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

MONTHLY REPORT — MAY 2013  
CONTRACT NUMBER AID-367-C-13-00004

**May 2013**

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

**MAY 2013**

## **A. INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY**

Winrock International received a contract from the United States Agency for International Development in Nepal (USAID/Nepal) for the Knowledge-Based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) Project. This project is part of the Feed the Future Initiative 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); 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). During the first year, the project will work in ten districts in the Bheri and Rapti Zones of the Mid-Western Development Region. This multifaceted project will integrate agriculture and nutrition in order to increase agricultural production and improve the nutritional status of women, and children under the age of five. As per the contract (Section C.4.8.8.c.), Winrock is required to submit monthly reports. This second monthly report covers activities in May 2013.

## **B. SUMMARY OF COUNTRY CONTEXT**

There was political unrest in early May stemming from the opposition against appointment of the Chief of the Commission for the Investigation for Abuse of Authority. Two national strikes were scheduled, but were called off without incident.

## **C. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Start Up Tasks**

#### ***Staff***

During May, Winrock has prepared and submitted approvals for and hired an additional 22 KISAN staff for central and regional positions. Winrock is finalizing all District Coordinator positions, and they, along with other district-based (partners') staff, will be hired to coincide with lease of district offices and district based activities.

KISAN Partner NEWAH hired the Water Sanitation, and Health (WASH) Manager. She was oriented to the project, focusing on Component B delivery and implementation. She has joined the regional team in Nepalgunj and has started to interact with WASH stakeholders.

Many Component A staff will be absorbed from the USAID funded NEAT project. KISAN is working directly with NEAT to ensure that staff recruitment does not disrupt the NEAT closeout. Because of this, many field staff will be available in late June and early July 2013.

#### ***Office Lease***

As of May 2013, the Regional KISAN office in Nepalgunj is functional. The Regional Office Manager and WASH coordinator are based in the Nepalgunj office and are assisting KISAN partners in the selection of their district offices. Offices in the Winrock-managed districts Bardiya, Salyan, and Dang have been identified. NPCS and DEPROSC have identified offices in Dailekh and Pyuthan respectively. All district offices have been selected in accordance to KISAN leasing guidelines.

#### ***Procurement***

Winrock submitted the KISAN Procurement Plan for approval in April and received comments from USAID on May 21. Winrock is currently is addressing these inputs; the procurement plan will be finalized and the final draft submitted in early June. During the month of May, KISAN received a variety of equipment from the outgoing Nepal Economic, Agriculture, and Trade (NEAT) project offices. KISAN inherited generators, furniture, laptops and electronic devices/equipment, and other items which are now being used in the Kathmandu and Nepalgunj offices.

### **Administrative**

Winrock seeks to establish a single project identity and one administrative framework for all KISAN staff. Winrock is developing a single KISAN Project Policy (including standardized per diem) based on the Contract and USAID policies. The policy and per diem rates are expected to be ready in early June. Partners are finalizing administrative preparations such as establishing bank accounts etc.

### **Contract Deliverables**

A major part of the start-up activities is the preparation and submission of deliverable documents that establish a framework for KISAN implementation. The delivery dates of most of these documents have been modified to account for delays in coordination with the Government of Nepal (GON) for activity planning. The revised deliverable dates and status of documents are as presented below.

TABLE I. Contract Deliverables

Deliverable Documentation	Due Dates	Status
Life of Project Implementation Plan	May 17, 2013	Submitted
Annual Work Plan	June 10, 2013	In progress
Outreach and Communications Plan	June 10, 2013	In progress,
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	June 5, 2013	In progress
Grants Under Contracts	August 14, 2013	Pending
Security Report	August 14, 2013	Pending

### **Training Packages**

Winrock's Capacity building manager has coordinated closely with Component A, and Component B managers to develop output-specific Component A and Component B training plans. These training plans detail the various types of trainings for both the components, and will form the basis for the customized training packages KISAN will deliver in the districts.

## PROJECT INTEGRATION

**GON.** On May 7, the USAID Mission Director officially introduced FTF and the KISAN Project to the GON. This large meeting, held in the Ministry of Agriculture Developments (MOAD), included representatives from all the concerned GON Ministries and Departments, USAID, MOAD, and Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP). KISAN is now able to officially meet with a range of GON Ministries and Departments. Winrock staff has been involved in more than 15 meetings with departmental staff from the MOAD and MOHP since then to discuss the KISAN Annual Work Plan and coordination between their respective Departments and KISAN.

