



Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE)

General context

Climate change poses a serious threat to Nepal's agriculture and the livelihood of millions. The country is one of the ten most vulnerable countries to extreme weather events (2002-2019), Global Climate Risk Index) and its economy strongly depends on agriculture, especially the two thirds of the workforce making their income in the agricultural sector. Melting glaciers and a rise in temperature cause floods, drought, and landslides, as well as altered cropping periods and an unpredictable monsoon season. Due to these changes, as well as an overuse of land and inappropriate agricultural practices, the harvest in some areas has decreased by up to 30 percent in recent years.

The migration of men in the search for work is an additional challenge in rural areas. As a consequence, women are often in charge of local production and carry an extremely high workload. While having limited access to information, training and financial support, women and vulnerable groups are especially dependent on agriculture.

With the Agricultural Development Strategy (2015-2035), Nepal addresses those threats and plans to transform the agriculture sector. The government wants to increase

productivity, achieve self-sufficiency and enable a change from subsistence farming to commercial farming. Furthermore, the country plans to counter the effects

Project Name

Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems

Partner Country

Nepal

Volume

13.9 Mio. EUR (4.15 Mio. EUR of EU; 4 Mio. EUR Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; 5.75 Mio. EUR BMZ)

Duration

June 2021 - Dec 2024

Location

19 municipalities of Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces

Implementing Partner

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Objectives

The project aims to support sustainable agricultural ecosystems in the provinces of Sudurpashchim and Karnali. Farmers, cooperatives and small businesses will be enabled to build economically viable and climate-resilient value chains at the local level. Through training, they learn to use different practices like integrated crop management, crop rotation systems and practices, as well as organic farming, agroforestry and water resource management. Municipalities will be supported in integrating climate change relevant investments and projects into their planning. By implementing collaborative action research and supporting multi-actor cooperation, the project also supports Nepalese stakeholders in promoting climate-resilient agriculture and co-creating and sharing applicable knowledge beyond the project's runtime.

The project is an integral part of the efforts of the EU and its member states to implement the EU Green Deal, including the Farm-to-Fork strategy, in Nepal. The project will contribute directly to Nepal's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), specifically to "scientific research and adaptation approaches to assess and address the impacts of climate change".

Our approach

The project works on different institutional and organisational levels, improving framework conditions for climate-smart agriculture and agricultural development in the provinces of Sudurpashchim and Karnali and beyond. It will generate practical knowledge and know-how at local level and strengthen the capacity to establish and maintain more climate-resilient value chains. Research and cooperation will be the key for enabling scaling-up from the local to provincial and even national level and for making knowledge systems more resilient.

There are four main fields of action to achieve the project's objectives:

Economic Governance: The project supports municipality-level stakeholders in creating beneficial framework conditions for agriculture-based actors and for climate-resilient value chains. This is done by supporting climate-sensitive planning and investments on the municipality level.

Action Research: This field of action enables change

through innovation. The project includes the development and testing of climate smart solutions that suit specific regions as well as the market. It will also enable cooperation by connecting research institutions with stakeholders along the value chain.

Rolling-Out: Sustainable approaches identified through research will be promoted through intermediaries and implemented on a larger scale by farmers, cooperatives, and producer groups.

Scaling-Up: The knowledge, instruments, good practices and policy recommendations developed on the local level will be presented to a larger and diverse audience at provincial and national level to encourage a scaling-up of climate-resilient and water-efficient approaches in agricultural value chains.

Target groups

The primary target group are farmers, rural households, and small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the special aim of including women and marginalised groups in the value chain. Furthermore, the project works with intermediaries such as producer groups and associations, forest user groups, cooperatives, agribusinesses, traders and related associations, women entrepreneur associations, municipalities, provincial governments, Agricultural Knowledge Centres, and local universities.

Results (as of 12.2023)

- 16,139 agriculturally based households have an average income increase by 29%, benefitting 72,625 people in total.
- 14,000 farmers have innovated their production in a manner that boosts climate resilience and sustainable irrigation like bio-mulching or use of organic liquid manure.
- 855 hectares of agricultural land is managed with sustainable practices such as intercropping or crop rotation.
- 19 partner municipalities have allocated EUR 930,000 for cofinancing climate resilient measures in partnership with GRAPE.

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