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नेपाल जनस्वास्थ्य प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Public Health Foundation

FHEN

कृषि, स्वास्थ्य र वातावरण नेपाल परियोजना



OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DONE BY FARMING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEPAL (FHEN), NEPAL PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION (NPHF)

This booklet provides an in-depth look at the activities carried out by Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) during the Farming Health and Environment (FHEN III) project. It demonstrates the organization's commitment to fulfilling its mission and attaining its objectives. The booklet presents an engaging narrative of the organization's efforts and accomplishments through pictures, testimonies, and other visual aids. It is intended to showcase our achievements and promote transparency and accountability. Overall, the booklet serves as a valuable tool in advancing to the creation of an environment in Nepal that enables sustainable use of chemical pesticides with minimized harm to the public and the environment and promotes awareness.



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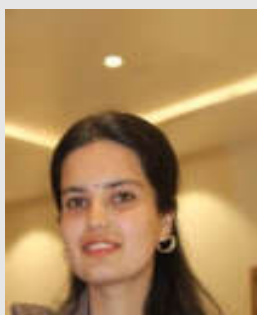


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About Nepal Public Health Foundation

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) was established in April 2010 by a group of public health specialists and activists as an independent, autonomous, non-political, and non-profit organization. It was founded with the mission of ensuring civil society's pro-active participation in public health via coordinated public health action, research, and policy dialogue for health development, particularly of the socioeconomically marginalized population. NPHF aims to prioritize public health action and research areas and facilitate interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships, with special emphasis on building community capacity for healthcare. Through high-quality research, NPHF is committed to strengthening the health system by generating quality evidence for the policy formulation process. Health policy and system research, social determinants of health, nutrition, maternal, child, and sexual and reproductive health are its major focus areas. Since its inception, NPHF has taken initiatives to advocate for the relevant public health issues at the national and regional levels. Besides, it has established good linkages with academic institutions, civil society, and different non-governmental organizations.

Focus areas of NPHF

- Health Policy and Systems Research
- Human Resource Development
- Communicable Disease Control
- Non-Communicable Disease Control
- Nutrition Research
- Maternal and Child Health
- Disaster Prevention and Management
- Coordination, Advocacy, and Communication
- Social Determinants for health
- Health Economics
- Health Technology Research
- Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Demography
- Health Promotion and Social Mobilization
- Environmental Health and Hygiene research

Objectives of NPHF

- Engage public health stakeholders for systematic review and analysis of existing and emerging health scenarios to generate policy recommendations for public health action, especially in the context of the changing physical and social environment, the increasing health gap between the rich and the poor, and the impact of other sectors on health.

- Prioritize public health action and research areas and facilitate pilot interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships, with special emphasis on building communities' capacity.
- Strengthen the health system through systems thinking to effectively respond to the problems of public health.
- Support and establish existing or new community-based public health training institutions.
- Ensure continuing public health education (CPHE) by disseminating the latest advancements in public health knowledge and research. We publish books, monographs, educational materials, and self-learning manuals.
- We provide research funds for deserving researchers and public health institutions, with priority given to community-based institutions.

Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)

The issue of pesticide use in agriculture is a serious but often ignored public health agenda. Suicide attempts, poisoning from contaminated food, unintended accidents, and injuries that result in death are all health issues associated with pesticides. Pesticides are also linked to several acute and chronic health problems, more noticeably in developing countries, including Nepal. The Farming, Health, and Environment Nepal Project (FHEN) is unique in that it combines agriculture and health aspects to create healthy farms and food. It has adopted **"Participatory Development and Multisectoral Approaches"** for all its work activities.

The project is built around the core spirit of the "Pesticide Minimization Movement". It aims to engage, empower, and mobilize diverse groups and sectors to create a mass movement to advocate for ensuring our right to pesticide-free foods.

After the successful completion of FHEN (Farming Health and Environment Nepal) phase II, we are moving on to the third phase of the project, starting in the fiscal year 2078. The overall aim of the project, titled "Farming Health and Environment—a multi-sector approach to reducing pesticide hazards in Nepal," is to create an environment in Nepal that enables sustainable use of chemical pesticides with minimized harm to the public and the environment. As it was in the previous phase, the project is built around the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and will rely heavily on participatory development and a multisector approach to fulfill its objectives. With this continuation, we hope to increase the number of target audiences that will benefit directly or indirectly through our program.

