

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

EcoHimal Nepal

FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024



Kathmandu Metropolitan City
Maharajgunj-3
Email: office@ecohimal.org.np
Website: www.ecohimal.org.np

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| ACRONYMS | 2 |
| Message from the Chairperson | 4 |
| Message from the Executive Director..... | 5 |
| Organizational Background..... | 6 |
| Projects implemented in 2023-24: | 0 |
| Community led Agro-Forestry Initiatives (CAFI) | 1 |
| Promotion of Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PAFCCA) | 3 |
| Mandan Deupur Agro-Forest Resource Centre (MDAFRC)..... | 6 |
| Sustainable Agro Forest Resource Centres in Mountain Areas of Nepal (SAAF-MAN) | 8 |
| Himalayan Climate Resilient Initiatives Project (HCRI)..... | 11 |
| Gender Friendly Agro-Forest Resource Center (GF-AFRC) | 14 |
| Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Integrated Deusa Agro-Forest Resource Centre and STC Programme) | 16 |
| Chiwang Gumba (Monastery)-Sustainable Greenhouse for Organic Farming & Climate Resilience | 17 |
| Spices for Health..... | 19 |
| Clean Cooking Stove Solution Project (CCSP)..... | 20 |
| Youth Learning Center | 22 |
| Gender Friendly Himalayan School Project (GFHSP) | 23 |
| Rural Health Support Project (RHSP) | 26 |
| EcoHimal Academy..... | 28 |
| Construction of School and Hostel Buildings of Disabled Resources Class School..... | 29 |
| Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG)..... | 30 |

ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| AFRC | Agro Forest Resource Centre |
| AGGs | Adolescent Girls Groups |
| ARM | Andhikhola Rural Municipality |
| ASRH | Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| BHCH | Bright Horizon Children Home School |
| CAFI | Community led Agro Forestry Initiatives |
| CBOs | Community-Based Organizations |
| CCC | Child Care Club |
| CCMA | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation |
| CCSP | Clean Cooking Stove Solution Project |
| CFLG | Child Friendly Local Governance |
| CFUGs | Community Forest Users Groups |
| CLTS | Community Led Total Sanitation |
| CUG | Closed User Group |
| DACs | Differently Abled Children |
| DAFRC | Deusa Agro Forest Resource Centre |
| DAFRC | Deuso Agro Forest Resource Center |
| DNPWC | Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation |
| DWS | Drinking Water Supply |
| ECAs | Extra-Curricular Activities |
| FFS | Farmers Field School |
| FIFO | First In First Out |
| GCR | Girls Comfort Room |
| GF-AFRC | Gender Friendly Agro Forest Resource Center |
| GFHSP | Gender Friendly Himalayan School Project |
| GG | Global Grants |
| GWMS | Grey Water Management System |
| HCRI | Himalayan Climate Resilient Initiatives Project |
| HF | Health Facilities |
| HFOMC | Health Facility Management Committee |
| HHs | Households |
| IAP | Indoor Air pollution |
| ICSs | Improved Cooking Stoves |
| IRD | Integrated Rural Development |
| JTA | Junior Technical Assistant |
| MD-AFRC | Mandan Deupur Agro-Forest Resource Center |
| MDM | Mandandeupur Municipality |
| MDRM | Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality |
| MoA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MRM | Mahakulung Rural Municipality |
| NHB | Nepalhilfe Bonn |
| NRM | Natural Resource Management |
| NTD | Neglected Tropical Disease |
| NTFP | Non-Timber Forest Products |
| PAFCCA | Promotion of Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation Programme |
| PHCC | Primary Health Care Centre |
| PTA | Parent's Teacher Association |
| RCC | Rotary Community Corps |
| RHSP | Rural Health Support Project |
| RHSP | Rural Health Support Project |

**

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| RM | Rural Municipality |
| S4H | Spices for Health |
| SAAF-MAN | Sustainable Agro Forest Resource Centers in Mountain Areas of Nepal |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEE | Secondary Education Examination |
| SGS | Self-Generated Scholarship |
| SIP | School Improvement Plan |
| SMC | School Management Committee |
| SRE | Sex and Relationship Education |
| SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| SS | Secondary School |
| SWC | Social Welfare Council |
| TDRM | Thulung Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality |
| TGT | The Glacier Trust |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WEAN | Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal |
| YLC | Youth Learning Center |

Message from the Chairperson



It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the Annual Report of EcoHimal Nepal for the Fiscal Year 2080/81 (2023/24). EcoHimal Nepal's primary goal is to help rural communities through utilization of local resources that is environmentally sustainable, and we remain committed in enhancing the sustainability of natural resources and empower the local communities to improve their livelihood. I am pleased to inform you that our vision and legacy of "Sustainable Development through Community Empowerment" continues in successfully implementing numerous initiatives. We remain vigilant on our organizational vision and approach.

Furthermore, we will continue to assess opportunities to acquire projects that can promote sustainable community development practices, which significantly contributes toward improving livelihood of the disadvantaged people Nepal. These people shall benefit and live a dignified life through the implementation of capacity building and income generating initiatives.

Finally, on behalf of EcoHimal Nepal, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors, well-wishers and the local communities for their valuable support and cooperation. I also express sincere thanks to the fellow Board Members for their encouragement, and suggestions in making us better throughout the process. A special thanks to our staff members as well for their diligence, dedication, and commitment toward their responsibilities. We could not have done it without you all.

I look forward to the years ahead with certainty and confidence!

Thank you!

.....

Arun Kanta Poudel
The Chairperson
EcoHimal Nepal



Message from the Executive Director

It is a great privilege to present the annual report of EcoHimal Nepal to you all. We are delighted to share our comprehensive achievements, key activities, accomplishments of targeted plans and its life changing impacts on the local communities. This Annual Report gives a glimpse of what EcoHimal Nepal accomplished in terms of meeting the goals, improvements brought about in the community, and how programs from grassroots level to national level operate.

The EcoHimal Nepal family remains active in field and at central level making the projects accessible and alive. At field level, staff members mobilized themselves to implement the project activities with grassroots attachment. We are an accountable, transparent and goal-oriented organization, wholeheartedly working on community-based project intervention with low overhead and administrative cost in central as well as field offices. Our practice is an exemplary one as the organization mobilizes available fund directly to the target population. It has been implementing the programs/projects with the purpose of improving the living standard of rural people without disturbing the ecology, environment, social and cultural structures. The impacts of all programs highlighted in this report are the result of our joint efforts.

I would like to express gratitude to our Board of Directors, Advisory Committee Members and General Members for their commitment, continued support and guidance throughout the execution of our programs/projects and for keeping the organization vibrant. On behalf of EcoHimal Nepal, my sincere thanks to the Government of Nepal, local governments, Social Welfare Council and our generous donors for their huge financial support and trust towards the organization. I also thank our diligent staffs for their dedicated services, and our grassroots partners for working in the most remote regions with excellence.

We commit to continue this fruitful partnership and reach the unreached addressing furthermore significant emerging issues in the future.

Thank you all.

.....

Narayan Dhakal
Executive Director
EcoHimal Nepal

Organizational Background

EcoHimal Nepal is a national non-government organization founded in 2009, registered in the District Administration Office, Kathmandu, with the aim of achieving sustainable development through community empowerment in rural areas. It has intensive experience in livelihood enhancement of unreached and marginalized communities through sustainable development and community capacity-building.

The organization is committed to improving the living standard of people living in rural areas of Nepal without disturbing its ecology, environment, social and cultural structure by working with grassroots initiatives and in-depth involvement with community groups. EcoHimal Nepal has and is implementing a number of projects in remote regions with the focus on agriculture and livestock development, natural resources management, bio-diversity conservation, climate change, eco-tourism development, infrastructure development, health, hygiene, sanitation, gender sensitivity, poverty reduction, education and institutional strengthening. “Participation - Ownership - Sustainability” is the drive of the organization. Working with local grass root community-based organizations (CBOs) and decent knowledge of rural communities is the strength in project implementation.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Vision | EcoHimal Nepal envisions a prosperous, peaceful, empowered, and self-sustaining Nepalese society free of poverty, injustice, or social discrimination. |
| Mission | Achieve sustainable development through community empowerment without disturbing cultural and social harmony in mountain and hilly areas by improving local livelihood, ensuring management and access to natural resources, and reducing vulnerabilities of mountain communities to environmental disasters. |
| Goal | To improve the living standard of rural people with special emphasis on women, children, and socially marginalized communities through integrated sustainable development initiatives. |

The specific objectives:

- Conduct activities for natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, ecotourism, forestry, watershed management and alternative energy promotion
- Support to create a culture and society where children attain the rights to protection, participation, and development
- Support income-generating, skill development, enterprise, and marketing
- Conduct community capacity development, institutional strengthening, and basic physical infrastructure development
- Create positive intervention on agriculture, livestock, livelihood, and food security
- Increase awareness on health, hygiene, and sanitation
- Minimize gender inequalities through women's empowerment and children welfare program
- Assist in mitigating social and political conflict to promote social inclusion
- Advocate for policy level intervention

Thematic areas of intervention:

- Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management
- Livelihood, Green Production, Food Security, Institutional Development, Capacity Building and Women Empowerment
- Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Nutrition
- Education and Awareness

Projects implemented in 2023-24

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| A Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Nutrition | | | |
| 1 | Gender Friendly Himalayan School Programme (GFHSP) | Solukhumbu, Mahakulung Khotang, Rawabesi Achham, Trumakhand & Dhakari Kalikot, Khandachakra and Mahawai | Help Alliance via EcoHimal Austria |
| 2 | Rural Health Support Project (RHSP) | Solukhumbu, Mahakulung | Pharmacists without Borders (AoG) |
| 3 | Clean Cooking Solution (CCS) | Mahawai' Kalikot | EcoHimal Germany |
| B Climate Change, Bio Diversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management | | | |
| 4 | Community Led Agro Forestry Initiatives (CAFI) | Sindhupalchowk, Bhotekoshi | Hamashield Foundation via EcoHimal Austria |
| 5 | Climate Change Adaptation Programme (CCAP) | Solukhumbu, Thulung Dudhkoshi and Mapya Dudhakoshi | The Glacier Trust, UK |
| 6 | Sustainable Agro Forest Resource Centers in Mountain Areas of Nepal (SAAF-MAN) | Khotang, Aaiselukharka and Rawabesi | EcoHimal Austria |
| 7 | Promotion of Agro Forestry for Climate Change Adaptation (PAF-CCA) | Kalikot, Khandachakra and Mahawai | EcoHimal Austria |
| 8 | Mandandeupur Agroforestry Resource Centre (MD-AFRC) - II | Kavrepalanchowk, Mandan Deupur | The Glacier Trust, UK |
| 9 | Gender Friendly Agro-Forest Resource Centre (GF-AFRC) | Solukhumbu, Mahakulung | Nepalhilfe Bonn e.V |
| 10 | Climate Resilient Himalayan Initiative (HiCRI) | Kavreplanchowk, Dhulikhel | EcoHimal Austria |
| 11 | Chiwang Gumba (Monastery) - Sustainable Greenhouse for Organic Farming | Solukhumbu | Friends of Nepal |
| 12 | Kalidevi Women Group – Organic Vegetable Farming Initiative Project | Mandan Deupur, Kavreplanchowk | The Glacier Trust |
| 13 | Land Acquisition Project – National Agro-Forestry Resource Centre | Dhulikhel, Kavreplanchowk | Nepalhilfe Bonn e.V and EcoHimal Austria |
| C Livelihood, Food Security, Institutional Development, Capacity Building, Women Empowerment | | | |
| 14 | Youth Learning Centre (YLC) | Kalikot, Mahawai | EcoHimal Germany |
| 15 | Spice 4 Health-Phase II | Kalikot, Lamjung, Myagdi | Help Alliance via EcoHimal Austria |
| 16 | Spice 4 Health- Phase III | | |
| D Child Care, Education & Awareness & Infrastructures Development | | | |
| 17 | Construction of School and Hostel Buildings of Disabled Resources Class School | Dolpa, Thuliberi | EcoHimal Austria & Forum for the Welfare of Himalayan Children Nepal |
| 18 | Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) | Andhikhola RM | Kindermissionswerk |
| 19 | EcoHimal Academy | Kathmandu | EcoHimal |
| 20 | Full Scholarship Programme – CCC children | Kathmandu | Kindermissionswerk |

Community led Agro-Forestry Initiatives (CAFI)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2021 |
| Sponsors | Hamashield Foundation via EcoHimal Austria |
| Location | Bhotekoshi (Sindhupalchowk) |

The Community led Agro-Forestry Initiatives (CAFI) project is under implementation in financial support of [Swissfoundations](#) via [EcoHimal Austria](#) in Duguna village, ward no 3 of Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk to improve rural resilience of mountain families through community led agroforestry initiatives. Multi-layer cropping technologies and practices at local level have been initiated, the local farmers have been capacitated in bio-intensive plantation techniques, layer cropping and home gardening. Rebuilding the resilience of Duguna village through climate sensitive multi-layer cropping has been on the way towards accomplishment. The local community have been made aware about the environmentally restorative multi-layer crop production to conserve biodiversity and to improve their livelihood.

The project has effectively addressed local needs and aspirations, earning strong approval from both beneficiaries and local governments for the adopted technologies and practices. Field monitoring by local staff, along with senior management visits and feedback, keeps progress steady. The

project is on track with its goals and objectives, demonstrating at the community



Tomato Production in Kitchen Garden of Farmers

level a very steady progress and impact.

Crop diversification and increased tree cropping are positively transforming local communities by boosting productivity and income. Subsistence farming is gradually evolving into a more diverse, higher-value, and less labor-intensive system. With tree crops fruiting within less than three years of planting, farmers are increasingly motivated to adopt tree cropping, leading to greater self-employment and income generation.



Training on Fruit Crops Pruning and Management to Lead Farmers

The rising trend of tree cropping on both cultivated and uncultivated land is enhancing the environment, creating employment opportunities, and increasing local income. All households have embraced crop diversification along with environmentally friendly farming practices, positioning them for long-term income generation. Farming systems are shifting towards high-value, sustainable benefits, and local farmers are now equipped with technical knowledge and skills in innovative farming techniques. Increased tree crop coverage is improving livelihoods by supporting climate change adaptation and income generation. The project's success has been recognized by local government officials, who are considering replicating these multi-layer agroforestry practices elsewhere.

All 238 trained local households are now implementing improved tree cropping technologies on their farmland and marginal land. Intensive training, including farmer field schools, has imparted technical knowledge on climate-smart agriculture, such as bio-intensive and multi-cropping techniques. Agriculture technicians have provided field support, addressing issues like diseases, pests, and irrigation, and offering ecological solutions. Skills are being passed from farmer to farmer, promoting local extension and adoption of tree cropping technology. Seventeen lead farmers have been trained in beekeeping, with nine starting commercial operations. Six lead



Livestock rearing of Lead Farmer

farmers trained in turkey rearing faced challenges with 58 out of 120 turkeys lost. However, 67 families involved in livestock rearing have improved their animal sheds and sanitation.

All 238 households have established and are managing home gardens. A total of 102,174



High-Tech Poly House of Lead farmer

seedlings were planted, with many trees now flowering and bearing fruit. Initial fruit production is encouraging further tree cropping as an alternative farming method. Households also intercrop vegetables, producing 15.67 tons of vegetables over 2.5 years, with 8.39 tons consumed and 7.28 tons sold, generating NPR 0.7 million income. Sixty greenhouses are used for vegetable production, and 20 lead farmers are being supported with high-tech polyhouses.

Nine local farmers are raising 170 chickens, and a revolving medical fund for animal treatment has been fully utilized, benefiting 40 farmers. All village animals, including dogs, have been vaccinated against Lumpy Skin Disease and Rabies.

A total of 47,732 seedlings (including tree crops, fodders, and forages) have been planted on marginal land in collaboration with the ward office. Additionally, 4,223 forest trees were planted in Eco-Rotary Forest areas. Survival rates on marginal land are around 50%, though seedlings in the Eco-Rotary Forest suffered from fire and extreme weather. Plans are in place to plant an additional 500 forest trees soon and some fruit trees. Thirty local women from six groups received training in microfinance and agro-product production. A revolving fund managed by these women's groups and an RCC is supporting local agro-businesses. The partnership with the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (WEAN) fosters entrepreneurship and provides access to resources at various levels. Plans are underway to design and construct an agro-

products display center in cooperation with the ward office.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Öko Himal Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit Alpen-Himalaya |
| Location | Khandachakra Municipality & Mahawai RM |

Promotion of Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PAFCCA)

The project introduced a novel concept of community-led agro-forestry initiatives for climate change adaptation, replicating EcoHimal's success module from east Nepal to the Karnali Province. Practical knowledge on different aspects of tree crops with a focus on diversified crop cultivation is widely disseminated. Both AFRCs have been promoted as training hubs, organizing farmer exposure visits with practical demonstrations. The focus is on skill development and improved farming technologies for rural resilience through crop diversification. The project has highlighted tree crops seedlings production establishing nurseries at Centre and at lead farmers' farmland. The nurseries have been established and seedlings are growing well. The centres are expanding its outreach efforts, fostering community participation, and empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge necessary to adapt to



High Tech Poly House Provided to Lead Farmers

changing environmental conditions.

