



Monthly Update – January 2009

USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

Build Back Better

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities and NGOs throughout the Terai to increase farmer productivity and income, rehabilitate and develop small-scale community infrastructure, improve awareness of sanitation, nutrition, gender and protection issues and strengthen local organizational capacities through enhanced participation of youth and vulnerable populations. This 24-month activity started in June 2008 and is implemented by Fintrac Inc., a US agribusiness firm, in partnership with METCON Consultants and a vast group of local NGOs and subcontractors.

Visit www.usaid-nfrp.org for more information.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure component continued activities in January, getting ahead on 25 community projects that were previously identified, designed and negotiated. Another 19 project subcontracts were negotiated and finalized with various local firms and NGOs.

AGRICULTURE

Twenty-four field personnel from the two implementing partners (FORWARD and MADE) and eight other individuals were trained in two training of trainer activities for summer crops. Each of the three, day-long training activities covered important aspects of summer vegetable production including nursery management, IPM, postharvest handling and marketing. Crops included cucumber, bitter melon, bottle gourd, sponge gourd, pumpkin, melon, okra, and long beans (also known as asparagus bean).

USAID-NFRP also installed 120 shallow tube-wells and 25 treadle pumps on beneficiaries' plots, 68 of them in Central Terai and the rest in Mid/Far West Terai. All recipients cost-shared at least 25 percent of the irrigation systems and in cases where costs exceeded estimates, farmers paid additional costs.

Also in January, 1,877 producers received training in nursery establishment and management of summer crops. Beneficiaries also received nursery management kits with sprayers, watering cans, plastic sheeting, poly bags and fungicides.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

A USAID-NFRP client surveys her nursery.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Project Type	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Culverts	0	26	0
Flood Control	14	8	2
Schools	2	11	0
School Bathrooms	0	2	0
Irrigation Rehab	0	2	0
Road Improvements	0	2	0
Health Post	0	1	0
TOTAL	16	53	2

Phase I: Engineering design and community mobilization in process (construction initiated by Feb/March); Phase II: Construction underway; Phase III: Project completed.

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Fintrac and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

USAID-NFRP also gave participating producers hybrid seeds, enough to plant a total of 470 hectares (234 hectares in the Central Terai and 236 hectares in the Mid/Far West Terai).

FORWARD, a USAID-NFRP partner NGO for the Mid/Far West Terai, also carried out a participatory market chain analysis involving vegetable traders, leading producers and other players in the vegetable sector.

SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

SHN partner NGOs carried out baseline surveys of 75 families in each VDC in six districts to assess existing sanitation, health and nutrition situations among USAID-NFRP selected communities. All six subcontractors completed the task of collecting the data from the communities. The surveys included data from:

- Parents of 25 school children (11 to 16 years) in grades 6 to 10;
- 25 adults interested and able to participate in the 12-month SHN training program; and
- 25 household members of community volunteers who participated in the SHN Training of Trainers.

Twenty potential kitchen garden implementers who are interested and are already doing some form of kitchen garden and already have the prerequisite land were selected to participate.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / WOMEN & CHILDREN

Competitive selection of partner subcontractors is underway and is expected to be completed in March.



SHN partner NGO representative collecting baseline data.



A USAID-NFRP producer receives a seed kit.

USAID-NFRP STAFF

Main office

Joe Sanders
Chief of Party
joesanders@fintrac.com
Subarna Bajracharya
Finance & Contracts Specialist
sbajracharya@fintrac.com
Suresh Manandhar
Administrative & Procurement Officer
smanandhar@fintrac.com
Shudipa Shrestha
Administrative Assistant
sshrestha@fintrac.com

Regional Coordinators

Shiv Narayan Tharu
Regional Coordinator – Mid/Far West
lshah@fintrac.com
Ramananda Prasad Gupta
Regional Coordinator – Central Region
rgupta@fintrac.com

Technical Specialists

Brahmaram B. Mathema
DCOP/Livelihood & Income Generation Specialist
bbmathema@fintrac.com
Kamal Bahadur Shrestha
Monitoring and Outreach Specialist
kshrestha@fintrac.com
Mohan Krishna Shrestha
Engineering Specialist
mshrestha@fintrac.com
Geeta Lama
Social Inclusion Specialist
glama@fintrac.com