An important aspect of the project will be the inclusion of consumers' groups and the agro-market sector, two extremely important components that FHEN phase II was not able to address in the past. Keeping citizens' rights to safe farming and food at its center, the project will work

with farmers, pesticide spray workers, retailers, school teachers, health workers, marketplaces, farmers' organizations, and the local government. Our advocacy will also be scaled up to provincial and federal levels with this project. We hope that by the end of this project, the responsibilities of maintaining the spirit of the "pesticide minimization movement" will be taken up and sustained by the local government and farmers' cooperatives themselves, and that we will be able to push for the adoption of an operational strategy for a multisector approach to pesticide poisoning prevention at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.

Project objectives:

- Enable local government and farmers' cooperatives to enhance IPM compliance among farmers, spray workers, and retail workers in Chitwan District, Nepal.
- Establish consumer forums that advocate for pesticide-free food through lobbying among politicians and fellow citizens.
- Define an operational strategy to prevent pesticide poisoning that has a multisector approach and can be adopted at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.

Project area:

70 wards across 7 municipalities of Chitwan District

Supporting partner:

Danish Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (DASAM) and Dialogues

Activities

We worked broadly in 3 major areas namely research, community-based interventions, and advocacy.

1. **Research**
2. **Community-Based Interventions**
3. **Advocacy**



1. Research:

The FHEN project has research as one of the major work components since it believes in evidence-based program interventions and advocacy.

In phase 3, two researches are ongoing i.e.

- Exposure to chemical pesticides and effects on pregnancy outcome and other mom-communicable disease
- Baseline survey to assess pesticide use and health problems before project interventions
- End line survey to assess pesticide use and health problems after the project interventions and to evaluate the project outcome and impacts scientifically.

2. Community-based interventions

Based on the findings of our research and other literature reviews, we designed community-based interventions to address the issue in different settings and for different groups. Our interventions are broadly categorized as sensitization programs and training programs.

Sensitization programs

These are mainly targeted to create awareness among the general public and consumers about the harmful effects of chemical pesticides on foods and ways to reduce their harm.

- a. **Street drama** focused on larger groups of people and consumers; they were mostly conducted in public places like vegetable markets.
- b. **School health programs** through the mobilization of school teachers to help students learn about the harmful effects of pesticides on foods and how they can contribute to their reduction, Students took part in speech competitions, practical demonstrations, and street dramas for participatory learning. The objective was also that they communicate the message to their parents and neighbors for safer production and consumption.
- c. **Training Programs:** They were targeted to different groups namely farmers, pesticide retailers, pesticide sprayers, health workers, FCHVs, and school teachers.

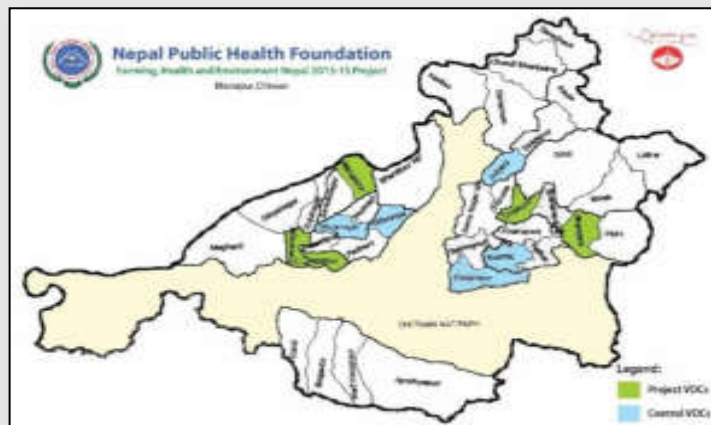
Activities	Frequency	Participants
IPM FFS	8 groups	238
Training to pesticide spray workers	3 times	137
Pesticide retailers	3 time	81
Health workers	3 times	84
FCHVs	6 groups	193
School teachers	3 groups	71
Commercial farmers	3 group	76
Follow up/community sensitization	200	2000
Street drama	48 places	12000

3. Advocacy

FHEN uses advocacy as one of the key public health tools to influence policy-making processes. We work with the government at different tiers to create an enabling environment to minimize the use of chemical pesticides in food.

