



fintrac *agricultural solutions to end hunger and poverty*

Background

Flooding and landslides in 2007 and 2008 caused considerable damage and human suffering throughout the Terai region. More than 800,000 people lost livelihoods, land and vital community infrastructure. In response, Fintrac launched the Nepal Flood Recovery Program in May 2008. The USAID-funded effort started in 60 village development committees (VDCs) in six districts of the Terai: Parsa, Bara and Rautahat in the Central region; Kailali, Bardiya and Banke in the West. The program was later extended to include 16 additional VDCs in Sunsari (Koshi flood area), Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.

Program goals

- Increase farmer productivity and income
- Rehabilitate and develop small-scale community infrastructure
- Improve awareness of sanitation, nutrition, gender and protection issues
- Strengthen local capacities by enhancing the participation of youths and vulnerable society members

After the Floods

Recovery and Rural Development (Phases I and II)

Fintrac, its local partner METCON, and 30 local NGOs and private contractors implemented an integrated flood recovery and economic development program in the eight affected districts. This modestly funded project helped more than 4,400 farmers increase the economic productivity (net sales per hectare) of 1,000 hectares by 686 percent. The program's completion of 119 infrastructure projects including roads, bridges and irrigation systems benefitted more than 128,000 households. Program training helped 3,700 women and children establish kitchen gardens, improving nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene; and 7,500 received training in community development, youth leadership and disaster management.

In the last three years Fintrac's team has proven itself in the Nepali community, effectively bringing together local organizations and individuals to carry out program activities, and now the program is gearing up for a new phase. Phase III is an 18-month effort focusing on improving food security by expanding training to farmers in new food production technologies, linking producers to markets and input suppliers, and addressing infrastructure constraints concerning roads, bridges and irrigation access.

Moving Forward

A New Focus on Addressing Food Security for Vulnerable Populations (Phase III -18 months)

President Barack Obama's Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative has brought renewed focus to small-scale agricultural development, an area where Fintrac has always excelled. The goal is to increase the availability, access, use and sustainability of food for families in developing countries like Nepal. USAID/Nepal's new FTF Initiative



will address food deficiencies that affect 43 out of Nepal's 75 districts, extreme cases of childhood stunting and wasting, and per capita income that is the lowest in all of Asia. Fintrac will continue its work in the FTF target districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura to increase agricultural productivity, increase incomes, expand market linkages and trade, and improve the nutritional status of households.

and improving farmer access to the wider value chain, both in terms input supplies and credit as well as coordination with processors, traders and markets. Anticipated results include a sustainable 300 percent increase in beneficiary farmers' annual incomes, \$3.2 million in increased net sales, and more than 125,000 days of surplus on-farm employment.

Future Goals

During Phase III, Fintrac will:

- Improve agricultural productivity by supporting the progress of 2,700 farmers and 800 hectares of demonstration plots for an additional three crop cycles. The program will do this by strengthening the ability of VDC-based producer groups to expand market linkages and trade of a larger range and quantity of products. Technical assistance will focus largely on effective planning, organizational development*

- Improve nutrition in targeted communities by introducing kitchen gardens and providing training on the importance of incorporating a variety of products into the diet including leafy greens, fruit and vegetables to address caloric, vitamin and mineral deficiencies in Terai populations. Anticipated results include the installation of 2,200 kitchen gardens covering 75 hectares, and 4,900 households (30,000 people) with improved access, availability and utilization of a more diversified daily diet.*

A third area of intervention is improving infrastructure to support Fintrac's agricultural beneficiaries in targeted districts. Projects include at least 20 market sheds for product consolidation, grading and marketing. The project will also rehabilitate at least five surface irrigation sites, opening up hundreds of hectares to water access and enabling year-round cultivation and up to three full crop cycles during the 18-month extension.

