

Government of Nepal

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

# Crop Diversification Project

**FINAL COMPLETION REPORT ON  
CONTRACTING-OUT TO RECRUIT FIELD TEAMS AND TEAM  
SUPERVISOR IN KANCHANPUR DISTRICT UNDER CDP**  
(SOCIAL MOBILIZATION ON POCKET AREAS IN KANCHANPUR DISTRICT)  
(2062/4/1 TO 2063/9/16)



**Submitted to:**

**Government of Nepal**

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## Executive Summary

Social mobilization part of the farmers group (FGs) under CDP Kanchanpur ( 5 new pocket) was implemented by Fri PAD Nepal (National NGO) as per the agreement held between the District Agriculture Development Office Kanchanpur (DADO) and Fri PAD, Bharatpur in **12<sup>th</sup> June 2005**. By the end of the contract-out service in **31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2006**, FTs regularly worked hard in their assigned production pockets for change in economic status of poor farmer as well as for gender equality. There are 5 production pockets in the district with the end of the project. FTs made several visits to the target farmers in order to familiarize them about the goal and objective of the CDP. They have completed to form and reform the farmer groups as per need in their assigned production pockets. Regular visit to the 59 FGs along with other farming communities had been made by the social mobilization team to encourage them for market led production. Reorganization, Revitalization of the FGs to make them dynamic and more active encouraging the participation of disadvantaged groups and women in the FGs was the focused priority accorded by the FTs.

Among the 59 FGs, 15 (25.42%) are female 12(20.34%) male and 32 (54.24%) are mixed groups. Among the 59 groups, 42(71.2%) are active, 14 (23.7%) are moderately active and 3(5.08%) are inactive. Activeness of group had been evaluated on the criteria of regular group meeting, decision-making process, collection and utilization of welfare fund and group planning. The total of 1186 farmer are engaged in 59 groups, among which 546(46.04%) are female and 640 (53.96%) farmers male. Among them 783 (66.02%) are disadvantaged farmers. Chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, Joint secretary and treasure of each group were taken as executive position of their respective FGs. In this regard female in executive post are participating actively in decision-making process.

Team supervisor regularly visited field for supervision of FTs and provided necessary suggestion as well as training to the FTs for better implementation of project. Head office staff of Fri PAD also made timely visit to the district to give valuable suggestion to TS as well as FTs for betterment of their job.

Technical as well as other concerned staffs of DADO, Kanchanpur provided proper support to FTs. In most of pockets technical staff of DADO visited together to make the effort more synergistic. Overall the project activities were performed in coordination with SMs and agriculture technicians to realize the better output.

### Positive Aspect

- Significant improvement has been in **sharing the project benefit over the large number** of the farmers. Total Number of FGs before social Mobilization was 38 reached 59 at the end of social mobilization service (up to Push, 16<sup>th</sup> 2063).
- Participation of **Poor and Disadvantage** farmers in program is appreciative
- **Increasing participation** of women members in FGs, meeting, Training, Workshop, and Tour. The cross cutting theme here is that they are taking lead in , mixed group, Decision making process and planning
- The production of secondary Crop like Banana, Potato Oilseed is in increasing pattern. The number of **Commercial Grower** of Potato and Oilseed as well as Banana is increasing in SUDA and Tribuvanbasti (PPAs) due to Social Mobilization and JT/JTAs. It means **Commercialization** of production and farmers are being market oriented
- Social Mobilizers / FGCC are **worked as bridge** between farmers and DADO resulting better achievements and FGCC sustaining in their own feet by converting themselves in Cooperatives was started
- Collection of funds and their mobilization in production sector along with social activities boosting up **the micro-credit sector** of the country
- **Increased in Area of production/** Increased productivity
- Group Formation and **group discussion and group planning, work schedule, are** remarkable changes in groups
- **Awareness in women** and Gender about their rights for the service delivery
- Increasing **Investment in Agriculture** as Business profession
- Registration of groups, and preparation of their code of conduct; **Constitute preparation initiated**

- Farmers are **more aware about their needs** so in many places, farmer themselves are taking initiatives to venture like Fertilizer dealer, agro-vets weekly haat and also playing as social institution of the area
- **More approaching** of farmers to DADO office for their rights and facility

Status FGs and FGCCs of 5 Pockets at the end of Contract Service  
(16<sup>th</sup> Push, 2063) Table 1,

## 1. Introduction

S.N	Particular	Unit	Base-period (2062)	Push(2063)
1	<b><u>Status Of FGs</u></b>			
1.1	Total FGS Mobilized	No	38	59
*	Female FGs	"	9(23.68 %)	15(25.42%)
*	Male FGs	"	8(21.05%)	12(20.34%)
*	Mixed FGs	"	17(44.74%)	32 (54.24%)
1.2	Average FGs/Pocket	"	7.6	11.8
1.3	Total FGs Member	"	404	1186
*	Female Members	"	149(36.88%)	546(46.04%)
*	Male Members	"	255(63.12%)	640(53.96%)
1.4	Average Members/ FGs	"	10.63	20.10
1.5	Participation of Disadvantage Group	"	135	783(66...02%)
1.6	Participation of Female in Executive Post(Mixed Group)	"	49	136
1.7	Total Group Welfare Fund	N Rs	1540848	2998030
1.8	Average Fund/ Group	N Rs	24189.21	50814
2	<b><u>Status of FGCCs</u></b>		40548.63	5081407
2.1	Total FGCCs Mobilized	No	-	5
2.2	Total Members	"	-	109
*	Female Members	"	-	24
*	Male Members	"	-	85
2.2	Average members per FGCC	"	-	21.8
2.3	Participation of Disadvantage Group	"	-	58(53.21%)

The Crop Diversification Project (CDP) in Nepal approved in 2001 aims to promote the production and marketing of agricultural crops with particular focus on secondary crops in potential pocket areas based on a farmer group approach, thereby contributing to poverty reduction in the poverty stricken mid-western and far-western development regions. The CDP is jointly funded by Government of Nepal (GON) and Asian Development Bank (ADB); it had been implemented in 12 Districts: Kanchanpur, Kailali, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti, Darchula and Achham of the Far Western Development Region and Surkhet, Dailekh, Banke, Bardia, and Dang in Mid-Western Development Region of the country. The major project components include: Provision of extension services for farmer groups, Promotion of private extension services, Promotion of client oriented research activities and Project management support.

The pocket area development approach for technically and commercially feasible crops was an identified strategy of CDP to meet the project objective. As per the project design, the Farmer Group (FG) approach had been followed in agriculture extension. The project had also emphasized participation of private service provider (PSP) in the implementation of the project activities. One of the project components focuses especially on the promotion of private extension services.

The Project (Social Mobilization) was under the implementation on behalf of Fri PAD, Bharatpur since 12<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and ended in 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) was the executing Agency, which worked through Project Coordination Unit (PCU).

The project's aim was to increase farmers' income by promoting production and marketing of agricultural crops with particular focus on secondary crops in the project districts. The project focused on production pocket areas as growth centers. Activities had been based on a farmer group approach in agricultural extension.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objective of Fri PAD was to recruit social mobilizers (field team) and team supervisor along with word processor and office helper to DADO, Doti, in

order to support the DADO staff in organization and management of farmers groups (FGs) and farmers groups coordination committee (FGCCs) for enhancing their capabilities through social mobilization to make them able to undertake market-led production of selected secondary crops.

