



# Knowledge-based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (KISAN) Project

KISAN is a five-year project and part of USAID's global Feed the Future (FTF) initiative working to advance food security objectives through increased agricultural productivity. KISAN currently works with more than 100,000 farmers in 300 Village Development Committees across 20 districts in the west, mid-west

## FAST FACTS

DONOR: U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

TIMEFRAME: FEB 2013 – AUG 2017

FUNDING LEVEL: \$20.4 MILLION

LOCATION: NEPAL

TARGET BENEFICIARIES: 100,000 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

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and far-west regions of Nepal. The project works in close coordination with the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Agricultural Development and a variety of private sector and community-based service providers to improve sustainable delivery mechanisms by embedding technical services in their business models. Moreover, KISAN engages with a wide range of public, private and civil society stakeholders that include farmers, NGOs, academic and research institutions, businesses, training centers and media partners. KISAN is implemented in collaboration with two Nepali organizations as subcontractors: Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC) and Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED).

## Project Goal/Objectives

The goal of the KISAN project is to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger in Nepal by achieving inclusive growth in the agriculture sector, increasing the income of farm families and improving the participation of the private sector in promoting agriculture growth.

## Activities

The main activities of the KISAN project include:

- Improve the quality and availability of agro-inputs like seeds, fertilizers and credit for farmers.

- Improve the capacity of agriculture extension workers, service providers and farmers to deliver services more efficiently.
- Facilitate improved and sustainable agriculture production practices and technologies including production of commercial vegetables and application of post-harvest technologies and practices at the farm level.
- Improve market efficiency and farmer access to markets.
- Increase the organizational, entrepreneurial and technical capacity of local organizations, including private sector actors.
- 67,363 ha under improved management practices and technologies, including over 27,000 ha under climate-resilient technologies that help farmers adapt to changing conditions.
- \$46 million in farm-level incremental sales of target commodities; 99 percent of KISAN farmers sold a portion of their production in FY16.
- Increased gross margins for target commodities by an average of 67 percent over baseline levels; gross margins for vegetables increased by an average of 74 percent over baseline.
- 104,407 micro, small, and medium enterprises, including farmers, received business development services.
- 4,404 producer organizations and community-based organizations applied improved technologies or management practices; within these KISAN-supported community groups, 58 percent of leadership positions are filled by women or members of disadvantaged groups.
- \$1.86 million in new private sector investment in the agriculture sector, including \$764,328 invested by KISAN grantees in new business models, including facilitated services, embedded inputs, seed and crop outgrower schemes, and improved storage facilities.

## Results

As of January 2017, KISAN has trained 103,835 farmers in improved agricultural practices and technologies, of which 72 percent were trained either by local service providers or the private sector. Of farmers surveyed, over 99 percent have applied improved technologies and management practices.

In its fourth year of implementation, KISAN scaled up private-sector-led service delivery and product sourcing, using its grant funds to test new business models that strengthen value chain relationships and provide market outlets for farmers. KISAN achieved the following results:



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