

Integrated approach to enhance milk quality, dairy animal productivity and milk consumption by vulnerable household members in rural Nepal

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Milk collection center operated by a farmers' cooperative

Why this research project matters

- The dairy sub-sector is the most important component of the livestock sector and contributes ~two-thirds (63%) of livestock GDP shares in Nepal. This sub-sector has recently been identified as one of the high-priority value chains for economic development in the country
- The importance of dairying has been further underscored by recent research in human nutrition, which emphasizes the critical importance of milk, among other animal-source foods (ASF), in the diet of vulnerable household members.
- There is an urgent need to understand better the linkages between food availability and food intake within dairy-producing households. To understand better



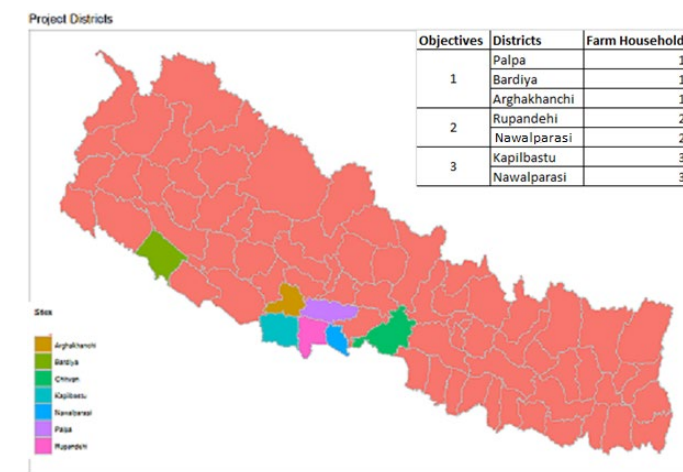
A commercial dairy farm

Overarching goal

To strengthen the dairy sector in Nepal through productivity and quality improvements, promoting farmer economic development, and increasing milk consumption by vulnerable household members.

Our work is based in

Research efforts and activities will be spread over 6 districts in Lumbini, Gandaki and Bagmati Provinces.



What we have done so far

- ✓ Oriented project participants about the objectives, roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Conducted winter forage evaluation (sowing) in project sites
- ✓ NHRC approval in progress along with baseline survey questionnaire development
- ✓ ToT on GMP at Nepal Dairy (21) to the staff working at Milk Collection Center
- ✓ Tot on GHP for technicians (18) working at project sites



Participatory varietal selection trial on winter forage (Photo credits: Heifer International Nepal)



Participants with founder chairman of Nepal Dairy Pvt. Ltd during the concluding session of GMP training

What we plan to do next

- Farm Management Support Tool development and testing with increased access to technologies through ICT for productivity enhancement
- Screening best-suited varieties of winter and summer forage and scaling up in project sites
- Farmers training on GHP for enhancing milk quality
- Piloting quality-based milk pricing system and policy recommendation
- Improvement of milk collection center for quality enhancement
- Product diversification and market linkage establishment
- Promotion of climate-resilient dairy farming technology
- Nutrition training/ behavior change communication for increasing consumption of ASF (Milk) for child development / launching school milk program

Our work on the cross-cutting themes

Local Capacity Development

- Involve 2 Ph.D. from NARC
- Conduct ToTs of Technicians on Good Husbandry Practices
- Conduct ToTs of milk handlers at collection centers on Good management Practices
- Conduct farmers Training on Good Husbandry Practices
- Implement a school milk program

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

- New approach to include male members of the HHs in the Nutrition Education program