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FACT SHEET

Social, Environmental, and Economic Development Program

Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) Project

USAID's Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) project works with the Government of Nepal (GoN) to sustainably improve food security and increase incomes through integrated agriculture activities.



Credit: USAID KISAN Project

Agriculture is the main source of employment for the majority of the population in Nepal, and contributes 38 percent to the gross domestic product. However, Nepal is a food deficit country, importing both cereals and high-value agriculture commodities, and due to an increasing population and slow agricultural growth rates, the situation is not improving. The Mid-Western and Far-Western regions typically have the highest rates of food insecurity, hunger, and nutrient deficiency.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The KISAN project, part of USAID's global Feed the Future (FTF) initiative, is a \$20 million five-year program working to advance food security objectives by increasing agricultural productivity. Nepal was one of 19 countries chosen for the Presidential FTF Initiative in 2010. KISAN builds the capacity of private sector and community-based organizations to improve the availability of quality farm inputs; increase access to credit, extension and other services; and improve the competitiveness and efficiency of processors and other buyers. In parallel, KISAN facilitates market linkages between farmers and input providers, service providers, and buyers. KISAN engages with a wide range of public, private, and civil society stakeholders including farmers, NGOs, academic and research institutions, businesses and training centers. The project works in close coordination with the GoN's Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD) and is aligned with the other FTF projects in Nepal, including the Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) and the Innovation Lab (IL) programs. KISAN collaborates with USAID's Business Literacy Program – which is increasing the business literacy of 53,000 KISAN beneficiaries – and with USAID's Suahara project, which is improving the health and nutrition of Nepalis within KISAN's focus districts.

SNAPSHOT

Life of Project

February 2013 to August 2017

Target

- Focused on 300 VDCs in 20 districts in the West, Mid-West, and Far-West regions.
- Reaching more than 500,000 Nepalis through 100,000 rural households.
- Commodities: Rice, Lentils, Maize, Vegetables.

Annual Highlights from Year 3

- 83,286 farmers trained and now implementing improved agricultural practices and technologies on 60,713 ha.
- Increased yields for rice, maize, lentil and vegetables from 29 to 91 percent.
- \$71.8 million in farm-level incremental sales for target commodities.
- Improved gross margins for target commodities by 38 to 160 percent.
- Implemented cost-sharing PPPs with 6 agribusiness targeting 11,600 farmers.
- 12-18% increase in HH level consumption of nutrient rich vegetables.

