SATNET ASIA

Innovation network for food security and poverty reduction

SATNET Intraregional Visit for Smallholder Value Chain Actors in South Asia
18 - 23 August 2014, Nepal

Report

This project is funded by the European Union

The Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia (SATNET Asia) aims to support innovation by strengthening South–South dialogue and intraregional learning on sustainable agriculture technologies and trade facilitation. Funded by the European Union, SATNET facilitates knowledge transfer through the development of a portfolio of best practices on sustainable agriculture, trade facilitation and innovative knowledge sharing. Based on this documented knowledge, it delivers a range of capacity building programmes to network participants.

SATNET Asia is implemented by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in collaboration with the AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Food Security Centre of the University of Hohenheim and the Trade and Investment Division of UNESCAP.

This report summarizes outcomes of a training workshop implemented by SATNET Asia.

This report has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this report are those of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the United Nations or the European Union. The report has been issued without formal editing.

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Executive Summary

As part of the 'Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia' (SATNET Asia) project, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in collaboration with International Development Enterprises (iDE) Nepal organized an 'Intraregional Visit for Smallholder Value Chain Actors in South Asia' in Nepal from 18 to 23 August 2014. The objective of the visit was to expose smallholders to good practices and technologies for sustainable agriculture, allowing them to see the efficacy of these practices, interact with local champions, and thus support the dissemination and adoption of these practices in their own communities. The visit focused on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), climate resilient agriculture, and post-harvest issues which are of strong relevance to the South Asia region.

The participants visited a number of IDE's project sites in the southern part of Nepal including those of the European Union-funded Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP). They met community groups who demonstrated IPM and organic practices in their locations, and interacted with village-level Marketing and Planning Committees which collect produce from members, provide backward and forward/marketing linkages, and enable the growers to bargain better with traders to realize higher prices. Innovative and climate-friendly technologies for off-season vegetable cultivation, bio-gas production, aquaculture and irrigation were also showcased.

There was a high degree of interaction throughout the visit between the participants and the communities visited. The participants indicated that this visit had provided a unique, hands-on learning opportunity for smallholder representatives, and that they had received (as well as shared) much new knowledge and ideas. The promotion of low-cost innovations, scaling-up of sustainable technologies, and community engagement were some of the key areas of knowledge enrichment. Some of the areas/technologies that were cited as particularly useful were irrigation systems (including drip irrigation and MUS), off-season tomato cultivation under plastic house, IPM practices, bio-gas production, and aquaculture techniques. The participants conveyed their strong intent to apply and disseminate the learning upon return to their home countries.

A training evaluation was also conducted at the end of the event. All the participants (100%) rated the visit as 'excellent' (64%) or 'good' (36%) while 64% reported that the visit met their expectations to a very large (27%) or large (37%) extent. In other feedback, the participants highlighted IPM, mechanization system in agriculture, Multiple Use Irrigation System, Vegetable Collection Center, ICT tools, and bio-mass/ ecological/ human and animals excess (compost) use for farming and production of vegetables in rural areas, as among the areas for more emphasis. The need for more time for the site visits was also expressed.

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1. Introduction

The 'Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia' (SATNET Asia) project aims to contribute towards improved food security and reduced poverty of the poorest and most vulnerable people in South and Southeast Asia. It is facilitating knowledge transfer through the development of a portfolio of technologies and best practices on sustainable agriculture and delivering a range of capacity-building programmes to network participants.

As part of Work Package 4 of the SATNET project, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in collaboration with International Development Enterprises (iDE) Nepal organized an 'Intraregional Visit for Smallholder Value Chain Actors in South Asia' in Nepal from 18 to 23 August 2014. The objective of the visit was to expose smallholders to good practices and technologies for sustainable agriculture, allowing them to see the efficacy of these practices, interact with local champions, and thus support the dissemination and adoption of these practices in their own communities. The visit focused on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), climate resilient agriculture, and post-harvest issues which are of strong relevance to the South Asia region, while also complementing the SATNET regional and in-country workshops and training programmes already organized in these specific areas.

This visit was one among a series of five such visits organized by CAPSA.

2. Programme

The detailed programme is enclosed in **Annex I**. The focus was on providing opportunities for hands-on learning and interaction with local stakeholders to the participants through visits to farmers' fields and marketing centres.