Two AFRCs (Mahawai and Khandachakra) are established, institutionalized and fully

operational. Both of them are well equipped with the necessary capital, land, infrastructure, furniture and other materials necessary for training and accommodation, with sufficient kitchen facilities, training logistics and tools. 26 demonstration plots on different tree crops and vegetables species established and well managed. 676 local farmers have observed the improved practices and technologies and are replicating them on their farms. 79 local farmers have been already trained organizing two in-house training in both centres. Three high-tech greenhouses in centres (2 in Khandachakra and 1 in Mahawai) have been used as improved technologies for vegetables and seedlings production. In total 75,679 seedlings (7,361 tree crops, 68,318 vegetables) produced, out of total, 68,393 seedlings were distributed to 201 local farmers. Ninety-six nurseries (34 nurseries of Walnut and 62 nurseries of Szechuan pepper) established in resource centres. Total 5,360 seedlings are growing in 34 nurseries,



Vegetables Produced Inside Poly Tunnel Provided by EcoHimal

however no single seedling of Nepali pepper in 62 nurseries. 47 local farmers (20 female and 27 male) are trained in seedling production

and orchard management organizing three days trainings in both centres. Both AFRCs are acting as an outlet of seedlings, seeds and agro-products.



Root Stock Nursery at AFRC

Total 63 field-level trainings organized and trained 1,837 local farmers on agro-forestry and climate-smart agriculture practices. 71 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) has been carried out till the reporting date and benefited 1,493 local farmers from the services. Capacity of total 854 local farmers (362 from Mahawai and 401 from Khandachakra) intensified in organic home garden establishments and their management. 90 poly houses supported to lead farmers for commercial vegetables and seedlings production.

Total 44,038 tree crops seedlings (fruits, nuts, coffee and citrus) planted by 854 farmers in their home gardens applying bio-intensive plantation techniques. In addition, 23,900 forage seedlings (9,000 Super Napier, 7,450 Mulato, and 7,450 Seteria seedlings) planted in their gardens are in good condition. Total 23.85 kg vegetables seeds and 5.5 tons of spices intercropped in farmer's gardens and 12 tons vegetables produced and consumed. Three lead farmers led plant nurseries (two in Mahawai and one in Khandachakra) are fully functional. In total 1,759 tree crops seedlings



Project Management Monitoring at Project Area

(800 walnuts, 224 peaches, 302 lime, 198 Mandarin and 235 tree crops) and 2.11 tons of seasonal vegetables produced and generated the total income of NPR. 2, 51,735.00 from the sale. Techniques of asexual propagation like grafting where different types- Tongue, cleft, side, side veneer, bark and top working in fruit plants were demonstrated organizing three days long trainings in both rural/municipalities.

Total 19,885 seedlings (11,769 Devdar, 6,716 Pine and 1,400 Dhupi) planted in marginal land in seven Community Forest Users Group (CFUGs) and 465 community people participated. The plantation was carried out in cooperation with local governments and respective CFUGs.

Two cooperatives - Balidan Multi-purpose Agriculture Cooperative in Mahawai and Saral Janajagaran Agriculture Cooperative in Khandachakra formed, registered and 90 local lead farmers working actively as a member. Both cooperatives have already supplied 85kg



Training to Women Group

of Szechuan pepper. Sixty-seven trained members are transferring knowledge and ideas on basic principles of cooperative management and its values to their colleagues in the cooperatives. Forty-five lead farmers trained in agro-processing (consumer products¹) for agro-enterprises. Strategic partnership with Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (WEAN) has benefited 54 local farmers (45 female and 9 male) with

¹ Various products i.e. mixed pickles, meat pickles, super flour, jam, *Gundruk*, *Dalmot*, *Furandana*, *Masyaura*, and biscuits from grains like buckwheat, millet and wheat as well as potato clips.

practical skills in transforming raw products to consumer products. 18 ward wise agriculture women groups (7 in Mahawai and 11 in Khandachakra) have been formed. Out of them, 15 have been registered in their respective municipalities. The registered 15 women groups have been supported with revolving fund of NPR 100,000 each. Total 226 members of women group have been made aware of their roles and responsibilities in income generation initiatives and micro-finance.

Agriculture technicians in leadership of a BSC-AG officer are based in the field offices and support farmers in day-to-day activities. Inquiries concerning the concept of agro-forest and organic production from different places are noticed through home visits and telephone calls. The project staffs are actively overseeing activities and offering feedback to both farmers and senior management. Additionally, the project manager has carried out a monitoring visit, assessing project progress and providing guidance to both staff members and farmers.

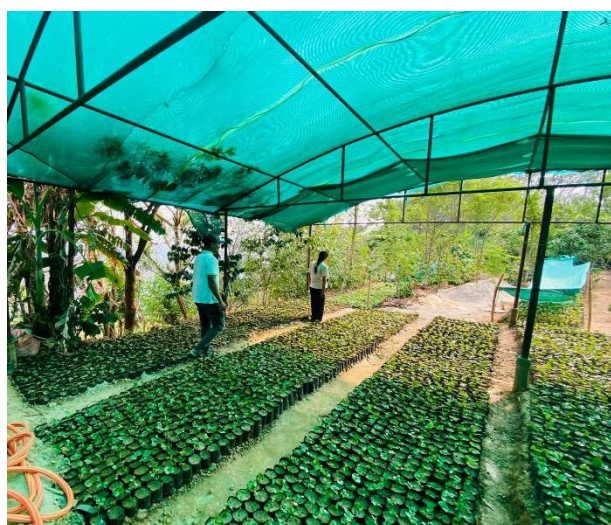
Mandan Deupur Agro-Forest Resource Centre (MDAFRC)

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Start | December 2021 |
| Sponsors | The Glacier Trust UK |
| Location | Mandan Deupur (Kavreplanchowk) |

The Glacier Trust and EcoHimal Nepal have worked in partnership in Mandan Deupur Municipality in Kavrepalanchok, Nepal since December 2018. During these three years, a community led Agro Forestry Resource Centre was successfully established in Mandan Deupur. MD AFRC was designed as a transformative climate change adaptation project and has secured three years of funding from the Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust to continue to support the development and expansion of MD AFRC. The project aims at enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change risks through promotion of more sustainable and profitable livelihoods.

Since 2020, Mandandeupur Municipality has vigorously promoted agroforestry and organic farming, integrating these practices into its policy framework. In the fiscal year 2024/2025, the municipality has intensified efforts in these areas, as detailed in its annual plan.

Nursery Establishment: Local fruit seedling nurseries have been established to promote



Sampling Stored at AFRC for Distribution

biodiversity and sustainable farming.

Farmer Support: Identification and profiling of farmers for identity cards, and the establishment of seed banks to preserve local landraces.

Land Allocation & Competition Programs: Identifying suitable agricultural lands and launching programs like 'one village one production' to encourage fair competition.

Poly House Installations: A successful collaboration with EcoHimal, ASK Nepal, and local ward offices has led to the installation of 103 poly houses, enhancing vegetable



Farmers Field Visits by Project Staff

cultivation and nursery production.

Seed Production Training: Scheduled for August 2024, this training aims to reduce seed dependency and promote self-sustainability. **Seedling Distribution System:** A demand-supply system has been set up, distributing 8,283 seedlings across the municipality, focusing on fruit varieties suited to the local climate.

Brief Outcomes & Achievements:

Increased Farmer Income: 77% of surveyed farmers (out of 356) have generated income, with an average annual income of NPR 9,940.

Extrapolating, 4,595 out of 5,968 trained farmers are expected to be generating income.

Adoption of Organic Practices: 78% of trained farmers have applied organic farming techniques, contributing to a more health-conscious and environmentally friendly local agricultural sector.

Tree Cropping: High-value tree crops are yielding fruits, enhancing farmer incomes and promoting sustainable farming practices. A total of 82,118 tree seedlings have been planted since 2019, with a survival rate of 73.5% across the municipality.

Mandandeupur Municipality's dedication to agroforestry and organic farming is delivering notable benefits, such as higher farmer

incomes, sustainable agriculture, and better environmental health. Through collaboration with local and international partners, numerous initiatives have been successfully implemented. However, challenges like organic certification remain a priority for future progress. The municipality remains committed to boosting agricultural productivity and improving farmer livelihoods through innovative and sustainable approaches.



Seedling Distribution to School Children Through AFRC

Sustainable Agro Forest Resource Centres in Mountain Areas of Nepal (SAAF-MAN)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2021 |
| Sponsors | EcoHimal Austria |
| Location | Aiselukharka and Rawabesi RM (Khotang) |

Sustainable Agrology through Agro Forest in Mountain Areas of Nepal for climate change mitigation, sustainable livelihood and environment protection

The project is under intervention from 2020 December for 3 years to improve the livelihoods of rural farmers through the capacity building and awareness on plantation, ecological farming and natural resource management practices and techniques. This is the replication of the success of the Deusa Agro Forest Resource Centre, Solukhumbu. The project aims to involve a wide range of trees that are protected, regenerated, planted, or managed in agricultural, marginal and forest landscapes as they interact with annual crops, livestock, wildlife, and humans providing food supplement and fresh air.

