



SUCCESS STORY

Infrastructure, health and livelihood interventions transform village

USAID-NFRP chose Jaimanglapur, a small village in the Parsa District, because it had enormous potential for agricultural development and because it is along the main road connecting Birgunj to Parsa. The program launched a multi-faceted intervention, focusing on livelihoods and income generation (LIG), sanitation, hygiene and nutrition (SHN) and infrastructure improvements.

LIVELIHOODS & INCOME GENERATION

USAID-NFRP organized technical support for a 38-member farmer association in Jaimanglapur with eight hectares. The program donated 59,810 grams of seeds to the farmers and helped them install six shallow tube wells and seven treadle pumps for irrigation. The program also distributed integrated pest management (IPM) kits including six spray tanks and 71 pheromone traps, which are used to monitor the insects. The farmers have been trained in nursery management, crop production, IPM and marketing.

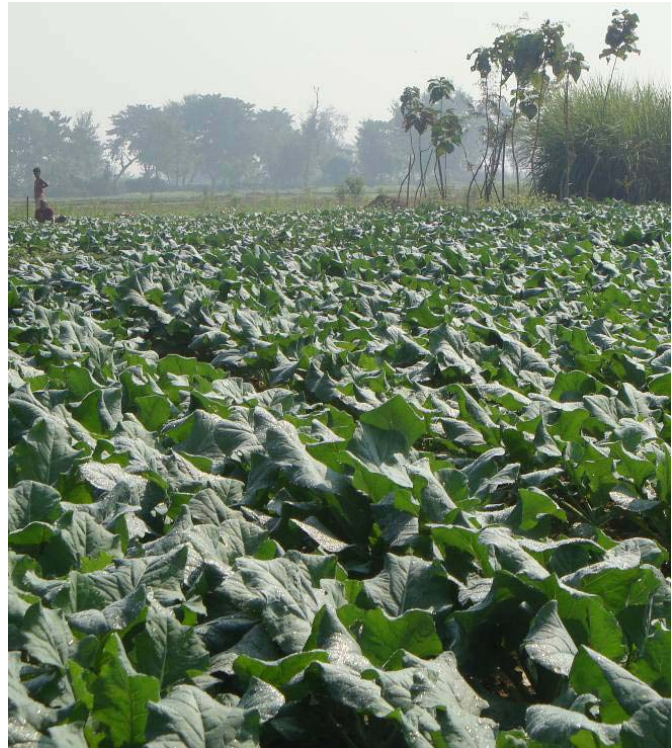
Badan Davi Mahato is the chairperson of the farmer association. He supports his family of nine by growing crops on cooperative land. Prior to USAID-NFRP assistance, Mahato made NRs. 15,000 (roughly \$205) off his produce. After following USAID-NFRP guidelines for a full crop cycle and the first harvest of a second, Mahato made NRs. 65,000. He worked with leafy greens, mustard, Asian eggplant, tomatoes and gourds on 1.5 hectares during the first cycle. He planted cauliflower, chilies, guava and papaya on another 1.5 hectares during a second crop cycle. In total, the farmer association produced 77,134 kilograms, worth NRs. 1,047,146 in the first crop cycle after implementing program assistance. The first harvest of the second cycle yielded 6,349 kilograms of harvest and NRs. 105,563.

SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION: ICS

The sanitation, hygiene and nutrition (SHN) program installed 33 improved cooking stoves (ICS) and provided training to recipients. The stoves are cleaner, more efficient and cause less smoke to accumulate in the home. Rahambani Khatun, one of the stove recipients, immediately saw the benefits and started recommending the stove to friends. As the word spread, more individuals contacted USAID-NFRP about installing the new stoves in their homes. The program set up an agreement to meet the new demand by cost sharing more stoves.

INFRASTRUCTURE

USAID-NFRP also set out to facilitate commerce in the region through improvements in infrastructure.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Badan Davi Mahato cultivates crops such as cabbage on his land at a farmer association in Jaimanglapur.



Mahato bought two oxen with profits from agricultural production under USAID-NFRP training.

The road through Jaimanglapur is rocky and uneven and was greatly limiting transport, especially during monsoon seasons. The program set its sights on a dip in the main road between Birgunj and nine VDCs situated west of Parsa that is prone to flooding, bringing traffic to a halt and cutting off the route many use to reach jobs only a few kilometers away.

USAID-NFRP started building a vented causeway over the section in April 2009 and completed it in June. The 30.5 meter causeway that allows water to pass over it to minimize long-term damage to the structure and the side banks is tall enough to allow transit even when the waters exceed 5 meters. The causeway cost \$103,325, and the community contributed \$3,947. Local labor and masons were hired for three months of temporary employment during construction.

Today, approximately 150 vehicles cross the causeway daily. It directly benefits 1,500 households in nine nearby villages.

Because of the causeway, farmers can reach more markets and are now earning better prices for their produce and saving money on transport costs. Mahato and his group of 38 farmers says the causeway is helping them earn more, because they can go as far as Birgunj where they can get the best prices for their produce.

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).



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

New stoves are greatly improving household cooking efficiency and reducing smoke accumulation in the home.



A new vented causeway allows villagers and heavy vehicles to pass over a water channel that floods during heavy rains.

