

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

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Feed the Future initiative has contracted Winrock International to implement the Knowledge-Based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture in Nepal (KISAN) II Project. KISAN II aims to increase resilience, inclusiveness and sustainability of income growth in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence.

Agriculture employs 78 percent of the economically active population in Nepal, and contributes 34 percent to the Gross Domestic Product. At the same time, Nepal is food insecure and the agricultural sector faces persistent challenges, including limited irrigation, increasingly extreme and erratic weather, and insufficient access to quality inputs. Given the obstacles, there is an opportunity to support sustainable agricultural growth for Nepal's transition into a more food secure country.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

KISAN II will contribute to the Government of Nepal (GON)'s Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS). KISAN II is a five year, \$ 32.7 million project which will facilitate systemic changes in the agricultural sector including: (1) greater climate-smart intensification of staple crops and diversification into higher value commodities; (2) strengthening of local market systems to support more competitive and resilient value chains and agricultural related businesses ; and (3) improving the enabling environment for agricultural and market systems development. The project will coordinate closely with the private sector and the GON's Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD). KISAN II will focus on 20 districts in the West, Mid-West and Far-West regions and four earthquake-affected districts in the Central region (Feed the Future Zone(s) of Influence I and II respectively).

## PROJECT APPROACH

KISAN II will focus on market systems and private-sector actors, however, recognizing that social and geographic contexts and barriers can create an uneven playing field for some groups. KISAN II will employ a "push-pull" approach to its outreach and engagement with beneficiaries. Push strategies help poor farmers and individuals build the capacity to participate in intensification, diversification, and value addition activities. Pull strategies increase the demand for smallholder production, labour, 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 will tailor its approach to empower and graduate farming households into more productive, reliable, and lucrative agricultural enterprises evolving from vulnerable to developing, to commercially-minded, and finally to competitive household agricultural enterprises.



*Arbind Kumar Shah of Dev Bhar Rice Mill in Nepalgunj provided agriculture trainings and introduced improved production techniques for 1000 farmers with support from USAID's KISAN project. Shah is willing to make further investments in local farmers to reduce his rice imports from India and increase his paddy purchases locally. Photo credit: USAID's KISAN project/Winrock International*

## SNAPSHOT

### Target

200,000 Farming Households  
650 Enterprises and Agribusinesses

### Life of Project

July 12, 2017 to July 11, 2022

### Commodities

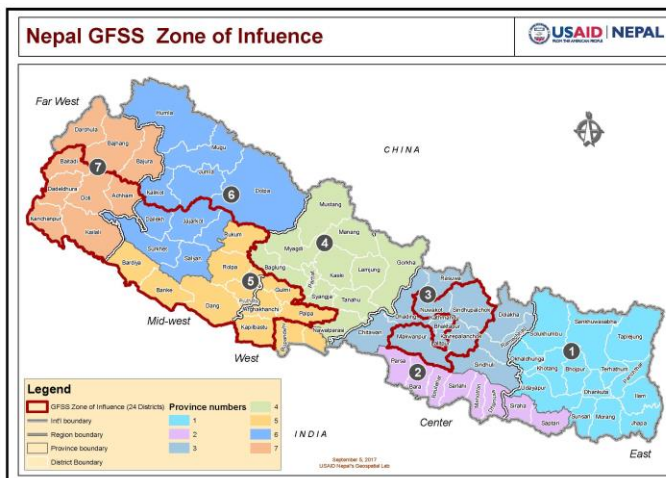
Rice, Maize, Lentil, Vegetables

### Consortium

Prime: Winrock International  
Subcontractors: CEAPRED, DEPROSC,  
Siddharth Inc, Digital Green, Overseas  
Strategic Consulting Ltd (OSC)

### Contact

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### KISAN II Zone of Influence (ZOI)

Selected Metropolitan, Sub-metropolitan areas, Nagar-Palikas and Gaun-Palikas in 4 provinces (24 districts in West, Midwest, Far West, and the earth quake affected zone)  
Province 3: Kavrepalanchok, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Sindhupalchok  
Province 5: Kapilbastu, Palpa, Arghakhanchi, Gulmi, Banke, Bardiya  
Province 6: Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Dang, Salyan, Rukum, Rolpa, Pyuthan  
Province 7: Baitadi, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, Accham, Dadeldhura

KISAN II will include a Partnership and Innovation Fund (PIF), including a grants program, through which the project will buy down the risk for lead firms to upgrade market strategies, create mutually beneficial contract farming and outgrower schemes, and catalyze the involvement of women and disadvantaged groups through push interventions, complemented by a focus on market pull in key commodity supply chains.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The goal of KISAN II project will be achieved through activities under five components, listed below;

1. Improve the productivity of selected agricultural market systems
2. Strengthen competitiveness, resilience, and inclusiveness of selected agricultural market systems.
3. Strengthen the enabling environment of selected agricultural market systems.
4. Enable vulnerable communities to act on business opportunities within selected market systems.
5. Apply Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation to market systems development.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Increase adoption of profitable, productivity-enhancing, and climate smart technologies.
- Strengthen lead firms and other SMEs to support selected market systems.
- Enhance financial services markets and infrastructure that serve selected market systems.
- Build capacity for GON policies and regulation to support market systems development.
- Enhance literacy and business development skills.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased yields and volumes of selected crops.
- Increased percentage of smallholders, farmer cooperatives, and farmer associations able to meet market quality and standards requirements.
- Increased value of new private sector investment in selected agricultural market systems.
- Strengthened institutional and human resource capacity of the GON and private sector to support market systems development.
- Platform established for collaboration and learning among KISAN II stakeholders.

For additional information, please visit [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) or [www.usaid.gov/nepal](http://www.usaid.gov/nepal) or [www.winrock.org](http://www.winrock.org)