The specific objectives were:

- ❖ To sensitize and create awareness among farmers in the pocket areas
- ❖ To help in FG/FGCCs formation and regular revitalization as required by CDP
- ❖ To encourage women to take key decision-making positions
- ❖ To help in participatory program planning and implementation at FGs and production pocket area in coordinating with concerned staffs of DADO.
- ❖ To ensure participation of FGs/FGCCs members in training programs and conduct training as required
- ❖ To assist in collection and mobilization of resources by FGs/FGCCs
- ❖ To mobilize FGs/facts in production campaign
- ❖ To mobilize FGs/FGCCs to participate in extension activities
- ❖ To provide necessary feedback on effectiveness of program implementation in the area to DADO
- ❖ To develop FGCCs as linkage/coordination center for relevant agencies
- ❖ To help institutionalize FGCCs as business house either through association or co-operatives as per the need.



### 3 Working Pocket Areas and designated SMs

**Table-2, Designated SMs**

S No	Pocket areas	Command area	Name of Social Mobilizer
1	Chandani (Pulse & Oilseed)	Chandani 1, 3-8 Dodhar 1,6	1 Krishan Bha. Chand 2 Mathura Bhatta
2	Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)	Krishnapur 5 7-9 Raikwar 4,6	1 Kalawati Joshi 2 Mohan Bha. Bhandari
3	Laxmipur(Pulse & Oilseed)	Laxmipur all, Shreepur 2,7,9	1 Dila Khatri 2 Basu Dev Dhakal
4	Baisebachawa (Pulse)	Baisebachawa all	1 Gita Sunar 2 Hark B Danpali
5	Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)	Ma Na Pa 1,3,7-10 & Suda 6-8	1 Madhab Prasad Pant 2 Janki Bhatt

### 4. Overview of Group status

Social mobilization was the main targeted activity in the 5 production pockets. Farmers' group was the fundamental grass-root level institution to perform the agricultural activities. Until and unless the group is active and aware in taking the benefit of the agriculture technology smoothly with more participation of women and disadvantaged people, the targeted goals of the nation as poverty alleviation will be impossible. Hence it was realized that there should be proper social mobilization to lead the farmers group as frontline institution to mass production of the secondary crop by building smooth market channel for uplifting their living standard.

Frequent visit to the pocket areas by the FTs and TS, updating monthly progress report, farmers group formation, reorganization, annual group planning, group mobilization, FGCC formation and mobilization and coordination with service center in the implementation of different services (mini kit distribution, demonstration, farmers selection, training) were the main activities as their responsibility.

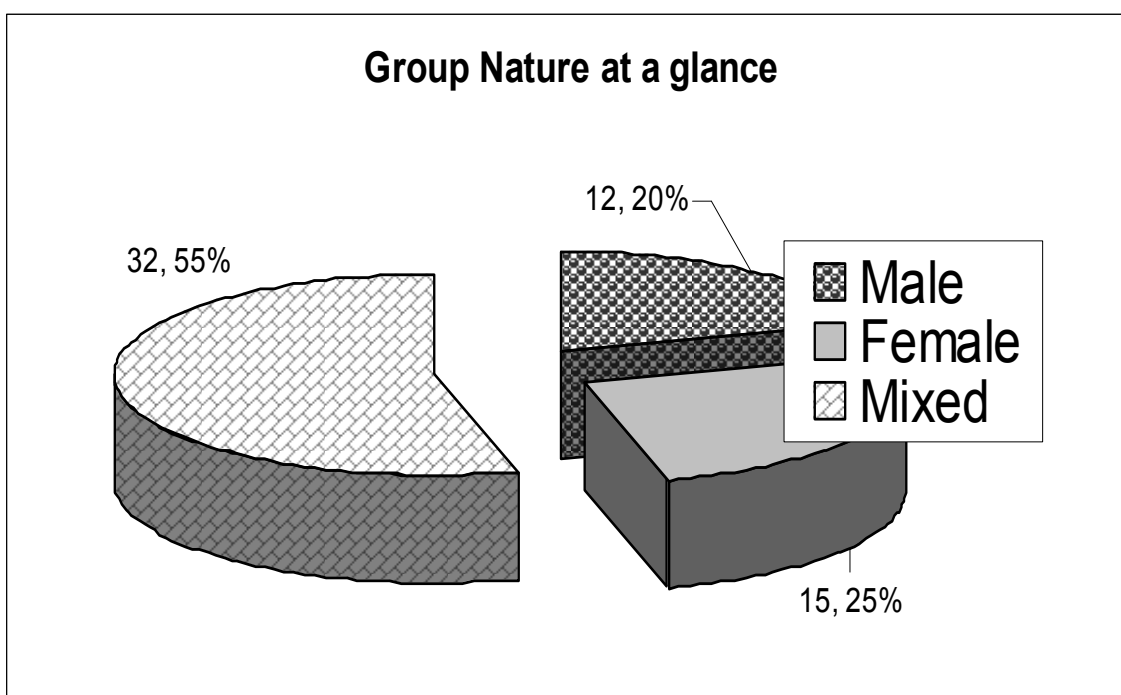
The over all groups' status and their progress with the end of the project period (16<sup>th</sup> Push 063) are highlighted here below.

#### **4.1. Group numbers and status**

There are all together 59 groups in all 5-production pockets with the end of this Project contract (Push 16<sup>th</sup> 2063).

The composition of the groups can be found well distributed in term of gender aspect. The dominance of male group has been reduced to very extent with the introduction of female counterpart. To take the whole responsibility of the group, there are female group formed separately. Similarly, the large no of male group previously dominant are now have turned to mix group. This present the important model of gender inclusion.

The overall distribution pattern of group type can be observed through the following Pie chart:



The project CDP has become successful to share its benefit with large number of farmers at the end. This can be realized with the increasing number of the farmer groups in each project period. Starting with almost inactive 38 farmer group at the base period, the project finally came across the number of 59. This is with the increment of 21 active groups along with turning the previous dormant groups to more active and dynamic.

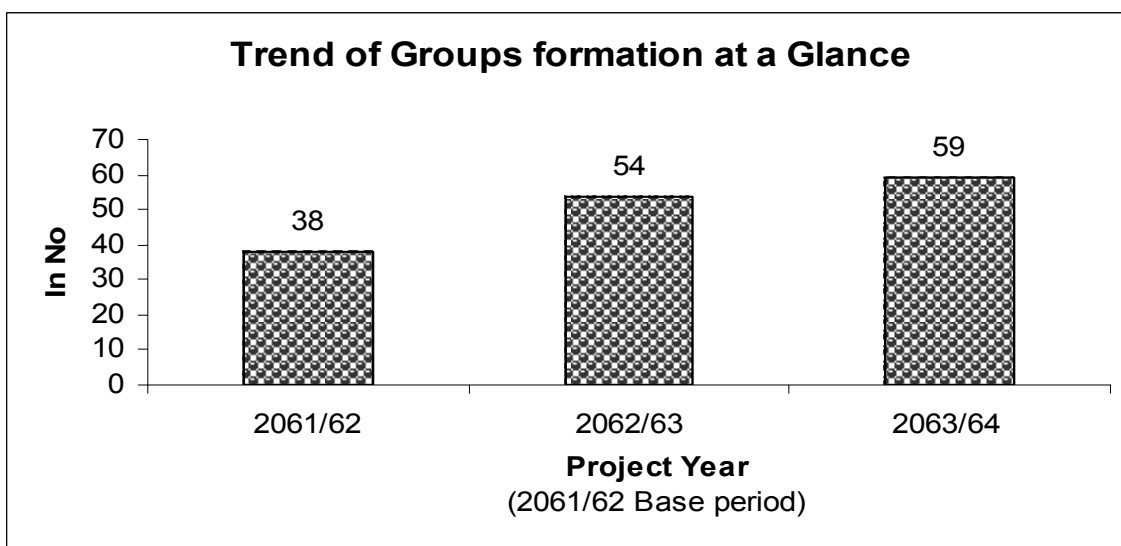
Having a look in the trend of this group (below table 2), the group number has been found in increasing trend. With comparing to the base period (2061/62), there is positive change of 55.26 % in the number of groups. This gives the inference that the farmers are more aware about group formation, its importance and need. In this aspect social mobilization activities have played crucial role for mobilizing the farmers and has been seen effective.

