

GIFT Nepal



Annual Report 2025

Badimalika Municipality-08, Martadi, Bajura

Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal

Email: info.giftnepal@gmail.com

Phone: +977-097-541223/541168

Message from Chairperson

Dear Friends and Partners,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report 2024 of GIFT Nepal. As Chairperson, I am honored to share the journey, achievements, and reflections of an organization that has remained unwavering in its mission to uplift the lives of marginalized, vulnerable, and hard-to-reach communities of Bajura district.

This year has been both inspiring and transformational. With the steadfast commitment of our team and the invaluable support from local governments, development partners, and community members, GIFT Nepal has made meaningful progress across a range of sectors including education, livelihoods, climate resilience, health, and gender equity. Through projects like the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), Community Resilient Agriculture (CRA), and Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED), we have expanded our outreach, deepened our impact, and strengthened community resilience against both socio-economic challenges and climate vulnerabilities.

One of the proudest highlights of the year has been the increased adoption of sustainable farming practices, digitization of cooperative systems, and direct community involvement in planning and implementation. We have seen firsthand how empowering local resource persons, promoting natural and climate-smart agriculture, and supporting rural entrepreneurs—especially women, Dalits, and people with disabilities—can bring about long-term positive change. These stories of transformation, like that of Prem Goyal and Nirmala Ukheda, reaffirm our belief in inclusive development driven by community ownership.

As we continue to embrace a rights-based, inclusive development approach, we remain committed to the principles of good governance, accountability, and transparency. Our collaboration with local governments has grown stronger, and we are encouraged by their increasing interest in integrating our programs into their local development plans. These partnerships are critical for sustainability and for ensuring that no one is left behind.

In 2024, we also placed strong emphasis on strengthening our institutional capacity, streamlining our MEAL framework, and aligning our efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals and Nepal's national development priorities. With enhanced digital systems, evidence-based interventions, and participatory processes, GIFT Nepal is well-positioned to navigate the evolving development landscape.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our development partners—Good Neighbors International, GIZ, Lutheran World Federation Nepal, and all others—for their trust and collaboration. I also salute the unwavering dedication of our field staff, volunteers, and community leaders, whose tireless efforts are the bedrock of our success.

As we move forward, GIFT Nepal reaffirms its commitment to dignity, equity, and opportunity for all. Together, let us continue to build a just, inclusive, and resilient society where every individual, regardless of circumstance, has the chance to thrive.

With warm regards and renewed hope,

Bal Bahadur Rokaya

Chairperson
GIFT Nepal

Message from Program Manager

Namaste,

What a year it has been! As Program Manager of GIFT Nepal, I'm both thrilled and humbled to reflect on 2024—a year packed with momentum, milestones, and meaningful change. This wasn't just a year of ticking boxes. It was a year of breaking barriers, shifting mindsets, and creating impact that truly matters. We didn't just implement projects—we listened, we learned, we adapted, and most importantly, we connected with communities in ways that sparked lasting transformation.

From high hills to remote villages, our teams worked relentlessly under the Integrated Community Development Project, Community Resilient Agriculture (CRA), and the LICED Project. Whether it was a farmer learning to grow vegetables using natural methods, a woman starting her first sewing business, or a cooperative going digital—we were there, side by side, co-creating stories of success. We trained over 500 farmers, supported climate-smart agriculture, empowered cooperatives through digital tools, and championed local entrepreneurs. And the best part? Communities didn't just participate—they owned the process. Because development, when done right, isn't a handout; it's a handshake.

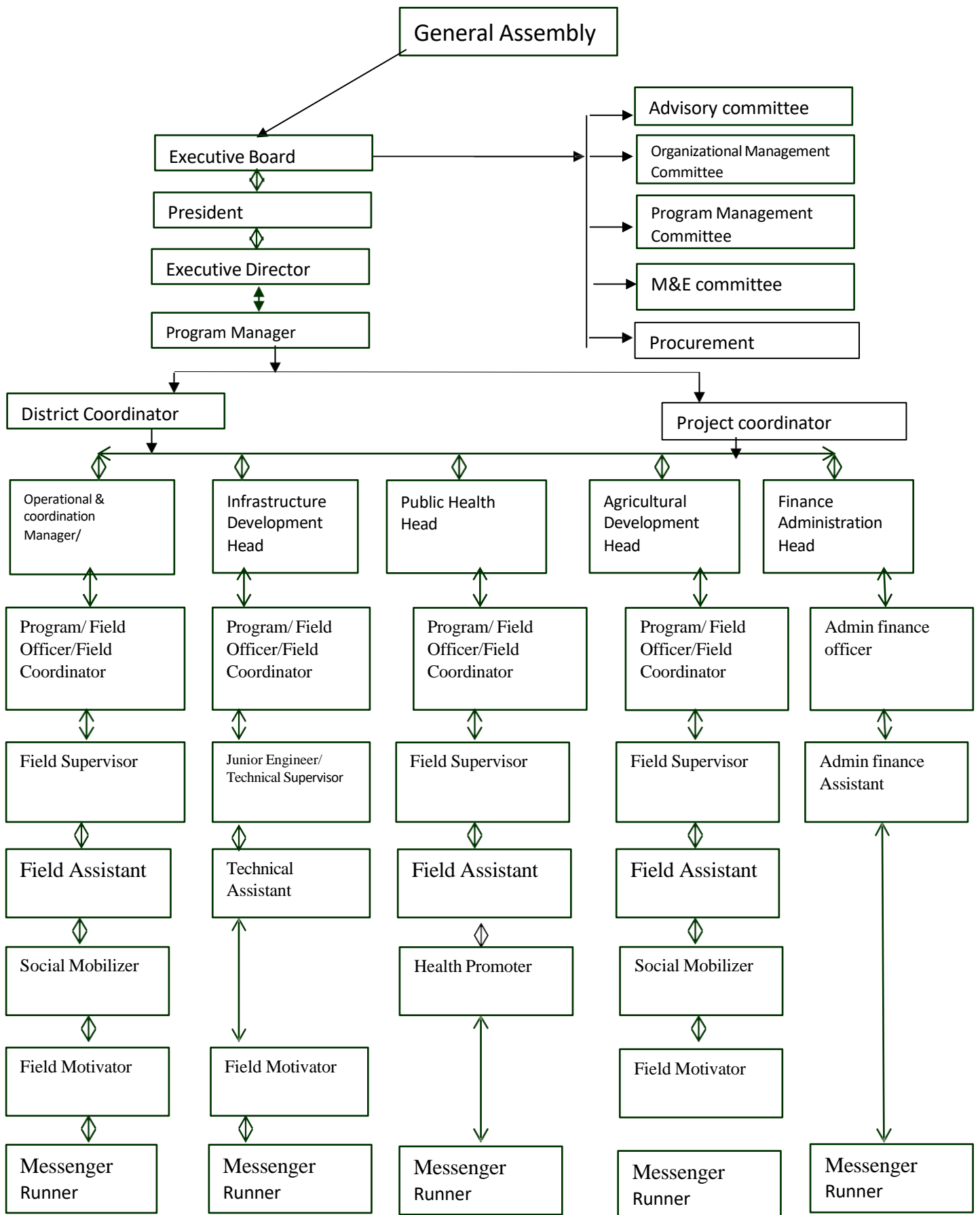
Yes, challenges came knocking—unpredictable weather, connectivity issues, resource gaps—but our spirit? Unshaken. With the support of our incredible partners and tireless local teams, we turned roadblocks into steppingstones. One of our biggest wins this year was strengthening partnerships—with local governments, civil society, and the communities themselves. When we align our goals, pool our resources, and trust each other, magic happens. The kind of magic that turns a vermicompost pit into a source of livelihood or a tunnel farm into a beacon of hope.

