



Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE)

Highlights #1

Welcome Notes

What happens in the mountains of Nepal concerns the world! Nepal ranks 10th in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Karnali and Sudurpashchim are described as the most vulnerable provinces of Nepal in the National Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Report.

With GRAPE, Team Europe – namely the European Union, Finland and Germany – aims to support local governments, farmers and value chain actors in adapting their actions to the impacts of climate change. Together with ICIMOD, NGOs and universities in our partner provinces and beyond, we build networks and knowledge which support our target groups on this journey. Building transformative partnerships has become core to our action!

We started implementing GRAPE slightly more than 2 years ago, during the last waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. Facing weather and climate impacts, sometimes hiking to otherwise inaccessible project locations, the team is highly invested in making a difference.

In our GRAPE Highlights, you will thus not only learn about what partners do within GRAPE, but you may also learn about some of their activities beyond GRAPE.

About Grape

The Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) programme is dedicated to fostering sustainable agricultural ecosystems in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces. By doing so, it contributes to green, inclusive economic growth on local level. Farmers, cooperatives, and

small businesses are enabled in establishing economically viable and climate- resilient value chains at the local level. Through training, participants gain expertise in various practices such as integrated crop management, crop rotation systems, organic farming, agroforestry, and water resource management. GRAPE extends support to municipalities, assisting them in integrating investments relevant in light of climate change - and into their planning processes. By promoting collaborative action research and facilitating multi-actor cooperation, the project also supports Nepalese stakeholders in advancing and promoting climate-resilient agriculture. Moreover, it encourages co-creation and sharing of applicable knowledge beyond the project's duration. As an integral part of the EU's commitment to implementing the EU Green Deal in Nepal, the project contributes to Nepal's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Green Resilient Inclusive Development (GRID) agenda.



Highlights

Second Business Climate Survey (BCS) Conducted

GRAPE in cooperation with Como-Mesopartner conducted the project's 2nd Business Climate Survey (BCS) in 2021/2022. The survey measured an economic development progress and economic governance at the municipality level. This BCS edition was a telephone-based survey with 5,690 enterprises from 42 municipalities. The enterprise samples reflected the actual economic structure in each municipality. Based on the survey results and available statistics, a Business Climate Index (BCI) was calculated. The BCI comprises 49 indicators in 8 sub-indices, such as infrastructure, local economic performance, or climate smart governance. Among the participating municipalities, the median score of the BCI 2021/2022 is 40 on a 1- to-100 scale. More information under: <https://www.bcsnepal.org/>

Public-Private-Partnership with The Organic Valley

The GRAPE programme has signed a partnership agreement with The Organic Valley aiming to empower climate-vulnerable communities in Karnali and Sudurpashchim Provinces. Together with farmers and cooperatives, The Organic Valley is working towards a transformation in the citrus and ginger/turmeric value chains across 14 municipalities. By implementing a range of measures such as product diversification and the establishment of processing units, The Organic Valley is bridging the gap between smallholder farmers and larger markets. This collaboration not only creates income opportunities for farmers and cooperatives, but also promotes the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices, provides training for value-added production, and supports citrus plantation.

Programme Update

Community Learning Centres established

GRAPE has established 19 community learning centres (CLCs) in its clusters in Dailekh, Surkhet, Kailali, Bajura, and Humla. These centres showcase a range of low-cost technologies, tools, and practises for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) which can allow farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change on their farms. The CLCs will continuously incorporate emerging solutions and knowledge. Beside showcasing approaches, the centres serve as a platform for farmers and other stakeholders to share knowledge, engage in practical demonstrations, and participate in training activities related to climate-resilient agriculture.

Embrace Equity Research Grantee

Under GRAPE, GIZ and ICIMOD support three students as recipients of the Embrace Equity Research Grant. The purpose of the grant is to engage students, and young researchers, especially women and girls, in collaborative action research and encourage them to long-term career prospects. All the grant recipients are female, two of the

students are from Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) and one from Mid- West University (MU).

Second GRAPE Partners' Meeting held

GRAPE is implemented through dedicated partners forming transformational partnerships. Recognizing that meaningful collaboration requires engagement of all partners, and regular partnership meetings. While management meetings address day-to-day coordination needs, partners also gather periodically to focus on strengthening the partnership itself. In May, all implementing partners of the GRAPE programme, including universities, private sector actors, NGOs, and INGOs, convened for the second time at ICIMOD's premises in Kathmandu.