FHEN PHASES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Phase I (2013-2015)



Accomplishments

- Farmers and health workers trained
- Raised awareness
- Effective production and dissemination of IEC
- Sales dropped on unregistered pesticides

Phase II (2017-2020)



Accomplishments

- Coordination for establishment of lab to measure pesticide residue
- Prepared pesticide minimization guideline
- Formation of pesticide minimization taskforce

Phase III (2021-2024)



Current activities:

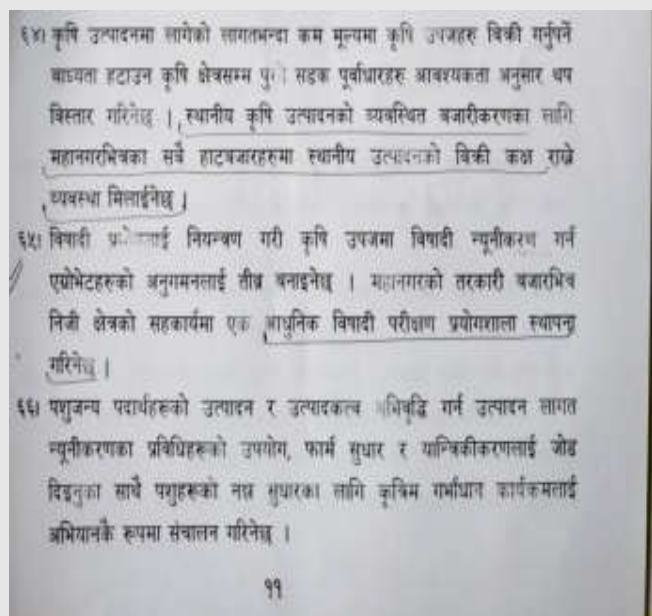
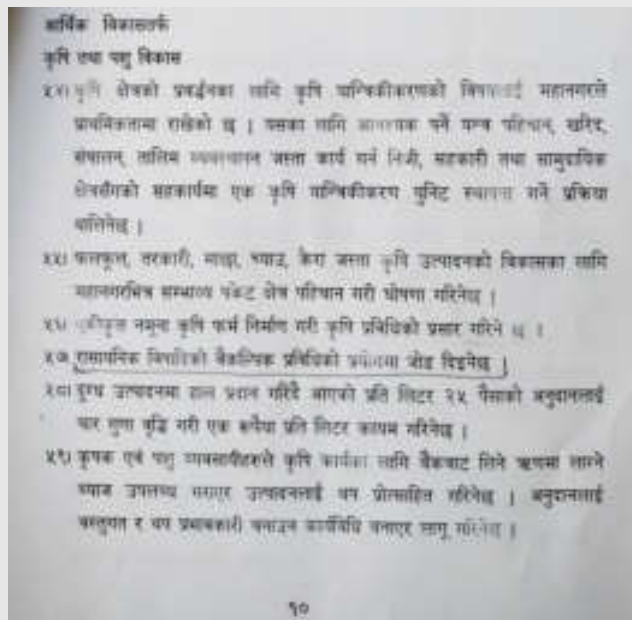
- Empowerment of consumer forums
- Expansion of advocacy on national level
- Active participation by agro-market sector
- Multi-sectoral engagement.

Lab Establishment



Figure 1: Some Glimpses of Lab Establishment (Phase II)

Impact on local government through advocacy: Designated program and allocation of budget to minimize pesticide use:



Pesticide Minimization Guideline

A guideline on pesticide minimization was submitted to the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Province 3 for endorsement. Pesticide residue measurement laboratory was established in Chitwan District.



Figure 2: Pesticide minimization guideline handed over to Bagmati Province (Phase II)

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER FHEN PHASE III

MEETINGS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

A formal orientation, planning meeting and its follow-up with stakeholders from federal, provincial and municipal level was organized with the objective to bring together these stakeholders so that they will coordinate and address the issue of chemical pesticide use.

Bharatpur Municipality Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting for approval of project Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN) III



Figure 3: Bharatpur Municipality Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting

The committee held a favorable view about our project. The fact that Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN) has been working on the issue of pesticide and health in Chitwan district for the past 6 years was taken as a strong point of the project. The committee was impressed with the initiatives taken and the achievements gained in the past. The fact that research was/is also a part of FHEN was taken as a plus point. The overall approach of the project in including stakeholders from different sectors was praised as a good strategy and the committee was impressed with the detailed planning of the project and activities.

Planning meeting at Municipal Level

The orientation and planning meeting with stakeholders was held on December 29, 2021. This was run as the second session of the Multisector planning meeting.





Figure 4: Municipal Level Planning Meeting

The meeting was conducted in all the seven municipalities of Chitwan district with the objective to introduce “Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)” project and its objectives to stakeholders, to orient them about the planned activities and process for conduction of those activities and collect the feedback from participants for effective implementation of program.