At GIFT Nepal, we believe in moving with purpose, not just speed. Every intervention, every training, every support package was designed with one clear goal: to leave no one behind. As we look ahead, we're not just planning projects—we're designing possibilities. Possibilities where dignity, opportunity, and sustainability go hand in hand. We're excited for what's next and ready to push boundaries even further—with your continued trust and support. Here's to communities that rise, to partnerships that thrive, and to a future we build—together.

With gratitude and determination,

Krishna Bahadur Adhikari
Program Manager
GIFT Nepal

Organogram of the Organization



1. Glimpse of GIFT Nepal

GIFT Nepal is a non-government, non-political and not for profit making Community-Based organization that was established in 1993 being registered in District Administration Office, Bajura. After getting registration from Social Welfare Council (SWC), Nepal in 1994, it also got formal registration in Inland Revenue Department, Achham in 1994.

Since its establishment, the organization has been mobilizing internal and external resources to uplift the vulnerable, marginalized and hard to reach communities of Bajura district in support of government and non-government national and international organizations. Education, Agriculture and Livelihoods, Environment Protection including Climate Change, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction including response in emergency, Child Rights and Child Protection, Women and Girls Empowerment are the core thematic areas that the organization has been working on. Women, youths, children, ultra poor and vulnerable groups of people including People with Disabilities (PWDs), People with HIV and AIDS (PLHAs), and groups with sexual minorities are the primary beneficiaries of the projects' interventions.

With its dynamic and visionary leadership and energetic, skilled and capable human resources, the organization has strong and close collaboration with three tiers' governments of Nepal. Women Groups, Child/Youth Clubs, Farmers' Groups, Water Users' Groups, Community Forest Users' Groups, School Management Committees/Parent-Teachers' Associations, Community Based Organizations, and like-minded other NGOs in the district have closely been coordinated by the organization in course of community mobilization process.

GIFT Nepal has been adopting Project Cycle Management (PCM) and Theory of Change (ToC) in course of community mobilization process. Entry into community with local governments' consent, identification of the beneficiaries, analysis of resources and stakeholders, designing programs, implementation of the program with active participation of communities, monitoring and supervision with learning sharing and addressing the challenges and capacitating the local structures to hand-over the responsibilities at exit stage are systematically followed by the organization.

The organization aligns with the Nepal Governments' constitution, Local Government Operation Act and Sustainable Development Goals in course of program designing and implementing at grassroots level in recent scenario. Similarly, provisions of Universal Human Rights Declaration (UHRD), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Rights (UNCRC), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are strictly adopted while mobilizing communities.

GIFT Nepal adopts a holistic development approach that interlinks five key pillars to uplift rural communities with a special focus on women, girls, children, and youth. These include: (i) life-sustaining, inclusive, and locally-relevant education; (ii) a safe, gender-sensitive, and supportive environment for all; (iii) equitable access to quality services addressing fundamental needs such as health, nutrition, water, and sanitation; (iv) skilled, youth-led, and technology-driven human resources; and (v) inclusive access to both local resources and external opportunities, ensuring Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

The organization has robust management system, updated policies and guidelines, transparent and inclusive working environment ensuring all the required compliances. The main strategic objectives are to build self-resilient communities and maximum utilization of resources for the sustainable development. The reporting framework, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework, and Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion framework adopted by the organization meet all the donor compliance.

In brief, GIFT Nepal stands with marginalized communities through inclusive, rights-based development in partnership with supporting hands and guided by global standards.

Vision

To create just and well-balanced Society with respecting dignity.

Mission

Ensure holistic development of targeted community by promoting human right, governance, transparency and accountability.

Goal

Empowered the target group for self-reliant and equitable society.

Objectives

- To promote for positive changes into the lives of people by working in the areas of education, health, food security, climate change, disaster management, agriculture, water and sanitation through social mobilization.
- To coordinate for explore and utilization of resource at local level in achieving essential needs of people.
- To ensure human right, governance, transparency and accountability for improvements of living status of people
- To establish sound coordination and collaboration among local government bodies for infrastructure/ development works.
- To facilitate the process of establishing rural bank at local level

Core Values

- Integrity,
- Responsive
- Diversity
- Accountability
- Collaborative
- Equality

Strategies

- Advocacy
- Media and Publicity
- Networking
- Partnership
- Capacity Building
- Study and Research

Brief History of Establishment

GIFT Nepal began in 1993 as a youth club in Manakot, later evolving into a Community Development Organization. It initiated a scholarship program with support from Devi Lama's family and became a legally registered NGO in 1996, marking its formal entry into grassroots development.

Expansion through Small-Grant Partnerships (1996–2000):

With its new legal status, GIFT Nepal expanded its scope by implementing Non-Formal Education (NFE) programs in five Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Bajura through a partnership with CARE Nepal and coordination with the District Education Office. In 1997, the organization became affiliated with the Social Welfare Council and NGO Federation Nepal, paving the way for broader collaboration. During this period, it implemented income-generating initiatives and expanded NFE training to additional VDCs. GIFT Nepal also ventured into the WASH sector by constructing water supply systems in two VDCs, laying the foundation for integrated rural development.

Organizational Growth, Networking, and Program Diversification (2002–Present):

From 2002 onwards, GIFT Nepal strengthened its institutional framework by revising its constitution, defining its vision and strategy, and expanding partnerships with national and international organizations. It implemented diverse projects on HIV/AIDS, social mobilization, and rural development while joining key advocacy networks. Major collaborations with CARE Nepal, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Good Neighbors International, and the Government of Finland enhanced its impact in education, livelihoods, health, and infrastructure across rural communities.

2. Major Activities and Achievements

2.1 Integrated Community Development Project

Project Background

The Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) is being implemented by GIFT Nepal in partnership with Good Neighbors International Nepal (GNI Nepal) since 2016 in Budhiganga Municipality (Wards 4–10) and Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality (Wards 1–5) of Bajura District. The project aims to enhance food security and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized and vulnerable communities through natural farming promotion, income generation, goat farming, cooperative strengthening, and digital transformation.

In 2024, the ICDP successfully supported 103 farmers in natural vegetable farming, trained 453 goat farmers, enhanced cooperative management via software migration, and strengthened coordination with local governments. The project continues to focus on empowering cooperatives, expanding sustainable agriculture practices, and increasing market access to ensure long-term community resilience and self-reliance.

Major Objectives of the Project

- Improve food and nutrition security among marginalized households by promoting sustainable agriculture, natural farming, and income-generating activities like goat rearing.
- Build the institutional capacity of local cooperatives through training, governance support, and digital transformation in accounting and management systems.
- Facilitate access to agricultural inputs, farming tools, irrigation support, and marketing infrastructure to boost productivity and income.
- Enhance the technical and leadership skills of farmers and cooperative members, while fostering community ownership, inclusivity, and equitable development.
- Strengthen coordination with local governments and stakeholders and establish sustainable market linkages for farm products through schools, cooperatives, and private sectors.

