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# KNOWLEDGE-BASED INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION (KISAN) PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT — JULY 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2013

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## ACRONYMS

AFN	Antenna Foundation Nepal
AFSP	Agriculture Food Security Project
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BCD	Business Contract Director
BDSO	Business Development Services Officer
CEAPRED	Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development
CDO	Chief District Officers
COP	KISAN Chief of Party
COR	USAID/Nepal/Contracting Officer's Representative
CSISA	Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia
DADC	District Agriculture Development Committees
DADO	District Agriculture Development Offices
DC	District Coordinators
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDC	District Development Committee
DEPROSC	Development Project Service Center
DG	Director General
DDG	Deputy Director General
DIP	Detailed implementation plans
DOA	Department of Agriculture (Nepal)
DPHO	District Public Health Offices
DSR	Direct Seeded Rice
EIG	Education for Income Generation Program
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers
FtF	Feed the Future
GON	Government of Nepal

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GUC	Grants under Contract
HKI	Helen Keller International
HMRP	Hill Maize Research Program
IDE	Integrated Development Environment
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPM-IL	Integrated Pest Management – Innovate Laboratory
INGO	International non-governmental organization
KISAN	Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Project
LDO	Local Development Officers
LSP	Local Service Provider
MOAD	Ministry of Agriculture Development
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPC	Market Planning Committees
MS	Marketing Supervisor
MUS	Multiple Use of Water Systems
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NEAT	Nepal Economic Agriculture and Trade Program
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health
NPAC	National Project Advisory Committee
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPCS	Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Services
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Tool
PCV	Peace Corps Volunteer
PERP	Project Emergency Response Plan
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan

PO	Program Officer
RD	Regional Director
REOI	Request for Expressions of Interest
USAID/Nepal	United States Agency for International Development in Nepal
USG	United States Government
VDC	Village development committee
WB	World Bank
WI	Winrock International
Y1	KISAN Project Year One
Y2	KISAN Project Year Two

## INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development in Nepal (USAID/Nepal) awarded Winrock International a contract on February 14, 2013 for the Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) Project. This project is a part of the Global Presidential Initiative, Feed the Future (FtF), and is the flagship food security project of USAID/Nepal. The Project's overall goal is to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger in Nepal by achieving inclusive growth in the agriculture sector, increasing the incomes of farm families, and improving nutritional status, especially of women and children. The project is implemented in collaboration with five Nepali organizations as subcontractors: Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN); Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED); Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC); Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH); and Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Services (NPCS). During Year Two, the project will work in ten districts in the Bheri and Rapti Zones of the Mid-Western Development Region; six districts in the Mahakali and Seti Zones in the Far-Western Development Region; and in four districts in the Lumbini Zone in the Western Development Region. This multifaceted project will integrate agriculture and nutrition in order to increase agricultural production and incomes, and improve the nutritional status of women and children under the age of five.

As per the contract (Section C.4.8.8 and F.4), Winrock must submit a quarterly progress report up to 30 days following each quarter. The quarterly report describes the accomplishments as compared to the targets and work plan. This third quarterly report covers the period between July 1 and September 30, 2013.

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Major KISAN activities for the quarter included:

- KISAN, with the GON's (World Bank supported) Nepal Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP), organized a joint formal launch on 23 July, 2013 in Kathmandu. The launch was led by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD). Key dignitaries such as the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission as Chief Guest, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Population, the World Bank Country Manager, and the US Ambassador attended the event. KISAN and USAID received a significant amount of publicity as the launch was covered by and appeared in local media including television and daily newspapers. See Annex V for more.
- An Inception Workshop, conducted in conjunction with the Integrated Pest Management-Innovative Laboratory (IPM-IL), was held in Nepalgunj to introduce the project to people in the region. The Joint Secretary MOAD, the Director General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Director General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Point of Contact at the DOA, and Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) as well as various Regional Directors

from the MOAD and MOHP attended the event along with all of the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and MOHP staff of the ten Year One (Y1) KISAN Districts.

- KISAN staff continued to build relationships with the GON and developed plans for the first National Advisory Committee meeting which will be conducted the first week of the second quarter.
- A significant effort was made by KISAN who staff worked closely with AFSP and MOAD/DOA staff to identify Village Development Committees (VDCs) where KISAN will work in the Mid-Western Region. As per government requests, KISAN and AFSP are to work in different VDCs; within districts where both projects are working, KISAN staff have coordinated closely with AFSP and district agriculture offices to ensure that duplication of activities does not occur.
- KISAN staff worked with DADOs in the Far-Western Development Region to identify preliminary VDCs for Year Two (Y2) districts. Staff will identify VDCs for the four Western districts by December 2013.
- In selected VDCs in four districts, district staff began to identify beneficiaries and form seed groups.
- KISAN staff carried out comprehensive district assessments in Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Dang, Salyan, Rukum, Rolpa, and Pyuthan to identify the existing stakeholder networks, map the ongoing activities, and assess conditions of infrastructure related to the agriculture value chain.
- Component A field level activities have commenced in line with the Y2 Annual Workplan (AWP). Component A staff trained farmers on rice seed production, tomato grafting technology, and off-season vegetable production in four Mid-Western districts – Banke, Bardiya, Dang, and Surkhet. Since then, some of those farmers became interested in developing their skills to serve as local service providers (LSPs).
- KISAN carried out several observation visits and farmer discussions with USAID's other two FtF projects in Nepal – Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) and IPM-IL – to disseminate information about their technologies to DOA and NARC staff, KISAN LSPs, agrovets, farmers, and field staff for future replication in KISAN sites, and to interact with the farmers conducting the CSISA and IPM-IL trials.
- The team conducted a series of trainings in coordination with MOAD. These include rice seed production, tomato grafting, and vegetable production trainings.
- Dr. James Litsinger conducted a review of pesticides and pesticide use in Nepal and developed a KISAN Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP).

In addition to starting program activities, much of KISAN staff time has been spent starting up the project. During the quarter KISAN staff:

- Prepared and submitted drafts of the Y1 and Y2 Workplans, Grants Manual, and Security Handbook. The first workplan for Y1 (from February 2013-September 30, 2013) was about to be submitted when we received USAID's request to change the project year. The Y1 workplan was modified and the Y2 workplan was quickly developed.
- Prepared and responded to USAID's various requests for modification proposal. Most of the request involved modifying Component B. Winrock received a request for modification on June 5, with another set of questions and clarification on June 28, due on July 15. Winrock prepared a comprehensive package of modification documents, comprised of a six page Alternate 1 and a seven page Alternative 2. Components included revised budgets, cost narratives, technical proposals, and indicators. A second draft modification and request for budget was sent to Winrock on September 23, 2013. Staff immediately responded to working on that document in the last week of the quarter and then through their holidays.
- Sought USAID's approval for 73 staff during the past quarter, most for the Mid-Western Districts. To date, 124 staff have been approved and hired; an additional 31 staff have been submitted to USAID for approval.
- Developed Y2 District Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPS) for agriculture activities.

## **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION EFFORTS**

### **GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL**

KISAN continues to build relations with the GON's MOAD and MOHP through meetings and discussions. KISAN has oriented multiple government representatives in national, regional, and district-level capacities about the project during the past quarter. Some of the events are described below.

### **PROJECT LAUNCH**

USAID, MOAD, and MOHP formally launched the KISAN project on July 23, 2013 in Kathmandu at a joint event with the World Bank-funded Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP). The two projects are part of larger global initiatives and both utilize integrated agriculture and nutrition approaches to combat food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. Nepal is unique as it is the only country where both global projects integrate these approaches. KISAN will be closely aligned with the AFSP throughout the project period and will exchange lessons learned and best practices, and will seek to avoid duplication of activities within districts.

The Minister of Agricultural Development had agreed to conduct proceedings as Chief Guest, but a sudden, last minute enforcement of government protocols related to the national elections prevented him from attending the event. The vice-chairperson of the National Planning Commission (NPC), the secretaries of both the MOAD and MOHP, USAID, the country manager of the World Bank, and the US ambassador to Nepal attended the event, with the NPC vice-chairperson assuming the role of Chief

Guest. Representatives from various national-level GON line agencies, development partners, private sector, and media attended the event. Representatives from USAID and the MOAD and MOHP signed a symbolic Partnership Agreement to reiterate USG and GON's commitment to combatting food insecurity and malnutrition through the KISAN project. Please see Annex IV and V for the Partnership Agreement and the complete Press Release, respectively.

