



Monthly Update – February 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.

USAID/NEPAL MISSION DIRECTOR VISITS USAID-NFRP WORKSITES

High level USAID/Nepal officials including Mission Director Beth Page, Contracting Officer Patrick Wilson and Cognizant Technical Officer Shankar Khagi visited USAID-NFRP sites on February 24 and 25. The visits ended with a Quarterly Contractor and Grantee Meeting at Nepalgunj on February 26.

During the USAID-NFRP site visit in Patharahiya VDC, Kailali district, the first stop was for a quick inspection of the VDC's main flood control infrastructure project: 60 linear meters of rock-cage gabions with four layers of gabion boxes (4 meters high, 2.5 meters base, with 3 meters of launching). The next stops were at two trainings taking place that morning: sanitation, health and nutrition; and livelihood and income generation. The group also made a stop at fields with established nurseries, irrigation systems and demonstration plots set-up and financed by USAID-NFRP.

INFRASTRUCTURE

By the end February, the number of ongoing community infrastructure projects reached 52 (Phase II). The table on the right shows the break down of project type. Additionally, engineering design, cost estimates and community mobilization was completed for 21 other projects.

A major highlight of the infrastructure component was that subcontractor UNYC finished construction on a 31-meter irrigation aqueduct in Rajapur VDC, Bardiya district.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

A USAID-NFRP demonstration farmer in Bara district shows off his cauliflower during a technical assistance visit.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Project Type	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Culverts	3	26	0
Flood Control	15	8	2
Schools	3	11	0
Schools Bathrooms	0	2	0
Irrigation Rehab	0	2	1
Road Improvements	0	2	0
Health Post	0	1	0
TOTAL	21	52	3

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

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AGRICULTURE

2,131 rural households are currently enrolled in USAID-NFRP-supported income generation agriculture activities. In the Central Terai, our NGO partner MADE is helping 1,031 households grow 15 high value crops on a total of 232.64 hectares. In the Mid/Far-West Terai, our NGO partner FORWARD is helping 1,100 households grow 12 high value crops on 234 hectares.

FORWARD installed 46 shallow tube well (STW) irrigation units for farmer groups during February and six treadle-pumps (TP) for individual farmers. MADE installed 12 STW irrigation units and 70 TPs in February. As of the end of February 178 STWs and 101 TPs have been funded and installed in the six USAID-NFRP supported districts.

2,783 people attended 106 field-based trainings put on in February by both implementing partners: 41 trainings (1,144 attendees) in production management of winter, high value crops; 31 trainings (501 attendees) in production management of summer HVCs; 31 trainings (1,052 attendees) in integrated pest management; and 3 trainings (86 attendees) on Mentha production.

Sixty-four households in Central Terai have reported local market sales of sweet peas, cauliflower, radishes, French beans, and greens. Sales at markets such as Haat Bazars reached \$2,631.

USAID-NFRP distributed 318 integrated pest management (IPM) kits to farmers during February. 120 were distributed in Mid/Far West Terai and 198 were distributed in Central Terai. Kits of seven summer season seeds were also distributed to cover 23.7 hectares.

SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

During the reporting period the five subcontractors implementing the activities under this component finalized the selection of target trainees and training schedules and started awareness training in each VDC.

Kitchen Gardens activities started with a general orientation and demonstration on land preparation, seed distribution and nursery establishment. The program's implementing subcontractors also started the selection and training of promoters for the "Improved Cooking Stoves" activities.



Villagers in Banke walk across a bridge built with USAID-NFRP support.



USAID/Nepal Mission Director Beth Paige, Program Contracting Officer Patrick Wilson, CTO Shankar Khagi and USAID-NFRP LIG Specialist BB Mathema listen during a training of demonstration farmers in Pathraiya VDC, Kailali.

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