

Layer Farming for Adaptation Project (LFAP)

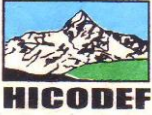
(Cultivating and marketing high value crops to improve food security enhance livelihoods and adapt to climate change in Nepal)

2nd Quarterly Report

(Jan 2023 – March 2023)



**Submitted by: Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF) Kawasoti,
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Background

Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF) has partnered with The Glacier Trust (TGT) in south-central Nepal to enable climate change adaptation in the remote mountain villages of the Siwalik range since 2009. HICODEF's work in this region have enabled people to increase their resilience to the growing impacts of various climate change. Since from 15 Sept 2019, this project has been implemented by HICODEF in the support of TGT and in close collaboration with local farmers. The first phase of the project worked in three villages (Ripaha, Mathillo Baseni and Lahape) during 15 Sept 2019 to 14 Sept 2021. Now HICODEF & TGT have agreed to extend the project second phase in adjoining villages of Dhoubadi, Pokhari, Dulunga and Charghare. These villages fall under two adjoining Rural Municipalities namely Hupsekot and Boundikali of Nawalparasi (east) district. The second phase of the project is being implementing during 15 Sept 2021 to 14 Sept 2024.

Through this project we have reached further remote villages in the foothills of the Himalayas. This is an area of dangerously low food security. Climate change and inequality are exacerbating these problems significantly in this area. Coffee can be grown with other high value crops, root vegetables and fruits across the Himalayan foothills as a climate change adaptation and livelihood improvement strategy. Coffee is grown using the organic 'layer farming' method so that coffee is inter-cropped with fruits, vegetables and other high value crops to vastly improve income, diet and resilience to climate change. Through this project, we are facilitating to enable farmers to grow coffee commercially for the first time in the locality which is already seen in the first phase. There were a few coffee trees in the area planted years ago, the people did not know how to use and where to sell their products. Since last two years, a few of the farmers could sell their coffee parchments they produced while the coffee trainer himself facilitated the sale. This is continued this period as well and the sale volume has reached 264 KGs, this season.

We know that most of the time of last two years were spent in very critical situation due to the global pandemic of COVID-19. All the socio- economic condition of the people was adversely affected by the COVID -19 pandemic. The rural setting and activities also affected due to lack of transportation and financial activities and we were adversely affected in this project as well and could not do close support/monitoring as intended. Now the situation is much better as the mobility and activities of the people have been normalized. The communities have resumed to involve themselves in income generation activities, production, providing services; all educational institutions have started their classes. All the activities of project have been started smoothly. The project activities have also resumed its normalcy to deliver physically at field level with essential health precautions.

This report refers for the activities implemented in 2nd quarter between Jan 2023 to March 2023 in the community of Dhoubadi, Pokhari, Dulunga, Baseni & Ripaha villages of Hupsekot Rural Municipality & Lahape village of Boudikali Rural Municipality.

Major activities have been done during this period

1. Farmers groups Meeting
2. Exposure visit of coffee Farmers
3. Coffee cultivation & production Training
4. School engagement programme
5. Facilitation for coffee parchment preparation and selling

Activities implementation and achievements

1. Farmers groups Meeting

Farmer groups meetings & follow-up is a continuous activity of the project. We sit together, discuss & decide with farmers on newly implementing activities before its implementation in the project site. We also review & go through the implemented or conducted activities in these meetings. During this period we conducted 7 meeting of farmers groups. There were 203 (80F 123 M.) participants in 7 farmers' groups meetings. In this meeting we discussed & decided/planned about the farmer's exposure visit, the Training of coffee farming & cultivation, date, venue, participation and selection of farmers for tunnel farming & HDPE tank distribution, coffee cherry picking, pulping, parchment preparation, marketing and selling. As the decision of the meetings, we were able to conduct exposure visit, coffee cultivation training on time with active participation of farmers. As a result, farmers are picking & pulping coffee cherry, made parchment & sold on time as per the agreed plan. Farmers are identified/selected for tunnel farming & HDPE Tank distribution support. Newly planted coffee saplings are properly cared, watered and fertilized.



