



GREEN RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS (GRAPE)

Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Strengthening knowledge and
innovation systems

What is AKIS?

The term Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) is used to describe the whole knowledge exchange system, including the ways people and organisations interact within a country or a region. AKIS can include farming practices, research, etc. as well as interactions with businesses and authorities; it can vary a lot, depending on the country or the sector. When developing new AKIS, technical, organisational, and social dimensions should be considered (a “systems approach”); this helps bridge the gap between science and practice.

AKIS as a system links people and organisations to promote mutual learning and to generate, share, and utilise agriculture-related technology, knowledge, and information. It considers diverse actors from the private, public, and non-profit sectors relating to agriculture, such as farmers, cooperatives, researchers, universities, public and private advisors,

supply chain actors, students, youth groups, and other actors in the agricultural sector (EIP-AGRI, Brochure on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems, 2018).

Context

Joint platforms in Nepal to foster learning and innovation amongst stakeholders are diverse but not sustainable. Development projects have put a lot of effort into setting up platforms at the local, provincial, and national levels for peer learning and innovation; however, the platforms dissolve with the closure of the projects. On the other hand, there has not been much effort to connect universities and research institutions with practitioners to bridge the gap between science and practice.

Project name

Green Resilient
Agriculture Productive
Ecosystems

Partner Countries

Nepal

Volume

12.35 Mio. EUR (4.15 Mio. EUR of
EU; 4 Mio. EUR
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of
Finland; 4.2 Mio. EUR BMZ)

Duration

June 2021 to Dec 2024

Implementing Partner

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH



Our approach

GRAPE has been working on different formats for a different mix of stakeholders to strengthen AKIS. For example, webinar series on Green Marketing for private sector associations and their members and summer schools for agricultural intermediaries on how to apply CRA are planned for province- and national-level actors.

GRAPE is also strengthening the capacities of universities and students by fostering collaboration amongst Nepali universities via student exchange programmes, joint colloquia, and partnerships between Nepalese universities like Agriculture Forest University (AFU), Mid-Western University (MWU), Far Western University (FWU), Sagarmatha Engineering College, Aalto University in Finland, and the Royal Bhutanese University.

Similarly, GRAPE is working on different formats with various stakeholders to inspire and enable knowledge exchange amongst stakeholders in the sector, ranging from exposure visits such as cross-provincial learning visits of lead farmers and government entities and travelling seminars, to demonstration and research site visits, to thematic roundtables and inspirational talks.

GRAPE also provided research grants and introductory trainings on CRA, as well as visits to the ICIMOD Living Mountain Lab, which are targeted at women students.

Published by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Project
Green resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE)
NTNC Complex, Khumaltar Lalitpur
www.giz.de/en/weltweit/40602.html

Contact
Mr Axel Binder, grape@giz.de

Design/Layout
GRAPE

Photo Credits
GIZ Nepal

The programme is co-funded by the European Union, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

As of March 2024, Nepal