



Nepal Climate Change Support Programme - Phase 2

NCCSP2 Newsletter

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Before the water source protection work, women of Dadhaphaya village of Simkot Rural Municipality, Humla engaged in washing activities in the Tagaselaune Stream. The stream is the only water source in the village, which is used for drinking water and other activities.

After the water source protection work, women pose for a photograph in front of the recently constructed water point-source protection scheme supported by NCCSP2. The scheme will ensure water source protection and provision of drinking water for the rural community of Simkot, Humla.



About NCCSP2

NCCSP2 is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). It has been working to provide climate resilient and inclusive services through community infrastructures and to mainstream CCA into the planning process and programmes of the local governments. NCCSP2 programme areas are relatively poor and under-developed and highly prone to the impacts of climate change such as draught, landslides and floods.

NCCSP2 has covered a total of 42 municipalities in a phase-wise manner in Karnali, Sudurpaschim and Lumbini provinces. Currently, the programme is focusing its activities and interventions on a total of 35 municipalities, 34 of them are in Karnali Province and one in Lumbini Province. The program is funded by FCDO/ the British Embassy in Kathmandu (BEK) and, Mott MacDonald provides technical assistance (TA) for the implementation of the programme. This newsletter highlights some of the major activities and achievements of NCCSP2 between January and March 2023.

Message from National Programme Director

I am very glad to see the progress NCCSP2 has made in the last few months. In this fiscal year, 12 additional municipalities are developing a Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) document making a total of 36 LAPAs adopted by working municipalities. LAPAs are needed for providing climate data and evidence for local government to develop climate inclusive and resilient development plans, policies and programmes. It is evident that the LAPA is instrumental in mainstreaming climate change adaptation at the local level and helping to address climate change challenges.

What is more impressive is that the programme is working on multiple livelihood schemes alongside the ongoing implementation of climate resilient infrastructures such as irrigation canals, drinking water schemes together with water source protection, and embankments for flood and landslide controls.

Besides supporting the local governments to construct climate adaptive community infrastructure, the programme is also working towards building resilient and inclusive communities. I would like to reiterate here that all NCCSP2 schemes fully incorporate the spirit of GESI/LNOB.

This latest issue of the newsletter presents the activities and achievements made during the past three months. I thank the respective local governments for implementing this programme, UK aid (BEK) for supporting, and Mott MacDonald for providing technical assistance for programme implementation. I wish this exemplary programme of MoFE all the best to continue achieving the adaptation and resilient outcomes.

Dr. Buddi Sagar Poudel
Joint-Secretary, MoFE and National Program Director NCCSP2

NCCSP2 supports local efforts to mainstream climate change

NCCSP2 conducted a series of activities aimed at mainstreaming climate change at the provincial and local levels between January and March. It facilitated the refresher training on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and leadership to the municipalities' Technical Facilitators (TF) and Social Mobilizers (SM). Similarly, it is facilitating municipalities to prepare LAPA documents. NCCSP2 also supported the provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MoITFE) in Karnali province to organize exposure and learning visits.

The objective was to facilitate cross-learning on climate change adaptation practices and community coping mechanisms. The team visiting comprised of officials from the provincial and local governments, representatives of civil society organizations and local communities. They visited various locations of Lumbini, Bagmati, and Koshi provinces and observed best practices on water conservation and source protection, and management of community forestry and forest-based enterprises and industries. The visit report suggests that the provincial



Tul Bahadu Bista privileged with Chhibang Khola Irrigation Project shows his farm in Musikot.

governments should replicate some climate adaptation best practices in their programmes.

Between January and March, some municipalities have supported various agriculture, food security and livelihood related schemes, within and alongside NCCSP2 funded irrigation and drinking water projects. Municipalities including Bheriganga, Gurbhakot, Narayan, Barekot, Sarkegandh and Aathbish have allocated matching funds for agriculture and livelihood activities such as fresh vegetable production in plastic tunnels, apple farming and timur plantation.

NCCSP2 has supported agriculture groups and cooperatives in developing their business plans to promote climate smart agriculture and climate resilient communities. These business plans align with various schemes implemented by the programme including fruit farming, non-timber forest production (such as Sichuan pepper), vegetable farming, zero energy cold store house and agriculture collection center. NCCSP2 has been encouraging local communities to grow high value crops like walnut and apple, aiming to enhance the livelihood of the poor communities vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Additionally, municipalities including Bheriganga, Barekot, Kharpunath, Narayan and Aathbish are mobilizing their own resources to support agriculture and livelihood activities within and alongside NCCSP2 funded irrigation and drinking water schemes. All 14 agricultural and livelihood schemes are progressing well to be completed as planned. Six schemes have achieved 100% physical progress, four are at 80 to 90% progress, and the remaining four schemes have achieved between 20 to 45% progress. Furthermore, construction of plastic tunnel is ongoing in Kareli village, Bheriganga and Laikam village, Jajarkot to promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technology for high-value and off-seasonal crop production. A zero-energy cold storage construction is ongoing in Jumla, which will have a natural cooling system, eliminating the need for electricity for cooling process.