### **MID-WESTERN INCEPTION EVENT**

On July 31, 2013, USAID together with the MOAD and MOHP presented two food security projects, KISAN and the IPM-IL, in the Mid-Western, Western, and Far-Western Regions to agriculture and health authorities at a joint event in Nepalgunj. These two projects are both part of the Feed the Future (FtF) initiative in Nepal. The purpose of the event was to inform national and regional stakeholders about the objectives and expected impacts of the two new projects; to create a common understanding and support of the KISAN project including its goals, objectives, and implementation plans for linkages and leverage opportunities; and to exchange knowledge and experiences on food security issues in Nepal at the regional level.

The workshop garnered regional and district level agriculture and health attention, with dignitaries on the dais as well as other invitees pledging to support the two initiatives. The Joint Secretary of the MOAD, the Director General of Agriculture and Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Regional Directors of Agriculture and Health of the mid-west, concerned District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs), District Public Health Offices (DPHOs), and others attended the event. Representatives from various national and regional level GON agencies, development partners, private sector, and media also attended the event.

### **ADDITIONAL COLLABORATION WITH GON**

KISAN had other meetings and events with GON which included:

- KISAN conducted meetings with senior officials in July and established a National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) for KISAN that includes senior Agriculture and Health Ministry and Department personnel. The preliminary NPAC meeting is scheduled at the KISAN office on October 3, 2013. Senior representatives from USAID, MOAD, and MOHP are scheduled to attend.
- Senior representatives from the KISAN team have actively participated in Agriculture and Livestock Directorate interaction opportunities in the three development regions in which KISAN will be active.
  - On August 1-2, 2013 senior KISAN staff participated in the joint regional workshop in Regional Agricultural Directorate and the Regional directorate Livestock workshops for the Western development region in Pokhara. Staff oriented the regional director and attending participants about the project.

- On September 11-12, 2013 senior KISAN staff participated in the joint regional workshop organized in Regional Agricultural Directorate and the Regional Livestock Service Directorate and presented the KISAN project in Livestock Subsector Regional workshop in Dhangadi. Staff conducted a separate discussion with the concerned DADOs about VDC selection in their respective districts.
- On September 14-15, 2013 senior KISAN staff participated in the joint regional Agriculture and Livestock Directorate workshops for the Mid-Western development region in Nepalgunj.

### ***GON'S NEPAL/AGRICULTURE FOOD SECURITY PROJECT***

KISAN is working closely with the GON's World Bank supervised ASFP project, which has similar objectives to KISAN and is to be implemented in the Mid-Western and Far-Western development regions of Nepal. KISAN and ASFP are both working in ten mid-hill districts. Since the programs have similar agriculture and nutrition targets, the GON and World Bank prefer that the projects do not work in the same VDCs. KISAN continues frequent meetings and communications with the GON/AFSP, and USAID/Nepal to discuss technical approaches, potential areas for cooperation, and VDC selection. The two projects shared their respective approaches and VDC selection criteria with each other to facilitate coordination at all levels. KISAN presented at AFSP's inception event in the Far-Western Dadeldura District and AFSP was invited to KISAN's Mid-Western inception event.

### ***COORDINATION WITH FEED THE FUTURE PROJECTS IN NEPAL***

KISAN has regular communication with other USAID/FtF projects in Nepal to share best practices and lessons learned. KISAN co-hosted activities with CSISA and IPM-IL Programs (see Activity A.3.1 under Outcome 3/Sub-IR 1.3 below). In addition, staff met with representatives of the Nutrition-IL and the Horticulture-IL. Different activities were jointly implemented by KISAN and staff of related USAID-funded programs to observe the status of the different trials on cereals and vegetables executed by these programs. Trainings and visits were organized jointly to impart new suitable technologies to KISAN staff and the LSPs.

### ***COORDINATION WITH PEACE CORPS***

The KISAN COP with USAID staff visited the Peace Corps training site to meet and introduce the KISAN Project to newly arrived volunteers. Peace Corps will provide 20-22 volunteers who will work with KISAN in Surkhet, Dang and Pyuthan Districts of the Mid-West development region. PCVs will support activities in both Component A and Component B. We expect to begin working with them sometime in late November or early December 2013.

### ***DISTRICT AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS***

Instead of creating a district-based KISAN advisory committee, the KISAN COR requested we work through the existing District Agriculture Development Committees (DADC) which includes

representatives from local stakeholders and district GON representatives. In addition, KISAN staff have met with and briefed the district chief district officers (CDOs), local development officers (LDOs), district development committees (DDCs) and village development committees (VDC) secretaries, district agriculture development officers (DADOs), district public health officers (DPHOs), I/NGOs and other relevant stakeholders to introduce program activities and explore collaboration potential.

The DADC is the committee that AFSP uses to advise and coordinate district-based activities. During the quarter, KISAN staff attended the DADC meetings and used this to introduce the KISAN Project to GON and other development partners in all ten Mid-Western districts and Far-West districts. The DADCs have been instrumental in identifying and finalizing VDCs for the KISAN Project. Based on recent the modification, we expect to expand our involvement to work with two different district coordination committees.

### VDC SELECTION

KISAN central, regional and district staff worked with GON and ASFP staff to identify KISAN agriculture VDCs in Mid-Western Districts. Through meetings between the two projects and ongoing consultations with the DADCs, KISAN has been able to identify project VDCs in the ten Mid-Western districts in August 2013. A list of DADC-approved VDCs has been demarcated for the KISAN Project in Table I below.

**TABLE I: DADC-APPROVED AGRICULTURE KISAN VDCS**

District	Cluster	Agriculture VDCs
Pyuthan	Cluster I	Manghkot, Maranthana and Torbang
	Cluster II	Nayagoan, Gothibang, Bhingri, Sari, Belvaspur, Swargidwarikhal and Ramdi
	Cluster III	Hanspur, Dhungegadhi and Bangeshal
Dang	Cluster I	Gadhawa, Gangaparashpur, Gobardiya, Bela, Rajpur
	Cluster II	Satbariya, Chailahi, Sonpur, Sisahaniya, Lalmatiya
	Cluster III	Loharpani, Kavra, Rampur, Narayanpur, Saudiyar, Dharna, Dhikpur
	Cluster IV	Goltakuri, Phulbari, Urhari, Shantinagar, Hekuli, Dhanauri, Panchakule, Baghmare, Purandhara
Rolpa	Cluster I	Kotgaun, Khumel
	Cluster II	Nuwagaun, Dubring, Sakhi, Jedwang, Jhenam,

	Cluster III	Dubidanada, Jaulipokhari, Masina
	Cluster IV	Aresh, Ghodagaun, Khungri, Sirpa
Bardiya	Cluster I	Rajapur, Bhimapur, Manuan, Khairichandanpur, Badalpur, Daulatpur, Manputapra
	Cluster II	Motipur, Deudakala, Dhadbar, Baniyabhar, Padnaha, Magragadi
	Cluster III	Mohamadpur, Kalika, Maniapokhar, Sorhawa, Jamuni
Salyan	Cluster I	Kotbara, Kotmala, Pipal Neta, Tharmare
	Cluster II	Chhayachhetra, Dandagaun, Kajeri, Khalanga, Siddheswar
	Cluster III	Karagithi, Kavra, Phalawang, Rim, Sinwang, Tribeni
Rukum	Cluster I	Syalapakha, Morawang, Mahat, Rukumkot, Kankri, Bhafikot
	Cluster II	Rugha, Khara, Muru, Jhula, Magma, Athabiskot, Athabisdadagaon
Dailekh	Cluster I	Chauratha, Bidhayabasini, Paganath, Room, Badabhairav, Lakuri
	Cluster II	Dadaparajuli, Gouri, Baraha, Seri, Gaganpani, Lalikada, Piladi
	Cluster III	Mallika, Nepa, Chusipusakot, Paduka, Bhairaikalikakathum
	Cluster IV	Badakhola, Khairigaira
Surkhet	Cluster I	Sahare, Malarani, Dahachaur, Khumkhahare, Chhinchhu
	Cluster II	Matela, Aawalching, Pamka, Ratu, Jarbuta
	Cluster III	Kunathari, Pokharikanda, Taranga, Hariharpur, Gadhi
Jajarkot	Cluster I	Nayakwada, Paink, Ramidanda, Rokayagaun, Sakala
	Cluster II	Bhoor, Dasera, Khagenkot, Lahai, Pajaru

### **VDC LEVEL COLLABORATION**

The KISAN team has begun to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration within the VDCs. Staff have held VDC level coordination meetings to orient potential collaborators to KISAN program activities and working modalities.