Planning Meeting at Provincial level



Figure 5: Province Level Planning Meeting, Hetauda

The meeting was conducted on “Pesticides in Nepal: Practices, Policies and Need for Multi-sectoral Action Plan” with the objective to exchange knowledge/studies/experiences on the issue of pesticide, to create a platform where politicians and policymakers can voice their role and work to address the issue of chemical pesticide pave the way for discussion and foster multi-sectoral engagement in the planning and implementation of policies on pesticides in Nepal and to identify and strengthen the relationship with key stakeholders at the provincial level who are willing to help push the agendas on pesticide policies forward.

Planning Meeting at Federal Level on “Fostering Multi-Sectoral Engagement on the Planning and Implementation of Policies on Pesticide in Nepal”

Coordination and planning meeting at the federal level, was conducted as a favorable opportunity arose. As we had to conduct an international webinar where stakeholders at a national level were invited, we took the opportunity to hold a planning meeting for discussing the need for formulating a pesticide minimization strategy/guideline. So, we ran a hybrid seminar to accommodate the virtual as well as in-person presence. As this would be the first meeting in a series of many planned, this was more of an introductory sit-down with the stakeholders.



Figure 6: Federal level Planning Meeting

The meeting was conducted with the objective to bring together concerned stakeholders from different sectors so knowledge, opinions and experiences can be exchanged that might help move the discussion forward on planning and implementation of policies on pesticides in Nepal. The meeting had twenty attendees which included people from various backgrounds like agriculture, education, public health sector, and also representatives from Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC).

Follow-up and Review Meeting at Municipal level

We shared about our activities as well as asked for their coordination in further planned activities and also provided valuable suggestions that need to be integrated in national policy such as:

1. Compulsion for hospital, hotels, school kitchen to consume at least 10% of organic or IPM product out of their total purchase.

The “**Follow-up Meeting at Municipal level**” was organized by Nepal Public Health Foundation where department heads of agriculture, health, and environment were present including Mayors, Agriculture section officers, health section officers and other representatives from the overall seven municipalities of Chitwan district.



Figure 7: Municipal Level Follow up

Follow-up Meeting at Provincial Level

Mr. Achyut Prasad Dhakal (*CSC Member, FHEN*) initiated the meeting by welcoming all the participants and opened the floor for the discussion from each government organizations in way forwards in regards with pesticide minimization.

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey (*Project Advisor, CSC Member, FHEN*) urged the participants who were representing from different ministries and government organization to make sustainable and also take ownership on the projects like FHEN for pesticide minimization as the topic of pesticide is alarming. Multi sector participants from health, agriculture, organic associations, and coordination committee representatives were present in the meeting and everyone seems enthusiastic to overcome pesticide issue.

The major discussions that were held in the meeting were focused on motivating the role models of organic farmers and assuring the market for organic farmers with coordinating with municipalities, AKC, DCC and organic associations.

Follow- up Meeting at Federal Level on “Exploring the Issue of Pesticides in Nepal: Practices, Policies and the Need for Multi-Sectoral Action”

The Follow- up meeting at Federal Level was carried out with the participation from the different stakeholders. The people present for the meeting were from Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre, Nepal Health Research Council, Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Ministry of Health and Agriculture and the Policy Research Institute.



Figure 8: Follow up Meeting at Federal Level

The Federal level Follow up meeting was conducted with the objective to exchange knowledge/studies/experiences on the issue of pesticide, to create a platform where politicians and policymakers can voice their role and work to address the issue of chemical pesticide, to pave the way for discussion and foster multi-sectoral engagement in the planning and implementation of policies on pesticides in Nepal and to identify and strengthen the relationship with key stakeholders at the federal level who are willing to help push the agendas on pesticide policies forward.

BASELINE SURVEY

Qualitative and Quantitative data were collected among the farmers and agriculture stakeholders in all the seven municipalities of the Chitwan District. A total of 114 in-depth interviews among the stakeholders i.e. (political leaders, school teachers, Health workers, pesticide retailers and professional pesticide sprayers.) and a total of 15 FGDs i.e., Focused Group Discussion with FCHVs (Female Community Health Volunteers) were completed within the given time frame.

From the baseline survey, further analysis is being done to understand the key findings for example: it was found that 100 percent respondents knew that pesticide can be used for farming where 98 percent of them used it. Among the pesticide users, 64.95 percent used chemical pesticides. 50.2 percent of the farmers knew that long-term exposure to pesticides can cause cancer, 46.87 percent knew it can cause respiratory problems, 15.71 percent knew it can cause neurological problems whereas 26.5 percent did not know it could cause any long-term problems.



Figure 9: Baseline survey and orientation conducted in Chitwan

The baseline survey was conducted with the objective to assess knowledge, attitude and practice among farmers and agriculture stakeholders on the use of pesticide in Chitwan district. The data collection for baseline survey was completed in 17 Days.