Major Interventions

Capacity Building Training

Under the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), a series of training programs were conducted in 2024 to strengthen local livelihoods and institutional capacity. A 2-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Natural Farming was held from February 19–20 at Budhiganga Municipality-6, Bamka, where 10 Local Resource Persons (4 males, 6 females) from 5 farmer groups were trained on natural farming practices, including Indigenous Microorganisms (IMO 1, 2, 3), Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ), Fermented Fruit Juice (FFJ), Oriental Herbal Nutrients (OHN), Fish Amino Acid (FAA), Potassium Amino Acid (KAA), natural mulching, and organic nutrient management. Subsequently, 103 farmers (16 males, 87 females) from the same municipality received similar practical training, which has led to increased vegetable production and income generation through market linkages with cooperatives and the Home-Grown School Feeding Program. From August 5 to 13, basic computer skill training was provided to the manager of Khaptad Agriculture Cooperative in Martadi, improving his capacity in using office software, internet tools, and digital documentation. To promote digital finance, a 5-day software accounting training was organized from August 21 to 25 in Dogadi for four cooperative managers of



Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality, enabling them to operate Guru accounting software for



reporting, transactions, and communication. In the livestock sector, 19 goat farming training events were conducted from August to September in Khaptad Chhededaha and Budhiganga Municipalities, reaching 453 farmers (230 males, 223 females), with sessions on goat breeding, feed and shed management, disease prevention, marketing, and livestock insurance. A Veterinary JTA was also mobilized for 4 months in Kada and Jayabageswori to provide veterinary services and data collection, and fodder plants were distributed to 40 households to improve pasture

management. Collectively, these trainings have enhanced agricultural practices, improved digital and financial literacy, and promoted commercial farming across the region.

Distribution and Support

Under the ICDP project, various distribution and support activities were carried out to strengthen natural farming and cooperative management in 2025. A total of 103 farmers (16 males and 87 females) from



5 farmer groups in Budhiganga Municipality received 8 types of vegetable seeds (Rayo, Tomato, Radish, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Coriander, Spinach, Carrot) twice a year, during the winter and rainy seasons, to enhance year-round production, improve nutrition, and increase income. Additionally, farming accessories were distributed to the same group of 103 farmers, including 1 set watering can, 1 quill garden pipe, 3 meters nursery plastic, and 1 set sprinkle per farmer, along with plastic tunnels for 24 farmers, and 2 sets of 2000-liter plastic drums and 3 quills of HDPE pipe to Bayal farmer groups for irrigation

support. These inputs have made cultivation more efficient and have increased demand for more tunnels and drums for the next cycle. In terms of institutional strengthening, six partner cooperatives received a monthly management support of Rs. 3,500, deposited quarterly, to help manage daily operations, reporting, and documentation. This support has improved reporting regularity and cooperative mobilization, though cooperatives are requesting an increase in the support amount. Furthermore, coordination meetings were held



with Budhiganga Municipality and Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality to review project progress, discuss sustainability, matching fund management, monitoring, and future planning, including integrating ICDP activities and budget approval in local government plans for the upcoming year.

Meetings and Workshops

In 2024, several key meetings and workshops were conducted under the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) to strengthen coordination, transparency, and sustainability. The Cooperative Network Meeting was held on June 25 with 10 participants (7 males, 3 females), including the chairpersons and managers of 6 partner cooperatives, where topics like software operation, fund

transfer, monthly recovery of bad loans, and governance were discussed. A total of 4 cooperatives (Khaptad Agriculture Cooperative, Masteshwori Multipurpose Cooperative, Asal Dogadi Agriculture Cooperative, and Chhededaha Multipurpose Cooperative) completed software migration to Guru Infosys Pvt. Ltd.'s platform, with Annual Maintenance Charges (AMC) for FY 2081/82 paid in September to ensure continued software support. Four staff review meetings were conducted throughout the year with participation from staff and board members of GNI Nepal, GIFT Nepal, and PeaceWin Nepal to review achievements, challenges, and plan upcoming actions. On December 22 in Martadi and December 24 in Kolti, Social Audit events



were held, showcasing annual achievements, project visuals, and collecting feedback from stakeholders, including calls for integrating GIFT programs into local plans and prioritizing health and anti-child marriage initiatives. LPAC (Local Project Advisory Committee) meetings were conducted on December 16 in Budhiganga Municipality (20 participants: 15 males, 5 females) and December 17 in Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality (16 participants: 11 males, 5 females), chaired by respective local leaders and attended by government department heads, cooperative

members, farmers, and partner organizations to review progress, present the 2024 budget, and gather strategic suggestions for the coming year. Finally, Joint Monitoring Visits took place on December 16 and 17 in both municipalities, visiting key sites like Betalmandu Farmer Group, Asal Dogadi Agriculture Cooperative, and local schools, where municipal representatives acknowledged project achievements and emphasized increased future support, including merging inactive cooperatives.

Major Results

- 103 farmers adopted natural farming after receiving training and seed support.
- 453 goat farmers from 18 villages received training on commercial goat rearing.
- 10 Local Resource Persons (LRPs) trained through TOT to promote natural farming practices.
- 4 cooperatives successfully migrated to Guru Software and are now operating digitally.
- 3688 animals received treatment and checkups during a 2-day free animal health camp.
- 4 cooperative managers completed software accounting training; one received basic computer training.
- 3 farmer groups received digital weighing machines to support vegetable marketing.
- 4 cooperatives provided with internet router sets to facilitate software use.
- Social audit conducted at the district level to ensure accountability and gather stakeholder feedback.
- Joint monitoring visits and coordination meetings held with 2 local governments, improving project alignment.
- Regular staff review meetings and Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) meetings enhanced project planning and execution.
- Improved household income and nutrition through the Home Grown School Feeding Program linked to natural vegetable farming.
- Increased community ownership and participation in project planning and implementation.

Key Learnings

- Timely coordination with local government and stakeholders at the beginning of the year helps in effective planning and activity implementation.
- Providing plastic tunnels along with vegetable seeds enhances off-season farming and protects crops from environmental damage.
- Active involvement of PMC members through a structured monitoring plan increases accountability and ownership.
- Monthly review meetings with cooperative managers and field staff help in quick problem-solving and improved implementation.
- Regular follow-up with local governments is essential to ensure their commitments are implemented effectively.
- Strong collaboration with local government is a key factor for successful project delivery and sustainability.
- Technical support and digitization of cooperatives (software, computer training) significantly improve efficiency and transparency.
- Linking farmers with school meal programs helps in securing a steady market for farm produce.
- Institutional social audits increase transparency, build trust, and gather constructive feedback for future planning.
- Community-driven planning and feedback mechanisms ensure that project activities are aligned with real needs.

Key Challenges

- Delayed distribution of vegetable seeds caused missed planting seasons and affected yields.
- High demand for plastic tunnels could not be met due to limited resources.
- Lack of access to proper markets for vegetables and goats, limiting income opportunities.
- Entrepreneurs exiting businesses after returning revolving funds, affecting fund mobilization.
- Mismatch between community needs and project budget/activities, limiting full impact.
- Weak selection process for identifying committed entrepreneurs.
- Low insurance coverage for livestock, increasing risk for goat farmers.
- Lack of timely follow-up on entrepreneurs supported by revolving funds.
- Inadequate monitoring by cooperatives of fund-supported entrepreneurs.
- Low production in natural farming due to poor soil fertility and temperature variations.
- Limited internet connectivity in remote areas, affecting digital software usage in cooperatives.