3. Participants

Seventeen participants (13 male and 4 female) representing progressive farmers, village community leaders, and NGO extension workers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan took part in the visit. They were selected through the SATNET network based on the strength of their role in disseminating knowledge and information for sustainable agriculture in their communities or organizations. The list of participants is enclosed as **Annex II**.

4. Sites visited and key learning outcomes

19 August:

The participants travelled from Kathmandu to Bhairahawa in South Nepal which is close to a cluster of iDE's project sites including the European Union-funded Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP). A welcome and briefing session was held wherein the participants were provided with an overview of the SATNET project and the objectives of this visit, as well as a background of iDE Nepal and its projects.

Solar power water pump

Participants interacting with local community on IPM

The first site visit was to Madhuri Village Development Committee (VDC) in Rupandehi district where the participants participated in a village community meeting. The community has organized itself into a farmer cooperative with a majority of women members, and has become a model for IPM. In fact, the village has now gone completely organic and is free from application of chemical pesticides. Bio-fertilizers such as Trichoderma (a beneficial fungi) are also used. There is now growing interest amongst traders to buy organic produce from the village. The visitors observed technologies such as a solar power water pump (a climate change adaptation technology for water scarce areas being piloted by iDE) and Xylum pump (with foot pedals for pumping water and particularly suitable for hilly areas).

The participants also visited Pathkhauli and Siktahan VDCs where they observed how farmers have increased their income and nutritional intake for themselves as well as their communities through fish nurseries/aquaculture (practiced both in small water tanks as well as in large ponds). They also saw dyke vegetable farming techniques where farmers are utilizing raised bunds along the edges of fish ponds for organic cultivation of vegetables.

Finally, at Chhipagadh VDC, the visitors were provided with a demonstration of an Axial Flow Pump which utilizes power from a common tractor to irrigate large areas (70-80 hectares) and represents a technology which can be adopted collectively at the community level, or even be provided on an hourly-charge basis through Local Service Providers. At the same site, they observed aquaponics technology where a caged area in a pond is used for rearing fish which are released into the larger pond upon maturity. Moreover, a bamboo frame structure extending from the edges of the pond over the water provides additional space for cultivating vegetables (particularly creeper varieties).

Aquaponic and vegetable production

The day was marked with enthusiastic interaction between the visitors and the local communities. Apart from learning from the sites they visited, the visitors also shared their own experiences and suggestions for improvement with the communities, making this an exciting two-way learning and enrichment process.

20 August:

The participants were exposed to an interesting marketing model for agricultural inputs that is being promoted by iDE Nepal through financial and technical support under its 'Challenge Fund' initiative. 'Agrovets' or private agricultural input suppliers who usually market their products only from their shops, have engaged 'Community Business Facilitators' (CBFs) who are members of the local community. The CBFs act as sales agents and undertake marketing of the inputs directly at the village level, gaining a commission from the proceeds. This has been a win-win model for all, with the Agrovet achieving increased sales of upto four times as a result of better marketing outreach, the CBFs obtaining additional income from their commission, and the farmers gaining access to good quality seeds/inputs which are delivered on time right at their doorsteps. The fact that the CBFs are chosen from the local community itself promotes trust and assurance against any fraudulent practices or cheating. The Challenge Fund has supported training and awareness building activities for farmers, thus strengthening the model.

Treadle pump

Off-season vegetable production

The visiting group interacted with members of the Sagarmatha Farmer Group in Nawalparasi district which is practising IPM for vegetable production. Based on a collective assessment of market demand, the group develops a participatory production plan that specifies the vegetables to be grown by group members, how much area to be devoted to each crop, which varieties to use etc. in order to help optimize profit. The group saw off-season (rainy season) production of vegetables like brinjal on raised bunds to protect the crop from waterlogging. It also observed use of Treadle Pump which is a low-cost irrigation technology introduced by iDE in Nepal from Bangladesh. Over time, iDE has been able to scale up the off-season vegetable production and Treadle Pump technologies in this area. On their part, in the context of IPM, one of the participants from Pakistan shared his knowledge about how to prepare a low-cost botanical pesticide using Neem tree kernels.

