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BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences

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Action for Food Production (AFPRO)



Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences (SHIATS)



Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)



Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Main activities

Study of SHF-FPDCS in 4 AES and Documentation of Innovations; Baseline Survey of identified villages; Formation/ strengthening of SHF collectives, Design of FPDCS Models and On-Farm Action Research (OFAR) with SHF collectives, Design and installation of Monitoring system; Planning & implementation of Communication & Advocacy strategy; Capacity building of stakeholders; Pre-Project & project-management activities; coordination, reporting & networking.

About the European Union

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The European Union's Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)

Component 1 – Research and Technology

Global Programme on Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)



Building resilience to climate change through strengthening adaptive small scale farming systems in Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Project funded by the European Union



Project implemented in Nepal by Caritas Nepal





## Background

South Asia boasts highest concentration of chronically hungry people in the world. Half of all children under five years of age in South Asia are malnourished, which is more than even sub-Saharan Africa. The rural economy in South Asia is predominantly land based, absorbing nearly 70% of the total population. The problems of local food and nutritional insecurity of small holder farmers (SHF) in these rainfed agro-ecosystems (AES) are the cause/result of other problems like erosion of traditional knowledge and agro-biodiversity; growing vulnerability of poor SHF due to dependence on external food and seeds; threats to cultural identity; non-recognition of local food basket in meeting nutritional security; land alienation; growing migration etc. and above all the lack of research into adaptation and mitigation potential of traditional SHF farming practices. Food security in these regions can be better met through local production of nutritious food to counter the problems of procuring food and fuel externally in the wake of rising food-prices and changing climatic, political and conflicts contexts.

This initiative seeks to enhance options for adaptive food and nutritional security of rainfed SHF in South Asia at large in the context of climate change by working in a multi-stakeholders platform with some of the chronically poor, socially marginalized and politically weaker SHF communities in physically remote and climatically vulnerable AES in South Asia.

## Target group(s) / Direct beneficiaries

270 SHF collectives covering 3.000 no of families (15.000 people) in 90 villages in (9 districts) 4 vulnerable AES in India, Bangladesh & Nepal and accompanying project staff and researcher scholars

## Final beneficiaries

10 million SHF and their collectives in such AEZ in South Asia, National Agriculture Research Systems, Extension networks, Policy makers & practitioners

## Action Location(s)

Kaski, Nawalparasi, Bardiyar, Surkhet of Nepal (Humid Subtropical Montane Agro-Ecosystem (AES) under Agro Ecological Zone (AEZ) 8 of FAO)

Sagar, Satna, Mandla of Madhya Pradesh of India (Sub-humid Tropical Hilly/Plateau AES under AEZ 5 & 6 of FAO)

Rajshahi, Natore, Nawagaun of Bangladesh (Sub-humid Flood Plain & Semi-Arid Upland AES under AEZ 3 of FAO)

## Objectives

To promote local food and nutritional security through adaptive small scale farming in 4 rainfed AES in South Asia in the context of climate change.

1. To screen and document innovations in traditional food production, distribution and consumption system of Small Holder Farmers (SHF- FPDCS) with respect to climate change adaptations, mitigation and around nutritional security;
2. To collectivize and/or strengthen SHF institutions for an organized and sustainable approach;
3. To test potential of SHF-FPDCS models designed through blending traditional and modern innovations for their abilities to adapt, mitigate and ensure nutritional security;
4. To develop multi-stakeholder monitoring mechanisms for enhancing efficiency of the FPDCS models;
5. To influence national research and policy agenda for promotion of collectivized SHF-FPDCS to adapt to and mitigate climate change and nutritional security

## Estimated results

1. Increased understanding and use of documented innovations in rainfed SHF-FPDCS as pro-poor research and policy options towards adaptive food security and climate change mitigation;
2. Improved productivity, diversification, and adaptation in small farms and enhanced food and nutritional security of SHF in vulnerable and remote rainfed AES in the context of climate change;
3. Enhanced appreciation of the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) of cross-cutting issues affecting climate change and food security viz. cultural identity, gender, collective action, sustainability, health and natural resource base;
4. Innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships & dialogue among SHF collectives, Civil Society Organization (CSO), Agriculture Research and Extension agencies and policy makers leading to more inclusive and responsive policy.