Research on “Pesticide Exposure during Pregnancy and Low Birth Weight in Young Women; a Hospital Based Study in Chitwan District.”

Research is being conducted, where 2 data enumerators has been hired for collecting data for three months. The title of the research is on “Pesticide Exposure during Pregnancy and Low Birth Weight in Young Women; a Hospital Based Study in Chitwan District.” The general objective of the research is to quantify the risk of delivering low birth weight babies in young women exposed to pesticide during pregnancy.



Figure 10: During data collection

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS

School Health Program is an integrated set of planned, sequential, school-affiliated strategies, activities, and services designed to promote the optimal physical, emotional, social, and educational development of students. Farming, Health and Environment Nepal Project under Nepal Public Health Foundation successfully completed 6 School Health programs by organizing Art Competition, Panel Discussion, A poem competition, debate competition and Informative speaking program in respective Schools of all municipalities of the chitwan district.

The program was conducted on the theme ‘Effects of pesticides on health and environment’ to promote the visual representation skills of students and the main motive were to inspire them to become more conscious and aware on pesticides and its effect towards health and environment.



Figure 11: School Health Program, Balkumari English school Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan



Figure 12: School Health Program, Marsyangdi Siksha Sadan Secondary School, Ichchvakamana-5, Mueline Bazar.



Figure 13: Bakulahar Secondary School, Ratnanagar municipality

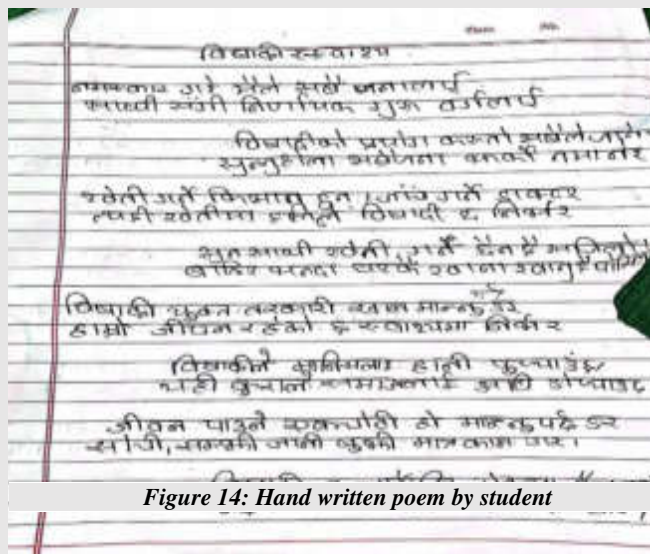


Figure 14: Hand written poem by student



Figure 15: School Health Program, Kalika municipality, Chitwan

FARMERS FIELD SCHOOL (FFS) IN RATNANAGAR



Figure 14: Data presentation by Farmer's Group



Figure 15: Biopesticide preparation



Figure 16: Special class by a Facilitator

Farmer field schools not only provide specific technical skills but also organizational skills and practice, analytical skills and practice, and basic group assets such as trust and confidence required for joint enterprises. An IPM FFS was conducted in Ratnanagar 11, Chitwan district, Nepal and was named as Dharmadham IPM FFS School. As the main crop was Bitter gourd, we were successful in disseminating the importance of IPM FFS as production of Bitter gourd was more in IPM plot as compared to Farmers plot without use of any chemical pesticides. Farmers were able to analyze about the possibilities of production without the use of chemical pesticides, negative impact of chemical pesticides and were motivated towards its minimal use.

TRAINING CONDUCTED BY FHEN

Training to Front-line Health Workers:

Health workers, especially those working in the periphery, can play a crucial role in discouraging the irrational use of pesticides and reducing the harm associated with them. They are the ones whom farmers visit for various pesticide-related complaints. Furthermore, they have the capacity to mobilize health teams to identify such vulnerable groups in larger communities and provide counseling for the safer practice of pesticide use.



FHEN provided a three-day training to health workers with the motive to enhance knowledge and skill of health workers on the issue of pesticide and to upgrade skills of health workers with regards to history taking, comprehensive treatment and management of pesticide poisoning cases, counseling to the patients, recording and appropriate referral. The training sensitized the health workers and informed them about their crucial role, which could be a milestone in improving the health of the farmers



From the overall three days training, a positive impact was seen among the participants. We had done the pretest and posttest whereas as a result increase on the knowledge was seen. And throughout the review session all the participants seem to be interactive and grateful to participate in this training.