The visitors had an in-depth interaction with the local Marketing and Planning Committee (MPC) of vegetable growers in Devgaun VDC, which has won an award from the Nepalese Government. The role of the MPC is collection of the produce from members and providing backward and forward/marketing linkages. The coordination of production and marketing through the MPC enables the growers to bargain better with traders to realize higher prices. They also receive some insurance and training support from the MPC. Once again, the visitors were able to provide numerous suggestions to the MPC to enhance its services such as utilizing Information and Communication Technology (eg. SMS) to disseminate information about market prices to members.

Observing oil distillation unit

Towards the end of the day, the group visited the Chisapani Community Forestry Group which is operating an Oil Distillation Unit for Methanol, lemon grass and other oils. The Unit sources raw material from a women's community group that cultivates these crops on otherwise fallow community-owned land. Apart from providing additional income to the women and the community, this technology helps in carbon sequestration through agro-forestry. The group also visited a farm machinery Local Service Provider (LSP) to learn about use of Zero Till Seed Drill (requiring less water), Laser Land Leveller and Bed Maker, and observed Direct

Seeded Rice technology vis-à-vis the conventional rice production technique.

21 August:

Bio-gas unit component

The day commenced with a visit to Majgaun village in Rupandehi district. A revolving fund established for the village community by an iDE project has enabled many households to set u p low-cost bio-gas generation units which utilize cow dung and human excreta. These units have brought many benefits such as smoke-free cooking, greater cleanliness and better health conditions. The slurry from the bio-gas digesters is also applied in farmers' fields as manure, resulting in cost saving on account of the reduced application of chemical fertilizers. Some of the visitors shared their experience of using bio-gas to run water pumps in their countries, and of establishing larger-scale, community-owned bio-gas units. Apart from bio-gas, the revolving fund has also been utilized to promote Treadle Pumps for irrigation purposes.

Butwal fruit and vegetable wholesale market

In the second half of the day, the group visited a fruit and vegetable wholesale market at Butwal on the way to the hill town of Tansen in Palpa district. This is the second largest wholesale market in Nepal and an important agro-trading centre established as a public private partnership with financial contributions from the government, the local municipality and traders. The group interacted with the market's senior management and learnt how it has grown over time and how it functions effectively including through linkages with village level Marketing and Planning Committees (MPCs) which act as collection points for farmers' produce.

22 August:

Off-season tomato cultivation under plastic house

The participants first visited an organic vegetable collection centre run by a local Marketing and Planning Committee (MPC) near Tansen in Palpa district. The centre is supported by iDE in partnership with local NGOs and the private sector, and follows a market-led approach with a crop calendar prepared keeping in view market demand and prices in order to enable good returns for the farmers.

Multiple water use system collection tank

The group also visited the Chirtungdhara Village Development Committee (VDC) where the participants observed with keen interest a technique for off-season (rainy season) tomato cultivation. The creepers are grown under a 'plastic house' along bamboo poles fixed in the ground which helps to prevent waterlogging. Drip irrigation is used for watering the crop. Such off-season cultivation allows the farmers to obtain higher prices for their produce. The technique was initially demonstrated by iDE in the area and has now been adopted by a large number of farmers.

Another interesting technology seen was the Multiple Use Water System (MUS). A highland drinking water source feeds a collection tank for drinking water. The overflow

from this tank is channelled to a second collection tank for irrigation (including drip irrigation purposes) so that drinking water use is prioritized over irrigation. Distribution to end users at downhill locations takes place through a network of pipes. This technology is suitable for hilly areas, and supports climate change adaptation through water resource conservation. It is particularly helpful for women who otherwise have to climb long distances to collect drinking water for their households. A committee of community members is constituted to manage and monitor the operation of the MUS. In this context, the visitors also suggested rain water harvesting and its storage in concrete tanks to augment water availability for households in the community.

Finally, the group visited an MPC/Collection Centre at Chidipani VDC and obtained in-depth information on the work of the MPC which has now been successfully constituted as a cooperative. The MPC's activities include promotion of IPM, training of farmers, vegetable collection, post-harvest support, and marketing, and mobilization of savings. The visitors took a tour of the farm of a progressive farmer during which a number of useful techniques and farm machinery were demonstrated.