The project has made significant strides in promoting agro-forestry and sustainable agricultural practices, achieving substantial outcomes across various aspects of its implementation.

Institutional and Financial Sustainability: Four Agro-Forest Resource Centres (AFRCs) have been established with essential infrastructure, including offices, training halls, display rooms, stores, and toilets. These centres are operational and effectively support technology transfer and training. Management committees at these centres have developed and are executing business plans focused on seedling and vegetable production, leading to initial income generation. All AFRCs have generated income in this year by selling tree crops and vegetables seedlings – Aiselukharka (NPR 94,560), Dubekhol (NPR 62,745), Lamidanda (NPR 78,815) and Makpa (NPR 60,145). All four AFRCs are on the positive trend for their institutional and financial sustainability.

Cooperation and collaboration with local governments: Both local governments^{2,3} policies and programmes have been strongly influenced by the project's successes, and have adopted the project's agriculture

modalities and approaches. The project has been implementing joint programs (trainings, trees plantations, nurseries etc.) with 50% co-financing from local governments. Both local governments are committed to promoting tree cropping and allocating resources to subsidize local farmers for seedlings, agri-materials and other agri-inputs. The project has sensitized the local government representatives about agro-forestry and motivated the farmers to adopt the techniques introduced by the project. The local government's perception and behavioural practices in relation to layer cropping have changed, and appreciation of the value of tree cropping for long-term income



Vegetable Seed Bed Preparation at Satellite Nursery

generating opportunities has increased.

Promotion of Tree Crop Production: Farmers have increasingly embraced crop diversification and environmentally friendly practices. Many have adopted high-value tree and layer crop production, yielding both short-term and long-term income. For example, lead farmer Mr. Nawaraj Regmi earned €9,800 in the last two fiscal years from vegetables and seedlings.

Adoption of Improved Farming Technologies: Out of 4,124 trained farmers, 3,147 (76%) have implemented improved tree cropping technologies on their farms.

Techniques such as organic farming, intercropping, and bio-intensive practices are being widely adopted.

Demonstration of nurseries and plants: A total of 35 demonstration plots have been established across four AFRCs. Within two and a half years, many of these plots have begun producing fruits such as almonds, apples, plums, peaches, and lemons. In the AFRCs, 90 plants are flowering, and 69 are bearing fruit.

Skills and Technology Transfer: The project organized 163 training sessions for 4,124 local farmers, covering various aspects of agro-forestry, including bio-intensive techniques, citrus cultivation, pest management, and more.

Practical research and sharing findings:



Compost Bed Preparation Training at AFRC

Practical research on vegetable farming inside and outside the tunnel to compare the difference in production. Vegetables Production increased 57% more in protected structures than under open sky.

Farmers Field Schools: A total of 416 farmers field schools (FFSs) were conducted, where agriculture technicians addressed issues related to crop diseases, pest control, and other farming challenges.

Vegetable Intercropping: Vegetable production has been notably successful, with an average household yield of 254 kg. Lead farmers have generated income ranging from NPR 12,000 to NPR 157,800 from the sale of surplus vegetables. Layer cropping and organic farming methods have gained significant attention from the farmers and the

local governments as a sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practice. The local governments have endorsed the adoption of organic farming and layering farming in their annual programmes and policies. Many of the local farmers have been trained and are now capable of preparing and using organic manures, bio-pesticides and Bordeaux paste and mixtures, and this adoption of an organic culture is a positive change for future sustainability.

Agro-Forestry Gardens: Agroforestry gardens have been established in 12 secondary schools, with children actively involved in their creation and management. Schools based hands on skills learning process through the trainings and demonstrations in the gardens have fostered children's learning efficiency. Right in their school level, the children have been involved in learning process and have exercised environment-friendly improved farming technologies that has changed their behaviours and perceptions towards agriculture practices. Notably, Shree Kalika Basic School has set up a model garden and reserved NPR 21,465 from vegetable sales for student welfare.

Vegetable Seedlings Production and Distribution: A total of 167,624 vegetable seedlings were produced. Of these, 132,848 were distributed to 2,178 farmers, while 15,173 remain in stock for future distribution. The vegetable production was notable, with an average yield of 254 kg per household. Among the benefiting households, 77 lead farmers



Grafted Sapling Management at AFRC

generated income from the sale of surplus vegetables, with earnings ranging from a

minimum of NPR 12,000 to a maximum of NPR 157,800.

Fully operational 6 satellite nurseries (SLNs): Seventeen out of established seventeen satellite nurseries are fully established and in operation. Vegetables and seedling production have been prioritized providing seeds and agri-materials. The SLNs produced 50 tonnes of organic vegetables and 113,511 tree/vegetable seedlings in the last two harvests and have generated a total income of NPR 3,765,585/ (equivalent Euro 26,890).

Plantations and Survival Rates: The project has facilitated the planting of 143,759 tree, fodder, and forage seedlings across local communities. The survival rate of these seedlings is satisfactory at approximately 78%. The survival rate of seedlings planted have proved to be the most important key indicators of the success of promotion of agro-forestry. It attested the project's selection of tree species and promotion of tree crops on the basis of feasible geo-climatic conditions. The main technical reasons identified for seedling mortality are lack of irrigations, small size and unhealthy seedlings, mismatching species to site conditions, lack of weeding and poor plantation techniques.

Community Seed Bank: The Naba Bihani Women Group has revitalized a community-based seed bank, producing 12.3 tons of improved maize. They saved 1.11 tons for future cultivation and sold the remainder locally.

Fair trade, Value chain and marketing of agro-products: Thirty-two Kiwi growers have been skilled to process Kiwi in various consumer products organizing refresher and follow up trainings. Necessary resources for processing have been provided by the project in cooperation with local governments and connections with district and national level line agencies established.

Environmental Impact: The project has organized 14 plantation programs in Aiselukharka and Rawabesi RM, planting 19,737 seedlings across 3.09 hectares of land. Celebration of special days, festivals and birthdays through seedlings plantation by the local governments, AFRCs and project staff members have changed the people's perceptions.

Overall, the project has significantly advanced sustainable agricultural practices, enhanced local livelihoods, and promoted environmental stewardship through effective implementation and community engagement.

Himalayan Climate Resilient Initiatives Project (HCRI)

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | EcoHimal Austria |
| Location | Patlekhel (Dhulikhel Municipality) |

This project is initiated to institutionalize the success concept of Agroforestry in a local, regional, national level and beyond with a concept of demonstration farm where training, skill development, seed, seedling/sampling production. Based on the concept the Every Thing Organic Nursery Land (1814.35 sqm) has been purchased with Judith Chase on 9 June, 2023. The land separation has not been done with her partner and it was a complication to work in a joint property. After coordinating different donor partners, finally it is possible to purchase another piece of land (6470.45 sqm) from one of the major partner Mr. Naresh Pradhan and registered the land on 2024.01.21 AD. Now, in total EcoHimal has 8284.8 Sq. meter land in total.

The center is developing as a National Academy of agroforestry, central resource center of EcoHimal where agriculturist, researchers, lead farmers and visitors can learn and explore the agroforestry activities, different cropping systems and bio intensive methods that's has been applied in the farm. Two days long staff training was organized on 27th and 28th of July on fruit trees propagation methods. 12 technical staff from different resource center and project area were trained on different propagation methods in fruit trees.



Ongoing Construction of Improved Shed and Staff Quarter

Similarly, to flourish the farm as best agroforestry demonstrative model and knowledge center, training was organized to 10 US peace corps volunteer about fruit trees cultivation. Training was more focused on technical parts field based practical works in nursery management and care of seedlings, stratification and scarification methods for breaking seed dormancy, thatch house for seedling protection, air layering, grafting methods, inarching, training, pruning, identification of vegetative and fruiting bud, Bordeaux paste application in trees, manuring methods in trees were demonstrated and



Preparation of Thatch House for Seedling Protection and Care

practiced by the trainee.

Our National Agroforestry Academy is developing integrated farming system. Integrated farming system is a sustainable agricultural system that integrates livestock, crop production, fish, poultry, tree. crops, plantation crops and other systems that benefit each. other. It is based on the concept that 'there is no waste'. This system will be made familiar to farmers, encourage them for adopting which will gradually achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture throughout the villages. We are enhancing and demonstrating to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and

sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Twelve nursery plots are established for secondary nursery of 1550 cardamom in open field condition which was primarily in protected structure. Nursery established fruits has successfully grown and seedling transplanting is going on. 4500 seedlings of coffee transplantation have been completed and rest seedling transplantation is going on. Almost 6,000 of Nepali Hog plum are ready for transplanting in poly bags. For next summer plantation 12,000 seedlings of fruits and nuts will be ready for distribution.