The commodity-pocket wise group number during different years of project can be viewed from the following table

Table 3. Trend of distribution of farmer group; pocket wise (wrt. Base period)

Pocket area & lead crop	Base period (2062)	Push 2063	Change	% Change
<b>Chandani (Pulse &amp; Oilseed)</b>	5	11	6	<b>120.00</b>
<b>Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)</b>	6	7	1	<b>16.67</b>
<b>Laxmipur(Pulse &amp; Oilseed)</b>	9	14	5	<b>55.56</b>
<b>Baisebachawa (Pulse)</b>	6	12	6	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)</b>	12	15	3	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55.26</b>

The trend of group formation in different project year can be viewed in the graph below:



## **4.2 Status of Group Members**

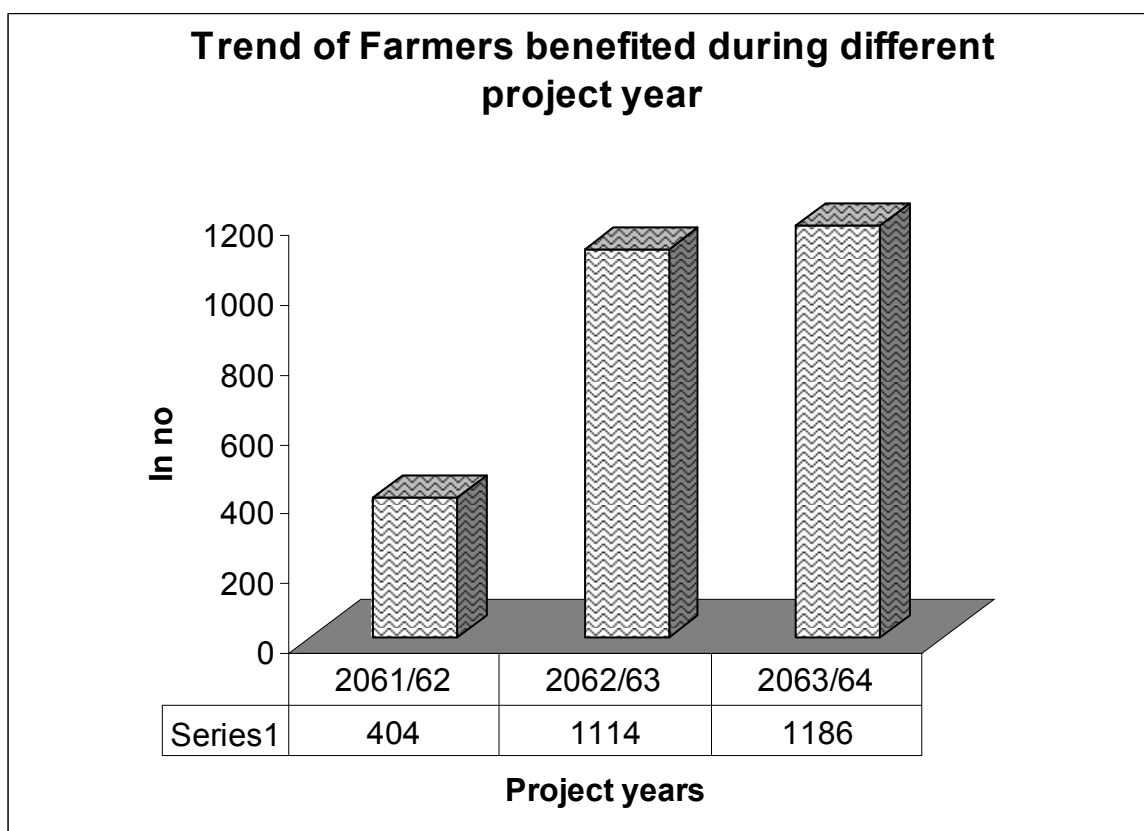
As a strategy in CDP, the concept of inclusion is very appreciable. It is because without the involvement of women, that occupies more than half sky of the world, the expected output cannot be achieved. This thought was highly beard on mind by the Field teams and thus has made substantial effort in this regard. With the end of the project in Social Mobilization part, we can see encouraging participation of female and DAG in all the pocket areas. The female participation is 46.03% (>35%) and DAG 66.02% (>50%) which has helped to materialize the concept of inclusion of CDP. Their statistics can thoroughly be viewed in table below:

Table 4: Gender and DAG statistics

Pocket area & lead crop	Progress (Push , 2063)			
	Male	Fem	Total	DAG
Chandani (Pulse & Oilseed)	56	121	177	97
Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)	88	80	168	109
Laxmipur(Pulse & Oilseed)	197	78	275	192
Baisebachawa (Pulse)	137	122	259	190
Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)	162	145	307	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>783</b>
<b>Percentage %</b>	<b>53.96</b>	<b>46.03</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>66.02</b>

The social mobilization part has been found very effective to involve the farmers in groups. With the involvement in groups they have been benefited from many

aspects. From Technical to social, they have upgraded themselves with the help of technical personnel and S.Ms. The increasing participation during different periods of project pronounces that farmers could take benefit from the service provider and so are more aware about the group solidarity and cooperation. The general trend of the farmer's participation can be viewed in graph below:



While paying attentions in the composition of farmers ' participation in table below, we have come across not only quantitative changes but also with the qualitative changes. This is to mean the gender balance in composition. With the functioning of Social mobilization activities we have also been successful in getting the participation of women as well. Previously what we had the case of women' involvement, we have now got 266.44% positive changes over the previous figure. Overall we have made 193.56 % more farmers' involvement in comparison to base period. Details of statistics of farmer benefited during different periods of project can be observed in the table below:

Table 5: Progress in farmers' participation during different project period

<b>Sex</b>	2061/62 (base p)	2062/63	2063/64	% change wrt to base period
<b>Female</b>	149	517	546	266.44
<b>Male</b>	255	597	640	150.98
<b>Total</b>	404	1114	1186	193.56

The percentage change of 193.56 % with respect to base period (061/62) in benefited farmers pool under CDP shows the farmers' attitude toward group formation and cooperative activities being very positive. Being more concerned in group for their agriculture profession means farmers are more aware about collective efforts and its need. Other figures in the table 3 also reflect the mobilizations of local human resources being very enthusiastic.