Community meeting at Chidipani MPC

At the end of the visit, the participants provided feedback at a Warp Up meeting held in Kathmandu. It was expressed that this visit had provided a unique, hands-on learning opportunity for smallholder representatives, and that they had received (as well as shared) much new knowledge and ideas. All of them were also awarded certificates of participation by CAPSA and iDE for taking part in the visit.

5. Conclusion

The participants highlighted the usefulness of the practical exposure they had gained as well as of t he understanding acquired about new ways of implementing existing processes. The promotion of low-cost innovations, scaling-up of sustainable technologies, and community engagement were some of the key areas of knowledge enrichment. Some of the areas/technologies that were cited as particularly useful were irrigation systems (including drip irrigation and MUS), off-season tomato cultivation under plastic house, IPM practices, bio-gas production, and aquaculture techniques. The participants conveyed their strong intent to apply and disseminate the learning upon return to their home countries.

Annexes

Annex 1: Programme

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE/VISITING SITES	REMARKS
Monday 18 August		Arrive in Kathmandu and stay at Greenwich Village Hotel, Kupondole Height, Lalitpur Ph:- +977-1- 5521780, 5522399, www.greenwichnepal.com		
Tuesday 19 August	06:30	Participant registration at Lobby		
	07:00	Leave for airport		
	09:00	Air travel from Kathmandu to Bhairahawa by Buddha air		35 minutes flight
	10:00	Arrival in Bhairahawa		
	10:00-11:00	Hotel check in	Hotel White Lotus, Bhairahawa	
	11:00-12:00	Welcome, Introductions and Briefing about the Programme	Hotel White Lotus, Bhairahawa	
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	Hotel White Lotus, Bhairahawa	
	13:00-13:15	Travel to Madhuri, Basantapur	Madhuri, Basantapur	
	13:15-14:15	Observe Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scale-up field activities, Solar lift pump, Treadle pump, Xylem pump	Madhuri, Basantapur, Rupandehi	ANEP Vegetable component and IPM IL
	14:15-14:30	Travel to Sapahi	Sapahi, Pathkhauli Village Development Committee (VDC)	
	14:30-15:15	Observe Fish Nursery and Interaction with Nursery grower	Sapahi, Pathkhauli VDC	ANEP Fish Component
	15:15-15:30	Travel to Sahadauniya	Sahadauniya, Siktahan VDC	
	15:30-16:00	Observe fish pond with dyke vegetable farming	Sahadauniya, Siktahan VDC	ANEP Fish Component
	16:00-17:00	Travel to Sulihawa and observe Motorized Treadle pump, vegetable farming, Aquaponic technology and dyke vegetable production	Sulihawa, Chhipagadh VDC	ANEP Fish and Vegetable Component
	17-00-17:30	Travel Back to Bhairahawa and overnight stay at White Lotus hotel in Bhairahawa	Bhairawa	
Wednesday 20 August	07:00-08:00	Breakfast at the hotel		
	08:00-08:40	Travel to Parasi		
	08:40-09:40	Interaction with Challenge Fund (CF) Implementer and Community Business Facilitator (CBF)	Banjahariya, Ramgram, Nawalparasi	ANEP Marketing Component
	09:40-10:00	Travel to Sanai		
	10:00-11:00	Observe Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members	Sanai VDC	ANEP Vegetable Component
	11:00-11:25	Travel to Piparahiya		