- An official introductory meeting has been held with the Chief of Nutrition Section, Child Health Division, Ministry of Health and Population and KISAN is now able to officially coordinate with MOHP from Ministry to district levels.
- The KISAN Chief of Party (COP) and both agriculture and nutrition staff continue to liaise closely, and have established rapport with respective GON counterparts. We are awaiting the Agriculture and Health Ministries to identify who, within their staff, will serve as the official Project points of contact. Once this has been designated, it will be easier for Component A and B activities to be synchronized at field level.
- KISAN staff has met with GON staff, such as MOAD's Department of Livestock Development (DLS), Department of Agriculture (DOA), staff from Deputy Director Planning (DDG) Planning section at DOA, Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), Seed Quality Control Center (SQCC), etc. through Kathmandu-based technical meetings and participation in talk programs. These interactions have strengthened relationships and have promoted dialogue about various issues including:
  - Setting up a network for source seed supply to KISAN Project farmers
  - Involving regional agriculture stations/Offices in helping KISAN farmers access quality inputs

## GAFSP

USAID has requested that the KISAN project be carried out in close conjunction with the World Bank funded Global Agriculture and Food Security Project (GAFSP) for the life of both projects. The KISAN COP has maintained frequent interactions with the GON GAFSP leadership and USAID to discuss potential areas for synergy in project implementation. There is tremendous overlap between the two project designs. To complement the two projects, USAID requested that Winrock target Category I activities in the six Terai districts, In addition, during YI USAID hopes to jointly launch KISAN and GAFSP at a single event.

Winrock staff met with the GASFP/NASFP, USAID, World Bank /Development Impact Evaluation Initiative on May 7, 17, and 22 where USAID's requests were discussed. In addition, to cooperate in the 11 overlapping districts, and conduct a joint launch, the two projects will use the same criteria for selecting VDCS.

### ***USAID's FTF and GHI Projects***

KISAN continues to work in close collaboration with USAID's Feed the Future (FtF) and Global Health Initiatives. USAID is making a major effort to ensure coordination across its programs. KISAN is required to link with other FTF projects: the Hill Maize Research Project (HMRP), CSISA, IPM CRSP, and Horticulture CRSP. Linkages have been established with those programs. In addition, at USAID's request, KISAN is seeking linkages with other similar programs in operating in FTF areas notably Suaahara, H4L, Hariyo Ban and the Sajhedaari projects. The COPs of these projects attend USAID approved monthly coordination meetings. In addition, other KISAN established lateral linkages across projects, and are coordinating in various areas. During May, the projects agreed to the following:

- Monthly information and communication technology (ICT) Coordination meetings between technical staff of Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA), CRSP, KISAN, NEAT, as well as other stakeholder-funded agriculture and market systems to explore potential to enhance outputs using ICT applications.
- Quarterly gender and social inclusion (GESI) coordination meetings among between USAID's KISAN, Suaahara, Sajhedaari, Health for Life (H4L), and Hariyo Ban projects to exchange approaches and experiences in GESI integration in these projects.
- Exchange of materials. For example, Suaahara shared Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and are being assessed for KISAN implementation areas.
- Coordination and interactions have been maintained with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CRSP/International Development Enterprises (IDE) activities through participation in related events.

### ***Public-Private Partnerships***

KISAN is exploring opportunities to leverage Component A and B outputs through collaborations with public and private organizations in the KISAN districts. The PPP manager has met with and discussed possible collaboration with the Poverty Alleviation Fund. We are exploring a general Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the partnership. It is currently being finalized in close coordination with PAF management. We anticipate the MOU will be signed in early June 2013.

## **E. SUMMARY OF GRANT IMPLEMENTATION AND APPRAISAL**

The grants program has not started. The Grants under Contract Manual will be provided to USAID 180 days after signing the contract as per section F.4 of the contract. The due date is August 13, 2013.

## **F. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

1. Additional meeting time with the GON has slowed down KISAN start up. We continue to mobilize and hope to begin project activities within a month or so.
2. Winrock has had discussions and verbal guidance from USAID to modify the Component B programmatic approach from how it was presented in the contract and proposal. The key issue is how to engage the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV). USAID has had multiple discussions with the Health unit and have included the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) in the conversation. The GON is interested in having a unified approach of using FCHVs as the way to reach marginalized mothers and households to convey the essential hygiene actions (EHA) and essential nutrition actions (ENA) messages. This will likely cost extra funds since WI's approach of developing other volunteers would have not required the same costs associated with the GON and this approach will require additional monitoring since the FCHVs report to GON staff, not project staff. Winrock is awaiting the formal amendment and is preparing a budget for the expected additional costs.

In addition, after several meetings with GAFSP, and recognition of the similarity of the two food security projects, USAID has requested that WI adjust the criteria for selecting Category I districts. Instead of basing our analysis on nutrition related criteria, KISAN's primary indicator is to not overlap with GAFSP nutrition intervention. As mentioned, WI will focus Y1 Category I Districts in the Terai. This will only require an amendment from USAID.

3. Winrock has learned there are changes in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan. Based on meetings with USAID, Winrock is now expected to conduct baseline surveys. This was neither budgeted nor planned.
4. We have learned Component C is delayed. Winrock's proposal design, based on the Education for Income Generation (EIG) project, expected that the project's beneficiaries would gain key entrepreneurial skills through Component C. We may need to add additional training to beneficiaries to reach the Component A and B objectives until the literacy component is up and going.

As per the revised deliverable schedule, the first annual work plan is due on June 10, 2013.

## **G. STATUS OF PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

Winrock continues ongoing discussions with USAID about the specifics on how we reach Component B beneficiaries.