### **4.3 Fund collection and use**

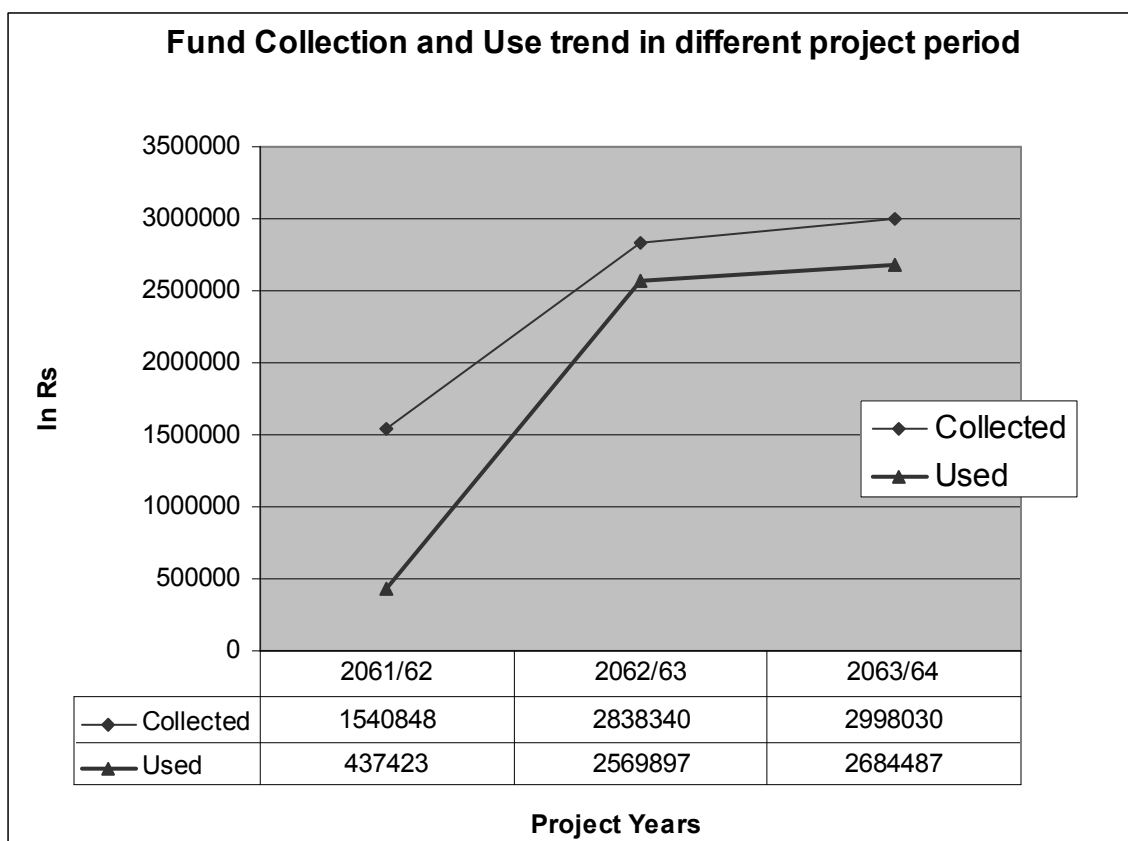
With the progress in farmers' participation, the progress can be seen in fund collection and its use as well in table 4. The fund so collected has been increased by Rs.1457182 after the recruitment of field teams. Similarly, the use has also been found to be increased by Rs. 2247064 which was only 437423 in base period. The pocket-wise details about fund can be seen in table below:

Table 4: Collection and use of fund comparing with base period

S n	<b>Pocket area</b>	Base period (2062)		Progress ( Push, 2063)		Change	
		Collected	Used	Collected	Used	Collected	Used
1	Chandani (Pulse & Oilseed)	2716	340	190825	185200	188109	184860
2	Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)	1078462	365320	1515475	1450735	437013	1085415
3	Laxmipur(Pulse & Oilseed)	151690	36056	435830	412200	284140	376144
4	Baisebachawa (Pulse)	62430	23372	205300	90500	142870	67128
5	Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)	245550	12335	650600	545852	405050	533517
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1540848</b>	<b>437423</b>	<b>2998030</b>	<b>2684487</b>	1457182	2247064
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28.3885</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89.5417</b>		

The trend of fund collection and use in the graph below reflects the escalating movement with respect to the base period. At the end of the project (2063, Push 16<sup>th</sup>), we have found very cheering results in fund collection. Since for any country or organization, the financial matter is very crucial one. This is like the

heart of the organizations. More the groups or institutions are strong in financial condition; they will have more investment opportunities. And this makes the groups more active and dynamic. In the strengthening process, Field team has made very decisive effort. In this aspect they are to be appreciated for their genuine effort.



Only the collection of money is not a matter of importance. Until and unless the fund is utilized in production and other creative activities, it is mere collection of fund only. We cannot take it as a good indicator of progress. Keeping this view in mind, the S.Ms has poured their substantial effort in the fund mobilization as well. The farmers who had been suffering from the financial crisis previously have generated their own fund (as Hitkosh) now. This has helped them escape from the dear interest of landlord. They are feeling safe now from any financial liability as they can get the credit in chief interest (1-2%) and this has helped them to increase their capability to repay the loan in time. The fund has been utilized up to the 89.54% of total.

The general trend of fund collection and use in the graph above *shows increasing trend and the gap between the collection and use is also decreasing; it means the fund is also being utilized by the farmers in different investment activities.*



**Photo 1 Women in collecting the monthly saving**

#### **4.4 Status of Group Meeting**

Group meeting is considered as the criteria for the activeness in social mobilization of group. It is all in group meeting that we discuss what we did, what we made progress, what should be the learning what should be the strategy for future planning. So meeting and discussion helps to go ahead with systematic and managed way. Bearing this in the mind SMs facilitated each and every meeting of groups in their planning and implementation process.

With the end of the contract service in social mobilization, the sitting of group meeting has been found more regular. In earlier situation due to the conflict, the regular meeting of groups could not be regular and effective. But in later period, the group meeting was sat regularly and more effectively.



In total 95.19 % meeting were attended by groups in all the project period of social mobilization. Problems and solutions regarding agriculture activities and social issues were subject of discussion in Meeting of Groups. Training and teaching FGs in group approach basis for building their own institution, group

management, self monitoring and other activities by the FTs were accorded high priority by SMs in group meeting. In some area farmer were unable to sit in-group meetings due to unfavorable situation.

Details of group meeting are given in table below.