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE/VISITING SITES	REMARKS
	11:25-12:25	Visit to MPC/Collection center and interaction with members	Piparahiya, Devgaun VDC	ANEP Marketing Component
	12:25-12:50	Travel to Ramgram		
	12:50-13:30	Lunch at Ramgram		
	13:30:13:50	Travel to Chisapani		
	13:50-14:50	Observe Distillation Unit and interaction with Users	Chisapani, Makar VDC	Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA) activity
	14:50-15:10	Travel to Patkhauli		
	15:10-16:10	Observe DSR field, interaction with farm machinery LSP, observe Axial flow pump	Patkhauli, Devgaun VDC	Salin Acharya ANEP Farm Machinery Component
	16:10-17:00	Travel Back to Bhairahawa and overnight stay at White Lotus hotel in Bhairahawa	Bhairahawa	
Thursday 21 August	07.00-08.00	Breakfast at the hotel		
	08:00-09:10	Travel to Majgaun, Rupandehi		
	09:10-10:10	Observe Bio-gas, Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members	Beninagar, Majgaun VDC	Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA) activity
	10:10-11:00	Travel to Lumbini	Birth place of Lord Buddha, Lumbini	
	11:00-12:40	Sightseeing at Lumbini	Birth place of Lord Buddha, Lumbini	
	12:40-13:30	Travel to Bhairahawa		
	13:30-14:30	Lunch at Bhairahawa		
	14:30-15:10	Travel to Butwal Wholesale market		
	15:10-16:10	Observe fruit and vegetable wholesale market	Butwal Municipality, Rupandehi	
	16:10-18:00	Travel to Tansen and overnight stay at White Lake hotel	Tansen, Palpa Hill district	
Friday 22 August	07:00-08:00	Breakfast at the hotel		
	08:00-08:20	Travel to Chirtungdhara		
	08:20-09:20	Visit Multiple use water System (MUS) and Drip Irrigation system and interaction with farmer group members	Chirtungdhara VDC, Palpa	NMDP-SAMARTH
	09:20-09:40	Travel to Chidipani		
	09:40-10:40	Visit to MPC/Collection center and interaction with members	Bhutuke, Bhanjyang Chidipani VDC, Palpa	NMDP-SAMARTH
	10:40-11:40	Travel back to Tansen		
	11:40-12:30	Sightseeing at Tansen town		
	12:30-13:50	Lunch at Tansen		
	13:50-16:20	Travel back to Bhairahawa and airport reporting		

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE/VISITING SITES	REMARKS
	17:25	Flight to Kathmandu by Buddha Air		
	Evening	Departure of participants		
Saturday 23 August				

Acronyms:
ANEP: Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project-Funded by European Union (EU)
ICCA: Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation Project-Funded by USAID
NMDP: Nepal Market Development Program- Funded by DFID-UK Aid
IPM IL: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovation Lab-Funded by USAID
DSR: Direct Seeded Rice
LSP: Local Service Providers
MPC: Marketing and Planning Committee
MUS: Multiple Water Use System
VDC: Village Development Committee

Annex 2: List of Participants

	Name/Organization	Address	Country	Contacts
	Participants			
1.	Ms. Puja Biswas Lead Farmer, Sustainable Agriculture Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) programme Solidaridad Network Asia	Village Hatgacha District Jessore	Bangladesh	T: +880 4217 1439 M: +880 186 138 6600 E: Zhantu.BikashChakma@solidaridadnetwork.org;
2.	Mr. Md. Delowar Hussain Coordinator (Field Operation) Livelihood Enhancement Program Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB)	19, Sonali R/A, Mozumdarpara Shibgonj, Sylhet	Bangladesh	T: 0821 287 0466 M: 017 1607 2438 E: delowar@fivdb.net; fivdb1981@gmail.com;
3.	Mr. Mohammad Anisur Rahman Local Service Provider-Fisheries and Joint secretary Local Service Provider Association Sarishabari Local Service Provider Association	Sarishabari, Jamalpur	Bangladesh	M: +880 172 775 1275 E: zahangir.1968@gmail.com
4.	Mr. Chabi Lal Ghimery Secretary Lhayal Community Forest	Lhayal Village Chuzom Geog, Sarpang	Bhutan	M: +975 1796 1716
5.	Mr. Namgay Chairman Dairy Cooperative Management of DFG	Milk Sale Counter, Chubachu Thimphu	Bhutan	T: +975 325 099 M: +975-17660577
6.	Ms. Tshering Choden Progressive farmer (strawberry farming)	Bechencholing, Kawong Geog Thimphu	Bhutan	M: +975-17653124 E: tsheringbex@gmail.com
7.	Ms. Jignasa Madhusudan Pandya Coordinator Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	SEWA Reception Centre Opp. Lokmanya Tilak Baug Bhadra, Ahmedabad – 380001	India	T: +91 79 2657 5129 2657 7175 F: +91 79 2550 6446 M: +91 942 842 1225 E: jignasapandya@sewa.org
8.	Ms. Usha Dilipbhai Solanki Master Trainer Agriculture Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	SEWA Reception Centre Opp. Lokmanya Tilak Baug Bhadra, Ahmedabad – 380001	India	T: +91 79 2657 5129 2657 7175 F: +91 79 2550 6446
9.	Mr. Vinay Prasad Chief Executive Officer Water Action	Village Diulia, PO Jagdishpur PS Jagdishpur District West Champaran – 845459, Bihar	India	M: +91 993 420 8994 , 947 060 8503 E: wateractionbihar@gmail.com, vprasadwater@gmail.com
10	Mr. Dekhlal Chaudhary Chairperson Srijana Hatbazar Center	Phattepur 8 Habrahawa, Banke	Nepal	M: 984 818 2002 980 450 4581
11	Mr. Raju Singh Chaudhary President Samuhik Krishi Sahakari Sanstha (Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.)	Beluwa village, Beluwa Village Development Committee (VDC) Sunsari district	Nepal	M: +977 985 203 1122, 98 4205 6068 E: samuhikkrishi@yahoo.com
12	Mr. Tej Bahadur Bohara Vice Chairperson Sahajpur Farmer Cooperative Private Limited	Kaphalgaira village Sahajpur Village Development Committee (VDC), Ward # 9 Kailali district	Nepal	M: +977 974 900 7232

