



SUCCESS STORY

Horticulture creates new source of income and new jobs

Before joining the USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program's (USAID-NFRP) Livelihood and Income Generation (LIG) effort, Chinkandas Chaudhary, of Joshipur VDC, Western Region, had never earned a single rupee from farming. Before the program, he imported goods from India and sold them in Nepal, earning about NRs 3,000 a month. He started cultivating his first crops with USAID-NFRP assistance in November 2008 and worked with the program field technician, who trained him in irrigation and high value crop cultivation and provided marketing support. He planted cucumbers, gourds, long beans and pumpkins on 0.17 hectares and earned NRs 57,000 in net income from his first harvest.

"It is very big amount for me. I never dreamed of earning so much from such a small plot of land," Chaudhary said.

After his first crop cycle, Chaudhary purchased his own irrigation unit with an electric pump for NRs 28,000 and for the second crop cycle he expanded to 0.27 hectares, planting chilies, tomatoes and cauliflower. The increased scale and land productivity has helped create jobs for people in his village.

Chaudhary expects to earn NRs 60,000 in the first harvest of the second crop cycle. The success has enabled Chaudhary to open a bank account for the first time and buy a motorcycle to get to the market.

Chaudhary also started training some of his neighbors in the techniques he is learning from USAID-NFRP. Now, with his advice, they are planting high-value crops on their own land.

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities throughout the Terai region 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 organizations by expanding participation among youths and vulnerable populations. The program is made possible by the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Chinkandas Chaudhary (above) and farm worker Madhu Sudan Rajbansi take a tour of the farm's chili and cauliflower plots.

Photos by Fintrac Inc./
Carla Fernandez de Castro

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— Chinkandas Chaudhary, Joshipur, Kailali