## **LEVERAGING RESOURCES**

Through this reporting period, the team continues to explore opportunities for collaboration with a number of government and non-government organizations to leverage additional services for KISAN communities. Discussions are underway with the Poverty Alleviation Fund, Helvetas, the Alternative Energy Promotion Center and others for agriculture-related livelihood services and facilities, including subsidies for irrigation, enterprises, and female-friendly machinery. In addition, KISAN meets regularly with other USAID programs in the Mid-West Sajeedari Bikash and Health 4 Life both of which have large grant funds. Moreover, Winrock has also initiated dialogue with Unilever Nepal, Golcha Organization, and GON's Raising Incomes of Small and Medium Farmers project (RISMMFP). The PPP Manager and technical teams are working with these organizations to define details of collaboration. We anticipate that field activities will begin in the second quarter once the general agreements have been signed to formalize institutional linkages.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS COMPARED TO TARGETS**

During the quarter, KISAN received approval for the Component A workplan, while the Component B portion of the project remains under negotiation (see page 23 below). KISAN staff finalized key start up activities (see section on Management and Administration, page 18) and began working on activities to support agriculture production. This section describes the activities conducted in the first quarter as per the workplan. See Annex III for the events calendar.

## **COMPONENT A IR 1: IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY**

### **OUTCOME 1, SUB-IR 1.1: FARMERS RECEIVE IMPROVED AND INCREASED AGRICULTURAL INPUTS**

**Activity A.1.1 Increase the Quantity and Improve the Quality of Seed Inputs.** KISAN will increase the quantity and improve the quality of seed inputs.

#### **Seed Sector Assessment**

The first activity to strengthen the seed sector in the Mid-Western Region was to conduct an assessment of the seed sector. This contributes to activities *A.1.1.1 Conduct assessment of the seed sector (producers and suppliers)* and *A.1.1.2 Strengthen seed sector value chain* of the workplan. The assessment was carried out in project districts to identify potential seed production pockets, private sector players, and priority activities for KISAN. From among the ten project districts, Banke, Bardia, and Dang were found to have the most potential in terms of rice and lentil seed production. The assessment identified seed pockets in all ten Mid-Western districts, and a total of 24 potential seed traders/companies in project districts. The assessment concluded with some recommendations to improve seed sector output:

- Strengthen existing seed groups/cooperatives in districts.
- Increase seed productivity through high yielding seed varieties and improved cultivation practices.
- Strengthen and coordinate with and between public and private sector service providers including agro-vets and seed companies.
- Support seed producer groups/cooperatives' efforts to produce quality seed and maintain seed cycles for improved practices for seed production.
- Provide lead farmers a complete package of production training as LSPs who can then go on to train small farmers.
- Collaborate with Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and private seed companies to produce more foundation and certified seeds to increase seed replacement rates.
- Provide entrepreneurship skills training, including how to prepare budgets and basic business management skills, to seed producer groups and cooperatives.

**Activity A.1.1.3 Increase quality seed production.** During the first quarter of Y2, KISAN staff conducted three separate rice seed production trainings for seed cooperatives in Banke, Bardiya, and Dang districts. The purpose of the trainings was to enhance the technical capacity of seed producers and to raise awareness among farmers of the quality of seeds and about major production techniques from sowing to harvesting. In August, a total 136 farmers participated in these trainings and gained knowledge on improved rice seed production technologies.

The team has also brought farmers, LSPs, and other stakeholders to visit several CSISA and IPM-IL demonstration and trail plots to teach best practices (see Activity A.3.1 under Outcome 3/Sub-IR 1.3 below). Trainings will continue throughout Y2.

**Activity A.1.3 Increase Credit Availability in KISAN Districts.** During the past quarter, DEPRSOC carried out an initial assessment of microfinance services in Nepal and is currently in the process of collecting primary data. The team collected secondary data on the status and conditions of cooperatives in Nepal in the KISAN project areas. Information from the Department of Cooperatives indicates that a total of 26,501 cooperatives are operating Nepal as of 2012. In the Mid-Western, 2,353 cooperatives are registered with respective division cooperative offices, providing loans in seven sectors as presented in Table 2.

**TABLE 2: COOPERATIVE CATEGORIES AND LOAN PORTFOLIO IN KISAN MID-WESTERN DISTRICTS**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Loan Amount in NRS</b>	<b>US \$ (NRs 80= 1US\$)</b>
Savings & Credit	14,020,271	175,253
Multipurpose	330,038	4,125
Agriculture	521,419	6,518
Milk	9,521	119
Consumer	3,973	50
Vegetables fruits	110,580	1,382
Others (NTFP, Sugarcane)	2,519	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>NRS 14,998,321</b>	<b>\$187,478</b>

Source: Department of Cooperatives (2069)

### **OUTCOME 2, SUB-IR 1.2: IMPROVED CAPACITY OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION WORKERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND FARMERS.**

Under Outcome 2, KISAN began training change agents in the target districts to provide technical training to farmers. Change agents will include staff, extension agents, farmers, agro-vets, service providers, FCHVs, child-club members, village health workers, and farmers, who in turn will train KISAN beneficiary households.

**Activity A.2.1.1 Develop curriculum and materials for TOTs for Change Agents to use in their training.** The Outcome 2 manager worked with other Outcome Managers to develop their respective technical curricula that will be used to train change agents. During the last quarter, KISAN Winrock adapted existing NEAT and EIG training manuals to use for KISAN trainings for agriculture topics including: marketing, seed production, high-value agriculture, improved crop production, small livestock, conservation agriculture, female-friendly agriculture, cooperative development, how to access credit, organic soil fertilization techniques, environmental and health precautions with agriculture chemicals, and seed storage, post-harvest handling and storage.

**Activity A.2.1.2 Identify Change Agents and conduct training sessions.** The majority of change agent trainings will happen after KISAN staff is trained and they return to their districts. However, during the last quarter, KISAN was able to identify 35 farmers, agro-vets and co-operative leaders as potential change agents and has included them in the tomato grafting training and in both CSISA and IPM-IL observation tours. Once they transition into change agents group will go on to train farmers and share new knowledge in respective communities.

**Activity A.2.2 Organize farmers into Groups and Cooperatives** KISAN began to identify suitable existing groups and in some cases formed new groups in six VDCs. During the quarter, more than 30 farmers groups were identified across the mid-west districts.

**Activity A.2.3 Train farmers on improved production and post-harvest on rice, maize, lentil, and vegetables.** Farmers will receive a series of trainings, both one-day and mobile, for two crop cycles per year. To date, two trainings have taken place (off-season vegetable production and tomato grafting technology). Trainings will continue through Y2 in all project districts.

### ***Off-season Vegetable Production***

The team conducted a one-day off-season vegetable production training on September 12, 2013 at Chailahi-7, Semarhawa Dang. The training highlighted the importance of off-season vegetable production and best practices; built commercial farmer capacities in off-season vegetable production; and established a White Cup variety Cauliflower Nursery as a demonstration plot. Twenty-six farmers participated in the training program.

### ***Tomato Grafting Technology***

The team conducted a training on tomato grafting technology at the Regional Agriculture Research Centre in Khajura September 23-24. District coordinators (DC)/program officers (PO) and commercial growers from seven KISAN districts participated. The objective of the training was to disseminate practical knowledge on grafting technology in tomato and brinjal, and about control of nematode and bacterial wilt in grafted tomato and brinjal plants. A total of 23 people participated in the training including farmers, agro-vets, and cooperative leaders along with seven KISAN district coordinators. As cited in Activity A.2.1.2, seven participants have been selected as possible change agents. Winrock expects that these people will go on internalize and adopt these practices themselves in respective communities, and go on to further train other farmers. It is expected that many the farmers trained will transition to become KISAN LSPs.

### ***OUTCOME 3, SUB-IR 1.3: IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES ADOPTED AT THE FARM LEVEL.***

Outcome 3 focuses on improving natural resource management, including water management, through innovative capture technologies and efficient water usage methodologies such as multi-purpose ponds or micro-dams that incorporate irrigation and off-season crop production. Additionally, soil management will be improved via conservation tillage practices, composting to increase soil organic matter, and improved irrigation practices.

#### **Activity A.3.1 Design Technical and Field-based Interventions to Improve Production.**

KISAN has facilitated relations with other projects (CSISA, HMRP, IPM-IL, Suaahara, etc.) to integrate proven technologies and practices from agronomy into training packets for change agents and demonstration plots to identify environmentally-friendly agriculture technologies and practices that increase sustainable production of high-value crops, improve yields of traditional crops, and grow nutrient-rich foods for household consumption. During the first quarter there were visits to CSISA and IMP-IL Demonstration plots.