Transparency in fund management ensured

The NCCSP2 team continued to work on empowering local government to reduce fiduciary risks while implementing local development programmes including NCCSP2. They provided support through a range of preventive and corrective measures related to public finance management (PFM). Preventive measures included supporting the working municipalities (Palikas) in preparing budgets for the upcoming fiscal year, training municipal officials on best practices on overall PFM, fiduciary risk management and procurement processes. They also provided orientation to the TFs and UCs on transparent and accountable process of programme implementation and fund management. Similarly, corrective measures were also carried out including ongoing compilation and review of documents from the PFM team, and the review of the financial reports. Furthermore, the NCCSP2 PFM Assurance team conducted spot checks in various municipalities to ensure transparency and accountability within the financial system and programme expenditure.

Municipal officials trained to ensure climate change mainstreaming

NCCSP2 organized a six-day capacity building training for TFs of its working municipalities in Karnali Province in two phases. The training took place in Surkhet and Nepalgunj from 30 March to 4 April 2023. The training was focused on climate change adaptation, resilience, value chain, management information system, PFM, GESI/LNOB and leadership development. The main objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of TFs to support local government in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience into the development process. A total of 53 TFs from 27 municipalities participated in the training. The

participants expressed that the training was instrumental in enhancing their understanding and knowledge on climate change adaptation (CCA), resilience, value chain, leadership and information/data management. The training proved to be instrumental in equipping them with valuable insights and skills related to these critical areas.



Group work at the training

Mr. Rajendra Kumar Basukala, Under Secretary of the Provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest, and Environment inaugurated the training in Surkhet. Mr. Naresh Sharma, Under Secretary of the federal Ministry of Forest and Environment (National Program Manager, NCCSP2), accompanied by other officials of the ministry, also participated at these events.

Senior BEK officials inspect community infrastructure and interact with locals

A team from BEK including Mrs. Heidi Tavakoli, Deputy Development Director of the British Embassy in Kathmandu, visited the municipal office and a project site of NCCSP2 in Bheriganga Municipality, Surkhet in Karnali Province on 2 March 2023. The visiting team interacted with Mayor Mr. Yagya Prasad Dhakal, who briefed them about NCCSP2 activities and progress in the municipality.

Mayor Dhakal described the drinking water supply program, irrigation, livelihood and climate related awareness programs supported by NCCSP2. He said that NCCSP2 supported projects have benefitted thousands of marginalized and climate vulnerable households in the municipality. The team also visited Harre irrigation canal in the same municipality to observe the ongoing construction progress. They also interacted with the local farmers, beneficiaries and the members of the user group. The locals said that the irrigation canal has given them hope for a better livelihood and income generation for economic empowerment.

Local women recalled a time when they had to leave their children alone at home at night to fetch water from the rivulet to irrigate their crops. "Once the canal comes into operation, we will be able to earn a living by growing vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage and cauliflowers. We will no longer have to go to India for work," said Mohan Dangi, a local farmer.



Visiting team from the British Embassy in Kathmandu interacts with locals at the project site in Bheriganga Municipality, Surkhet.

Meeting reflects on programme activities



A glimpse of PSC meeting in Kathmandu

On March 16, 2023, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of NCCSP2 took place in Kathmandu chaired by Dr. Rewati Raman Poudel, Secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE). The committee reviewed project activities and progress achieved so far. The discussions and decisions of the meeting also included suggestions on the way forward for the programme implementation in the future. The PSC appreciated the work carried out by the project for local adaptation and community resilience.

Secretary of MoFE, Dr. Rewati Raman Poudel, highlighted that climate change adaptation should be integrated across all development priorities and activities. Making special remarks on NCCSP2, he expressed that the expertise of the TA was instrumental to come up with quality LAPAs and nature-based interventions and climate resilient community infrastructures and services. He encouraged the programme to prioritize local resources and skills in construction work as well.

Dr. Buddi Sagar Poudel, Joint Secretary at MoFE and National Programme Director of NCCSP2, said that the programme has been successful working as the government flagship programme on climate change adaptation and resilience. He appreciated working municipalities looking to implement the program through conditional grant and making efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation at the local development process, plan and programme. Adding his remarks on TA, he mentioned that "Mott MacDonald has done an excellent job on the field to elevate the programme to this height."