Grafting Methods in Fruit Tree Propagation Training

10 different varieties of basil are planted in resource center for demonstration and seed collection that were imported from Germany. Others herbs and salads like chicory, Malabar spinach, citronella, lemon grasses are also planted around. Potting of herbal plants for selling will be managed soon.

For winter vegetable cultivation cabbage and cauliflower seedlings are kept for germination in seed house. Marigold seeds are also managed in nursery to use them as trap cropping in the field that will be helpful in organic farming and flower produced can be sold in Tihar and Chhath festivals. Herb i.e. Ashwagandha and butter tree nursery has been managed recently for germination in two nursery beds.

In this summer total 3,253 plants, which includes 143 different varieties of fruits and nuts seedlings, 760 spices and 2300 seedlings of fodder and forages and 150 Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) were planted around the resource center.

Five years business plan has been finalized where all the activities that will be carried out by the center is mentioned and targeted accordingly. As farm is in the first year of operation very few steps have been initiated as per business plan. Fruits and nuts nursery are being established for seedlings production. Vegetables is being produced in the center in small quantity where surplus has been sold. Total amount of NPR 31,150 has been generated from selling of 103.2 kg of vegetables and 225 fruits and nuts seedlings produced by the center. Seedling of fruits and nuts were sold to the visitors and supplied to our project area.

Around 60 kg of different seasonal vegetables like pea, beans, onions, potato and cucumber has been consumed at the center by staff. As center is in the beginning phase of production and commercialization its production will be increased slowly.

Improved breed of cow is being reared in the resource center. Milk has been sold in daily basis to the nearby milk collection center for two months. Till date the income has not been generated after some intervals its income and expenditure will be evaluated. 3 mother goats are reared which has given birth to two more kids. One he-goat, cross of Jamuna Pari and Khari has been added with the aim of breeding local goats as there is no goat for breeding in nearby village. It is both service oriented and income generative activity to the resource center. The manure from both cow and goats is being used for compost. Cow urine is being collected so that can be used for making organic liquid pesticide and spraying in crops to control the aphids and small pests. The cow and goats are shifted in improved shed constructed at center. The integration of



Training to US Peace Corps volunteer about fruit trees cultivation.

**

animal that has been in practice, a demonstration model will be developed in the center as there is plan for local poultry farming, turkey farming and fisheries.

Biogas model is going to be set up at improved cow shed for demonstration and encouragement for the farmers, guest and visitors that without any greenhouse gas emission from fossil fuels energy can be generated in ecofriendly environment. Excreta from animal's waste can be applied for biogas feeding which later can be reused for manure in plants. One energy can be multiplied in different forms in ecofriendly manner that can be taken as sustainable approach.

Five bee hives has been installed at different location in the farm. Primarily they are managed for honey production, but they are even more valued for the major role they play

in pollination of agricultural crops. As we have different seasonal fruits that flowers and bear fruits in different season that are loved by honey bees like butter tree, peach, plum etc. inter crops like rapeseed and buckwheat in the farm.



Bee Hives and Resource Center

Gender Friendly Agro-Forest Resource Center (GF-AFRC)

A well-equipped unique learning and sharing centre applying proven community based agro-forestry concept setup to address complex environmental and socio-economic issues. The basic physical infrastructure and grassroots institutional base has been setup to fulfil the need of local communities of Mahakulung Rural Municipality (MRM) as community learning Centre. The platform is being contributing in improving adoptive ability of mountain communities on climate change issues and its consequences. More than 1,483 lead farmers and women's agronomical knowledge and skill has been enhanced as local resources. Local communities especially women and youths have roadmap on self-employment opportunities along with technical knowledge and skills on agroecology. Within a limited one-year time duration of the project operation local famers have been motivated



towards adaptation of agro-forestry practices leading towards improving socio-economic status.

Demonstration of technologies (tree cropping, intercropping, layer cropping) in all established centres have motivated local farmers for the adaptation. The local farmers have been obtaining opportunities to replicate the demonstrated technologies in their farmlands. More than 59 field level trainings and 412 Farmers Field Schools (FFS) organized and trained 1,433 local farmers on agro-forestry

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Nepalhilfe Bonn e.V |
| Location | Mahakulung (Solukhumbu) |

and climate smart agriculture practices with knowledge on on-farm tree diversification - agro-forestry and agri-options; bio-intensive plantation; organic farming; nursery establishment; fruits farming etc. Similarly, 331 school children from 6 secondary schools educated on climate change, its effects and adaptation measures in line with improved agricultural practices.

Promotion of tree crops and capacity buildings of local farmers has inspired towards self-employment opportunities. More than 80% households have been aware on benefits of crop diversification and are motivated to adopt environment friendly farming practices. Majority of farmers have been capable to adopt high value tree and layer crop production in their farms.

Ward level five satellite centers are on the way for institutionalization. The installed green houses are in use for vegetables and seedlings production. All five centers are in operation thought women groups. The technical persons appointed in satellite centers are involved and are made responsible for overall management in guidance of women groups.

Total 48,120 vegetables seedlings by five centres produced, 25,929 self-planted and 22,191 distributed. From distribution, they generated sample income of NPR 36,740. Likewise, 1.73 tons vegetables produced, only 95 kg sold and generated income of NPR 1,875.

Mahakulung Rural Municipality, in collaboration with EcoHimal, has implemented a tea cultivation and nursery establishment program. During the winter season, 700 deciduous fruit and nut plants were distributed to local farmers. An orientation and training session on tea farming, including promotion, extension, and nursery management, was

organized by the Agriculture Section of Mahakulung Rural Municipality and EcoHimal Nepal, chaired by the Ward-1 Chairperson, Parkhi Dhan Rai. Farmers from all five wards of the municipality attended the orientation. Together, EcoHimal Nepal and Mahakulung Rural Municipality distributed a total of 10,800 tea seedlings: 6,500 provided by the Rural Municipality and 4,300 from EcoHimal's Khiraule AFRC. Additionally, EcoHimal distributed 6,000 tea seedlings independently, making for a total of 16,800 tea seedlings planted this season.

In the summer plantation phase, 4,324 summer fruit plants were provided to farmers based on their needs and requests. For this program, EcoHimal coordinated with the

respective wards, and technical staff collected demand data from the farmers. EcoHimal continues to support fruit and nut seedling distribution, promoting these crops as a viable option for generating high income with low investment over time.

Five satellite nurseries are producing various seedlings of fruit, nut, and fodder trees, with seed support provided by Khiraule Agroforest Resource Center. Local fruits available in the villages have also been preserved, collected, and used for seedling production. Technical staff regularly visit, train lead farmers on nursery management and seedling care, and monitor the nurseries. Currently, 9,490 seedlings are thriving across all satellite nurseries

Climate Change Adaptation Programme

EcoHimal, with financial support from The Glacier Trust, is advancing the Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Thulung Dudhkoshi and Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipalities of Solukhumbu district to deliver ecological and socio-economic benefits to rural farming communities. In the past two years (2023 and 2024), the program has prioritized the production of tree crop seedlings, planting a total of 153,261 seedlings. This includes 73,341 high-value tree crops and 79,920 fodders/forages. Additionally, twenty-one tree crop nurseries have been established at the Deusa Agriculture and Forest Resource Center (DAFRC) to supply seedlings for future winter and summer plantings. Seven more nurseries have been set up on lead farmers' farmlands, with an



Deusa AFRC

estimated production and sale of about 53,400 seedlings. Over the last two years, 343 local farmers have been trained in climate-resilient and smart agriculture technologies, with an additional

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | The Glacier Trust UK |
| Location | Thulung Dudhkoshi, Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipalities (Solukhumbu) |

119 farmers trained recently. Seven satellite nurseries are now operational, providing essential services.

A cold store has been established and is operational. It has stored 1.082 kg of mandarin, priced at NPR 50 per kg. Out of this, 730 kg of mandarin was sold at NPR 130 per kg, generating a total revenue of NPR 94,900. The ongoing establishment of a coffee processing plant in collaboration with EcoHimal, The Glacier Trust (TGT), and Thulung Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality at Mugli aims to serve all local coffee farmers. This plant will enhance coffee producers' incomes, improve livelihoods, and support climate adaptation. A new local cooperative has been formed to oversee the roastery and its operations. Procurement and transportation of equipment for hulling, sorting, roasting, and packaging are underway, with agreements in place with Total Machinery Pvt. Ltd. Major equipment, including a coffee hulling machine, grading machine, roasting machine, and coffee grinder, was handed over to resource center.