2.2 Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems/Community Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Project

The Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) – Community Resilient Agriculture (CRA) project, implemented by GIFT Nepal with technical and financial support from GIZ/GRAPE, was launched in three municipalities of Bajura District—Budhinanda Municipality, Swamikartik Khapar Rural Municipality, and Himali Rural Municipality. The project aimed to strengthen the resilience of local farming systems to climate change by promoting sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices. With a budget of NPR.59,85,000, the project was implemented over a period of nine months, from 7 February 2025 to 31 October 2024. Key interventions included capacity-building trainings for farmers, infrastructure development (such as vermicomposting units, poly-houses, and cellar storage), and engagement with local governments to ensure long-term sustainability and integration of climate-resilient practices into local development plans.

Objectives

- To enhance the climate resilience of local farming systems by promoting the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices such as vermicomposting, poly-house farming, and improved irrigation techniques.
- To build the capacity of farmers and local institutions through targeted training programs, technical support, and knowledge dissemination on sustainable agriculture and market-led production.
- To strengthen collaboration with local governments and stakeholders for the integration of proven climate-resilient approaches into local development planning and agricultural value chains.

Major Interventions

- **Induction Meetings with Local Governments**
Conducted in three palikas (Budhinanda Municipality, Swamikartik Khapar RM, and Himali RM) with 45 participants (15 from each palika) to introduce the project objectives and ensure alignment with local stakeholders.
- **Orientation on Seasonal Vegetable Farming and Seed Distribution**
30 farmers from the three municipalities received orientation on seasonal vegetable cultivation, including nursery management and wastewater use, and were provided with seasonal seeds.
- **Training on Vermicomposting and Support for Structure Construction**
35 farmers were trained in vermicomposting. Each received materials and monetary support after completing vermicomposting pits.
- **Cattle Shed Improvement for High-Quality Manure Production**
35 farmers were supported with materials, technical guidance, and monetary incentives to construct improved cattle sheds.
- **Poly-house Construction with Drip Irrigation**
50 farmers received materials and support for building poly-houses for off-season vegetable production, including post-completion financial aid.
- **Cemented Water Tank Construction for Micro Irrigation**
30 cement tanks (5×3×1.5 meters) were constructed with material, technical, and monetary support to improve water storage and micro-irrigation.
- **Cellar Storage Facility Establishment**
3 cellar storages were constructed in coordination with local governments. Selected farmers received both technical and financial support.
- **Soil Testing Campaign and Soil Health Cards Distribution**
A 12-day campaign was conducted, testing 870 soil samples in collaboration with municipalities. Farmers received soil health cards with expert recommendations.
- **Benefit-Cost Analysis and Market-Led Vegetable Farming Training**
120 lead farmers (including participants from all three palikas) received expert training to enhance their understanding of market-oriented farming and profitability.
- **Support for Collection Centers in Municipalities**
Material support was provided to rehabilitate and operationalize collection centers in 3 municipalities, based on needs identified through consultations.
- **Half-Yearly Monitoring by GIFT Nepal and Stakeholders**
Monitoring visits were carried out by GIFT Nepal board members, GIZ, and palika representatives to assess progress and ensure accountability.

- **Organizational Strategy Workshop**
A 2-day workshop was conducted to formulate a 5-year strategic plan for GIFT Nepal, strengthening institutional direction and planning.
- **Learning and Sharing Workshop**
At the end of the project, a workshop was conducted involving GIFT Nepal, local governments, GIZ officials, and beneficiary farmers to reflect on key learnings and impacts.

Major Achievements

- **Increased Farmer Adoption of Climate-Smart Practices:** Over 3,500 rural households reported an 8% increase in income through climate-resilient farming. Farmers actively adopted new practices such as vermicomposting, poly-house farming, and micro-irrigation.
- **Enhanced Local Ownership and Collaboration:** Strong engagement with 3 municipalities, promoting integration of CRA practices into local planning and support systems.
- **Improved Agricultural Resilience and Productivity:** Adoption of soil and water management practices enhanced productivity and resilience to climate variability.
- **Economic Empowerment of Marginalized Groups:** Targeted inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups in training and resource distribution promoted inclusive economic participation.
- **Knowledge Dissemination and Behavior Change:** Farmers demonstrated improved understanding of sustainable agriculture and cost-effective production, supported by handouts, soil reports, and demonstration-based learning.

Key Learning

- Early and continuous involvement of local communities and government stakeholders builds trust, ensures ownership, and strengthens implementation.
- Adapting project activities to address unforeseen challenges (like logistics and weather) ensures continuity and effectiveness.
- Designing training that is gender-sensitive and addresses the specific needs of marginalized groups increases participation and impact.
- Supporting local leaders and progressive farmers creates community role models and encourages broader adoption of climate-smart practices.
- Continuous feedback and monitoring help identify problems early and enable timely course corrections.
- Ensuring materials and support are simple to use and accessible encourages consistent use of new techniques.
- Demonstrating the income potential of climate-resilient practices motivates farmers to adopt and continue them.

Key Challenges

- Limited budget led to the cancellation of greenhouse construction, affecting plans for off-season vegetable production.
- Engaging all targeted farmers, especially marginalized groups, was difficult due to varying interest levels, time constraints, and accessibility issues.
- Transporting materials and resources to remote and rugged areas posed significant logistical challenges and delays.
- Irregular weather patterns impacted some planned activities and required frequent adjustment of field-level interventions.
- Delays in repair and operationalization of collection centers and cellar storage facilities due to early planning gaps and coordination hurdles.

- Ensuring continued adoption of climate-smart practices without ongoing external support remains a concern.
- Some farmers struggled with limited access to local and regional markets, reducing the economic viability of their produce.
- Managing the equitable distribution of inputs across diverse activities and locations was complex and sometimes contentious.
- Long-term success depended on sustained support from local municipalities, which could be affected by changing political priorities or leadership.

Success Story

Becoming a Vermi-Expert: The Story of Mahye Datta Joshi

Mahye Datta Joshi, a resident of Swamikartik Khapar Rural Municipality-Y, is one of the beneficiaries of the GRAPE/CRA project. Through this initiative, we organized comprehensive vermicomposting training, providing participants with essential materials and financial support to establish sustainable composting systems. Joshi was among the selected individuals who eagerly grabbed the opportunity. From the very beginning, his curiosity and commitment to learning about vermicomposting were evident. During the training sessions, Joshi stood out for his enthusiastic participation and attentiveness. He actively engaged with the trainers, ensuring he understood every detail of the composting process. He has now built the vermin pit and producing vermicompost from the project aid.



During field visit, we met Joshi while he was busy providing shade to the earthworms in the pit to protect them from intense heat and rain. He was diligently covering the earthworms with a shade. His care and dedication to maintaining the right environment for the earthworms reflect his deep understanding of the process. Joshi shared that he is extremely pleased with the progress, observing that the population of earthworms had nearly doubled within just two months of starting the pit.

Joshi expressed his desire to expand his vermicomposting efforts. He requested further technical guidance to enlarge the pit, aiming to increase the production of compost and possibly sell both the compost and excess earthworms. Additionally, Joshi recently applied his first batch of harvested compost to his field and is excited to observe how it will enhance his crop yield and improve soil quality.

Mahye Datta Joshi's journey highlights the impact of practical training combined with material support. His proactive approach and growing expertise in vermicomposting not only set an example for others in the community but also showcase how targeted interventions can foster sustainable agricultural practices.