PPA	Total Groups	Meeting			Remarks
		Target (Total meeting)	Completed In the whole project Period	%Meeting Completed	
Chandani (Pulse & Oilseed)	11	198	189	95.454	
Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)	7	126	120	95.23	
Laxmipur(Pulse & Oilseed)	14	252	244	96.82	
Baisebachawa (Pulse)	12	216	196	90.74	Social disharmony, Conflict
Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)	15	270	262	97.03	
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	1062	<b>1011</b>	95.19	

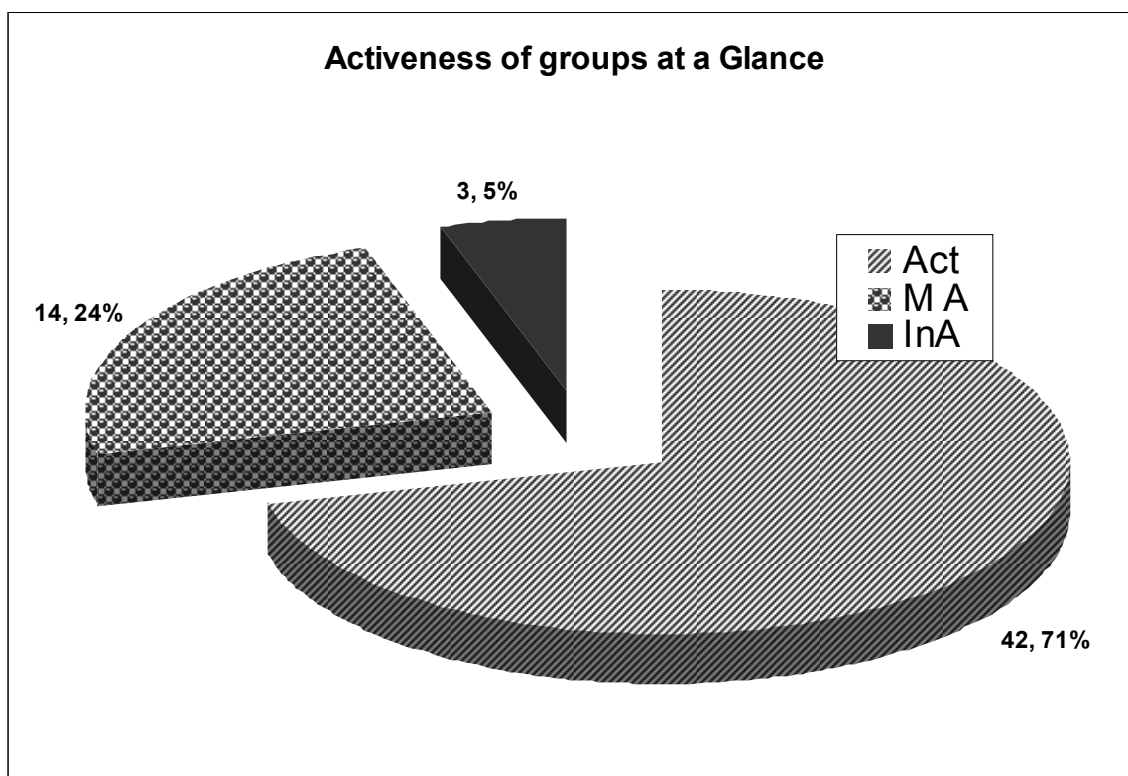


**Photo 2: Farmer Group sitting in monthly meeting**

#### **4.4 Activeness of Farmer group**

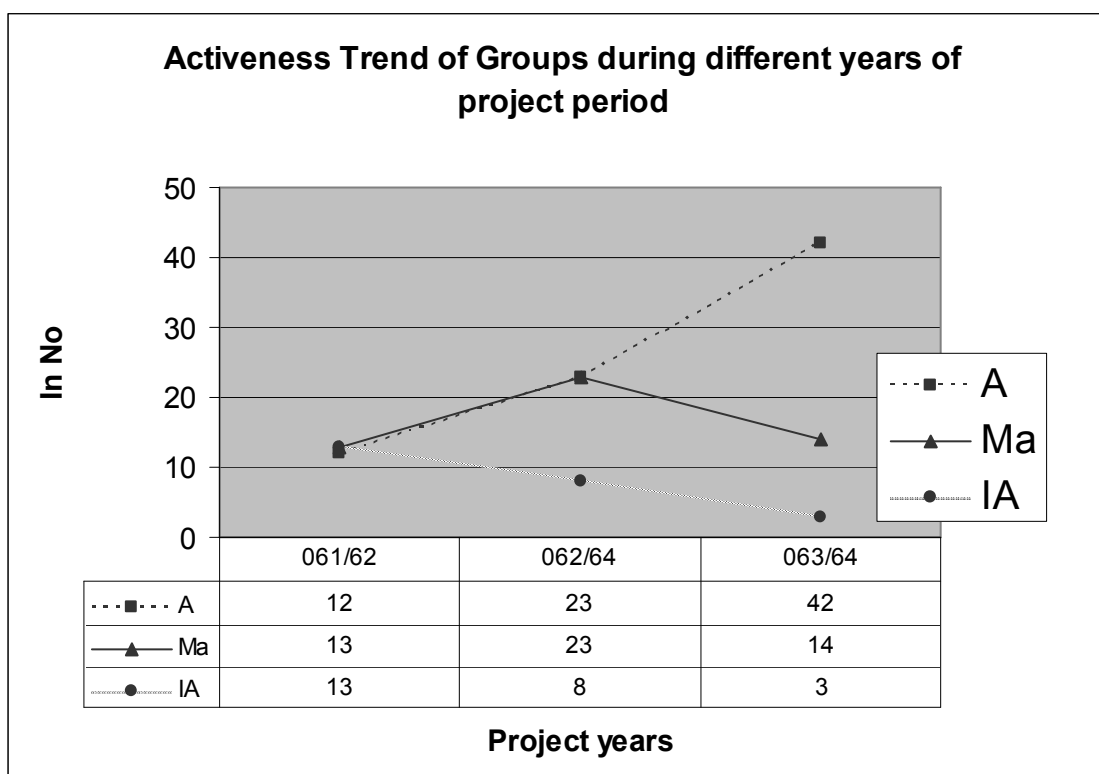
With the end of the project (16<sup>th</sup> Push 2063/64), farmers group have been found very active. The social mobilization has brought the groups up more dynamic. Almost 42% of the groups are most active. They are collecting, mobilizing and planning their activities very effectively with no external support. With this moderately active groups are about 24%. While in case of inactiveness, it has been decreased to 5% from 34.2 % at base period (061/62). This reveals the social mobilization activities coming across the way leading the groups, the frontline carrier of market oriented production, to more dynamic and self-motivated.

Activeness distribution of groups at the end of the project can be reflected by chart below:



We have many instances of failure development effort in the past. One of the most important reasons for failure was, no doubt, lacking of participation of local people. We development stakeholders could not play as a service provider but the agent for service delivery only. This was the great lesson from our past efforts. Here, the grass root level did not become able to take the service as their participatory approach in planning and implementation was not taken consideration. This can be generalized that it is all the farmers' initiatives and activeness to turn the effort to success. In this aspect we have got more success after the recruitment of Field teams for social mobilization.

We have been observing advancing trend of activeness of F.Gs which can be reflected by the graph below:



#### **4.5 Women in Executive Body**

Until and unless the women are empowered and let them occupy the executive post in any institution or organization, the concept of equal-development will go in vain. This will ultimately lead the effort of 50% human resource being ineffective and desired goal thus cannot be achieved. With this view SMs tried their best to encourage the women to participate in decision level decisively. We know the participation does not depend only in forced encouragement, but also in the commitment of women themselves. Due to many barriers like social taboos, tradition, incompetence and lack of will power in them, their participation was really challenging. However, Social mobilization has come across the way where their participation has reached to 57.63% in whole group which was just 32.24 % at base period (see Annex). This is the very encouraging participation of women in decision level and in this matter the social mobilization part should be appreciated much.