Similarly, expressing gratitude, Mr. Mohan Dev Joshi, Secretary at the provincial Ministry of Industry Tourism Forests and Environment in Karnali Province, thanked NCCSP2 for prioritising Karnali province, as the province has a poor Human Development Index record and is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Another member of the PSC, Mr. Hari Narayan Belbase, Under Secretary of the National Planning Commission, citing a case of Jumla said that the small road improvement programmes, irrigation program and support for improved water mills were exemplary but inadequate to address wide ranging needs of the local population. He emphasized that the adaptation program should focus on a particular area for meaningful intervention to achieve good results related to community resilience and adaptive capacity.

Under Secretary of MoFE, Mr. Naresh Sharma, who is also the National Program Manager of NCCSP2 said, "Our locally led projects under NCCSP2 have been exemplary.". He further said, "the LAPA developed by NCCSP2 have gained national and international recognition and it needs to be integrated into other development priorities".

The Team Leader for Climate Resilience and Inclusion at BEK, Mrs. Pauline Seenan, expressed that the programme has made impressive progress. She thanked the government for taking ownership of the programme and appreciated the valuable role played by the TA for quality and timely implementation of the activities.

Chandannath Municipality formulates plantation guideline

Chandannath Municipality has taken a significant step in mainstreaming climate change adaptation into community infrastructure activities by endorsing a plantation guideline. With the technical support from NCCSP2, the municipality has developed a plantation guideline to promote environmental conservation. According to this guideline, every infrastructure project within the municipality is required to incorporate plantation as an integral part of its design.

The executive council of the municipality recently approved the guideline following a discussion in the municipal assembly. According to the guideline, every project should allocate 10 percent of its total budget for plantation activities alongside the scheme. Of the total plantation budget, 60% goes to the concerned UC during the inception of the project to carry out related work. The committee undertakes plantation activities and ensures that the newly planted vegetation in the project site will continue to survive and thrive. After a year of the plantation, the UC receives the remaining 40% of the plantation budget. However, the release of the budget is contingent upon an inspection conducted by a monitoring team from the municipality. The team must confirm that at least 50% of the vegetation has successfully survived on the plantation site.

Irrigation project restores happiness and dignity of visually impaired farmer

Suresh B.K., 50, is a poor farmer from Chaukune Rural Municipality in Surkhet. He lives with his extended family of 25 members. He lost his eyesight around 15 years ago while working in India, which forced him to return home.

Despite his visual impairment, Suresh continued with farm work and goat rearing to support his family. Due to his disability and lack of a stable income, he was struggling to build relationships with villagers. Fortunately, NCCSP2's work in his village brought hope to his life. He now has a job, friends and a prestigious reputation among the villagers.

Since March 2023, the municipality has started an irrigation project under NCCSP2 to irrigate 16 hectares of land, benefiting the municipality's poor and marginalized Dalit community. The project will support a total of 111 households (mostly Dalits) of ward-8 of the municipality. Suresh was engaged in appropriate work during the construction. He supported his co-workers on the construction site by performing light work such as ensuring that the gabion boxes are well fixed.

"I am happy to be a part of the project as a worker. This has helped me make friends, bringing joy to my life," said Suresh.

Ramesh B.K., a UC member added that the Kolgadh Irrigation Project has ensured all safety and security provisions for workers, including enough rest, drinking water, first aid services, and personal protection equipment (PPE) during the work. Suresh has earned a good reputation in the community through his dedication and hard work. The co-workers praise him for his sense of humour. "Everyone likes Suresh for his work and his jolly outlook. "He is a cheer leader for the workers!" said Ramesh.



Suresh B.K., working at the construction site.

NCCSP2 highlights



NCCSP2 had selected **126** community projects and schemes for the implementation in the current fiscal year 2022/023. Of them, **30** are related to water source protection and drinking water, **39** on irrigation, **14** are related to agriculture and livelihood schemes and **40** are on disaster risk reduction through landslide and flood control mechanism and embankment. The remaining three schemes are related to local transportation infrastructure for resilience supply chain.



The programme supported **24 municipalities** to develop Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) documents last year. An additional **12 Palikas** are preparing LAPA documents in this fiscal year.



Between January and March, NCCSP2 provided a total of **84** gender and social inclusion/leave no one behind (GESI/LNOB) orientations to the user committees (UCs), aimed at integrating GESI/LNOB into local adaptation initiatives.



The programme has reached total **330,247**

beneficiaries as of March 2023.

50%
female



The NCCSP2 TA prepared an approach paper for the NCCSP2 extension for the next FY 2023/24. It includes major approaches and strategies for future program implementation.

For more information, contact:



Ministry of Forests and Environment
Climate Change Management Division
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 977-1-4211894, 4200580
Email: ccdivision@mofe.gov.np

M M
MOTT
MACDONALD

NCCSP2 TA, Mott MacDonald
Department of Forests and Soil Conservation
Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal
Email: nccsp2@mottmac.com
Facebook: Nccsp Nepal
Twitter: @NCCSPGoN

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