Farmers groups Meetings in Dhoubadi and Charghare

2. Exposure visit of coffee Farmers.

During this reporting period a five days exposure visit was organized for representative coffee farmers of our working areas. Eleven farmers (11 Male) and 2 staff of HICODEF have participated in this exposure visit. To motivate the farmers for commercial coffee farming, to identify & access the coffee parchment markets, linkage & coordination with coffee buyer were the main objectives of the exposure visit. During this exposure visit we made visit into a coffee parchment buyer & a big commercial coffee Garden, 1 coffee pulping center, organic compost Pvt. LTD in Gorkha and National Tea & coffee development board of Nepal, Regional office Pokhara. The participants interacted with the farmers there and made direct observation of their activities. The participants got chance to learn, know & identify all the chain of coffee farming system. They made access, alternate linkage for coffee parchment selling. They are able to know Coordinate with government line agency, coffee farming related facilities taking process from the government. After the visit, the participants are very excited for commercial coffee farming. Participant details of visit are as follows.

Project Site	Participants			HICODEF	Total
	Total	Male	Female		
Dhoubadi	3	3	0		
Pokhari	2	2	0		
Charghare	3	3	0		
Dulunga	3	3	0		
Total	11	11	0	2 Male (ED & PC)	13

Detail of Visit schedule:

SN	Proposed Activities	proposed Date	Gate	Days	Visit Site	Night stay Place
1	Trvel to kawasoti	1March ,2023	Falgun 17,2079	1	Travel	Night stay at kawasoti
2	Travel to Gorkha& coffee Farm & company visit	2March ,2023	Falgun 18,2079	1	1 coffee Farm & company, Organic concent pvt Palungtar 9 Dhukot sera bazar	Sudip Pandey manager 9840425976 & Santosh pokheral 9813534334 Night stay at kathmanduGorkha
3	Travel to Pokhara sight visit	3March ,2023	Falgun 19,2079	1	1 coffee Garden , Tea & coffee Development Board malepatan pokhara 1coffee cooperatiove	Visit to Coffee Garden of tea & coffee development Board Prem acheraya 9846149170 & Taya Rai 9860961221,061536123,550422 Night stay at pokhara
4	pokhara site visit & Return to kawasoti	4March ,2023	Falgun 20,2079	1	Important place of pokhara	Visit to Major religious site & Market of pokhara Night stay at kawasoti
5	Return to on own site	5March ,2023	Falgun 21,2079	1	Travel	Return to their home

A glance of Exposer visit.



Discussion about the objective of visit at Gorkha coffee farm



Coffee garden observation , Gorkha



Coffee Nursery & pulping center observation



Tea & coffee development board, Pokhara



Coffee garden & Nursery observation in Pokhara.

3. Coffee cultivation & production Training

According to our plan we had to conduct 4 events of coffee cultivation & production training during this quarter. As per our agreed plan we organized 4 events of Coffee cultivation & production trainings; one each in Dhoubadi, Charghare, Pokhari & Dulunga. Two days' training were separately organized in each of the four sites of the project area. Mr. Mitha Ram Jamakatel was the main facilitator of these trainings. He is a grass-root level (farmer's level) trainer of coffee farming, who himself is working in coffee production in Lalitpur district. History of coffee cultivation, varieties of coffee & its nature, Environmental aspects & Location for coffee farming, coffee nursery & plantation, Garden management, coffee pest pesticides & diseases, coffee harvesting, coffee bean processing technique & its marketing were the major contents of the training. The training was conducted through lecture, presentation, practical exercise methods on the existing/yielding coffee plants in the village. A total of 106 (56 F. 50 M.) farmers participated in the four sites of the trainings. Among them 1 persons belongs from Dalit ethnicity and the rest 105 persons were Magars. The participants were very much excited for the training as they saw coffee yield and market opportunity. After the training all the participants committed to plant some coffee plants in their field. And at the end of training a coffee seedling Nursery (Approximately 3000 seedling capacity) has been established in each site of training.

