



**Nepal Agriculture Food Security Project (AFSP)**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> GAFSP CSO MISSION REPORT**  
**November 9-11, 2015**  
**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The Mission was conducted by Ms. Ma. Estrella Penunia, AFA Secretary General, and Dr. Keshab Khadka, Director of the Research Department of the All Nepal Peasant Federation Associations (ANPFs) last November 9-11, 2015. The key objective of the mission was to get updates on the implementation of both the public and private window recipients of GAFSP and on the involvement of CSOs in project implementation. At the time the mission was conducted, a one-and-a-half month blockade of petroleum, medicines and earthquake relief materials have cause massive power failures, and long queues and rations of power supply and gasoline. People were forced to walk at most 20 kilometers to offices, schools and meetings.<sup>1</sup>

The Mission Team conducted meetings involving 10 people: with the NAFSP Project Director Syam Poudel; with WB GAFSP official Purna Chettri; with Binod Saha, Assistant FAO Representative, Arjun Singh Thapa and Shrawan Adhikary, Program Officers of FAO Nepal; with Mr. Ananda Bagaria, Director of Probiotech Limited (private sector recipient of GAFSP); with Mr. Gobinda of KIRDARC, an NGO focused at Karnali zone; Jagat Deuja and Som Prasad Bhandari of National Land Rights Forum-Nepal, and Balram Banskoti of ANPFa .

The Mission Team learned that a midterm review of the Nepal Agriculture Food Security Project (NAFSP) was re-scheduled (from November 2015) to end January 2016. The CSOs were updated of this development, and with the facilitation of the Mission Team, was able to develop some plans on how to get involved in the midterm review.

**Recommendations from the Mission Team include:**

1. Set up dialogue between implementors of the public and private window recipients of GAFSP, and key FOs and NGOs working in the target areas, to discuss ways for complementation and synergy
2. Include CSO representatives in the midterm review.
3. CSOs tracking GAFSP processes in the country to gather feedback from their members in the NAFSP target areas, which can then be shared to CSO representatives in the NAFSP Steering Committee.
4. Organize a knowledge-learning workshop among CSO providers in NAFSP to get lessons learned in delivering services to farmers at the village level, and in partnering with government and inter-governmental institutions.

**Key Information From the Mission**

1. **Meeting with Dr. Syam Poudel, Project Director, NAFSP, Nov. 9, 2015.** Dr. Poudel met the Mission Team in the new and bigger office of NAFSP. He said that the NAFSP implementation is on the right track with regards technological development. With the Nepal Agriculture Research Center, the project has produced 250 metric tons of good (i.e. adapted to the environment) varieties of maize, rice and potato foundation seeds; these have been given to farmers for seed multiplication. Likewise, 499 crop groups have already been formed – rice, wheat, maize, potato, local millets, barley, buckwheat, some indigenous crops. Some farmers' cooperatives on seed production have been formed. There are 739 livestock groups. FAO has recruited CSO social mobilizers in 9 districts. In each district, there are 10 project facilitators,

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<sup>1</sup> As a landlocked nation, Nepal imports all of its petroleum supplies from India. Roughly 300 fuel trucks enter from India on a normal day, but this has dwindled to a sporadic passage of 5-10 fuel trucks daily since the start of the crisis, though shipments of perishables like fruits and vegetables have generally been allowed to pass. The blockade has choked imports of not only petroleum, but also medicines and earthquake relief material.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_Nepal\\_blockade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Nepal_blockade)



one crop technician and one livestock technician. Irrigation facilities have been improved, with government providing materials and farmers providing labor. Some machineries and equipments such as threshers, corn shellers, pump sets have been given to groups and cooperatives.

Dr. Poudel was happy to note that this is the first government program that has involved a lot of FO and farmer participation. He said that Steering Committee has been more inclusive, allowing four to five members in the Nepal Peasant Coalition (the identified FO representative) to attend the Steering Committee meetings. In the district, there are district coordination committees as well. There are multi stakeholder monitoring meetings at the district and regional level, where various political parties are represented.

Asked whether there was complementation between the public and private recipient of GAFSP, Dr. Poudel said that he has not yet met representatives from Probiotech.

Dr. Keshab Khadka suggested pond /rainwater harvesting techniques. He also noted that the meetings were becoming lesser. As the key representative of the FOs in the Steering Committee, he suggested to have more frequent communication so that he can alert local people.