Additionally, a coffee revolving fund has been established, with NPR 1.2 million (0.6 million from local government and 0.6 million from EcoHimal) allocated to DAFRC. The DAFRC, serving as the coffee collection hub, has collected 2,041.9 kg of coffee parchment to date. This has generated an income of NPR 1,124,773 (£7,030) for 103 local coffee producers.

Chiwang Gumba (Monastery)-Sustainable Greenhouse for Organic Farming & Climate Resilience

The project "CHIWANG GUMBA (Monastery) - SUSTAINABLE GREENHOUSE FOR ORGANIC FARMING & CLIMATE RESILIENCE" was successfully completed with financial support from Friends of Nepal. It was carried out at Chiwang Gumba, a Buddhist monastery housing 65 to 75 male monks (55 young monks and rest senior monks who teach and supervise along with support staff) in Ward No. 4 of Solu Dudhkunda Municipality, Solukhumbu District. The project was closely supervised and mentored by the Deusa Agro-Forest Resource Centre (DAFRC).

The project aimed to provide green and organic vegetables to the monks of Chiwang Gumba, who had previously relied on purchasing vegetables from nearby Salleri, the district headquarters of Solukhumbu. These vegetables were often grown with chemical fertilizers and pesticides and sourced from



Training to Gumba's Monks from Senior Management of EcoHimal Nepal

nearby towns or imported from India.

The remote mountainous region poses significant challenges for survival and agriculture due to its cold climate, making open-air vegetable production difficult.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Friends of Nepal |
| Location | Solududhkunda Municipality (Solukhumbu) |

Protected structures are necessary to grow vegetables and crops in such conditions. To address this, the project implemented the construction of a greenhouse to enable year-round vegetable production (two-season rotation) in the relatively temperate climate of the monastery. Additionally, the project included capacity building for the monks in organic farming techniques. The project successfully provided green and organic vegetables to the monks at Chiwang Gumba and benefited over 125 local residents connected to the monastery.

A total of 23 tree crops, including 5 Gala apples, 4 walnuts, 3 pears, 3 peaches, 3 cherries, and 6 kiwis, were planted during the winter season and are currently thriving. The apple trees have begun flowering. The



Nursery Bed Preparation inside High Tech Poly House

management team conducted training sessions for monks, assistants, and community members on cutting, pruning, and orchard management to ensure proper care and maintenance of the orchard.

Over 1,705 kg of vegetables were produced and consumed from two harvests, with cabbage being a major standing crop at the moment. This substantial yield has significantly contributed to fulfilling the nutritional requirements of the monks residing in the monastery. It achieved its objective of

**

promoting climate-smart agriculture through the use of protected structures, establishing a sustainable means to supply green vegetables, and fostering long-term benefits.

Following the success of this project, the model has begun to be replicated in

neighboring villages in collaboration with DAFRC. Additionally, there has been an increased demand for greenhouses from local farmers in Solu Dudhkunda Municipality as a direct consequence of the project's success.

Spices for Health

The project promotes sustainable spice production – especially cardamom and Szechuan pepper. By increasing the quality of the product, it is possible to sell it at a fair price, thus improving the income of the local small farmers. The aim of the project is to help small farmers in the region to optimize their spice production and to increase their income by selling them at a fair price. A sustainable infrastructure is needed to improve production according to international standards.

Increased technical knowledge among local farmers has encouraged the adoption of climate-resilient spices farming over subsistence methods, enhancing productivity and combating food insecurity.



Pre-FAM Trip to Bahara Pokhari, Lamjung

The region's potential for growing pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, garlic, turmeric, and ginger has been widely promoted, with virgin lands now cultivated with spices. Organic farming practices have boosted household incomes, while new farmer and spice groups have been established and strengthened. Two cooperatives have begun collecting and marketing spices. Financial incentives have spurred farmers to adopt advanced cultivation techniques, fostering livelihood diversification and improving production, processing, and marketing methods. Collaboration with local governments, agencies, cooperatives, and financial institutions has been notably effective. Local products, cuisine, and

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Lufthansa Help Alliance, EcoHimal Austria |
| Location | Khandachakra and Mahawai (Kalikot), Maryandi in Lamjung, Beni in Myagdi District |

tourism options are actively promoted, with innovations such as intercropping, farmers' field schools, and spice nurseries proving benefits. Following are the achievements in summary:

- Local farmers organized into 18 spices groups and two cooperatives, trained in eco-friendly improved farming practices.
- 239 farmers adopted climate-resilient spices farming, cultivating garlic, ginger, turmeric, and more. The income of 17 local farmers increased up to NPR 36,000 through climate-resilient spices production, processing, and marketing. More than 191 farmers are expected to generate income soon.
- 462 farmers gained access to climate-smart, water-efficient spices farming technologies and skills.
- Planted 5,032 Szechuan pepper seedlings and cultivated spices on over 16 acres for climate adaptation.
- Educated 521 school children on sustainability and transformative changes in spices production and climate adaptation.
- Established two cooperatives with reserved funds for marketing farmers' produce and promoting local agro-enterprise.
- Twenty-four households established homestays, diversifying income through improved hospitality and eco-tourism. Till the reporting period, more than 931 local, national and international tourists benefited with homestays services. Twenty-four households have already generated about NPR 931,000/ (approx. Euro 6,650) from their services.
- Developed and integrated appropriate travel itineraries into local government plans.
- Replicated eco-tourism model aligned with pepper in Myagdi district, forming a women-led homestay management committee.

Clean Cooking Stove Solution Project (CCSP)

The aim of this project was to contribute in improving the health status of women and children in rural areas by providing improved kitchen stoves. It has targeted to reduce firewood consumption and to contribute in the reduction of diseases and health issues caused by smoke during cooking and heating. Project initiation workshop in Mahawai Rural Municipality, Kalikot was conducted on 5th February, 2023 in participation of 48 people - elected local government and representatives, officials and stakeholders. The project modalities, approach, project results and project budget were shared. Agreement with the local government carried out. Required documents for the project approval from Social Welfare Council (SWC) prepared, submitted



Local Beneficiary Using Improved Cooking Stove

and obtained project approval.

This project was the replication and extension of the previous success of the cooperation between EcoHimal Nepal and EcoHimal – Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Zusammenarbeit e.V in mountain region (Bhotkhola Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasava)– promotion of improved cooking stoves (ICSs) in 24 households empowering them on environment conservation and climate change adaptation. The project was planned and designed as replication of the success in mountain village of Karnali Province. A detailed survey study applying Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | EcoHimal – Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Zusammenarbeit e.V |
| Location | Mahawai Rural Municipality (Kalikot) |

was undertaken in 15 clusters of the ward number 7 of Mahawai Rural Municipality in January, 2023 in collaboration and direct involvement of villagers, local government and other relevant stakeholders. Study emphasized on cooking practices, IAP, public health, women health, hygiene, sanitation, training and institutional strengthening, gender and social inclusion. Selection of beneficiary households was done on the basis of findings of the survey. A comprehensive report was prepared and shared to Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Zusammenarbeit e.V.

A local level group – Lagansil Krishak Samuha formed as local project implementation partner comprising all targeted 50 households, was made responsible for local level decisions (selection of beneficiary households, ICS distribution, organization of trainings, orientation and other initiatives etc.)

Our local staff prepared and intervened the activities in line with the decisions made by the group in coordination with local government and concerned authorities. A bipartite meeting with N.Y.S Engineering and Construction Pvt. LTD carried out in 28th December, 2022 and finalized the ICS model for Kalikot district. And agreement conducted on 1st January, 2023 to fabricate 50 full metallic ICSs with insulated hot water tank as per the approved quotation.

Several monitoring visits to the factory during fabrication of ICSs were carried out. The project manager along with management team members conducted monitoring and inspection of the fabrication. After completion of fabrication, transportation of ICSs arranged via a container. Distribution of ICSs to the targeted households organized in leadership of Lagansil Krishak Samuha in cooperation with local government. A local young man, Mr. Deuram Tiruwa, from the village was taken to the factory in Kathmandu for practical training on installation and maintenance. Two days training was provided to Mr. Tiruwa, prepared him as technical resource person, visual

presentation of the installation archived and sent him to the village along with fabricated ICSs.

A video documentary on proper installation prepared and shared with the purpose of transferring installation techniques. Installation steps with several informative techniques have been shared. All 38 households trained and oriented on proper installation.

Two ICSs are in stock in agro-forest resource centres (AFRCs) in Mahawai and Khandachakra. They will be installed after completion of construction of buildings in AFRCs. Installation in AFRCs is planned to demonstrate the model to wider audience for replication.

ICS women group was formed as the local partner for overall local management-transportation, installation and maintenance. The group was formed involving all 38 households as members through a community workshop.