This is the participation in the whole farmer groups. But in mixed group also we can see the participation of women being very cheering (Table: 6)

**Table: 6, Status of women in decision level**

S.N	Production Pocket Area	Group		Designation in Executive committee				
		Type	No	Pres	D.Pre	Secr	Trea	Total
1	Baisebichawa (Pulse & Oils)	Female	1	1	1	1	1	4
		Mixed	10	5	8	6	5	24
2	Laxmipur (Pulse &Oils)	Female	2	2	2	2	2	8
		Mixed	8	4	5	4	6	19
3	Chadani, Dodhara (Pulse & Oils)	Female	5	5	5	5	5	20
		Mixed	5	3	2	1	4	10
4	Krishnapur, Raikawar (Potato)	Female	3	3	3	3	3	12
		Mixed	1	0	1	0	1	2
5	Tilachaur (Banana)	Female	4	4	4	4	4	16
		Mixed	8	3	6	7	5	21
Total			47	30	37	33	36	136
Total Post			59	59	59	59	59	236
Percent				50.85	62.71	55.93	61.02	57.63

While having observed in the trend of the women inclusion in the executive post (vital post) in table below we have come across the significant success. We have made 177.55% progress in involving the women in executive posts in comparison to the base period. This depicts that women are being more aware about the right to have control over in the decision level. The increasing trend of their participation can be seen in detail in table below:

**Table: 7, Trend of women inclusion in decision level**

Year	Pres	D.Pre	Secr	Trea	Total
2061/62	9	13	10	17	49
2063/64	30	37	33	36	136
Change	21	24	23	19	87
% change	233.33	184.62	230.00	111.76	177.55

## 5 Status of FGCC

Farmers group coordination committees are supposed to be the sustainable organization of farmer's group in the pocket. They are the Federal body of all FGs. They are responsible body to play active role for coordination in FGs and other agencies. In all 5 FGCCs are there in 5 production pockets comprising one to two representatives from each group. Total farmer in all 5 FGCC are 109 members. The participation of DAG is almost 53.21% and has fulfilled the objective of the CDP. In case of women involvement, figure is not so cheering. It is just 24 attributing 22.02% in the total of whole FGCCs members.

Similarly the female counterparts are not in position to hold vital posts enthusiastically. At present women have hold of two posts in treasurer and one post in Vice-President. The illiteracy, incapability of taking the responsibility, and many other social norms and taboos are playing as barrier to get hold in vital posts by women. So here, getting participation of women in decision level in executive body is very necessary. There empowerment through skill developments, leadership development and providing opportunity for their personality and skill development are much appreciated.

The status of woman, DAG in FGCC in pocket areas can be communicated through the Table below.

**Table 7: Statistics of FGCC (Push 16<sup>th</sup>, 2063)**

Pocket Area	FGCC Status						FGCC meeting and attendance		
	Base period	Up to Push 2063					(2062/4 to 2063/9)		
	2061/62	No	DAG	Male	Fem	Total	Total meeting	Meeting completed	Average Attendance
Baisebichawa	0	1	11	8	4	12	18	16	89%
Laxmipur	0	1	14	23	3	26	18	18	100%
Chadani, Dodhara	0	1	14	19	6	25	18	17	94%
Krishnapur	0	1	8	13	8	21	18	17	94%
Tilachaur	0	1	11	22	3	25	18	18	100%
Total	0	5	58	85	24	109	90	86	96%
Percentage			53.21	77.98	22.02	100%	100%	95%	

The FGCCs are sitting regular meeting every month. About 96% meeting were sat by them during the whole contract period. Monthly planning, Trimester planning, yearly planning, problem identifications, seeking possible solution and bringing to the higher body were their special tasks

### **Group activities during 2062/4/1 to 2063/9/15**

- ❖ Conduction of monthly meeting
- ❖ Fund collection and mobilization
- ❖ Coordination with FGCC
- ❖ Formation, reformation and revitalization groups
- ❖ Take part in various training and workshop and expose visit as per informed
- ❖ Contribution in community development
- ❖ Mutual understanding among the group members and intimacy creation
- ❖ Attempting group legislation preparation and registration in DADO office
- ❖ Initiation of action plan preparation and implementation
- ❖ Helping and facilitating the technology dissemination and input delivery
- ❖ Maintaining the peace and harmony in groups
- ❖ Helping the groups in planning and implementation of group activities
- ❖ Helping the groups to seek the grants for the social works and income generating works
- ❖ Helping the groups in fund raising activities and keeping the account records

## 7. Accomplishments

Since, the agreement made between DADO, Kanchanpur and Fri PAD, Bharatpur, social mobilization of the farmers group (FGs) under CDP Kanchanpur was implemented in Kanchanpur for 18 months (2062/4/01 to 2063/09/ 16 ). Following achievements were observed with the end of the social mobilization contract:

- ❖ *The most striking achievement made by the project CDP is in the part of social mobilization. One of the important progresses is that people have become more aware about their rights and have cultivated the habit of asking for their right of service and facility. Though the social mobilization activities could not keep its pace in full fledge in conflict situation, the Social mobilizers worked stealthy and cautiously even in conflict situation and made substantial effort to mobilize the farmers groups in the hard time. The fruit of that hardship was ultimately achieved after the peace agreement between political parties and rebels' party. The group has become more active. **The minute book which used to be remained blank in earlier days can be found with recorded presence of members in meeting along with the planning issues and decision made by them.** They have started to work with making plans. They are following the rules and regulation in group strictly for smooth running. Most of them are updated with the group statute at present.*
- ❖ *Another important achievement of social mobilization part is that with the activeness of farmer group, most of them are financially strong as well. They have created miniature form micro-credit facility themselves. By this they are also fulfilling their short-term financial requirements. **The saving and credit in the groups has also created the congenial environment for the investment process.** More investment means more income and in turn more income means more savings. Thus this activity has helped to uplift their living standards by themselves. For example, in Suda-8, Pragatishil Kera (Rs 100/month) Utpadak Samuha has raised up to Rs.3, 31,700 by their regular saving and they have also invested about Rs 3, 00,000 in many other creative purposes like group revitalization, production and marketing loan, agri-enterprises development. Saypatri Bij Bridhi Krishaka Samuha in similar manner has raised Rs 7,56,202/- as their Welfare fund (Hitkosh)*
- ❖ *By the recruitment of SMs, aware ness program to maintain the records (statistics) of agriculture production, cultivated and non-*



- ❖ *cultivated land of each Group has been initiated. They have well understood the **keeping of agriculture statistics** to be important for production planning and marketing. E.g. Pragatisihil, Ekta Farmer Groups.*
- ❖ *With the formation of group, the effort has also been made in social activities by the Farmer Group themselves. In any collective work, the groups have been participating genuinely. They are donating their labour service free of cost. The **concept of collective effort after coming in groups can be found vividly in pocket areas**. For example, for irrigation channel maintenance and cleaning in Chadani-Dodhara Pocket, in maintaining the road damaged by heavy rain and cleaning Haat (Market Area) in Laxmipur Pocket depicts the group solidarity and social harmony. Similarly, farmers are donating their labour in school building, Temple and Halting Stall in road in the pocket areas. These are the splendid instances of group solidarity and we-feeling and can be attributed to Social Mobilization activity. **This has ultimately contributed to the peace development of the whole Country.***
- ❖ *The independency and built-up capacity of FGs can be comprehended with the farmer's effort in establishing the Weekly Haat Bazar in Laxmipur Pocket. Similarly some **groups are getting themselves self-dependent** that they are organizing the training program in their own effort and expenses. E.g. Saypatri Bij Bridhi Samuha, Krishnapur. Similarly, to create the awareness in modern technology of agriculture, the farmers have been conducting the cultural program. E.g. Tilachaur.*
- ❖ *One can see the progress easily in the level of understanding of farmers. They have realized the concept of project and what it means for? So farmer are now self-motivated to use the agricultural input in their own expenses. Previously, they had no faith on modern crop varieties and new technology for better production. They used to produce whatever they used to get in free of cost. Now they have come across the realization that with their traditional varieties and technology, they can get nothing. Quoting the saying of farmer, Prakash Firm, from Tilachaur that they are now in position to produce Banana as much as buyers want from them. This condition pronounces that the **farmers in all the pocket areas have reached in the mass production level** which was one of the objective of our project.*

