



Knowledge-Based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture in Nepal (KISAN) II Project

KISAN II is a five-year project and is part of USAID's global Feed the Future initiative working to advance food security objectives through increased agricultural productivity. KISAN II coordinates closely with the private sector and Government of Nepal (GON)'s Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives, targeting farming households and private sector actors in 25 districts in the West, Mid-West and Far-West regions, and earthquake-affected districts in the Central region.

FAST FACTS

DONOR: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

TIMEFRAME: July 2017 – July 2022

FUNDING LEVEL: \$32.7 million

LOCATION: Nepal

TARGET BENEFICIARIES: 200,000 households & 200 enterprises and agribusinesses

COMMODITIES: rice, maize, lentils, vegetables, goat

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The KISAN II approach focuses on market systems and private-sector actors while employing 1) push strategies to build the capacity of poor farmers and individuals to participate in intensification, diversification, and value addition activities and 2) pull strategies to increase the demand for smallholder production, labor, and related goods and services and improve the affordability and accessibility of skills, resources, inputs, and supporting services needed to participate in competitive markets.

KISAN II is implemented in collaboration with five organizations as subcontractors:

- Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC)
- Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)
- Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd. (OSC)
- Digital Green Foundation
- Siddhartha Connecting Inc. Pvt. Ltd. (Siddharthinc)

Project Goal/Objectives

KISAN II aims to increase resilience, inclusiveness and sustainability of income growth within the Feed the Future Zone of Influence.

Activities

KISAN II's tailored approach will empower and graduate farming households into more productive, reliable, and profitable agricultural enterprises.

KISAN II's main activities include:

- Increasing adoption of profitable, productivity-enhancing, and climate-smart technologies and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- Strengthening lead firms and other SMEs to provide improved quality or increased availability of agriculture inputs, enhanced production or post-harvest practices and technologies, improved market access or information, and increased availability of financing.
- Building the capacity for GON policies and regulation to support market systems development.
- Enhancing literacy and business development skills, especially among vulnerable groups.

KISAN II utilizes a Partnership and Innovation Fund, to buy down the risk for lead firms to upgrade market strategies, create mutually beneficial contract farming and out-grower schemes, and catalyze the involvement of women and disadvantaged groups

“SELLING RICE FOR A GOOD PRICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CHALLENGE. I USED TO SELL TO LOCAL TRADERS FOR POOR PRICE. DURING THE 2018 SEASON, I AM SELLING MY HARVESTS TO SAHU RICE MILL DIRECTLY AND GETTING A GOOD MARKET PRICE FOR MY RICE PRODUCE”

**-MR. KOJ LAL THARU, LOCAL FARMER
BENEFITTING FROM NEW LINKAGES WITH SAHU
RICE MILL**

Results

Over the life of the project, KISAN II will facilitate systematic changes that include: 1) greater climate-smart intensification of staple crops and diversification into higher-value commodities; 2) strengthened local market systems to support more competitive and resilient value chains and agricultural-related businesses; and 3) an improved enabling environment for agricultural market systems.

Recent to date include:

- Partnerships have been established with more than 100 private sector enterprises – input dealers, wholesale buyers, processors, and cooperatives – that are providing new or improved products and services to 130,000 agricultural households.
- KISAN II developed a 521-member vegetable trader's directory, connecting farmers with buyers.
- Partner Laxmi Bank is developing agrovets into branchless banking outlets to provide financial services to rural households.
- To improve the ability of vulnerable communities to act on business opportunities, KISAN II is providing business literacy training to 3,500 households of a planned 70,000.
- KISAN II is helping the Government of Nepal define the roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial and municipal levels of government related to public sector agriculture service delivery.



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