Technical resource person trained and prepared for ICS installation ensuring the sustainability and cost effectiveness. The households tried to install the stoves in supervision of resource person. But the resource person migrated to low land for employment opportunities. Thus, EcoHimal

sent an experienced technical expert from Solukhumbu for proper installation of both ICS and heating water facility. All households have been skilled for minor maintenance during installation. Necessary skills for installation, operation and repair were transferred to them.

All households have installed ICSs. All ICSs are in use for cooking and heating purpose.



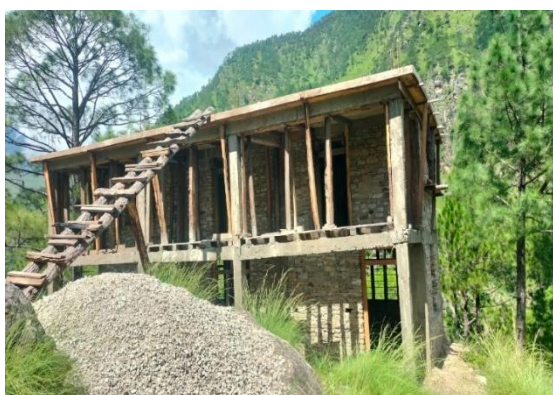
Hot Water Tank of ICS Fabrication

Field based technical supervision and monitoring was carried out by the EcoHimal staff members. The project monitored and provided necessary support and input for the proper installation of ICS along with hot water containers. During the instalment process, an individual household was also trained on the installation, operation and maintenance.

Youth Learning Center

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | EcoHimal – Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Zusammenarbeit e.V |
| Location | Mahawai Rural Municipality (Kalikot) |

The project is under implementation in cooperation with the Mahawai Rural Municipality of Kalikot District in financial support of **Ecohimal Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Zusammenarbeit e.V.** It



aims to establish youth's foundation hub providing opportunity to enhance knowledge, skills and resources. It will support local socioeconomic development and improvements through youth empowerment. The main objective of the project is: Social and economic transformation developing entrepreneurship through Youth Learning Centre. The casting of first slab has already completed and further work is going on.

The project comprises a community building construction, youth's organization and empowerment through RM level network, organization of different vocational and technical skills-based trainings, community harmony through socialization of youths at community level and conduction of outdoor activities focusing youth's involvement.

The key focus of the youth learning centre (YLC) is promoting social and economic development through youth

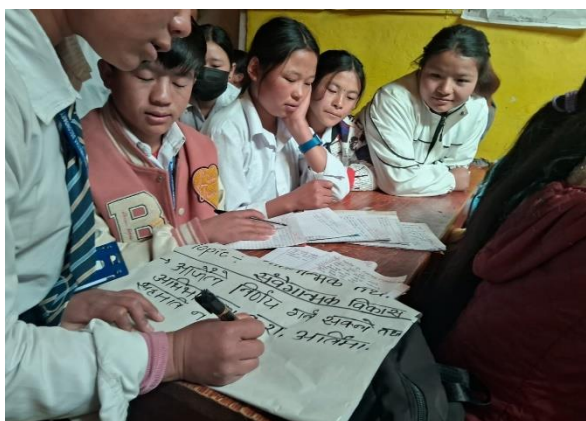


empowerment. The centre will focus on youth who are economically, socially and hands-on-skill wise disadvantaged. Through YLC the youths are inspired, empowered and make resourceful to create opportunity locally leading to prosperity. The centre provides access to relevant information, knowledge, skills, resources, increasing self-employment and economic opportunity to deprived youth. It is a lifelong learning centre of the community that is based and run locally as per their need and aspiration.

Youth focused capacity building (practical and skill-oriented and interlinking it with labour) initiatives in YLC create skilful and confident youths who are capable of at least earning general livelihood applying their acquired skills. The CCL is established as a local social institution to promote youth entrepreneurship and engagement through skill oriented and vocational trainings. To create employment opportunities within or outside their village, emphasis is given on agriculture, agro industries, tourism, entrepreneurship and other hands-on skills. In general, the YLC serves as community

Gender Friendly Himalayan School Project (GFHSP)

The project aims to contribute substantially to improve health and education status of rural children, especially poor and marginalized girls. The project is implemented in six municipalities/rural municipalities- Khadachakra Municipality, Mahawai Rural Municipality, Turmakhad Rural Municipality, Dhakari Rural Municipality, Mahakulung Rural Municipality and Rawabesi Rural Municipality of four districts (Kalikot, Acchham, Solukhumbu and Khotang) in financial support of Help Alliance. A detailed baseline assessment carried out before programme implementation mobilizing the project staff, collected data and information analysed to overview the initial situation in all 78 schools for six rural/municipalities in four districts.



ASRH Training to Adolescent Girls and Boys

Skills and knowledge among key community members and school representatives were significantly enhanced fostering a supportive and empowering environment within schools. A total of 3,629 school girls and boys received training on various Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) issues, significantly increasing their awareness. Additionally, out of 274 children benefiting from scholarships, increasing school attendance.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Lufthansa Help Alliance via EcoHimal Austria |
| Location | Mahakulung, Rawabesi, Trumakhand, Dhakari, Khandachakra, Mahawai |



Gender Friendly Toilet Inauguration at Amar Jyoti School

The Bhasa school is upgraded from basic to nearing three stars as per the government standard. The installation of gender-friendly toilets (73 toilet rooms) in 17 schools has positively impacted the 5,335 children. Similarly, 16 drinking water schemes are completed, enhancing sustainability and health outcomes. Furthermore, the provision of pure and safe drinking water in these schools has positively affected the lives of 5,890 children. The aim of alleviating health risks associated with inadequate sanitation, particularly for girls is achieved in those schools. All 78 AGGs are actively managing solid waste.

Teacher training in ASRH has strengthened the knowledge and confidence of 73 male and 76 female teachers, while 224 School Management Committee (SMC) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) representatives have gained capacity in School Improvement Plan (SIP) formulation and social auditing.

Following training on essential nutrition, 2,446 students have shown improved understanding and healthier eating habits, with increased interest in home gardening. In total 567 students, established nutrition gardens at their homes, planting 2,455 fruit and ornamental seedlings in 51 schools.

At the community level, 363 mothers received training on basic nutrition concepts. Moreover, a



One-day Essential Nutrition Training to School Children

three-day food processing and entrepreneurship training enhanced the skills of 236 individuals in food preservation and packaging, creating linkages with school meal programs and community events. This initiative has also seen the incorporation of locally available raw materials into daily school routines.

Additionally, 78 Adolescent Girls Groups (AGGs) were formed, out of which 59 were reformed during the year. These groups, along with ASRH education initiatives, are integral to promoting life skills and leadership among adolescents. All 76 schools have established Girls' Comfort Rooms (GCRs), providing essential SRH information and support, with plans underway to set up in the remaining schools. As a great achievement, **"Adolescent Girls with Mayor"** program is initiated by Khadachakra Municipality as a project influence.

Five out of six skilled lead women are actively working to raise awareness among school children and women about reusable sanitary kits. All lead women have been supported with necessary tools and resources for sanitary kit production. According to the bi-partite agreement with EcoHimal, they produced 1472 sanitary kits and 1402 have been distributed among students, local government representatives, mothers and women's groups, female community health volunteer, and focal

teachers.

The active involvement of SMC/PTA members in ASRH, nutrition, and WASH activities underscores their commitment to school development.



Meeting with AGG members

Furthermore, two model agroforestry resource centers are operational, with notable successes in vegetable production and income generation through sales of vegetables. In total 2,155 school children are trained in improved agricultural techniques for vegetable and fruit production contributing to sustainable food practices and skills development among students. Six more agroforestry resource centers are under process to be installed in six schools.

Finally, comprehensive efforts have also targeted educating children on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) through specialized training sessions, contributing to broader health education and awareness within project areas. The drafting of a WASH plan in all six local government has been completed and shared for feedback. The nutrition boot camp in Dhakari Rural Municipality became a platform to bring local food and produce. The women, children, representatives of the local government, and the general public benefited by the concept and opportunities. The local government has taken a lead so it was effective for beneficiaries and the authority. This initiative opened up the door to



Agreement done with Tila Awaj Radio Program



Food Processing Training to Women

**

organizing in the other project areas. raise the awareness among the beneficiaries
Radio programs **Swostha Kshitiz** “Healthy and wider public outside of the project.
Horizon” from six radios are being beneficial to

Rural Health Support Project (RHSP)

The objective of the project is to provide increased and more equitable access to quality health services, and better management of public health situation in Mahakulung rural municipality of Solukhumbu district. Providing required essential medicines in the local health facilities in cooperation with local government is assisting the local health institutions in health services provisions.