#### ***Visits to CSISA Demonstration/Trial Plots***

One way that that KISAN will introduce new technologies to farmers is to transfer best practices and findings from other projects and teach KISAN staff, LSPs and GON extension agents how to replicate the information. During the past quarter, KISAN led two visits to CSISA rice and maize demonstration plots. During the first visit on September 4–5, KISAN staff visited rice and maize trail plots in Gadhi, Surkhet, and rice trial plots in Uttarganga, Surkhet and Naubasta, Banke. The KISAN team learned that there is significant potential to increase maize yield by at least 30 percent by changing the maize seed variety, timely sowing, maintaining an optimum plant population, and proper weed management.

For the second visit on September 29, KISAN brought USAID staff to visit the CSISA rice plot in Naubasta and Sutaiya, Banke. More than 55 representatives from seed cooperatives, seed companies, agro-vet, coops, KISAN change agents, GON, seed producers, NARC, USAID/Nepal, etc. participated in an exposure visit to CSISA sites in Gadhi and Uttarganga, Surkhet. The objective of both visits was to educate participants on various technologies and practices such as direct sowing rice (DSR) versus transplanted rice, improved and hybrid varieties, fertilizer application, local management approaches, etc. Participants had the opportunity to observe improved farm equipment like the rice harvester, interact with farmers, and discuss improved technologies/varieties.

The KISAN team remains in close contact with CSISA staff, and is awaiting final recommendations on the result of these trial plots. KISAN will plan accordingly once the findings are finalized. In the coming quarter, KISAN will incorporate lessons learned in the scheduled training events as per the DIPs, and will encourage adoption of the new technologies.

### **Key Points Discussed at CSISA Demonstration Plot**

CSISA staff provided an overview of their trial, why they did it, and expected results. They will show farmers cost analysis in simple terms, after harvest; machinery options demonstrated for harvest, threshing; building service provision models rather than having large numbers of farmers in same village think about buying machinery; what agro vets might want to think about—varieties and hybrids that they may want to arrange to bring in and be available for next season.

Farmers: shared their thoughts on trial and expected results—what they like, what they don't; what they have taken away from these trials; what they might want to do for next season; which varieties they might want—now that agro vets are there to hear; what they see as key constraints if they want to implement anything they see in the trials—and anything else that comes up. They also articulated what they expect from KISAN project.

Machinery dealers: what their thoughts are as they see trials and hear about CSISA-NP plans for machinery; if any thoughts for how to build service provision; what role our projects could play in this.

Agro-vets/wholesalers: whether they can provide varieties/hybrids seen in the trials in sufficient quantity and quality; what the situation is in terms of providing fertilizers on time; what constraints they face.

KISAN staff: questions related to the above; interjection to answer any issues that come up that KISAN has a role in resolving.

### ***IPM-IL Vegetable Trial Plots***

On September 30, 2013 the team, together with the USAID and IPM-IL team, also visited IPM-IL vegetable trial sites at Bageshori, in the sites in Nepalganj. The IPM-IL team shared information about various IPM packages and practices as applied for tomato and brinjal cultivation. As observed during the site visit, the plots with IPM packages and practices were seen to have better growth, with less pest infestations as compared to non-IPM plots. Farmers indicated willingness to adopt these practices, but cited lack of access to organic pesticides as the greatest barrier to adoption of IPM technologies. IPM-IL field staff discussed IPM-IL renew the Kalika vegetable producer group's tomato plot at Sano Harre. This

producer group has 40 members. A total of six members growing the Srijana variety of tomato use IPM-IL selected bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides

## **COMPONENT A IR 2: INCREASED AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN PRODUCTIVITY LEADING TO GREATER ON- AND -OFF FARM JOBS**

### **OUTCOME 4, SUB-IR 2.1: IMPROVED MARKET EFFICIENCY**

**Activity A.4.1 Conduct Assessment of Collection Centers and Markets.** KISAN carried out an initial assessment of market planning committees (MPCs) and agro-vets in KISAN project areas to examine their status, detail the specific services they provide, and provide key insights into their current capacity. Staff interviewed 85 MPCs, 51 of which were found to be functional. The primary reasons for ineffectiveness of the remaining 34 MPCs include limited production, inadequate business/market-led production plan, non-availability of consumers, and presence of local and external traders. KISAN will help strengthen such MPCs by strengthening MPC members, increasing areas and production lines, and developing linkages with input and output traders to make it functional. Of the functional MPCs/haat bazars in the hill districts, most are functional only on a seasonal basis from June to October. In the terai, MPCs were functional year round.

The team also assessed agro-vet services. A total of 269 agro-vets were listed as service providers in KISAN project VDCs, with the most in Dang (150) and the fewest in Jajarkot (3). The assessment analyzed agro-vets' business models, business strategies, volume of sales, and marketing techniques. In the project area, the total volume of vegetable sales was 24,902 mt., amounting to US\$ 8,694,343. Based on this assessment, KISAN will work to address current MPC gaps through strategic training plans. The project will also work to increase crop catchment areas by promoting cultivation of particular crops and varieties as per the DIPs. Similarly, to address the current barrier of lack of coordination and cooperation between actors in value chain, KISAN will identify key linkage creation interaction opportunities to enable agro-vets and farmers to work together to improve the flow of services. This will also be conducted as per DIPs.

**Activity A.4.2 Identify Priorities and Plans for Agricultural Collection Centers, and Wholesale Markets.** The basic assessment/ inventory of the collection centers (described above) helped identify initial priorities and challenges that the MPCs and wholesale markets face. Of the 85 MPCs identified, 51 were found to be functional, and 34 non-functional (see Activity A.4.1 for additional detail on this initial assessment). KISAN is planning a comprehensive market assessment (collection centers/MPCs) of these MPCs. A marketing consultant, Tom Green, will arrive in the next quarter to conduct individual assessments of the key collection centers and wholesale markets.

**Activity A.4.3 Conduct Exposure visits.** KISAN expected to conduct exposure visits for selected MPCs, LSPs, project staff, GON staff, etc. to visit well-developed and functional MPCs, wholesale markets, and production pockets so they will be exposed to successful markets and replicate examples they see. These will start in the next quarter.

**Activity A.4.5 Identify and strengthen existing MPCs.** As part of this task, the initial MPC assessment has been completed (see Activity A.4.1). During the second quarter, the Marketing Supervisor (MS) along with the DC, PO, and BDSO will identify capacity-building needs to strengthen MPCs to sustainably serve the farmers and markets.

**Activity A.4.6 Strengthen wholesale markets.** As KISAN trains more and more farmers to raise high-value products, we want to ensure that we don't saturate the market and exceed the capacity of the terminal markets. During the quarter, KISAN staff have made plans to work with the Outcome 4 Manager to work with MPCs/wholesale markets to increase their capacity and efficiency. The consultant will evaluate wholesale markets, work with their management, and identify specific needs. The trip was delayed due to the consultant's schedule, Nepali holidays and the election.

KISAN has hired consultant Tom Green to conduct an assessment of wholesale markets in the Mid-Western districts.

## **OUTCOME 5, SUB-IR 2.2: INCREASED CAPACITY OF GON AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Interventions under this output will build the organizational and technical capacity of local organizations to, for example, conduct rigorous and large scale monitoring and evaluation, and perform sound financial management, internal auditing, and reporting. With respect to the GON, capacity building will be undertaken in agriculture research and extension.

**Activity A.5.1 Increase Capacity Building of Local Organizations.** Winrock requested to meet with USAID on to discuss this plan during September, but was asked not to start this activity until the modification was signed.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **START UP**

As a consequence of the modifications to the project reporting cycle in June 2013, Y1 of the KISAN project was completed on June 30, 2013. The ongoing annual work was subsequently re-adjusted to reflect activities completed by June 2013, and others continuing through to Y2 from July 2013 to June 2014. Winrock submitted the Y1 AWP on August 15, 2013 based verbal requests from the COR, and clarified the final questions in USAID's approval email dated August 26, 2013.

In spite of the contract modifications, the Component A approach remains the same with no major changes. Upon USAID's verbal request, Winrock has finalized Component A portions of the Y2 AWP and submitted it on August 26, 2013. USAID approved the Component A portions of the Y2 AWP on September 23, 2013. The Y2 Component B AWP has yet to be finalized or submitted. Winrock awaits approval of the third modification proposal Winrock developed for Component B. Based on the Y2

AWP, KISAN also developed the Component A sections of the Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) for the ten YI Mid-Western districts. The KISAN team has met all key start-up tasks of the project as per the set deliverables. The Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, and ten Mid-Western district offices are fully equipped and operational.