2.3 Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) Project

The Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) project, implemented by GIFT Nepal in partnership with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal, is being carried out in wards 2, 3, 5, and 9 of Badimalika Municipality, Bajura District. With a focus on improving livelihoods, food security, climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness, and social inclusion, the project specifically targets marginalized and vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities (PWDs), Dalits, widowed women, farmer groups, mother groups, and cooperatives. During the six-month period from July to December 2024,

the project successfully reached 646 individuals—comprising 186 females, 146 males, 37 single women, 79 Dalits, and 14 PWDs—through various community-based trainings, support programs, and advocacy efforts. The total annual budget for the project is NPR 3,002,471, demonstrating effective implementation and strong community engagement toward creating sustainable, positive change.

Main Objectives

- Enhance livelihoods through improved farm and off-farm technologies for marginalized and vulnerable communities.
- Promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the community level.
- Strengthen social inclusion by empowering Dalits, PWDs, women, and other marginalized groups.
- Improve food and nutrition security through kitchen gardening and sustainable agricultural practices.

Major Interventions

Commercial Farming Training and Input Support

The project provided a one-day training on commercial farming techniques to 10 selected farmers (3 males and 7 females) representing four farmer groups. Along with theoretical knowledge, participants received practical tools and resources such as plastic tunnels, drip irrigation systems, sprinklers, garden pipes, coco peat, and seasonal vegetable seeds. As a result, the farmers began practicing off-season vegetable farming and selling their produce in the local market, generating income and strengthening household economic resilience.

Kitchen/Nutrition Garden Demonstration Training

To address malnutrition and promote food security, 36 participants from six farmer groups received training on managing home-based nutrition gardens. The sessions included live demonstrations on organic composting, garden layout, and seasonal planting. Participants reported improvements in household nutrition, with better access to fresh vegetables, leading to a noticeable reduction in nutrition-related health issues.

Climate Change Adaptation and Community Resilience Training

In response to increasing climate vulnerabilities, the project conducted two events of training on Climate Change Adaptation and Farmer Field Schools (CCAFFS) for 60 farmers. Additionally, 80 community stakeholders—including FCHVs, teachers, and mother group members—were involved in developing localized climate adaptation plans. These plans were successfully implemented in four wards (2, 3, 5, and 9), enhancing the community's preparedness and resilience to climate impacts.

Business Linkages and Value Chain Development

A one-day training was conducted for 20 participants including farmers, agro-vets, cooperative members, and local entrepreneurs. The training covered agricultural value chain concepts, business planning, marketing strategies, and value addition techniques. As a result, participants gained practical skills to engage in agribusiness, connect with markets, and increase profitability through improved market linkage and collaboration with the private sector.

Cooperative Development Training

To enhance financial management at the community level, 15 cooperative members, including board representatives and managers, were trained on cooperative governance, accounting, and financial record-keeping. This intervention strengthened the internal capacity of cooperatives, enabling them to act as sustainable financial service providers for their members, particularly supporting small-scale agribusinesses.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Training

The project organized a DRR and preparedness training in wards 2 and 9 with the participation of 18 individuals from community-based disaster risk management committees (CBDRMCs). The training covered key concepts like disaster risk cycles, preparedness strategies, and early warning systems. It improved the participants' understanding of community-based disaster management and promoted resilience planning at the local level.

Major Achievement

- **Improved knowledge and equitable access to natural resources:** 1 major lobbying meeting organized with 54 participants including municipal officials and community leaders, resulting in increased awareness and discussion on equitable resource use.
- **Increased farm production among marginalized groups:** 10 farmers (3 males, 7 females) received commercial farming training and tools such as plastic tunnels, drip irrigation, and seeds. Participants are now generating income through vegetable production.
- **Enhanced community capacity for climate change adaptation:** 60 participants trained in climate-smart agriculture; 4 community adaptation plans were formulated and are being implemented in Wards 2, 3, 5, and 9.
- **Improved nutrition and household food security:** 36 farmers trained in establishing and managing nutrition gardens, improving dietary diversity and reducing malnutrition.
- **Increased access to markets and entrepreneurship development:** 20 participants (including farmers, agro-vet shops, and hotel owners) trained on agribusiness and market linkages, boosting income opportunities through value chain development.
- **Strengthened cooperative governance and financial service provision:** 15 cooperative leaders trained, enhancing the cooperatives' ability to manage funds and support member businesses.
- **Improved disaster risk preparedness at community level:** 18 community members trained in DRR; training incorporated into local adaptation planning.
- **Increased participation of marginalized groups in development processes:** 646 total beneficiaries, including 186 women, 37 single women, 79 Dalits, and 14 persons with disabilities actively engaged in various project activities.

Key Learning

- Regular involvement of local stakeholders, groups, and community members enhanced participation and ownership of the project.
- Practical, hands-on training in agriculture, climate adaptation, and financial management led to measurable improvements in skills, income, and resilience.
- Prioritizing women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, and single women ensured broader social impact and addressed long-standing exclusion.
- Collaborating with municipal representatives and aligning activities with local plans helped maximize impact and gather additional support.
- Climate adaptation plans developed with active community participation were more relevant, accepted, and feasible for implementation.
- While start-up and livelihood support were appreciated, limited funding per beneficiary restricted long-term sustainability and scaling of businesses.
- Periodic monitoring by project staff and local authorities ensured accountability and helped address issues in real time.

Key Challenges

- Community members and local representatives expected broader and more substantial support, especially in livelihood, education, and infrastructure, beyond the project's current capacity.
- The financial support provided to individuals or groups for business initiation was too small to ensure long-term sustainability and economic impact.
- Difficult terrain and remote project areas in Bajura created logistical challenges for implementing activities and monitoring progress.
- Many target households lacked the basic resources needed to begin or sustain income-generating activities, limiting the impact of training and support.
- Out-migration for employment led to a decline in group participation, requiring constant restructuring and engagement efforts
- Some group members showed low motivation or readiness to independently implement livelihood activities, even after receiving support.
- There were instances where local leaders attempted to influence the selection process, demanding that support be directed toward their preferred individuals or communities.

Success Story

Improvement in Financial Status through Vegetable Farming

Prem Goyal

Prem Goyal, who lives in Majhigaun, Ward No. 2, Badimalika Municipality, has faced difficulties even in managing his household expenses. Economic hardship has troubled him even at the age of 46. He often shares stories about the struggles he faced while working in various places in India and the hardships he experienced. When he returned to his village, he tried to engage in different jobs, but even then, he found it challenging to provide food for his family. His family consists of six members: three men and three women. It was very difficult for him to meet the basic needs of his family, including education, health, and other essential expenses.



With financial support from the Lutheran World Federation Nepal and the organization Gift Nepal, the Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) project was implemented in Badimalika Municipality in December 2023. As part of the project, a transformation education center was established in Majhigau to promote livelihood activities in the community. A business plan was created for vegetable farming, including the cultivation of seasonal and off-season vegetables. With the support of materials worth NPR 15,000, he built a tunnel for tomato farming and started producing tomatoes. After selling the tomatoes, he added another tunnel.

His entire family now sustains themselves with the income generated from vegetable farming. Prem Goyal currently cultivates off-season vegetables in two tunnels and harvests vegetables three times a year. The vegetables are sold in the Martadi market, and he earns up to NPR 100,000 annually from vegetable farming. With small land, he grows enough vegetables to meet the food needs of his family of six throughout the year.

He says that after managing his clothing and food needs in a timely manner, he is now able to cover household expenses, medical treatment, and education from the income generated through vegetable farming. The training and materials provided by the Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) project have made what seemed like a dream come true. Now, Prem Goyal shares his experiences with the youth of his village, advising them that with honesty and consistent

effort, one can earn enough to live without having to go abroad. He has felt significant financial improvement within just one year.