2. **Meeting with Mr. Ananda Bagaria, Director, Probiotech, Nov 9, 2015.** The GAFSP investment is focused on soya nugget and refinery. The company is the biggest buyer of maize and soya. Probiotech Industry is an agri processing company focusing on producing grain feeds mainly for poultry, vegetable (soya and maize) extraction and refinery, and maize and soya nuggets for the vegetarian population in Nepal. The company hopes to convince thousand of farmers to intercrop soya and maize, especially since the Nepal Agriculture Research Center has developed a particular hybrid seed that can adapt to this intercropping. It conducts training to farmers on how to improve maize and soya production through the hybrid seeds, and then directly buys the produce from these farmers.

Dr. Keshab then informed Mr. Bagaria about the Nepal Peasant Coalition. The NPC is a platform of national farmers organizations, many of which are farmers' wings of major and minor political parties in Nepal, although some are independent national farmers organizations. Several of their members are organized into commodity crops.

The two men exchanged analysis, ideas, and recommendations about Nepal agriculture. Mr. Bagaria said that the agriculture budget should be spent on improving transportation and road facilities, storage facilities and improving irrigation and water supply to farms. He likewise suggested zoning of crops/crop mapping.

Towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Bagaria said that he would invite Dr. Keshab to the next meeting of the team that is involved in training the farmers. He said it is important that the farmers are organized to bring the product to the company.

3. **Meeting with Binod Saha, Assistant FAO Representative, Arjun Singh Thapa and Shrawan Adhikary, Program Officers of FAO Nepal, Nov. 10, 2015.** Mr. Saha and his team gave updates on FAO involvement in the NAFSP. FAO is currently the Technical Assistance service provider, under component 2 of NAFSP. It builds the capacities of the CSO service providers and government officers and staff as well as community leaders and members of farmers groups. FAO has selected, based on certain criteria, local CSO service providers called CBOs (one in each of the nine districts) to help organize and train farmers and facilitate links with the government authorities and officers (for crop, livestock and nutrition). FAO conducts review meetings with the CBOs every six months and assists in the formulation of their yearly plans.

After several meetings, the WB agreed to adapt the farmer field school (FFS) approach in NAFSP. The FFS in this project is focused on soil to nutrition to market concerns plus development of farmers' organizations, transforming them into legal groups registered with the DADO. It is now designing FFS for poultry and livestock groups.

With their familiarity with the Nepal Peasant Coalition (NPC) and MTCP2, the FAO team suggested that members of the NPC recruit the community-based organizations that are being formed through the project, as well as to continue its work on policy advocacy, since many strategic policies will impact positively on the lives of the farmers in the target areas of the



project.

4. **Meeting with Mr. Purna Chettri of World Bank, Nov 10, 2015.** Mr. Chettri was in his jogging shoes since he walked 25 kilometers from his home to the office. He said that the NAFSP is one of the few projects, which has CSO participation in the design process, as well as in the implementation. The project though is moving slowly because of the big quake that happened in April 2015 and the India blockade. Both the quake and the blockade have shifted the priorities of government. And with regards the project, he said that it is slightly behind the health and the TA side. Although these are being acted upon now, with a new team for health and with FAO now having regular meetings at the district levels. Mr. Chettri thinks that The Nepal Agriculture Research Center is doing well and noted that the latter is also trying to bring the private sector in seed production.
5. **Meeting with Mr. Gobinda of KIRDARC, Nov 11, 2015.** As a key officer of KiRDARC, an NGO based in Karnali zone where the target areas of AFSP are located, he expressed willingness and interest to help monitor implementation of NAFSP especially in areas where they also have operations. When the Mission Team informed him that local service providers have been selected already by FAO, he was surprised because he has not heard about NAFSP since 2013, after the CSO consultation conducted by AFA. He said he knows only five NGOs working in the districts within Karnali zone. He said he was in contact with USAID and the latter said that it would not approve projects in Karnali because NAFSP is already there. KiRDARC is a member of the Food Security Monitoring Network and works also with FAO and with district authorities.
6. **Meeting with CSO Group, Nov 11, 2015.** The Mission Team briefly updated seven representatives of key CSOs who are tracking NAFSP. This small group meeting was attended by among other by Mr. Jagat Deuja and Mr. Som Prasad Bhandari from National Land Rights Forum-Nepal and Mr. Balram Banskota of All Nepal Peasant Federation Association (ANPFa). The Mission Team shared that a midterm review is forthcoming. The participants said that they are interested to give feedback and inputs to the midterm review. The participants then planned to organize another meeting with Dr. Keshab. They also asked Dr. Keshab to get a list of CSO service providers and to get the VDC list so that they will know where they should get information.

*Pictures clockwise from upper left: With Purna Chettri, with FAO , with AFSP project director*