### **MOBILIZING STAFF**

During the past quarter, Winrock has continued to fill positions. As of September 30, Winrock has hired a total of 124 staff (see Annex 1). Of the 124 staff, Winrock hired 72 (Kathmandu – 15, Regional Office – 12, District office – 45); CEAPRED hired 36 (Kathmandu – 2, Regional Office – 2, District – 33); DEPROSC hired 4 (Kathmandu – 1, Regional Office – 3); NEWAH hired 6 (Kathmandu – 5, Regional Office – 1); and NPCS hired 5 (Kathmandu – 2, Regional Office – 2, District – 2). Winrock has also submitted documentation to USAID for approval of an additional 31 staff.

The proposed Agriculture Expert, Dr. Purushottam Mainali, joined the KISAN office on July 1, 2013. District coordinators and other regional staff have been hired and are in their respective districts. They have initiated dialogue with DDC/VDCs and other GON agencies, as well as private sector authorities.

Due to the departure of Kalpana Tiwari as Component B Nutrition Expert, Winrock submitted a request for approval for Dillip Poudel on July 17, 2013. USAID responded on September 3, 2013 that he did not meet the qualifications. Winrock then submitted an alternative candidate on September 17, 2013. On September 23, 2013, Winrock learned that USAID wanted us to engage a subcontractor and they would hold the positions.

### **OFFICE LEASE AND PROCUREMENT**

The Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, and the ten YI district offices are fully operational. Initial procurement is complete. Most of the items approved for procurement have been secured and sent to Regional and District Offices except for some motorcycles, desktop computers, and a server. Desktop computers and motorcycles will be procured in the period December 2013 – January 2014 for the Western and Far-Western Development region District offices. In addition to the server, KISAN inherited over 90 different non-expendable items from NEAT, including four wheel vehicles (4), motorcycles (24), desktop computers (17), laptop computers (17), GPS (28), and generators (3).

All district offices have been selected in accordance with Winrock leasing policies and are equipped with the approved KISAN Project Policy (including standardized per diem rate.)

### **KISAN PARTNER COORDINATION**

A KISAN partner coordination meeting was held on August 29, 2013. The meeting provided a platform to discuss project updates, including USAID's requested modifications to the contract, and to plan activities for the quarter. This was the fourth partner coordination meeting and was conducted after a two month gap because of the need to prioritize staff time to respond to USAID/Nepal modifications.

## **WI-KISAN MONITORING SYSTEM**

Winrock has pretested and reviewed the KISAN M&E forms in the field. Forms developed and sent to USAID for inputs include the KISAN Group, Organization, Recipient Household, Training, and Asset Creation forms. Activities are also underway to finalize the WIKISAN (Web Interactive Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition) M&E system. This web-based interactive monitoring and evaluation database is a comprehensive knowledge-based product where the program and its activities can be configured and executed. The WIKISAN database is designed to track activities, target beneficiaries, groups, organizations, partners, performance indicators, and results. The system is a single-entry online data entry and reporting system to be used to track, analyze, document, and evaluate multi-tier project data of targeted beneficiaries with data disaggregated by districts, organization, sex, etc. KISAN demonstrated how the system operates in September, and the system is in the process of being finalized. See Annex II for more information.

## **KISAN PROJECT AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION**

As noted in previous reports, Winrock received contract modification requests from USAID on June 5 and June 28 which have caused a delay in project planning and implementation, particularly of Component B. The additional staff time focusing on the revisions has slowed down start up activities in general. The quarter was spent responding to questions, reviewing and commenting on draft modifications and awaiting the response to WI's proposed modification on July 15. USAID sent questions to Winrock on August 8, 2013, requesting a response by August 12, 2013. Winrock requested an extension which was granted. Winrock submitted the answers on August 14<sup>th</sup>. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we learned that USAID did not want to work in all districts. On September 9, Winrock received revision of the key personnel related to Component B. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we received another draft modification for us to review and discuss with USAID. We provided comments to USAID and then met with both agriculture, nutrition, and contract staff on September 24<sup>th</sup> to gain clarification and request changes to the text. Among other things, Winrock has been concerned about the numerous indicators and lack of clarity regarding which indicators were tied to "completing" the contract. Winrock and USAID agreed to have a follow up meeting to clarify indicators and that they would send Winrock a revised modification by the first week of the following quarter, by October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONTRACT DELIVERABLES**

As of September 2013, Winrock has finalized and submitted all the deliverable documentation for project implementation as required by the Contract. During the past quarter, KISAN submitted the Grants Under Contract Manual and the Security Handbook. The final requisite Monthly Reports for the initial six months of the project was submitted; Winrock will only be submitting quarterly performance reports to USAID from this quarter onwards. Financial Reports, the Year One Annual Performance Report, and Quarterly Progress Reports continue to be developed and submitted as per the scheduled submission deadlines.

Winrock received USAID's modified guidelines pertaining to KISAN deliverables on September 23, 2013. The final modification document requires some deliverables to be revised and resubmitted, while others have been approved and cleared for implementation. Table 3 summarizes the status of the deliverables.

**TABLE 3: CONTRACT DELIVERABLES**

<b>Deliverable Documentation</b>	<b>Dates Submitted</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contract Modification</b>
Management Plan	March 31, 2013 Revised and resubmitted April 7, 2013	Approved April 18, 2013	Component A approved. Revised plan required for Component B.
Life of Project Implementation Plan	May 17, 2013	Submitted Received comments from USAID/Nepal on June 27, 2013; need finalize details based on the final approach as per the modification document before the second draft is submitted.	Component A approved. Revised plan required for Component B.
Procurement Plan	April 29, 2013 Revised and resubmitted May 30, 2013	Awaiting Approval	No issue.
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	June 5, 2013	Received comments on July 9, 2013; need to have indicators finalized in the modification before the second draft is submitted.	To be revised incorporating changes to the Contract and resubmitted on October 22, 2013.
Year One Annual Work Plan	Originally due June 10, 2013, requested	Original documented divided, and Year One portions	Approved on August 26, 2013.

**TABLE 3: CONTRACT DELIVERABLES**

<b>Deliverable Documentation</b>	<b>Dates Submitted</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contract Modification</b>
	by USAID/Nepal to hold off submission	submitted on August 15, 2013	
Year Two Annual Work Plan	Component A portion submitted August 26, 2013.	Awaiting final contract modification approval	Component A approved on September 23, 2013 . Revised plan required for Component B.
Outreach and Communications Plan	Originally due June 10, 2013 as part of workplan; Submitted June 27	USAID to provide inputs by October 25, 2013.	No issue. To incorporate USAID inputs and resubmit on November 8, 2013.
Environment Mitigation and Management Plan	Originally due June 10, 2013 as part of workplan	PERSUAP submitted, 2013 USAID comments received August 26, 2013 PERSUAP submitted October 17, 2013.	
Monthly Reports	March 31, April 30, May 31, June 30	Final monthly report to be submitted in July	
Quarterly Progress Reports	Submitted April 30 for First Quarter	Received acknowledgement of receipt from USAID/Nepal	
Annual Performance Report	Annual Report submitted in lieu of the Second Quarterly Report on August 10, 2010	Received comments from USAID/Nepal on August 13, 2013.	Final revision incorporating USAID comments submitted on October 11, 2013.
Grants Under Contracts	August 14, 2013	Submitted on August 14, 2013	Grant Flow Cycle chart to be submitted to

**TABLE 3: CONTRACT DELIVERABLES**

<b>Deliverable Documentation</b>	<b>Dates Submitted</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contract Modification</b>
			USAID by October 22, 2013.
Security Report	August 14, 2013	Submitted on August 14, 2013	No issue.

### **YEAR ONE ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

During the past quarter, USAID had asked Winrock for the Annual Workplans. Originally due on June 10, 2013, Winrock received an email from USAID requesting we hold off on submitting the workplan until the modification was signed. However, as part of the modification, the first year ended at the end of last quarter. In other words, Year One of the KISAN project was completed June 30, 2013. During June, USAID asked us for our workplan and we quickly modified the original workplan to confirm the new project year and anticipated changes in the program activities for component B. The Y1 AWP was submitted to USAID on August 15, along with the response to USAID's final questions. The Y1 AWP was approved on August 26, 2013.