Sewing Business as the Basis for Livelihood

Nirmala Ukheda

Nirmala Ukheda's family has been residing in a small thatched house in a narrow alley in Martadi Bazar, Ward No. 9 of Badimalika Municipality for three generations. Being from a Dalit family, her ancestors were traditionally engaged in making wooden utensils, containers, and baskets. They earned their livelihood from such work rather than farming. However, as this traditional profession was no longer enough to sustain them, Nirmala's family became increasingly concerned about finding a reliable source of income.



With a family of four, Nirmala felt the growing pressure to start a business to meet the essential needs of food, clothing, and the education and health of her children. Her husband, in search of work, tried looking for jobs with government and private traders in the district headquarters, but despite his efforts, he could not find a job and was forced to wander in the market.

With financial support from the Lutheran World Federation Nepal and the organization Gift Nepal, the Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) project was launched in Badimalika Municipality in December 2023. The project's main objective was to identify and address community livelihood issues. As part of the project, a Transformational Farmers' Group was formed in the Tallawada area, and Nirmala Ukheda became an active member of the group for six months. To enhance livelihood activities, Nirmala was recommended by the group for sewing training.

After completing three months of sewing training, with material support worth NPR 15,000 from the project, she started a sewing business in a tin house in Martadi Bazar. After five months of running the sewing business, the project organized a one-month refresher training to help resolve challenges faced in the sewing business.

Now, Nirmala Ukheda sews clothes for women and school uniforms for children. She can sew up to four sets of clothes daily and earns up to NPR 600 per day. She generates a monthly income of up to NPR 18,000 by sewing at home, and after covering expenses for clothing and food, she saves NPR 3,000 monthly by contributing NPR 100 daily to the local cooperative.

With a smile, Nirmala Ukheda says, "The LICED project has been a great help in increasing the income of families like ours. I have learned that it is possible to earn a decent income by running a suitable business while staying in the village."

2.4 Home Grown School Feeding Program (HGSF)

GIFT-Nepal is conducting the HGSF program at Bajura district at nine palikas. In this program is funded by WFP/Mercy Corps Nepal. Mainly this program get reduce the hunger and accesses to nutritious food, and assures the quality education. And local level production to increase and farmers income level to be increase to take this aim. Now this program was covered by Bajura District 9th palikas 249 school's students no. 33749 were benefitted at them. HGSFP program is conducting to access build the local regional procurement of the local production like as fresh vegetable and lentil. In this program have many different activities to held which is contribute the strengthening the LRP system on regularly at local level like as coordination meeting with local level stakeholders, farmer group capacity building, lead farmer demonstration support, seed and equipment support, day meal management subcommittee formation and capacity building and engaged the monitoring, post-harvest training conduct to lead farmer and cooperative developed the school meal program guideline, agriculture fair, day really celebration, food safety and quality insure, capacity building the Led farmer and group etc. In all activities should be contribute the local regional procurement system development on continuously and productivity increase so ultimately supported the child health and nutrition's stage, then after the child's are achieving the quality education.

Workshop for Linkage & Network building among key Stakeholders

45 events linkage and networking building between key stakeholder held at Himali, Swamikartik khapar , Jagannath, Khaptad Chhededaha and Gaumul Rural Municipality and Badimalika , Budhiganga , Trivini and Budhinanda Municipality. There was review the progress home grown school feeding program especially vegetable supply form vender, lentil supply through the cooperative update the situation on collection and deliver the pulse every schools. We had done discussion on challenge /issue of lentil rate is very high on locally. And discussion on the program how to manage the strong monitoring mechanism and determine the lentil rate at hole palika to decide at them. There were participate the LGUs Mayor, Vice Mayor, Chirpreson and Vice Chairperson of Palika, ward chairperson, Chief of administrative officer and palikas branch chief of education, agriculture, health and livestock and school meal sub-committee member and school head teacher at them. Mainly there was more focus the discussion in every meeting how to do create the better effectiveness on further day about home grown school feeding program at palika level and discussion more focused on determined the rate

list on lentil collection and distribution at that palika's overall school at locally. Similarly all palikas Chief of administrative officer put the remarks and told that cooperative member / vender any how to collect the pulse at locally and don't compromise the quality and don't break the supply chain every time , it is being continue conduct system by cooperative. There were 1203 persons have participated at their, whereas 971 persons' is male and 232 persons are female.



Advocacy for CFM system establishment, Resource Allocation & Mobilization through meeting from Local government

There are 27 events were successfully held the meeting at 9th local government units at Bajura district and focusing on the revision and update of development plans, policies, guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) related to food storage, handling, and transportation. Additionally, a major agenda item was to raise awareness among all stakeholders, vender about preventing food, lentil and vegetable collection and distribution to every schools. In these meeting had discussion about collection Dall /ensure quality, food safety measure etc. These meeting were participating ward chairperson, Sub-committee member, cooperative representative, Vegetable supply vender and Palikas education, agriculture and health branch at them.

There was total 756 person have participate at there where as 627 persons male and 129 person in female .



Capacity Development of Farmers on Home Grown Garden technology focusing nutritious locally suitable crop (Vegetables, Fruit, Cereal, Legumes and Pulses) including tricho-compost.

The activity includes knowledge building activities on locally available and suitable nutritious crops especially indigenous crops to the vulnerable small farmer, specially focusing on women farmers. The farmer group will enhance the knowledge on the production process as well as the post-harvest process. The process will make them able to produce and follow the post-harvest process of the crops. This is also the kinds of means for capacity building of small farmer by providing different training with multiple capacities. Where representatives from all working groups were trained on different production technology from 9 different palikas. Selected farmers who were directly connected with school by supplying vegetables were trained on cultivation



practices to post harvest technology by using resource person from Agri-branch of palika. Total beneficiaries were 522 comprising 237 males and 285 females. These activities major objective are as below.

- To enhance the multiple production capacities of farmers.
- To increase the production per unit area of the land.
- Extension of latest agri-culture technology.
- To link the small farmer with school ultimately with market.

Community Consultation Meeting including SMC & PTA- Awareness & Acknowledgement.

During this period there were 69th events conduct at 9th palika at Bajura district . These meetings participants were SMC, PTA, Ward chairperson, vendors, farmers, teachers. The major agenda of discussion was nutrition awareness among participants and pre-feasibility of pulses availability at ward level. During the meeting we have highlighted on recommended dietary allowances which has been standardized by Nepal government simultaneously responsibility of SMC, Teacher, PTA, and farmers on day meal has been familiarized. Total 3295 Participants comprises male 1916 and female 1379 from Budiganga, Tribeni, Khaptad chededaha, Budinanda ,Swamikartik, Jagannath, Himali , Gaumul and Badimalika has been participated where 69 events has been done in respective palika.

Agri input support for off seasonal production technology

Five farmers from each palika who were directly connected with vegetable supply chain has been selected and supported them agri-inputs like seed, bio-pesticides, silpaulin plastics for tunnel, drip irrigation, apron for safety uses of pesticides, sprinkler and garden pipe roll for irrigation, scissors for training and pruning, IPM tools, pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps etc. on first lot. Similarly, we have planned for supporting seed for upcoming season in 2nd lot. Total 45 farmers comprising 37 male and 8 females were directly benefited in this event. Similarly two schools at Badimalika municipality and Gaumul RM has also been supported by agri-inputs by aligning the government program ‘ Enjoying , Studying and Earning’.



