stakeholders strengthening farmers loyalty and keeping farmers informed in a friendly atmosphere rather than repetitive monotonous functions. The toll free number is 16600177779

Brochure on “Hamro Krishi” Mobile Application

An informative document to introduce about recently developed “Hamro Krishi Mobile Application” has been published on February 2016. This Brochure is in both Nepali and English language. It contains brief project information, objectives, services from AMIS project like SMS, Agro Call Centre, Agro Adviosry Bulletin and Hamro Krishi Mobile Application. Moreover, the brochure clearly illustrates the step by step guide-

lines on how to install the “Hamro Krishi” mobile application in android smart phone of farmers and concerned stakeholders.



NARC

Concerning progress from NARC side, 13 issues of Agro advisory bulletin (AAB) have been published and disseminated in this trimester (November 2015-Feb 2016) to provide weather data, crop/livestock information to Banke district in order to distribute among farming communities. In February 2016, a field visit to Banke was conducted in order to explore if AAB and Krishi –Info SMS has been guiding farmers for possible mitigation and adaptation measures with respect to issues on main crops, vegetables, livestock and farming practices. Farmers and district level government stakeholders responded that AAB and SMS is providing important agricultural and weather related information and some how decreasing their dependency towards agriculture extension workers. Furthermore, NARC worked on data digitization and archiving and some initiation on weather based index insurance like development of concept note, coordination with National Insurance Company.

Roving Seminar: 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 has organized a series of roving seminars for farmers in Rupendhei, Chitawan, Kavrepalanchwok, Bara and Sunsari districts.

The Roving Seminars helped to raise the awareness of the farming community in the provision of weather and climate information for facilitating operational decisions on farming. Feedback obtained from the farmers has been helping the personnel from the PMU, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and NARC to design more improved products for use of farmers and to improve the channels of communication to provide information to the farmers in order to take right decision at right time. Furthermore, these seminars are enabling farmers to take crucial decision in farm management through analysis of data on temperature, rainfall and humidity by using simple meteorological equipment like rain gauge and thermometer. Summary reports from the seminars have been proved to be helpful for understanding the current methods of weather and climate risk management at the farm level in project implementing districts and introduce improved risk management tools for the farming community.

Rupandehi District(25-30 Jan 2016): Number of Participants 150;

Chitwan District (11-16 February 2016): Number of Participants 174

Kavrepalanchwok District (18-20 February 2016): Number of Participants 210

Bara District (2-8 March 2016): Number of Participants 193

Banke District (2-8 March 2016): Number of participants 130

Sunsari District (9-13 March 2016): Number of participants 165

World Bank's Mid Term Review (MTR)

A World Bank team led by Poonam Pillai (Senior Environmental Specialist, Task Team Leader) carried out the Mid-Term Review and implementation support consultations with the Government of Nepal (GoN) on Building Resilience to Climate Related-Hazards (BRCH) Project from January 25 to February 5, 2016. The main objective of the mid-term review was to work with both implementing agencies, namely, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD) to (i) take stock of project performance; (ii) make any necessary adjustments to project design and implementation; and (iii) identify priority actions to facilitate project implementation. The key issues discussed and agreed during the mission for AMIS Project are as follows:

- Clarification on purchase of number of vehicles by project
- FM MOAD – Revise and resubmit first trimester FMR of FY2015/16
- Submit AMIS development Tender to WB for review
- M&E MOAD – submit draft of Baseline for review
- Submit for review TOR for International Agro-meteorologist Specialist
- Revised MOAD and NARC PP for WB review
- FM MOAD - Submit project audited account of FY2014/15
- Submit Tender for automatic rain and temp gauges for pilot districts to WB
- Submit plan to develop specific agromet products for 3 additional pilot districts based on available data
- Develop MOAD+NARC time bound training plan
- ToR for AMIS building design and
- Cost estimate and submit information for proposed building for AMIS (including availability of land, ownership, proposed cost estimate etc.), environmental and other clearances as per requirement.

Upcoming Events for third Trimester

- District level Project Implementation Workshop in DADO and DLSO Offices Mohottari, Surkhet and Sankhuwasabha
- Roving Seminars in Sankhuwasabha, Siraha, Saptari, Dhankuta, Mohottari, Surkhet for farming communities.
- Focal Person Training for district level focal persons of DADO, DLSO and NARC.
- Distribution of Android Mobile Phone and KISAN SIM for farmers and farming communities.
- Publication and Dissemination of knowledge products; Calander, AMIS Brochure, Poster and Booklet about “ Facts about Climate Change and Agriculture to be known by farmers”.

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Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD)
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Brief information about the Project: The Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD) has been implementing the component D: Creation of Agriculture Management information System (AMIS) under the Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards to diminish the impacts of extreme climate related hazards, protect lives and assets, and support agricultural livelihoods by establishing hydro-meteorological information and early warning systems, upgrading the existing hydro-met and agriculture management information systems, and improving the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecast under early warning system.



Pic 1: One day project implementation workshop in Saptari district



Pic2: Signing ceremony between MoAD and NTC for Kisan-Sim services



Pic 3: Mid Term Review by World Bank



Pic 4: Roving Seminar in Banke



Pic 5: Roving seminar in Chitwan