Figure 17: Training to front-line Health Workers on “Prevention and management of Health Problems due to Pesticide Exposure”

Training to Pesticide Spray Workers:

Pesticide sprayers are daily wage workers on farms who spray pesticides on a daily basis in their communities. They are the most vulnerable groups because of their high and prolonged exposure to pesticides, poor education, and socioeconomic status.



Pre and post training evaluation was done which showed an improvement in participant's knowledge. The pre-test mean score was 13.60 whereas the post-test mean was 16.18 which show there was an increment of 18.93%.

2-day training to pesticide spray workers was held with the aim of enhancing their knowledge, understanding and practice on selection of the right pesticide and to encourage them to follow safe practices while using those pesticides.



Figure 18: Two days training to pesticide spray workers on “adverse effect of pesticide on Health and Safe handling methods”

Training to School Teacher:

School teachers could be one of the major information sources to reach students, their parents, and wider communities to inform them of the adverse effects of pesticides and their safe handling. Therefore, the training was provided to motivate the school teachers to practice pesticide-free farming and convey the message to students and parents.



Figure 19: Training to School Teachers

Two-day training to school teachers from 7 municipalities of Chitwan district was organized. The training was quite successful as analysis of pre- and post-training marks showed significant improvement. The pre-test mean score was 13.5 whereas the post-test mean score was 16.33 which show there was an increment of 20.98%.



Figure 20: Trainings to School Teachers on "Effects of Pesticide and Safe Handling Methods"

Training to Commercial Farmer's:

FHEN considers Integrated Pest Management-Farmer Field School (IPM-FFS) training as a powerful tool to empower farmers to learn about alternative approaches to chemical pesticides through theoretical sessions, practical demonstrations, and field exercises.



2 out of 3 trainings to commercial farmers have been completed where there were 23 participants in Q6 and Q7 as well. The pre-test mean score was 12.08 whereas the post-test mean was 14.22 which shows there was an increment of 17.71% KAP of farmers. Results from Q7 showed, the pre- test mean score was 13.65 whereas the post-test mean was 16.26 which shows there 2 was an increment of 19.10% which showed that knowledge, attitude and practices were significantly changed at the end of the training.



Figure 21: Training to Commercial farmers on “Pesticide minimization and Healthy food Production”

Pesticide Retailer Training:



The 2-day training program utilized participatory discussion on special issues, special class, video demonstration, pre and post- test Questionnaire, flip charts and the game sessions to pesticide retailer's teachers about the issues of pesticides as well as to encourage them to actively participate in pesticide minimization campaigns. Taking advantage of the fact that the majority of farmers seek advice on pests and pesticide-related matters from pesticide retailers, the project provided training to them about the safe handling of pesticides.



Figure 22: some Glimpse of pesticide Retailer's training

FCHVs Training:

All FCHVs from each local health facility of project working areas participated on the Training given on the topic of “Prevention and management of health problems due to pesticide exposure”.



FCHVs play a crucial role in the health system. Thus, FCHVs could be one of the major information sources to reach wider communities to make them aware of the safe handling of pesticides. Additionally, most of the FCHVs are also engaged in farming. Therefore, a two-day training program was developed to help them learn about the safe handling of pesticides and motivate them to practice it.

This training was given in order to enhance knowledge of FCHV's on pesticide issues and about its safe handling as well as to upgrade skills of FCHV's for effective counselling and health education at the communities. The training is also expected to help them to influence mother groups and wider communities to learn about this important issue.



Figure 23: Training to FCHVs on “Prevention and Management of Health Problems”

TOT Training to Agricultural Cooperatives:

An agricultural cooperative is a formal association of farmers for marketing and processing of products. Therefore, overall aim of this two days training of trainers was to encourage them for conducting Farmer's Field school among their farmer members focusing more on minimizing pesticide usage through IPM method.

A two-day training program for pesticide retailers was organized where a total of 13 members from 6 different cooperatives were the participants. The pre-test mean score was 12.00 whereas the post-test mean was 16.62 which show there was an increment of 38.5%.



Figure 24: TOT training to agricultural cooperatives

Follow up with Pesticide Sprayers:

With the aim of enhancing the understanding of Pesticide Sprayers, two days professional sprayer training was organized by NPHF and successfully accomplished at Bharatpur Chetana village selecting five participants from each Municipality of Chitwan District.

We conducted this training as a follow up to the previous training given to the pesticide sprayers with the aim to understand their practical implementation of knowledge gained in the previous training and their current practice of spraying pesticides focusing on the safe handling and label of pesticides. We visited individual pesticide sprayers and they shared their practical experiences and provided some technical advices.