Rural Health Support project has been running for two years. The second year of project has been implemented with considerable



Health Post Monitoring by Professionals from Pharmacists without Border

satisfaction applying the lessons learned from the first year. The first year's planned activities have been completed and budget has been well managed. During this period, EcoHimal is able to bring together local government and district level line agencies, visited local health facilities together, enabling them to bridge the gap between local and district level authorities. After six years, district health office delegate was able to visit Mahakulung Rural Municipality (RM) local health facilities (HF). The relationship between health facilities and district authorities is now strongly bonded after the joint project review by district health office,

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | Pharmacists without Borders |
| Location | Mahakulung RM (Solukhumbu) |

District Hospital and EcoHimal in presence of the local government representative.

The capacity building of health personnel in clinical hygiene, photosensitivity, photo allergic reactions, and stock card imparted knowledge that they were not given before. All the HFs are applying the training knowledge, and knowledge is found to be shared amongst each other, especially to their subordinate.

All six health facilities are now equipped with the necessary logistics that were previously unmet by the government system. This improvement has reduced the shortages and disparities between rural and urban healthcare systems. Consequently, community members now have equitable access to healthcare, and the curative health system has seen significant improvement. Gaps in health service is reduced due to the availability of efficient health service providers. Common illness has been easily diagnosed and treated after the medicines and equipment availability. Quality care is closely linked to patient satisfaction. Additionally, health service providers are now able to treat a greater number of patients due to their increased efficiency.

Essential medicines were handed over to health facilities after verifying the demand list with the health section in charge of MRM. The handover event took place at each health facility on various dates from May 8th to May 11th, with the presence of Ms. Barbara Weinmuller and Ms. Ute Norwig. In total, 39 varieties of medicines were provided to Mahakulung Hospital, 18 varieties to Gudel Health Post (HP), eight to Khiraula Community Health Unit (CHU), six to Tumau BHSC, five to Chheskam HP, and four to Pelmang BHSC. A fixed demand list of medicines has been finalised sitting together with hospital staff mainly in charge, pharmacist and nurse.



Basic Essential Medicine Handover to Health Post

Similarly, all health facilities were supported with the following medical equipment:

- Autoclave
- Patient Monitor
- Glucometer
- Heater
- Digital Thermometer
- Nebuliser
- Penguin Suction
- Baby weighing machine
- Stretcher
- BP set
- ENT set
- Crutch
- Sling
- Forcep
- Pulse Oximeter
- Scissor
- Trolley Table
- Gally pot
- Window screen
- Cotton Box
- Torch Light.

Health service providers from all health facilities of MRM received training from Ms. Barbara Weinmuller and Ms. Ute N. The training covered two key topics: “Use of Antimicrobials and Antibiotic Resistance” and “Tasks, Possibilities, and Limitations of an Incinerator.”

Training on Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance: Monthly evaluations were conducted by reviewing antibiotic usage reports from the health facilities. Despite awareness efforts, patients often neglect prescribed guidelines, leading to misuse of antibiotics. So, the training emphasized the appropriate use of antibiotics and the challenges posed by antibiotic resistance.

Training on Incinerator Use: The incinerator at Mahakulung Hospital has been established as a model for waste management in Solukhumbu. It is crucial that this facility



Auto Clave Handover to Health Post

operates efficiently, not only for hospital waste but also for waste generated by all health facilities. Staff from each health facility were trained on the importance of transporting and treating waste at the incinerator before disposal. The training session also involved community representatives, including female community health volunteers, health management committee members, and local government representatives such as ward chairs, ward secretaries, and ward members. This comprehensive approach ensured that all stakeholders understood their roles in effective waste management and antibiotic stewardship.

AOG Volunteers and EcoHimal jointly visited all six health facilities in which they monitored different aspects like medicine stocks and storage, waste management practice, storekeeping, hygiene and sanitation, use of medicines, expiry status, medical equipment use and their physical condition. The event happened from 8th to 11th of May 2024.

After visit, a meeting was organised with local government representative, chief administrative officer Mr Nabin Gole and health section in charge Mr Hari Acharya to give the visit feedbacks and the extension of the current RHSP project.

EcoHimal Academy

The project is under implementation in financial support of Kindermissionswerk, Germany since April, 2023 right after bi-partite agreement with the donor organization. This project aims to provide holistic scholarship to the students previously residing at Child Care Club (CCC). The guardianship of children was successfully transferred from Child Care Club (CCC) to respective families of children fulfilling the necessary documentation and procedures following



Refreshment Visit for School Level Children

the assessment report and its findings.

EcoHimal completed the procedures (family visits, coordination with local governments and National Child Rights Council) to reintegrate the children for holistic scholarship scheme. The guardians applied for a holistic support for continuing education in assistance of EcoHimal. On the basis of the formal request and necessary documents (request letter, recommendation letters from local government etc.) an understanding paper with all related guardians worked out and signed. The paper states their responsibilities and commitments. It was

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Start | 2023 |
| Sponsors | EcoHimal Austria and Kindermissionswerk. |
| Location | Kathmandu |

explained in person organizing an introductory meeting in Kathmandu together with children and guardians. Right after the meeting, a school (BHCH) visit was



One-day Visit of Students at Garden of Dreams

organized to the parents and children together. This visit served the dual purpose of familiarizing parents with the school environment and allowing them to meet the school principal and management, thereby strengthening their connection with the school. Out of 16 children residing in CCC, only 12 children and other 6 children out of CCC became ready to reintegrate in our academic scholarship scheme. Formal agreement with Bright Horizon Children Home School (BHCH) carried out on 13th April, 2023 to accommodate the children with full board and holistic care. 10 children (5 girls and 5 boys) are currently studying in Bright Horizon Children's Home School (BHCH)– two students on grade 10, two students on grade 9, four students on grade 7 and two students on grade 5 and 8 students outside BHCH- four students on plus two level, three students on bachelor level and one student in grade 9.



Children under Holistic scholarship

Construction of School and Hostel Buildings of Disabled Resources Class School

Location Thulibheri Municipality (Dolpa)

EcoHimal Nepal in financial support of EcoHimal and Forum for the Welfare of Himalayan Children Nepal completed the construction of school and hostel buildings of Disabled Resource Class School project in Dhurba Tara Basic School, Thulibheri Municipality, Dolpa District. The construction has been completed in coordination with construction committee, School Management Committee, Mukuteshwor Sewa Samaj and local government in accordance with the design, standards and specifications approved from local government.

The project fulfilled its aim to provide the environment for the differently able children to be in the best possible place for study and stay. The project provided every differently



Completed School Building

able children (DACs) with learning opportunities and challenges in a safe place to build their confidence and self-esteem and set them on the road to a fulfilling future. Special educational needs; be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and learn will be pleased after safe and conducive physical infrastructures construction. The constructed infrastructures have ensured the provision of safe, inclusive

and accessible learning environments and safeguarded inclusion and accessibility of DACs. The built environment has empowered the children with disabilities to participate fully in life at school and they are filling secure that



Completed construction of Disable Friendly Toilet

supports in their progress to independence. The 24 children in need of schooling that were under parenthood of Mukuteshwor Sewa Samaj (MSS) have been already enrolled in



Happy Children at Their New Class

the constructed buildings and they have begun studying in the new class rooms. They are satisfied and are happy, are very grateful towards EcoHimal and its donor organizations.

Start 2023

Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sponsors | Kindermissionswerk. |
| Location | Andhikhola Rural Municipality (Syanja) |

This project aims to improve child health consolidating the corresponding measures in local governance in Aandhikhola Rural Municipality, Syangja with financial support of Kindermissionswerk. The project has made significant strides in transforming the situation from its initial state. Initially, there was a dilemma, but now Andhikhola Rural Municipality (ARM) has embraced the project as its own initiative. This change indicates a shift from uncertainty to commitment towards declaring ARM as a Child Friendly Local Government by 2026 AD.

Initially, there were no active child clubs. Now, there are 53 child clubs operating at both community and school levels, with 38 clubs in the community and 15 in schools. This increase signifies a proactive effort in fostering child participation and empowerment.

The project has successfully raised awareness about Child Friendly Local Governance

(CFLG) through seven workshops conducted at municipal and ward levels. These workshops engaged locally elected representatives, law enforcement agencies, teachers, health workers, police, and other stakeholders. This initiative has likely enhanced understanding and commitment to child protection and welfare.

A significant achievement includes the drafting and endorsement of “Child-friendly code of conduct” and “Child protection promotion guidelines” by the Rural Municipal Executive. This formalizes policies aimed at safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a supportive environment within the municipality.

Overall, from initial uncertainties and lack of resources, the project has effectively mobilized stakeholders, secured financial backing, established community and school-level participation structures, raised awareness, and developed crucial policy frameworks.



Rural Municipality Based Orientation Program on Child Friendly Local Governance