### **YEAR TWO ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

In June 2013, USAID asked Winrock to delay submission of the Y1 AWP. In August, USAID verbally requested that Winrock submit its workplans for Y1 and Y2. As per USAID's suggestion, Winrock has finalized the Component A section of the Y2 AWP and submitted it on August 26, 2013. USAID approved the Component A section on September 23, 2013. The Component B section remains to be finalized and submitted. Y2 activities focus on outcome-based tasks in all the project districts, beginning with the ten Mid-Western districts in October 2013, and incorporating the ten Far-Western and Western districts from January 2014 onwards.

### **DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

The Year Two Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) were developed and finalized for Component A activities based on the Y2 AWP. In August and September, KISAN district and regional staff finalized the DIPs for Banke District. The rest of the DIPs will be finalized in October at the staff TOT. KISAN has begun developing the DIPs for the Far-Western and Western districts as well. The DIPs were developed with the active participation of District Coordinators (DCs), managers, experts, Administrative/Finance Director and Officer, Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), and Business Contract Director (BCD) along with partners' staff. Major activities included in the DIPs are the formal project launch in Kathmandu and inception in Nepalgunj; orientation/training for project staff; workshops at

regional and district levels; exposure visits for farmers and change agents; trainings for change agents; and packages of one-day as well as mobile training sessions for farmers, among other activities. KISAN developed standard operating methods to ensure uniformity in planning in all project districts.

### **WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY GRANTS UNDER CONTRACT PLANNING**

During this reporting cycle, Winrock developed and submitted a Grants under Contract (GUC) Manual as contractually required. The GUC manual describes the policies and procedures for implementing the grants program. Upon receiving USAID approval, KISAN will invite applications through Expression of Interest and/or Request for Applications. A pre-application orientation will also be conducted for potential organizations.

### **SECURITY HANDBOOK**

Winrock developed a Security Handbook for the KISAN project. The Security Handbook includes a Project Emergency Response Plan (PERP) that explains staff responsibilities; travel policy; facility security resources and standards; media policy; medical response plan; and emergency action procedures. It also includes incident reporting for various types of emergencies, including earthquakes, violence, traffic accidents, etc. The document contains information regarding local law enforcement; an escalation and evacuation plan; a communication/phone tree that designates project-specific wardens with contact details of key project staff; and updated contact numbers of emergency facilities in both Kathmandu and in Nepalgunj. The PERP will be adopted as the KISAN Project emergency planning document for the entire KISAN team; Winrock will work with partners to encourage them to develop organization-specific emergency planning documents.

The KISAN Project has established a presence in all ten Mid-Western districts and initiated some field activities following formal launch and inception events in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj. central, regional, and district-level offices are all operational and staff has been recruited.

## **ANTICIPATED FUTURE PROBLEMS, DELAYS, CONDITIONS, AND CONSTRAINTS THAT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM**

As previously noted, Winrock received the most recent USAID modification to the KISAN Contract on September 23, 2013. This is the third time Winrock and its partners have been asked to modify Component B. Program implementation has been delayed as staff have focused on preparation of the various modifications. The team now hopes that we can now move towards finalizing details of the entire project. Component A activities for Y2 have already been detailed and approved by USAID, and agriculture-related activities have begun at field level in the VDCs this past quarter.

Winrock anticipated rolling out the Component B activities in a similar manner upon finalization of the earlier modification. However, the September modifications to the Component B approach are complex, and necessitate thorough revision of all aspects pertaining to nutrition and sanitation-related

activities prior to activity rollout. As per USAID's modification document, Winrock will implement Component A of the KISAN Project, and sub-contract Component B to an INGO with strength in implementing nutrition projects at community-level in Nepal. As per USAID suggestion, Winrock has identified Helen Keller International (HKI) as the most qualified organization to lead Component B.

The modified Component B interventions expects longer and more extensive training of staff within the GON health extension system, and more intense interaction with the 1000 day mothers, both of which have cost implications. Component B is currently being revised to follow USAID's Suaahara model in ten KISAN districts as proposed in the amendment document.

KISAN project the baseline collection is yet to begin. There has been uncertainty since May about whether Winrock should collect and compile baseline information, or if the task is to be assigned to a third party. During the last quarter, we learned that USAID will contract this work to another organization and it will be ready at the end of Q3 or the beginning of Q4. The KISAN team has concerns about effective collection of pre-intervention scenarios at this stage, and concerns that the information collected may not correlate exactly with the final project indicators.

At the end of the quarter, Winrock was not clear about which indicators needed to be met to complete the contract. A meeting is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss this.

## **SECURITY ISSUES**

During the quarter, there were several politically motivated strikes held in Kathmandu and various other project districts that required the KISAN staff to cut short and rearrange meetings on: July 2, 11; August 1, 2, 8, 9; and September 12. Other than the inconvenience, they did not impair the progress of the project. See Annex III for details.

## **CONSULTANTS, SHORT TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

PERSUAP expert Dr. James Litsinger traveled to Nepal for his assignment from June 23, 2013 until July 11, 2013. Dr. Litsinger assessed and analyzed pesticide use in Nepal for a PERSUAP report. Home office Coordinator, Erin Hughes, traveled to Nepal to work on the modification and help finalize deliverables in September 2013. See Annex IV for trip reports.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

As part of KISAN's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), the project will develop an evaluation of programs through a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) that outlines currently used agrochemicals, or those that may be used in the future. Between June and July, Winrock fielded pesticide expert Dr. James Litsinger to produce a PERSUAP that serves as an action plan to ensure safe and economic agrochemical use for activities supported by KISAN for cereal crop production (rice, maize, pulses) and high value agriculture including but not limited to sweet peppers,

cauliflower, tomatoes, green beans, apples, goats, and poultry. In the course of his three week assignment, Dr. Litsinger met with various GON departments of agriculture and livestock including Plant Protection Directorate/IPM Manager in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj, and visited some field sites. He met the IL/IDE project representative, as well as agro-vets, scientists, subject matter specialists, and private sector wholesalers to understand the current pesticides available in the market. KISAN will finalize and submit this report in September 2013, and present study findings and action plans to USAID/Nepal, relevant stakeholders (such as the Pesticide Regulatory Body of the Government) and private stakeholders related to pesticide usage in Nepal.

## PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

During the course of Y2, (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), Winrock will establish a presence and begin field level interventions in all 20 KISAN districts. Staffing and project rollout of agriculture-related activities have begun as per scheduled. Plans for the next quarter are as follow:

- We anticipate that the Component B proponent and approach will be finalized by December.
- Winrock will mobilize additional KISAN subcontractors as per the modification.
- The first NPAC meeting is scheduled on October 3, 2013 at the KISAN office in Kathmandu. All MOAD, MOHP representatives, and USAID are scheduled to attend.
- Winrock will conduct Training of Trainer and staff orientation for key KISAN staff from the ten Mid-Western districts is scheduled for late October in Nepalgunj.
- Winrock is working to finalize MoUs for collaboration with national stakeholders including the Poverty Alleviation Fund, Helvetas, and the Alternative Energy Promotion Center to leverage KISAN efforts at community level.
- KISAN will complete VDC selection for the Far-Western districts by November 2013, and will establish offices in the Far-Western and Western districts by February 2014. VDC selection in the west will take place in December 2013 January 2014.
- KISAN will recruit and mobilize more than 50 LSPs to conduct 100 mobile trainings.
- KISAN will train the households in sub-sector crops such as vegetables and lentils as per DIPs.
- Component A staff will identify, seek approval, and hire staff of for the Far-Western and Western districts in November-December 2013.
- The Component B subcontractors will identify, seek approval, and hire staff.
- Selected MPCs will visit very successful MPCs in the region and elsewhere in the country for exposure on proper operation and management practices.

- KISAN has hired a consultant to conduct an assessment of wholesale markets and identify specific needs in Mid-Western districts. The consultant is scheduled to travel to Nepal in November 2013 and will work with the Outcome 4 Manager to work with MPCs/wholesale markets to increase their capacity and efficiency.
- KISAN has hired a Post-Harvest expert who will review post-harvest issues of KISAN districts and suggest approaches. The consultant is scheduled to travel to Nepal in November 2013.
- Winrock will work with partners to finalize DIPs.
- KISAN will conduct semi-annual review and planning workshops in December 2013; Officers and DCs from all districts as well as regional and central office staff will participate.
- Winrock will select and conduct assessments of five local organizations to identify specific training needs and develop a custom-tailored training place for each organization's capacity building efforts.
- KISAN will begin training small enterprises and CBOs to strengthen their entrepreneurial and organizational skills.
- KISAN (with US-based MUS experts) will conduct a workshop to introduce the multiple use water systems (MUS) concept to Component A and Component B staff, National-level Government Officials, and donors. The US-based MUS experts will provide the same training to all KISAN staff and regional GON staff.