Figure 25: Follow up with Pesticide Sprayers

Impact of Trainings on Pesticide sprayer:

We followed up Pesticide sprayers and came to understand that they have improvised their spraying practices, started use of PPE, safe handling of pesticides, use of safest label of pesticides, time of pesticide spraying and negative health impacts associated with pesticides.

Follow up with Pesticide Retailers



Providing training only without any follow up may not give any effective result regarding change in knowledge and practice of pesticide retailers. Thus, we followed up pesticide retailers for understanding their practical implementation of knowledge gained in training and sharing their experiences with farmers.



We followed up Pesticide retailers and came to understand that they have improvised their sharing and suggestions to farmers Regarding use of PPE, safe handling of pesticides, use of safest label of pesticides, time of pesticide spraying, negative health impacts associated with pesticides and suitable concentrations is to be sprayed. But they can't figure out that whether farmers are practicing according to suggestions or not as they cannot go for farmer's inspection. Most of the retailers followed has not kept PPE set due to shortage and also IPM tools due to less demand from farmers. They suggested further training requirement to farmers regarding IPM and regular inspection and awareness to farmers.

Webinars and Panel discussion:

Panel Discussion On: Market Situation, Issues and Way Forward For Organic Products in Nepal

The Panel Discussion was conducted via Skype with the aim to exchange knowledge/ideas/experiences on the issue of chemical pesticides, to discuss the situation of organic production, the current market situation, and issues of organic products in the context of Nepal, to discuss the role of each sector, to enhance the market for organic products and to discuss and foster multi-sectoral engagement in the planning and implementation of policies regarding organic market enhancement.

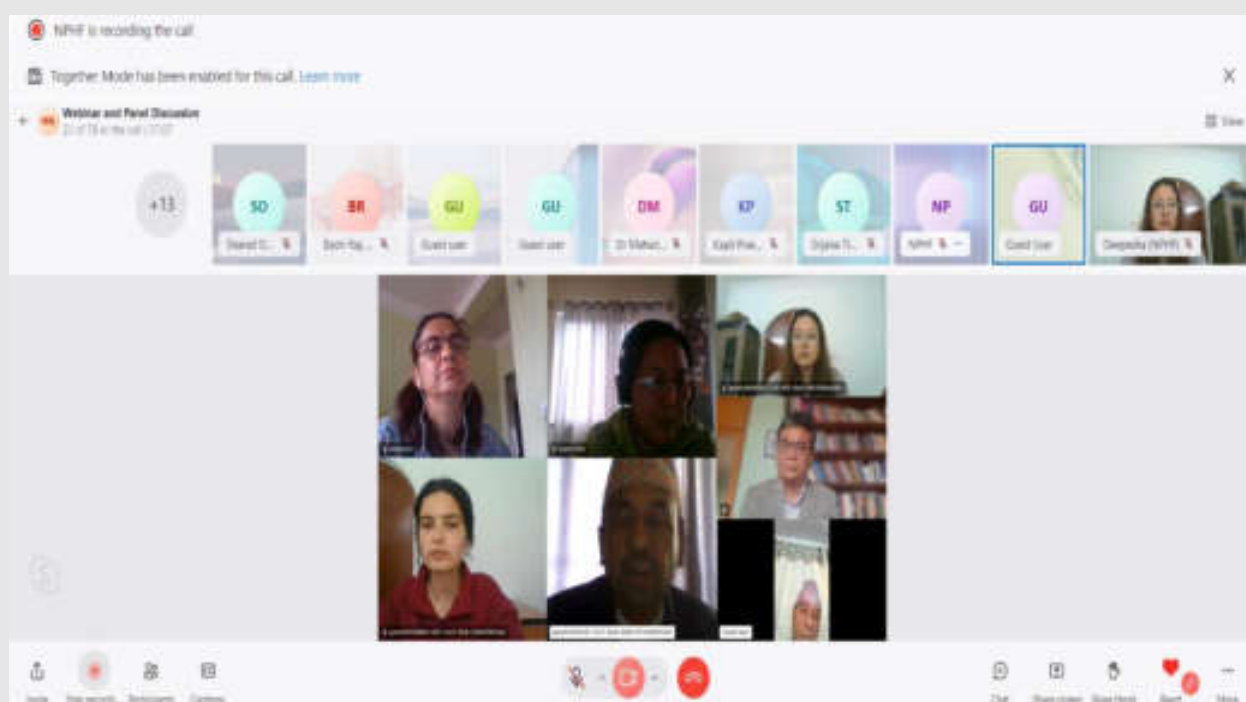


Figure 27: Some Glimpses of Panel Discussion On: Market Situation, Issues and Way Forward For Organic Products in Nepal

International Webinar on Exploring the Issues of Pesticides in Nepal: Practices, Policies and the Need for Multi-Sectoral Action

The program was chaired by Dr. Aruna Uprety, the president of Nepal Public Health Foundation. Participants included people from various backgrounds like agriculture, education, public health sector, and also representatives from different NGOs and INGOs and research institution.