Post Harvest- Vegetable preservation Technology Training to Lead Farmer

Post-Harvest - Vegetable preservation technology training to lead farmer 2 event has held now. There was discussion about the matter as below.

1. Increasing Food Security
2. Reducing Food Waste and value addition of product.
3. Diversifying Diets
4. Building Resilience
5. Promoting Sustainable Practices
6. Empowering Communities
7. Supporting Local Economies
8. Improving Health and Nutrition
9. Extension of technology at farmer's level.

With this objectives 2 day training session, one day theoretical and one day practical session to lead farmers at farmers field has been accomplished at Budinanda-4 Kolti and Badimalika Municipality at Martadi 12 selected farmers comprising 15 males and 12 females covering 9th palika at Bajura district . This training has gained knowledge on cultivation practices up to marketing. Specially session has been focused on Post Harvest- Vegetable preservation Technology.



Programme Review Participation support

A Program Review and Reflection meeting was held in Bajura district, consisting of two events. Two events were conducted in the lower belt palikas, while the other took place at the district headquarters in Martadi, Bajura and next one is upper belt 4 palikas at Budhinanda municipality at Kolti. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including the Municipality's Mayor, Vice Mayor, Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson from rural municipalities. Additionally, the Chief Administrative Officer, branch chiefs from agriculture, education, and health sectors at the palikas, lead farmers, school head teachers, vegetable suppliers, and cooperative members were also present. The event featured progress presentations through PowerPoint, stall exhibitions, and a photo gallery showcasing program outcomes. Beneficiaries, particularly farmer group members and cooperative representatives, shared their experiences and voiced their appreciation for the support received from the HGSFP program.



Stakeholders highlighted the significant impact of the HGSFP program, emphasizing its role in improving farmers' livelihoods, enhancing income sources, and ensuring quality education for children. The program was acknowledged as a valuable initiative contributing to sustainable development and improving the overall quality of life in the community. In these review and reflection program had been total 159 person participated at their whereas 30 female and 129 males.



Joint field visit to monitor the status and progress of program (multiple stakeholder - District and Palika level relevant government officials)

Joint monitoring conducted by the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) program sub-committee and Palika section heads can lead to several significant outcomes that enhance quality, food safety, and store management at cooperative warehouses. By achieving these outcomes, joint monitoring can significantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the Home-Grown School Feeding program, ensuring that children receive safe, nutritious, and high-quality food. Joint monitoring involves the participation of Palika-level officials, specifically members



of the sub-committee and Palika section heads, who oversee the process at 9 respective Palikas. There were 41 events of joint monitoring visit's total of 536 participants, comprising 438 males and 98 females. Especially joint monitoring visit had observed the farmer group's and discussion Dall collection distribute to the school. Discussion about school head teacher how manage the safe nutritious food and neat/clean the kitchen /regular cooking school meal etc. Finally, 26 cooperatives ,210 school and 60 farmer groups have been visited at them. There was observed the school



meal program and discussion about the Dall collection and supply at school.

Key Lessons Learned

- Regular engagement of local stakeholders, especially ward-level officials, improves program ownership and accountability.
- Farmer-to-school linkages foster both local economic benefits and nutritional improvements.
- Training and supporting cooperatives enhances food quality assurance and consistent supply.
- Integrated monitoring by multi-sectoral teams is more effective in identifying and solving operational challenges.
- Community consultation builds trust and clarifies roles of schools, parents, and vendors in the meal system.
- Palika-level coordination is crucial for maintaining seasonal balance and addressing procurement delays.
- Feedback loops through review meetings contribute to ongoing improvement and learning.
- Infrastructure support such as cooking utensils and storage systems must align with program scale-up.

Key Challenges

- Significant price fluctuation of pulses and vegetables during lean seasons strained procurement planning.
- Local cooperatives faced limitations in managing quality control and storage due to inadequate infrastructure.
- Delay in dal cooking and food preparation due to hard pulses and lack of pressure cookers in some schools.
- Poor coordination in upper belt palikas caused data reporting delays and procurement inconsistencies.
- Frequent school closures and long holiday breaks disrupted supply chain continuity.
- Some schools lacked sufficient cooking pots and safe kitchen environments.
- Limited technical knowledge among some farmer groups hindered adoption of improved practices.
- Absence of a centralized monitoring dashboard made it harder to track school-level performance in real time.

Success Story

Before our intervention:

Mr. Dhanalal B.K., a permanent resident of Swamikartik RM-1, Muktikot, was forced into seasonal migration outside of his district, even crossing borders into neighboring India, in order to meet the basic needs of himself and his family by selling his labor in the market. He never imagined that he would be able to become self-employed and sustain his livelihood easily in his hometown due to the lack of both market and employment opportunities. Despite this, he endeavored to establish the Sharmila agriculture and livestock farm to explore avenues for livelihood, albeit without finding proper market access in his vicinity. His family comprises seven members, including his father, mother, himself, spouse, two sons, and one daughter.

After our intervention:

He expressed the sentiment that where there is a will, there is a way. He became acquainted with the home-grown school feeding program through palika-level linkage meetings, even participating in the vendor selection process at the ward level. He views this program as a means of promoting agricultural practices, ensuring market access or providing a form of buy-back guarantee. Consequently, he initiated efforts to connect with the home-grown school feeding program and eventually secured a position as a vendor for vegetable supply to Shree Mandala Adharbhut Bidhayalaya. From the outset, he began supplying vegetables to 296 students at Shree Mandala Adharbhut Bidhayalaya, providing approximately 11.84 kg per day valued at NRs 888.00. By December, he had received NRs 77,971.00 from our program. This demonstrates the significant impact of the program, benefiting individuals like him indirectly but substantially. He concluded by emphasizing that with diligence, everything is achievable in their hometown, discouraging seasonal migration for livelihood.

Our team is actively working to connect Mr. Dhana Lal B.K. as a direct beneficiary of HGSFP by establishing links with Laligurans Cooperatives.