## ANNEX I: KISAN STAFF

### ANNEX 1 KISAN STAFF

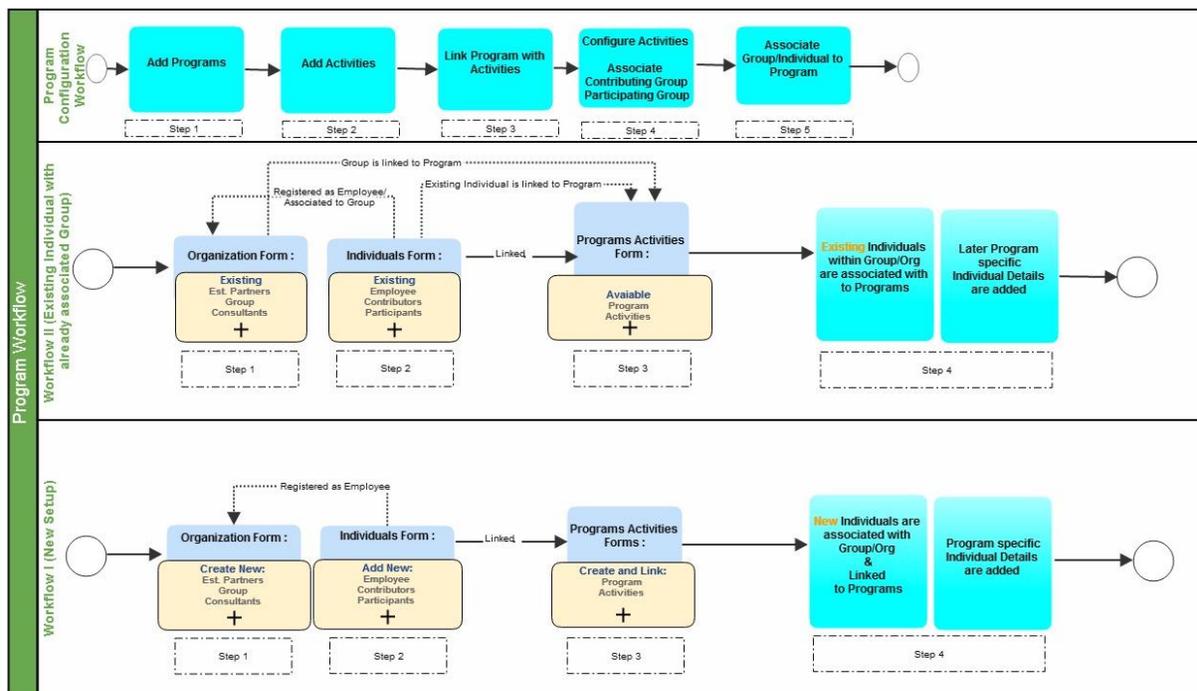
Staff by category	Organization	Kathmandu Staff	Nepalgunj Staff	District Staff	Total
Professional (Full Time)	WI	11	4	45	60
Support staff	WI	4	8		12
<b>Total WINROCK Staff</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>72</b>
Professional (Full Time)	CEAPRED	2	2	34	38
Support staff	CEAPRED				0
<b>Total CEAPRED Staff</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>
Professional (Full Time)	DEPROSC		3	-	3
Professional (Part time)	DEPROSC	1			1
Support staff	DEPROSC			-	0
<b>Total DEPROSC Staff</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Professional (Full Time)	NEWAH	1	1	-	2
Professional (Part time)	NEWAH	4			4
Support staff	NEWAH		0	-	0
<b>Total NEWAH Staff</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
Professional (Full Time)	NPCS	1	1	2	4
Professional (Part time)	NPCS	1			1
Support staff	NPCS		0	-	0
<b>Total NPSC Staff</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>126</b>

## ANNEX II: WI-KISAN

The WIKISAN system will:

- ▶ Update Information of Organization (Partners, Groups and Consultants)
- ▶ Update Information of Individuals (Employees, Participants and Contributors)
- ▶ Manage Programs and Activities through various workflows
- ▶ Track programs activities and evaluate performance indicators and impacts.
- ▶ Evaluate the program’s impact through reports
- ▶ Provisions for instant access queries, real-time reporting, and programmable monthly, quarterly and yearly reports on program activities.
- ▶ Role and Permission based Security and Administration.

Workflow is as follows:



**ANNEX III: Q3 MAJOR EVENTS TEMPLATES**

District	Event	Purpose	Date/Venue	Participants
Kathmandu	KISAN Launch Program	Working with GON to improve food security and increase incomes in western, mid-western and far-western region.	July 23, 2013 at Hotel Radisson in Kathmandu	KISAN COP and Staff, Project Director of AFSP, MOAD Joint Secretaries, DG and DDGs of Agriculture, USAID's agriculture and health offices, bank and IT-company CEOs, and General Managers of major agri-businesses. About 100 participants
Banke	KISAN Inception Program	To emphasize how the project will work closely with GON.	July 31, 2013 at Kitchen Hut in Nepalgunj	KISAN COP and staff, Ministries, Regional Directors, District level, Development Partners About 80 persons
Pokhara and Dhangadhi	Regional Workshop	KISAN Project brief and discussion, clarification of livestock & agriculture.	September 1, 2013 at Agriculture Directorate office and Livestock Directorate office.	KISAN Staff, Ministry representatives, Secretary, Regional Level agriculture, All agricultural district office including farm
Harre, Chinchu	IPM-IL Tomato Trail Plots	IPM-IL field staff oriented the participating farmers about IPM-IL revalidation in Kalika vegetable producer group tomato plot.	September 3, 2013 at Harre, Chinchu.	KISAN COP, Regional Component A Staffs, USAID team and 40 participating farmers
Gadhi, Surkhet	CSISA rice and maize trail plots	To interact with the farmers and observe plant status and different treatment of rice varieties.	September 4-5, 2013 at CSISA sites	USAID team, KISAN COP, Regional Component A Staffs

Gadhi and Uttarganga, Surkhet	Exposure Visit to CSISA Sites	To orient the participants and initiate discussions on improved technology/ variety v/s local varieties; local management approaches, and improved recommended rice and maize technologies and techniques.	September 29, 2013 at CSISA Sites	More than 55 representatives from seed cooperatives, seed company, agro vet, crops, KISAN change agents, GON, seed producers, NARC, USAID/Nepal
Nepalgunj	IPM-IL Vegetable Trail Plots	Observation of vegetables and interact with farmers.	September 30, 2013 at Bageshori, Nepalgunj	USAID team, KISAN COP, Regional Component A Staffs

**ANNEX VI: PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT**

नेपाल सरकार र अमेरिकी सहयोग नियोगको  
सहकार्यमा नेपालको खाद्य तथा पोषण सुरक्षा सुदृढीकरण कार्यक्रममा सहयोग पुऱ्याउन  
KISAN परियोजना कार्यान्वयनको शुभारम्भ गरियो ।

८ श्रावण, २०७०

**The Government of Nepal and  
The United States Agency for International Development  
agree to implement the Knowledge-based Integrated  
Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) project, February  
14, 2013 to February 13, 2018, to support Nepal's nutrition and  
food security improvement agenda.**

July 23, 2013

Ms. Sheila M. Lutjens  
Acting Mission Director  
USAID/Nepal

Dr. Praveen Mishra  
Secretary  
Ministry of Health & Population  
Government of Nepal

Mr. Jaya Mukunda Khanal  
Secretary  
Ministry of Agricultural Development  
Government of Nepal

## ANNEX V: LAUNCH PRESS RELEASE



### PRESS RELEASE

JULY 23, 2013

#### **Two New Agriculture Initiatives to Reduce Poverty and Hunger across Western Nepal**

The Government of Nepal's Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD) and Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) have launched two separate food security initiatives in the west, mid-west, and far-west regions. The Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP) and the Knowledge based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Project (KISAN).

AFSP is a five-year project which will be implemented by the Government of Nepal line ministries. The project aims to improve food security situation of 150,000 households of poor and marginal groups by increasing agricultural production, increasing livelihood options and household income, and improving utilization of food.

KISAN is funded by USAID-Nepal and will improve food security, increase income, and diversify diets for 160,000 disadvantaged rural households, or about one million rural Nepalis, across 20 districts in the West, Mid- and Far-Western regions through integrated agriculture and nutrition activities. Noting the close collaboration between the Government and partners such as USAID and the World Bank, Chief Guest, Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, the Honorable Minister of Agricultural Development and Forestry and Soil Conservation officially introduced the two projects and outlined the role of the initiatives in reaching Nepal's agriculture, nutrition, and sanitation goals.