- ❖ *With the advancement in the social condition and their attitude, farmers have also become economically upgraded. There are many instances of economic up grading of farmers. Among them, **Purna Singh Saud, Bikram Sing Saud, Man B. Karki, Madhav Pant of Tilacharu and Suda** are the greatly renowned icons of agri-business and wants to extend the thanks to CDP. They are now in position to earn from 1 Lakh to 3 Lakh annually.*

## 8. Weakness and Constraints

- ❖ *The most fundamental prerequisite for the positive transformation in any countries is the peace. It is just like daydream, to contemplate the development in the situation of conflict. So due to the conflict situation in most of the pocket areas, the social mobilization activities had to be done stealthily and in closed environment. Similarly, the agriculture inputs and technology could not be delivered in time, right place due to the fear of insurgents. This limited the effectiveness of project to some extent. However, in the context of nobody in field, agriculture personnel viz. JT/JTAs and the social mobilizer were only personnel available in the field in touch with the farmer even in the condition of rampant conflict.*
- ❖ *The problem of plant protection was also realized in Banana and Potato as they were heavily infested by Bunchy top, rhizome rot, viral diseases and Red ant. **The problem of viral disease and red ant** was totally uncontrolled in Banana and Potato. This has discouraged the farmers to invest in agriculture profession. For example, Man Bahadur of Tilachaur has been discouraged to extend banana production in his rest 9 bigha of land due to the problem of uncontrolled viral disease.*
- ❖ *Though each pocket has been linked with the agriculture road, the problem of **means of transportation was remained as bottleneck** for the marketing. Farmers are not getting the vehicle and carrier for the transportation of their commodity in right time and right place.*
- ❖ *One of the acute problems seen as **barrier was facility of irrigation**. For the agriculture production water is the most fundamental factor. But in some pocket areas (Baisebichawa, Dodhara, Upper Belt of Tilachaur) this factor was highly realized as production constraint. This has been discouraging farmers to remain in agriculture profession.*

- ❖ *One of the constraints in the project implementation was seen on behalf of Farmers as well. Most of the **farmers are yet absorbed with the superstitions, old tradition and social taboos**. Dalits are always demoralized by the so called upper class farmers while holding any position in the executive body by them. So encouraging participation of dalit in executive body remained much taught job on behalf of SMs and JT/JTAs. Similarly, Group disharmony was observed in Baisebichawa pocket in some groups. As the ward 8, 9 were facing the problem of the irrigation; the collective effort to delegate for the problem could not be reached by the farmers to Kailali Underground Water Project. They either could not manage the deposit of Rs 8,000/- to KUWP. Due to this they are still suffering the problem of Irrigation.*
- ❖ *The illiteracy on behalf of women-groups has been overwhelming factor during social mobilization. **In the absence of literate member in groups, the minuting, collecting fund and mobilization process has been cumbersome job to the groups**. In this condition they are taking the help of other literate person out of groups, generally male. In many instances, the people who are asked for this help generally disappeared taking away the money. So motivating these affected women farmers has remained very challenging job.*

## 9. Learning & Suggestions

- ❖ *Until and unless the produce of farmers gets the final outlet for disposal, it is mere effort to motivate them to follow the agriculture activities as their ultimate profession. Here the cross cutting theme to be realized is the disposal of the produce. Farmers only come in production process when they see the green signal for their produce. Here it should be well understood that the production planning, production activities and other investment activities in agriculture almost depend on the point of exit i.e. market is the most. **Production without knowing the market is just like the horse without reign**. The absence of market and marketing functionaries should be thus well set up to pull the farmers toward the investment in agriculture. The example from Tilachaur, Chandani, and Krishnapur can be taken where if the arrangement for proper disposal of the farmer's produce, means of transportation, agriculture vehicle arrangement in subsidized fair could be set up; the farmers would have been self-motivated towards commercial production of their potential produce requiring no any external support and assistance.*

- ❖ *The ultimate objective of CDP was to raise the economic status of farmers by leading them in market oriented production. In this aspect, farmers are to be trained in both technical and social part. Until and unless farmers are technically and socially backstopped, our objective would not be fulfilled. In this regard capacity building training is very crucial. So training according to the farmer level should accord high priority in coming project. And if the **regional level training could be arranged in farmer' own locality**, more no of farmers would have participated and they would be in position to bring the skills and knowledge in practice as well.*
- ❖ *The most fundamental prerequisite for the positive transformation in any countries is the peace. It is just like daydream, to contemplate the development in the situation of conflict. As learning at the completion of project, we should come in resolution that **peace is very vital** in all the activities of development. And the aspect of social mobilization would be more affected in this connection.*
- ❖ *The concept of Farmers as a frontline institution has helped to materialize our objectives of project so far. But the question arises when the issue of farmers' illiteracy and reluctance come across. In this aspect, the project activities should be launched with awareness program along with the **literacy program such as adult education, leadership training**. Similarly, the peace building and conflict awareness program should also be launched and giving the high priority to social harmony (Eg. Baisebichawa)*
- ❖ *In launching any project in areas like mid and far western regions, the project duration should be long enough so that farmer could be technically and socially strong and they could be self-dependent sustaining in their own effort. In this connection, the project duration should be at least of five years. **So there should be quick follow up project activities** by the government otherwise our progress achieved so far in initial phase i.e. ice breaking phase would go in vain like pouring moisture in the sand.*
- ❖ *The government project should be result oriented. To be result oriented the activities should be target (group) and location specific. Here the main theme to understand is we should go in **focused group approach**. Since Government Project is supposed to deliver its service to all clientele farmers, it has been very bitter experience that all the clientele farmers aren't progress oriented. This entirely pronounces the wastage of the resource. So it is highly realized that only those farmers or groups who are progress oriented and can*

*come with the better output from input endowed so far should be selected under the project.*