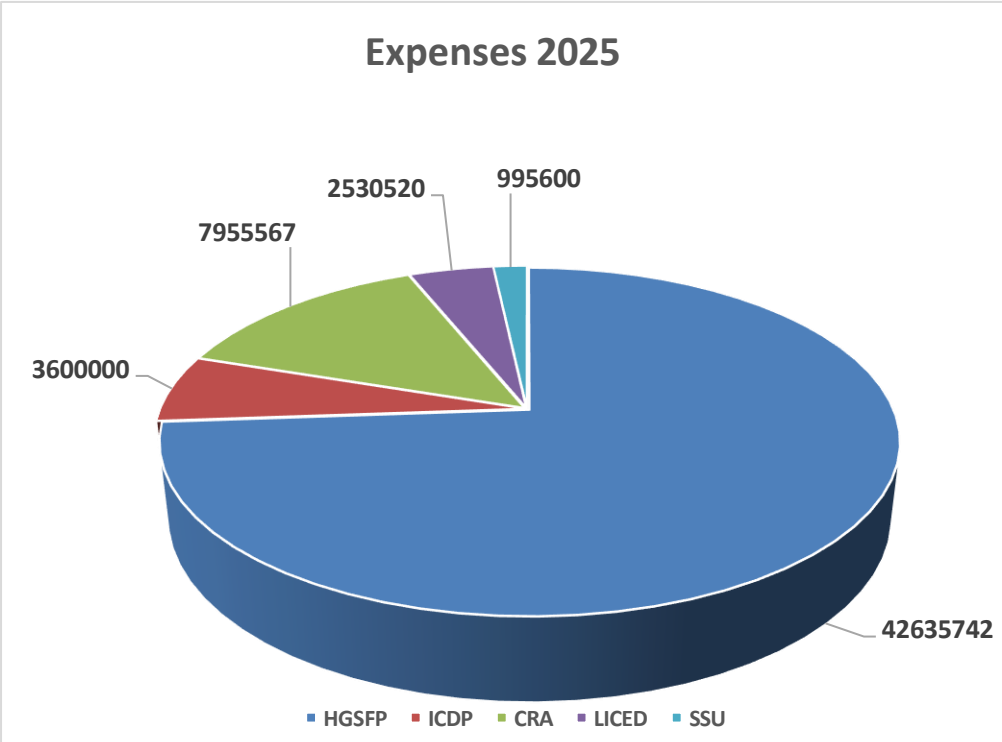
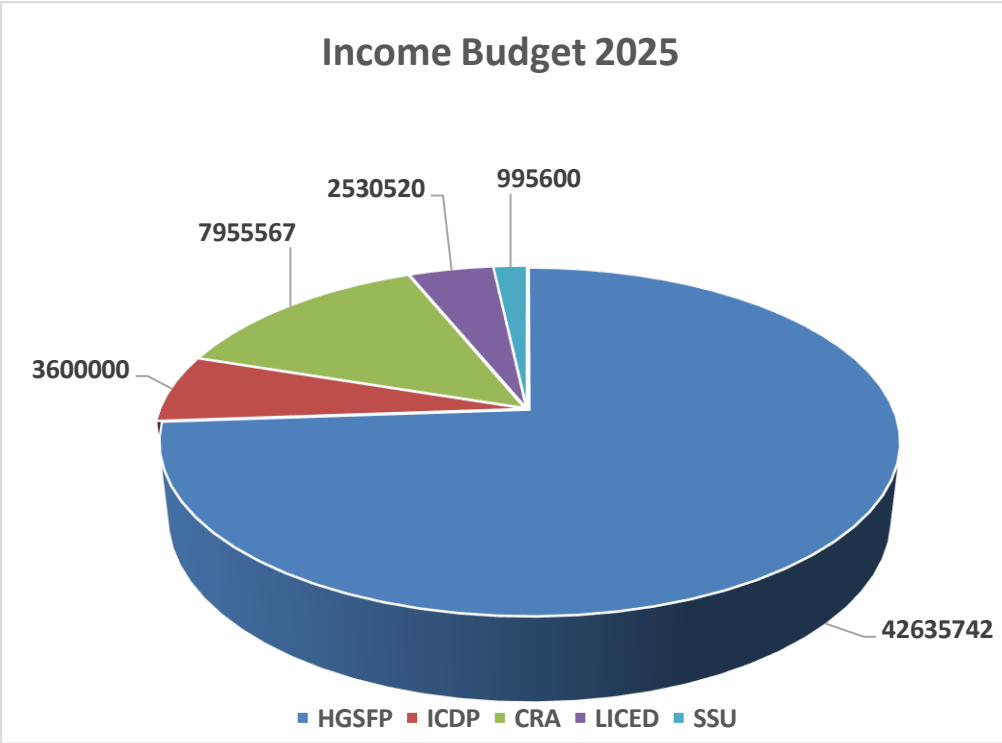
2.5 Social Service Unit Center Operation Program

District Hospital Bajura and GIFT Nepal with joint partnership are operating a social service unit center in District Hospital Bajura through GIFT- Nepal, in which underprivileged family members have easy access to health services for Dalit poor and marginalized groups and ensure the right of patients to get treatment at some concessions. This program has been conducted to create an environment for receiving services. In which GIFT Nepal Bajura provides human resource support specially 2 person health assistant, this program is conducted under the



guidelines of the provincial committee, which is operated by the director of the hospital management committee. So far, about 1022 patients have received treatment under this program.

Budget Status 2025



Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)

Strengthening Impact through Evidence, Accountability, and Adaptation

GIFT Nepal's MEAL framework serves as the backbone of our commitment to transparency, effectiveness, and learning-driven development. In 2025, we took significant strides in institutionalizing MEAL processes across all our projects—particularly within the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE/CRA), and LICED initiatives. These practices not only ensured the quality and efficiency of implementation but also deepened the engagement of beneficiaries and stakeholders in shaping the journey toward sustainable change.

Monitoring: Real-time, Responsive, and Grounded in Context

We implemented a multi-layered monitoring system in 2025 that encompassed routine field visits, technical supervision, and performance tracking against set indicators. Monitoring responsibilities were shared between project staff, technical coordinators, and local stakeholders, enhancing data credibility and ownership.

Some key highlights:

- Monthly staff review meetings facilitated reflection on progress, problem-solving, and monthly action plans.
- Joint monitoring visits with local governments and cooperatives enhanced mutual accountability and transparency. Field-level visits to farmer groups, cooperatives, and schools helped ensure alignment with community needs and local government priorities.
- The Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) meetings served as a participatory platform to review project outcomes, assess challenges, and co-create future strategies.

Evaluation: Tracking Change and Measuring What Matters

Periodic evaluations were conducted to assess project effectiveness and impact. Through tools such as pre-post assessments, focus group discussions, and success story documentation, we evaluated:

- Uptake of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Institutional performance of cooperatives using Guru accounting software.
- Revolving Fund utilization, repayment behavior, and business sustainability among entrepreneurs.
- Impacts on nutrition, household income, and school feeding through natural farming linkages.

These evaluations guided mid-course corrections and improved targeting of interventions.

Accountability: Building Trust Through Transparency and Participation

GIFT Nepal embraces accountability as a fundamental pillar of its development ethos. In 2025, we reinforced accountability mechanisms by:

- Conducting Social Audits in Martadi and Kolti, engaging local leaders, farmers, teachers, and government officials. These forums gathered direct feedback on performance, suggested improvements, and enhanced transparency.
- Sharing project budgets, achievements, and challenges publicly at local events.

- Promoting feedback loops through community consultations, especially with farmer groups and cooperatives, to refine delivery approaches.

The feedback received shaped future planning—including stronger focus on menstrual hygiene in schools, support for anti-child marriage campaigns, and seasonal distribution of inputs.

Learning: Turning Experience into Insight and Innovation

We consider learning as a continuous process that shapes our approach and informs better decision-making. In 2025:

- We institutionalized lessons learned workshops across all projects, capturing what worked, what didn't, and why.
- Key learnings—such as the effectiveness of bundling plastic tunnels with seeds, or the need for structured monitoring by Project Management Committees (PMCs)—were documented and integrated into future planning.
- Insights from local governments and stakeholders during LPAC meetings led to adjustments in activity design, especially around entrepreneurship support and cooperative mobilization.

Digitalization for Better MEAL

A major innovation this year was the digitization of cooperative data management through Guru Software, enabling real-time reporting, reduced errors, and improved financial transparency. We also supported:

- Basic computer and accounting training for cooperative managers.
- Internet access setup via router distribution, improving data submission and remote monitoring in connectivity-challenged areas.

Way Forward

GIFT Nepal's MEAL system is evolving into a robust framework for learning-centered, people-driven development. Our focus moving forward is to:

- Strengthen data collection tools and analysis for better evidence-based planning.
- Enhance digital monitoring capabilities across all projects.
- Foster greater inclusion of marginalized voices in decision-making.
- Integrate MEAL learnings systematically into our strategic direction.

The End ...