

Technical Advisory Group Meeting on the update of Cumulative Progress of ASDP of Third Year (FY 2077/78)

On 13th July 2021 (Asar 29, 2078), Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP), Surkhet organized a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting to update cumulative progress of the project until 13th July 2021 (FY 2077/78). The meeting was chaired by the President of the Group, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative of Karnali Province. The presence of Respected Secretary of Karnali Province together with Programme Coordinator/Joint Secretary of ASDP Mr. Bhoj Raj Sapkota, as well as other TAG members and ASDP representatives, made the meeting exceptionally strong.

Respected Secretary Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra inaugurated the meeting. Further, Joint Secretary/Programme Coordinator, Mr. Bhoj Raj Sapkota shared the objectives, cumulative progress, constraints, project deliverables. He spoke on different components of the project for instance, number of technical supports provided to Producer Organizations (POs), Strategic Investment Plan of various value chain commodities like Walnut, Sichuan Pepper(Timur) and so on. Likewise, he shared progress about market oriented public and community infrastructure, agreement with



government and commercial “A Class” banks for rural finance services, preparation of Local Adaption Plan of Action (LAPA) and publication of different knowledge products. Similarly, proposal for amendment of VCDF guidelines, status of recruitment of new employees were presented. Finally, Mr. Sapkota shared that the project burn rate is gaining momentum in comparison to previous progress.

Following Mr. Sapkota’s presentation, there was a formal discussion session in which participants from various organizations such as SUA AHARA, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forestry, and Environment, and other private sectors raised serious concerns on various issues such as identifying markets and barriers to selling Sichuan pepper(Timur), infrastructure development in forest area, the possibility of a complete training package for mothers’ groups on making “Sarbotam -Pitho” to meet nutrition requirement of children. In response to stakeholders’ concerns, Mr. Sapkota discussed the mechanism for disseminating market price information through various means/media, as well as collaboration with the private sector for the establishment of a collection center, as a result of which one-window marketing of the product is possible, and thus barriers could be eliminated. Furthermore, Mr. Sapkota responded that ASDP project would initiate infrastructure development only after the site clearance from Municipality. In response to question of “Sarbotam Pitho”, he answered that there is the possibility of training target groups not only on the preparation of “Sarbotam Pitho,” but also on combining the value chains of traditional crops of Karnali

Province such as porso-millet, foxtail millet, and finger millet to strengthen nutritive sensitive agriculture.

While nearing to the end of session, Respected Secretary Dr. Mishra appreciated Programme Coordinator (PC) for his tireless work and sincere efforts to increase the project burn rate to 30%. In addition, he acknowledged PC for hiring on new experts and field-based personnel. As a result, the project is now in take-off stage rather than ground operation. Lastly, he encouraged on promotion and scaling climate smart technologies and practices for instance construction of pond, lift irrigation that helps farming communities to irrigate plants even in the dry season on one hand and more economic return on the other. Firstly, this system contributes to adaptation because of year-round availability of water so that farmers can cultivate rice and vegetable crops in time. Secondly, towards mitigation as there is no Green House Gas(GHG) emission in this system and it can significantly reduce the GHG emission caused by diesel pump. Finally, towards production because sufficient irrigation increases in production of cereal and vegetable crops together with change of cropping system from mono-cropping to multiple cropping pattern every year.

With the consensus of the participants, Chairperson Dr. Mishra endorsed all the pertinent proposal for revision/amendments. Thus, concluded the prepared agenda of the meeting along with acknowledgement to all participants for their active participation.

