



Strengthening of Community Seed Production Groups (CSPG) in Nepal

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Sustainable Development Goals	No poverty, zero hunger, sustainable cities and communities and life on land

Summary

This practice demonstrates how strengthening the Community Seed Production Groups (CSPG) helps to produce quality seeds, and improves the capacity of the community seed bank with revolving funds and storage facilities for future use.

Description

Farmers have been growing the same seeds of crop varieties for many years without replacement. As a result, seeds' quality has deteriorated. For successful production of quality seeds, farmers need to be organized in Community Seed Production Groups (CSPG) under a Community Seed Bank (CSB) scheme.

The programme aims to provide food grain exchange for seeds and credit to allow the community to store seeds for the next season. This practice will either provide space to participating farmers to store their seeds in big silos or mini seed houses or collect the seeds produced by farmers at reasonable prices and store them in a community seed storage facility.

Since community seed banks will bear the costs of cleaning, storage and fumigations, they will charge some nominal fee that will be deposited in revolving fund. Farmers are provided inputs and soft production loans to allow them produce quality seeds.

Member farmers will also be provided training and technical know-how on seed production, storage and marketing. The community seed production groups sells the surplus seeds to other districts or to the neighbouring villages at better prices and thus member farmers will have a fair share of the benefits.

1. Implementation of the technology

Community seed production groups were formed in Siraha district and organized into a community seed bank as part of the FAO supported TCP project. The existing farmer groups were involved and promoted to organize themselves into community seed production groups. The member farmers were provided source seeds of the crop varieties locally adapted or found tolerant to stress conditions in order to include them in the seed production program. The community seed production groups were also provided with latest technology and production inputs.

Assistance was provided to establish community seed bank (CSB) with revolving funds and a non-conditioned mini seed house / store with cleaning facilities. The facilities provided space to participating farmers to store their seeds in mini seed



houses and locally available seed storage facilities. The community members organized to collect the seeds produced by farmers at reasonable prices and store them in community seed storage facilities.

The community seed production groups bear the costs of cleaning, storage and fumigations and charged nominal fee that was deposited in a revolving fund. Member of the community seed production groups were trained on technical know-how on seed production, storage and marketing.

Figure 1. Strengthening of community seed production groups (CSPG) in Nepal



Figure 2. Strengthening of community seed production groups (CSPG) in Nepal



2. Technical, economic, financial, social and environmental attributes of the technology

- Increases efficiency of community seed storage systems;
- maintains food security through seed security;
- improves quality of seed produced by farmers; and
- maintains crop yields through quality seeds within acceptable limit of risk.

3. Minimum requirements for the successful implementation of the practice

- Mobilization of community groups;
- quality source seeds;
- community seed bank providing needed facilities to farmers;
- poor farmers provided food grain as exchange for seed and pledging money; and
- provision and technical know-how on seed production and storage.

4. Further reading

- Results of Community Seed Bank in Kachorwa of Bara district under a project “Strengthening the scientific basis of in-situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity on-farm” supported by IPGRI since 1995 and programs on CSB under DOA, Nepal

5. Agro-ecological zones

- Subtropics, warm/mod cool

6. Objectives fulfilled by the project

- Woman-friendly;
- Resource use efficiently; and
- Pro-poor technology.