- ❖ *It is very difficult job to motivate farmers in agriculture profession. It is because agriculture is very diverse and sensitive to the environmental factor. So timely sowing, timely management of all the activities is very vital for the better harvest. So farmers should be delivered every agricultural input in proper time frame. **Any delay in input delivery will dishearten the farmer and can create mistrust on behalf of government organization.** It gets him discouraged and drive him loose faith on agriculture business. So timely delivery of technical service and agriculture input should be addressed sensitively.*
- ❖ *Similarly, there should be the provision of **agriculture insurance** in policy level when the crop harvest gets failure due to natural calamities like no rainfall, heavy rainfall, and flood. Eg. Farmers of Chandani-Dodhara had to suffer from the flood of Mahakali River.*
- ❖ *Since the fear of the rebels (insurgency) and dismissal of sub-service centers, technical advice and service to farmers was cutoff and limited in Agriculture Service Center only. The present ASCs are not enough for the district like Kanchanpur (as large in areas). So for proper service delivery **more Agriculture centers and Contact Center are very wanting** on behalf of Farmers.*
- ❖ *Fresh vegetables need irrigation abundantly. For the development of their succulent parts water is very vital. So the facilities of irrigation in all the Vegetable production Pocket areas are very crucial. On this behalf, while launching any production project, **the budget should also be considered separately in irrigation facilities.** Otherwise it would be just like dragging the reluctant buffalo for drinking on behalf of motivating farmers in vegetable production. The policy should be made such that the irrigation sector also should be integrated with the production project.*
- ❖ *The problem of shortage of Potato tuber is faced annually by potato production farmers. This was because there is no facility of store-house. Due to this what they produce in their field is either sold or consumed by them. This again creates the shortage of seed tuber in planting period. This force the farmers to buy the seed-tuber in high price or they either cannot get the seed tuber in due time to plant. By this it can be highly acknowledged that in pocket area lack of storage facility have been discouraging potato producing farmer. Similarly,*

- ❖ *they cannot buy potato in off-season to get high price. **So the establishment of cold storage for potato and other commodity is much realized.***
- ❖ *There is high potential of Banana production in our pocket areas. The increasing cultivation of banana in rapid manner depicts that there is going to have surplus production in coming days. So the problem of market glut can be contemplated in future. To address this problem, multiuse of banana by **value addition technique** should get the proper consideration. Here the chips making, wine making, fiber extracting machine along with other form of uses should be accorded high concern.*
- ❖ *Similarly, the project should also emphasize in Low volume high value crops in the present production pocket areas. There are many crops which bears the high potential for production and marketing. For example, the potentiality of **seed production is very alluring.** Especially for Radish, Maize, Vigna bean, Cucurbits are the most potential crops in the present pocket areas. Since the seed products are high in value and low in volume along with more storable and portable, there is hardly another better option for production and marketing except seed in some part of the pocket areas.*
- ❖ *There is intervention of more than one organization in all pocket areas. In this case the same resource is being duplicated causing its mere wastage. In the mean time farmers are also in problem where to involve as they have to pay attention in more than one group. Similarly they are also having the burden of finance. Every month paying monthly saving in more than one group is really trouble to them. **In this case, DADO should go in coordination with other organizations, NGOs, INGOs.** Otherwise there will be mere wastage of resource along with problem to farmers.*
- ❖ *Lack of concept of co-operatives to the FGCC and Farmers groups has been playing as a barrier to farmer for further development. Due to this they are not being able to take initiatives for the cooperatives. At this condition the DADO should guide them with **cooperative awareness program and trainings along with visit programme.** In this practice DADO should select the most active FGs and FGCCs so that they could be developed as model cooperatives which could play as a role model to others.*
- ❖ *Some sort of dissatisfaction was also seen on the parts of personnel of DADO regarding the incentives. For smooth running of the project DADO should also arrange some sort of **incentives on behalf of***

*lower level of DADO staffs. This will keep the staff fresh and self-motivated on the job.*

## **10. Conclusion**

Use of local resources for the local development with the participation of local people, prioritizing the deprived section viz. Women and DAG, both in planning and implementation is the main focus of Social Mobilization process. In Social Mobilization, we go to farmer's community, share the ideas, learn from them, make plan with them and finally come to the implementation with their involvement. By this we make every effort with the local level farmer, front line institution, for their benefit. This involves the integrated steps of all parts of society leading the farmer not only to solve their problem but also enabling them to sustain in their own effort.

As a contract service of Social Mobilization of Crop Diversification Project to recruit Field teams and Team supervisors, Fri PAD (Friends for Peace Building and Development) has finally completed its duty in 16<sup>th</sup> Push, 2063. With the objective of facilitating and guiding the FGs and FGCCs to uplift their living standards by market oriented mass production, Fri PAD has come across a long way. It had to come through many ups and down during the project implementation period. Even in the time of rampant conflict it had managed its field teams and Team Supervisor available on the farmers' field. When the poor farmers were being deprived of basic services, our field teams and technical personnel continuously provided the services.

The great change in the farmer level could be brought more effectively after the people's movement part 2 when the peace negotiation was reached between Political parties and rebel group. Since then the significant change have been observing on behalf of Farmer's activeness, technology adoption and positive attitude. Farmers are regularly sitting their meeting in all the pockets for their benefit. Similarly there is regular participation of farmers in ASC, DADO, Regional level meetings and trainings. This reflects that farmers are more aware to grasp the services offered them by different GOs and NGOs. They are now, in position to assess their own problem and thus to demand the problem oriented service to DADO and other organizations. Their regular visits to the concerned

organization with different problem proposals state that they have developed the capacity to seek and grasp the opportunities for themselves. Other important positive changes in farmers group is in their fund collection. With the deposition of monthly savings (Rs. 5 to Rs 100/ month) the individual group are in position to raise the fund up to Rs 7,56,202/- (Sayapatri Bij Bridhi Krishak Samuha). This has helped them fulfill their short term financial requirements and have got freed them from the dare interest of landlords. Now they have got the environment for more investment in agriculture especially in Production, Marketing, Enterprise development and group institutionalization, leading them in the path of the sustainable development. With this, many progressive farmers have been able to generate high income from banana and potato production. This sort of endeavor (social mobilization) has ultimately helped in putting the bricks in the development of Agri-business sector (Banana Firm, Potato supplier) in country.

With the formation of farmers groups, the social mobilization activity has also helped to inject the sense of team effort in farmers with the feeling of brotherhood ness. This has eventually contributed in the peace development process of the nation. At the same time the group solidarity has also lead them to genuinely participate in social development work for themselves. Now a day, in leisure time farmers are found to be making themselves busy in the social-works like canal maintenance, irrigation pond construction, school building, road construction (Krishnapur) and maintenance, bridge maintenance (Baisebichawa) and other creative activities. This proves the relevancy of Social Mobilization service in Crop Diversification Project.

Though the filed teams have made decisive effort in social mobilization of farmers, many social, geographical remoteness and technical barriers were encountered during the project implementation. Lacking of Farmers commitment in some pockets, their illiteracy (especially women), lack of agriculture road and irrigation facilities were found as a disturbing factor ,to some extent, to achieve the full output.



Last but not least, it should be understood that the project though launched since 2061/62 B.S in Kanchanpur and social mobilization was contracted out only since 062/63 B.S., the farmers are yet to be supported by DADO. It is because the social mobilization part got very short duration to provide the service to the farmers and the contract out service was terminated earlier, this will be unfair on the part of Farmers. They had been just starting to keep their steps forwards and right now to draw the support from them mean just like leaving the stepping child in the busy road. So the government promptly should make the follow up project with proper model to support the juvenile farmers for at least 5 years. Other wise, what ever we achieved so far by this time now go all in vain.

## Annexure1

Base Period Women's status in executive body

PPA	Pres	D.Pre	Secr	Trea	Total
Chandani (Pulse & Oilseed)	3	3	3	4	13
Raikwar-Krishnapur (Potato)	3	3	3	4	13
Laxmipur(Pulse & Oilseed)	0	1	0	2	3
Baisebachawa (Pulse)	1	3	1	3	8
Tilachaur-Suda (Banana)	2	3	3	4	12
Total	9	13	10	17	49
Total Post	38	38	38	38	152
Percentage	23.68	34.21	26.32	44.74	32.24