	Name/Organization	Address	Country	Contacts
13	Mr. Komal Pradhan National Program Director International Development Enterprises (IDE) Nepal	Bakhundole, Lalitpur PO Box 2674 Kathmandu	Nepal	T: +977 1 552 0943 552 1465 (ext: 211) F: +977 1 553 3953 M: +977 985 107 0190 E: kpradhan@idenepal.org
14	Mr. Khadga Jung Gurung Field Team Leader/ ANEP project	Butwal, Rupandehi district	Nepal	E: kgurung@idenepal.org
15	Mr. Ali Hassan Member Board of Directors Sindh Agriculture Development Association (SADA)	Thar Bazaar, Umerkot Sindh	Pakistan	T: +92 238 571 667 M: +92 300 330 4015 E: sadaukt.org.pk@gmail.com, ayazkachelo@gmail.com
16	Mr. Allah Dino Rahu President Sindh Awareness Organization	C/o Shah Latif Medical Store P/o Daulat Pur Taluka Kazi Ahmed District Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawab Shah)	Pakistan	M: +92 302 320 3202 334 202 3304 E: sao_sindh@yahoo.com adrahu4@gmail.com
17	Mr. Muhammad Nasir Sarwar President Kissan Welfare Association (KWA)	19-C, Noor-Ul-Haq Colony Bahawalpur	Pakistan	T: +92 622025421 M: +92 300 682 3178 E: mnasir_kwa@yahoo.com; mnasirs1969@gmail.com
	CAPSA-UNESCAP			
18	Mr. Anshuman Varma Knowledge Management Coordinator Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA-UNESCAP)	Jl. Merdeka 145 Bogor 16111	Indonesia	T: +62 251 834 3277, 835 6813 F: +62 833 6290 E: a.varma@uncapsa.org
19	Ms. Fransisca A. Wijaya Meeting Service Assistant Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA-UNESCAP)	Jl. Merdeka 145 Bogor 16111	Indonesia	T:+62 251 834 3277, 835 6813 F:+62 833 6290 M:+62 817 884 316 E: f.wijaya@uncapsa.org

Annex 3: Evaluation

Introduction

The objective of the intraregional visit was to expose smallholders to good practices and technologies for sustainable agriculture, allowing them to see the efficacy of these practices, interact with local champions, and thus support the dissemination and adoption of these practices in their own communities. Seventeen participants (13 male and 4 female) representing progressive farmers, village community leaders, and NGO extension workers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan took part in the visit. Fourteen participants (10 male and 4 female participants) filled in the evaluation questionnaire.