All partners shared updates on progress, aligned operational plans, and participated in group work sessions exploring synergies, addressing challenges, identifying opportunities, and minimizing overlaps. The partnership's effectiveness was also critically evaluated, acknowledging areas of success and areas that require improvement. Despite existing challenges, the partners expressed in their collective ability to drive meaningful change together.

First joint Learning and Monitoring Visit

GRAPE conducts joint Learning and Monitoring Visits with partners to facilitate collaborative learning and improve ongoing implementation of the programme. The first Learning and Monitoring Visit took place in partner municipalities located in the districts of Surkhet, Dailekh, and Bajura. During the visit, GRAPE's partner ministry MoLCPA, NGOs & INGOs, ICIMOD, and GIZ observed the status of implementation and engaged in exchanges with beneficiaries and intermediaries.

The visit included interactions with action research sites, farmer groups practising climate resilient agriculture (CRA) and partner municipalities. The visits highlighted the importance of improved coordination between provincial agencies and municipalities to effectively utilise resources for public investments, particularly in irrigation. Furthermore, the importance of engaging with the private sector enhancing the marketing of agricultural products was emphasized.



Crop Calendar endorsed by MoLMAC Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces

The Ministries of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) of Karnali and Sudurpashchim have endorsed a crop calendar developed by GRAPE. The calendar aids agricultural producers in adapting to changing crop cycles, providing systematic and efficient farm management guidance for the Terai, mid-hill, and upper-hill regions. Check here: grape.gov.np/publication

Sector Spotlight

The year 2023 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of the Millet. In cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is the primary organisation for the Year's celebration. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the multiple benefits of millets, from nutrition and health to environmental sustainability and economic development. Millets are tolerant of climatic fluctuations and can be grown on arid lands with few inputs. As a result, they are the perfect way for countries to improve their self-sufficiency and mitigate their dependency on imported cereal grains. Numerous projects have been launched to promote this important crop by national governments and development organisations.



Partners' Corner

Our implementing Partners are :



- ICIMOD has recently launched its new 2030 Strategy, titled “Moving Mountains,” as well as its 2023–2025 Medium-Term Action Plan and Vision (MTAPV), titled “Embracing Change and Accelerating Impact.” ICIMOD has modified its organisational and administrative structure as part of these strategic initiatives.
- In a significant development, LI-BIRD has played a vital role in registering five local landraces of rice (Kanak Jira, Dalle Masino, Ghiupuri, and Tilki) from various regions, as well as Nepali Bhatamas, a landrace of soybean, under the Schedule D of varietal registration.

Team Member Spotlight



Chahana, a second-year master's student of International Relations and Diplomacy at Tribhuvan University, joined GRAPE as a trainee in 2023. Chahana wishes to contribute to Nepal's sustainable development through impactful work carried out by international organizations.

As a trainee in GRAPE, Chahana's involvement includes project implementation, knowledge product preparation, support to capacity building, and engagement with stakeholders and beneficiaries. Chahana considers her time at GRAPE a valuable foundation for her future career in the development sector, cherishing the friendships and professional networks.

Upcoming Events

Training for Local Persons and Technical Assistants on Climate Resilient Practises

📅 July 2023

📍 Surkhet

The local resource persons and technical assistants will receive training on various climate resilient practises and how to implement them through demonstrations and action research. It will be carried out in collaboration with implementing partners and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU).

Curricular Workshop

📅 August 2023

📍 Chitwan

The consultative workshop on curriculum development focuses on integrating climate-resilient agriculture into university curricula. It is organised collaboratively by ICIMOD and the Agriculture and Forestry University. The workshop aims to unite experts, educators, and stakeholders in agriculture to design curriculum frameworks addressing climate change challenges and opportunities in the field.

GRAPE Students' Programme

📅 November 1st - 6th, 2023

📍 Hasera, Kavre

This Program fosters co-learning among students, facilitates university collaborations and focuses on imparting practical knowledge in natural resource management and climate resilient agriculture.

Resources and Links



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We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website for the GRAPE programme. Explore a wealth of valuable resources, stay updated on the latest programme activities, and discover how we are making a positive impact in Nepal's agricultural sector. Join us on this digital journey at www.grape.gov.np and be a part of our mission to create a greener, more sustainable future for all.

The Business Climate Survey (BCS) is a tool to measure a territory's economic development progress and economic governance. In the case of GRAPE programme, it is applied on municipality level. The BCS can work as a monitoring tool, development tool, and an as a dialogue tool.

Find more here: <https://www.bcsnepal.org/>

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