Chair of the Program, Honorable Vice Chair of National planning Commission, Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya mentioned that the recently approved Multi Sector Nutrition Plan and recently prepared Agriculture Development Strategy will guide the future direction of agriculture, food and nutrition security of Nepal. He emphasized the need of increased investment and the coordination for the development of these sectors. Dr. Praveen Mishra, Secretary for Ministry of Health and Population expressed his commitment to coordinate and facilitate to implement these projects of national importance.

Secretary for Ministry of Agricultural Development, Mr. Jaya Mukuna Khanal highlighted the importance of these projects and importance of coordinated efforts through existing institutions and structure. He also expressed his commitments for the required support from the Ministry for the successful implementation of these projects. Speaking at the event, U.S. Ambassador Peter Bodde, remarked "Both

projects reflect the U.S. Government's commitment to food security through President Obama's Feed the Future and Global Health Initiatives. Instead of simply delivering food aid, these Initiatives place Nepal and other countries in the lead to promote inclusive agricultural growth and improve the nutrition of women and children. I applaud the Government of Nepal for identifying their priorities and devising their own plans, which both projects will support."

In addition Ms. Tahseen Sayed, Country Manager of the World Bank for Nepal, touched upon the need for cooperation between the two ministries for the success of this project and reiterated AFSP alignment with government priorities. Under the Chairmanship of the Dr Rabindra Kumar Shakya, the Honorable Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission, representatives from various GON line agencies, including the National Planning Commission; development stakeholders; and related private sector participants attended the program.

These two projects are both part of larger global programs and are flagship projects in Nepal. Both projects are globally unique in that both the GAFSP/AFSP and FtF/KISAN projects feature integrated agriculture and nutrition approaches to combating food insecurity. Both projects will work in the west, mid-west, and far-west regions, but will be aligned to prevent duplication of activities within districts. Project-specific details:

1. The Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP). This project is funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). GAFSP is a global program working in 18 countries with \$1.3 billion in grant funds provided by 9 G20 members and the Gates Foundation. The US is largest single donor to this fund. This program will be implemented by MOAD with support from MOHP, with monitoring and supervision provided by the World Bank. This project aims to improve food security situation of poor and marginal groups of population by increasing agricultural production and productivity, increasing livelihood options and household income, and improving utilization of food. The project has four main components: technology development and adaptation; technology dissemination and adoption; food and nutritional status enhancement and project management. The priority target groups of the project are small and marginal farmers, landless households, indigenous population, and Dalits. The project is to be implemented in 19 hill and mountain districts of the mid- and far-western development regions of Nepal: Darchula, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, Mugu, Kalikot, Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Salyan, Rukum, Rolpa, Pyuthan, Accham, Dadhuldura and Doti.
2. The Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Nepal) and is a part of the Feed the Future (FtF) Presidential Initiative. FtF is a global food security initiative of the US Government working in 19 countries. In Nepal, the KISAN project seeks to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger by achieving inclusive growth in the agriculture sector, increasing income of farm families and improving nutritional status, especially of women and children.

USAID/Nepal will implement the project from 2013-2018 in 20 Terai and lower hill districts with Winrock International in collaboration with five Nepali organizations: Antenna Foundation Nepal; Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC); Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED); Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Services (NPCS); and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH). KISAN districts are: Kapilbastu, Palpa, Agarkhachi, Gulmi, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot Dang, Salyan, Rukum, Rolpa, Pyuthan, Baitadi, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, Accham and Dadheldhura.



**ANNEX VI: KISAN SECURITY REPORTING TEMPLATE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
July 2, 2013	Mid- western	Bardiya	Banke District bandh, Karnali river flood victim struggle committee from Rajapur VDC.	Low
July 11, 2013	Central	Bhaktapur, Kavre and Sindhupalanchowk	Local communities of the districts of Bhaktapur, Kavre and Sindhupalanchowk of Central Regions jointly called a bandh (general strike) protesting against the government decision of road expansion in the districts.	Low
August 1-2, 2013	Central	Chitwan	Chitwan District bandh, UCPN Maoist youth wing, Young communist league (YCL), demanding to release its arrested cadres in connection to extorting money from Local business people in the name of conducting their district level assembly in Narayangadh.	Low
August 8-9, 2013	Central	Chitwan	The Chitwan district bandh by Tarun Dal has been withdrawn after an agreement with local authority to release their cadres. The demonstrators are organizing corner meetings in the major parts of the city.	Low
September 12, 2013	Central	Kathmandu	Kathmandu Valley bandh, Alliance of 33 parties led by CPN- Maoist Mohan Baidhya has Scheduled strikes and Protest.	Low

## **ANNEX VII: CONSULTANT/STTA TRIP REPORTS**

**Traveler: James Litsinger**

**Dates of Trip: June 23, 2013 – July 11, 2013**

**Places Visited: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **1. Purpose of the trip**

Review of the agricultural pesticide sector regarding the safety and appropriateness of approving 35 insecticides, fungicides, bactericides, and nematicides for the KISAN project to recommend to farmers growing rice, maize, lentil and vegetables.

### **2. Outcome of Visit**

The pesticide Evaluation Report has assessed the pesticide management capacity of Nepal including its rules and regulations, and presented a Safer Use Action Plan. Because of the many problems among farmers' lack of knowledge on how to handle these products safely, the main criterion for approval was the toxicity of the pesticides to people. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization have determined the toxicity level of pesticides and they fall into four categories: very toxic, moderately toxic, slightly toxic, and practically non-toxic. Only pesticides approved by the GON will be recommended. The EPA also has determined what protective clothing and equipment farmers should wear while applying pesticides and based on experience elsewhere it is very difficult for farmers to wear much protective clothing. In the tropics, farmers find it very uncomfortable to wear full body protection including face masks, rubber gloves, rubber boots, and water repellent aprons. Therefore, for the farmers' protection 18 of the pesticides were rejected for use in KISAN training programs. For those pesticides that were recommended, farmers only need to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants and shoes and a waterproof apron. On the other hand, nine safer pesticides, which are not currently registered in Nepal, are listed hoping that they will be soon.

### **3. Recommendations**

The PERSUAP will indicate in Safer Use Action Plan that KISAN embark on a training program for all that will join in its agricultural production programs that farmers be more knowledgeable about the hazards of pesticides and how to use them effectively and safely. A component of KISAN will be to link with IPM-IL who has been engaged in research to replace many of the pesticides with biologically based organisms such as beneficial fungi and bacteria. Many of these are being produced in India and can be imported and 8 are being recommended. Farmers who learn to use pesticides more effectively will be able to harvest and earn more.

## Trip Report

**Traveler:** Erin Hughes

**Dates of Trip:** September 6 – September 29, 2013

**Places Visited:** Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, Nepal

### I. Purpose of the trip

To assist the KISAN staff to address modification changes within KISAN. Prior to my arrival the COP Bill Collis discussed my plan for the visit and requested time for meetings with USAID.

In June, Winrock learned that USAID wanted modifications to the contract, with more significant changes to Component B. Winrock responded to 3 correspondences to the request for Modification since June and expected the final version to be released. Unfortunately my trip corresponded with other pressing events at the mission and I was not able to work on the modification. However, I was able to have productive meetings with USAID.

During the three week period, I had four meetings with USAID. One on September 12, COP Bill Collis and I met with Navin Hada, Shirley Baldwin, Ram Gurung, Debendra Adhikari and Tahalia Barrett. During the meeting we discussed remaining issues on the modification and agreed that 1) WI would receive the draft modification 2) WI should meet with program staff to go through key elements of the section C – a walk through. The second meeting was a lunch meeting with staff from the Health Division to discuss their concerns about component B and for me to ask questions about their intent for KISAN's Component B. The third meeting was on Friday September 20, when Navin Hada and Debendra Adhikari who visited KISAN's office. We asked clarification about the contract. We had hoped that we would discuss the draft modification but it wasn't shared until the following Monday. The final meeting was conducted 9/25. In this last meeting, conducted the day before I left Nepal was to serve as a "walk through" of the modification and the suggested edits and questions WI had with respect to language in the draft.

### Outcome of Visit

During the trip, we were able to continue the dialogue with USAID to further understand the revised component B approach. Since I was unable to work on the modification I worked on recruiting a Nutrition expert, revising the PERSUAP, and preparing for agriculture consultants in the coming months.