Usefulness of the content and quality of processes and logistics

Participants were invited to rank the usefulness of the visit content and quality of processes and logistics from 'excellent' to 'poor'. Scores were given for each evaluation criteria – poor – 1, fair – 2, good – 3, and excellent – 4. The table below presents the results. In terms of content, participants evaluated each key component. The components that the highest number of participants (100%) rated excellent or good were 'Component 1: Meeting session 'Welcome, Introductions and Briefing'', 'Component 2: Observe Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scale-up field activities, Solar lift pump, Treadle pump, Xylem pump', 'Component 7: Observe Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members', 'Component 11: Observe Bio-gas, Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members', and 'Component 13: Visit Multiple use water System (MUS) and Drip Irrigation system and interaction with farmer group members'. All components were rated excellent or good by at least 75% of the participants. The average score for all content was calculated as 3.29 (3.55 – the highest).

In terms of processes, 100% ranked them 'excellent' or 'good' for agenda and flow, and 90% for instructions and feedback. The overall score for processes was calculated as 3.38.

In terms of logistics, all participants (100%) ranked them 'excellent' or 'good' for pre-visit communication, translation, and accommodation. The overall score for logistics was calculated as 3.56.

		Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)	Average score
Content	1. Meeting session 'Welcome, Introductions and Briefing'	43%	57%	0%	0%	3.43
	2. Observe Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scale-up field activities, Solar lift pump, Treale pump, Xylem pump	43%	57%	0%	0%	3.43
	3. Observe Fish Nursery and Interaction with Nursery grower	36%	50%	14%	0%	3.21
	4. Observe fish pond with dyke vegetable farming	33%	42%	25%	0%	3.08
	5. Observe Motorized Treadle pump, vegetable farming, Aquaponic technology and dyke vegetable production	50%	29%	21%	0%	3.29
	6. Interaction with Challenge Fund (CF) Implementer and Community Business Facilitator (CBF)	14%	71%	14%	0%	3.00
	7. Observe Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members	36%	64%	0%	0%	3.36
	8. Visit to MPC/Collection center and interaction with members	46%	46%	8%	0%	3.38
	9. Observe Distillation Unit and interaction with users	46%	46%	8%	0%	3.38
	10. Observe DSR field, interaction with farm machinery LSP, observe Axial flow pump	8%	69%	23%	0%	2.85
	11. Obeserve Bio-gas, Off-season vegetable production and interaction with group members	54%	46%	0%	0%	3.54
	12. Observe fruit and vegetable wholesale market	27%	64%	0%	9%	3.09

		Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)	Average score
	13. Visit Multiple Use Water System (MUS) and Drip Irrigation Syste and interaction with farmer group members	55%	45%	0%	0%	3.55
	14. Visit to MPC/Collection center and interaction with members	55%	36%	9%	0%	3.45
Process	Agenda and flow	45%	55%	0%	0%	3.45
	Instruction and feedback	40%	50%	0%	10%	3.30
Logistics	Pre-training communication	64%	36%	0%	0%	3.60
	Translation	45%	55%	0%	0%	3.45
	Accommodation	64%	36%	0%	0%	3.64

Overall rating of the visit

All the participants (100%) rated the visit as excellent (64%) or good (36%).

Expectations

Most of the participants (64%) reported that the visit met their expectations to a very large (27%) or large (37%) extent. None of them reported their expectations were met to a small extent.

Aspects to be improved in the future

This section indicates the key areas that can be taken into consideration in the organization of similar events in the future. These areas are based on the suggestions that participants expressed during the evaluation:

- **Coverage of specific topics:** Among the areas highlighted for emphasis were Integrated Pest Management, mechanization system in agriculture, Multiple Use Irrigation System, Vegetable Collection Center, ICT tools, and bio-mass/ ecological/ human and animals excess (compost) use for farming and production of vegetables in rural areas.

- **Time:** Time for site visits was short keeping in view the intensive programme. Moreover, September/ October would be a better time to organize such a visit.

Additional comments:

- “IDE’s work is good. All members (participants) will go at home, follow up in their own organizations, and submit a report to SATNET”. Mr. Allah Dino Rahu, Pakistan.
- “These members (farmer participants) should also come to our country, see the IPM Program and exchange experiences. This visit is very fruitful.” Mr. Muhammad Nasir Sarwar, Pakistan.
- “Next year also I want one visit organized by this organizing team for more learning...”. Mr. Vinay Prasad, India.
- “Useful information, knowledge for my community.” Mr. Namgay, Bhutan.