The table below details the numbers of Participants in each training.

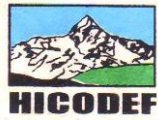
Training conducted Date	Training Site	No. of Participant		
		Total	Female	Male
11-12 Mar, 2023	Dhoubadi	23	19	14
14-15 Mar, 2023	Charghare	32	21	11
16-17 Mar, 2022	Pokhari	24	10	14
19-20 Mar, 2022	Dulunga	27	16	11
Total		106	56	50

- **Coffee cultivation Training at a Glance (Dhoubadi)**



- Coffee Training at Charghare village





- Coffee Training at Pokhari



- Coffee Training at Dulunga





4. School engagement programme

As per the project plan, conducted school engagement program in the 2 schools of the project sites namely Dhoubadi, & Charghare) during this period. There were students of 1-10 grades in Dhoubadi (Shree Shiksha Bodhani secondary School, Hupsekot 5, Dhoubadi) and students of 1-5 grades in Charghare (Shree Bal Jagaran Primary School Hupsekot 4 Charghare). The whole students were divided into 4 houses (groups) in each School. The groups were given house names as *Red, Yellow, Blue and Green for their identity*. Each group has selected one Group Leader from the students. The groups have been cared & facilitated by a house teachers.

During this period the project has provided some essential sanitary materials (Dust bins, litter picking shovel, Toilet cleaning brushes) for the both Schools. 90 students (38 F & 52 M) & 16 teachers (9 F & 7 M) are directly benefited from this activity. All the materials have been used for maintaining school sanitation.



Dust bin & sanitary materials Handover to schools Dhoubadi & Charghare.

5. Facilitation for coffee parchment preparation and selling

The communities of Lahape, Baseni, Ripaha, Pokhari, Charghare, Dulunga and Dhoubadi had produced some coffee parchment from previous years in traditional method. They have not approached market to sale their small scale coffee production so far. Partially, they used this parchment for their domestic consumption purpose and partially it was wasted. Keeping this thing in mind, our project organized coffee cultivation & processing training in these sites. Through the project, we provided coffee pulper machine, made regular follow-up, did coaching & feedback for coffee cherry picking, pulping to prepare coffee parchment. After getting the Pulper machine, regular feedback & follow-up, they started fresh cherry pulping. Now they have started to make coffee parchment as much as possible. The farmers of our working areas had sold 152 kg in last year. After the training & follow-up the numbers of domestic coffee users' farmers, production of coffee parchment have increased. They (34 Farmers of 7 sites) have sold 264 KG coffee parchment this period at the rate of Rs. 400/KG. After getting income from coffee parchments, farmers are encouraged for coffee seedling plantation now. Below are the details of coffee parchment sold:

Project site	Parchment preparing HHs	Sold parchment in KG
Lahape	9	108
Baseni	6	46
Dulunga	3	9
Ripaha	7	43
Dhoubadi	6	51
Pokhari	1	3
Charghare	2	4
Total	34	264



Coffee parchments ready for sell & sold at doorstep

Challenges faced

- Due to the frost some coffee seedling have been died in Dhoubadi & Pokhari. So some farmers are discouraged for coffee plantation and scaling up.
- There are big problem of water in Dhoubadi & Pokhari. It will be a challenge to scale-up coffee plantation in these area unless we seek some alternate of irrigation.

Next quarter plan

- Continue Framers Groups Meetings
- Plant Clinic/ on-site technical support
- Irrigation tank & Tunnel Distribution
- School engagement program.
- Continue support to coffee parchment selling.
- Coffee nursery monitoring & coaching for management.
- Support to Coffee seedling plantation.