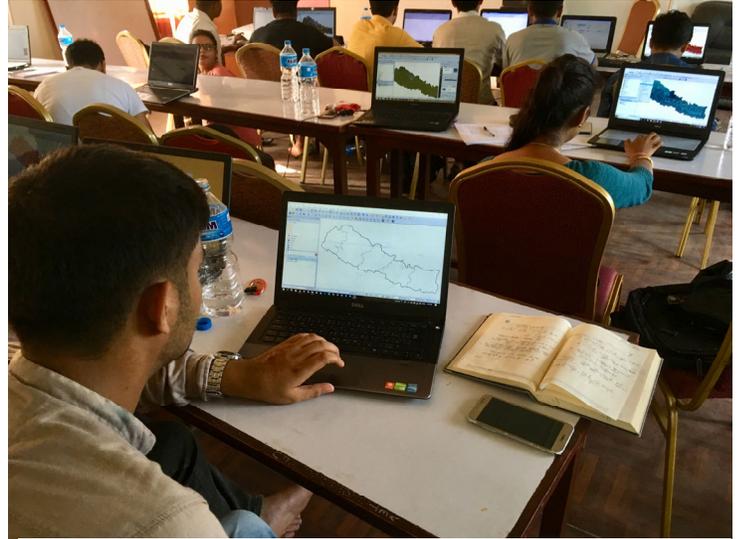


## IMPROVING THE CAPACITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN NEPAL

In 2018 the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems' Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HCID) team collaborated with the Agricultural and Forestry University of Nepal (AFU) and the Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (HICAST) to conduct a gap analysis to identify the training and organizational development needs that would lead to improved research capacity. The HCID team identified several areas of intervention, with training needs focusing on areas that would complement and support the efforts of the Areas of Inquiry (AOIs) and Cross-Cutting Themes (CCTs). These areas include: grant writing, scientific writing, biostatistics, the R statistical software package, and research design and methods. The HCID team collaborated with the universities to develop a series of trainings to address these capacity needs.



*Faculty and graduate students at AFU practice GIS mapping in R.*

### UF Researcher Conducts Training in Nepal

In August and September of 2018 Dr. Matt Hallett from the University of Florida traveled to Nepal for six weeks to conduct intensive training at HICAST and AFU. During this period, Dr. Hallett trained nearly 100 faculty and students in biostatistics, R, GIS, and digital data collection. To ensure their faculty and students could take full advantage of this opportunity, AFU released faculty time during the morning for participation in 4-hours of training for a full two-week period and offered the same opportunity for graduate students during a 4-hour afternoon session. In addition to teaching for eight hours per day, Dr. Hallett conducted additional trainings at the Nepal Polytechnic Institute on digital data collection, gave presentations to undergraduate students, and provided one-on-one training for faculty during the third week of his training program.



*AFU graduate students practice taking data points for GIS mapping*

In 2019, the HCID team plans to provide support for Dr. Hallett to return to AFU for follow-up training. The initial training program provided an important foundation for improving the capacity of AFU to modernize their research designs and methods, and established a positive relationship between the Livestock Lab and AFU. In addition to supporting capacity development in scientific skills, the HCID team will also be working with AFU on organizational capacity development including assisting in the development of an institutional ethics review board for conducting research with humans and animals. After the success of the trainings at AFU and HICAST, the HCID team plans to repeat these trainings in all of our LSIL partner countries.