Objective of the Webinar

- To exchange knowledge/studies/experiences on the issue of pesticide
- To create a platform where politicians and policymakers can voice their role and work to address the issue of chemical pesticide
- To pave the way for discussion and foster multi-sectoral engagement on the planning and implementation of policies on pesticides in Nepal.
- To identify and strengthen relationship with key stakeholders at the federal level who are willing to help push the agendas on pesticide policies forward

International Webinar on “Best Practices and Innovative Ideas for Pesticide Minimization”

The International Webinar was carried out with the theme of “Best Practices and Innovative Ideas for Pesticide Minimization. “It was carried out with the agenda to create a platform where different practices and innovative ideas for pesticide minimization are shared.

Objectives of the Program

- To share knowledge/ideas/experiences on the issue of chemical pesticides.
- To share international practices for pesticide minimization
- To discuss the current need to transition into Organic farming.
- To share innovative ideas for pesticide minimization and its suitability as per policy context in Nepal.

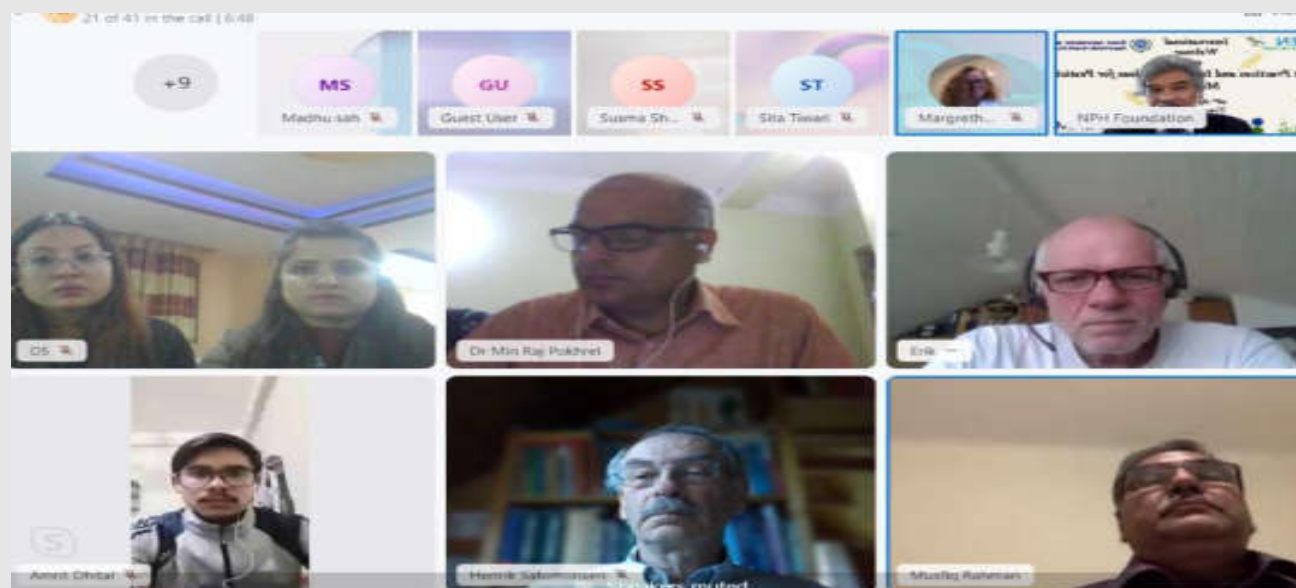


Figure 28: Some Glimpses of International Webinar on “Best Practices and Innovative Ideas for Pesticide Minimization”

Webinar on “Experience in Organic Farming: Best Practices and Innovations”

The webinar was carried out via zoom which included people from farming sectors, stakeholders who were role model farmers and farming organizations to share their best practices.

Objective of Webinar

- To share best farming practices among farmers of different districts
- To discuss the issue of pesticides and exchange safe practice methods
- To exchange knowledge on organic farming
- To illustrate the existing markets for organic produce

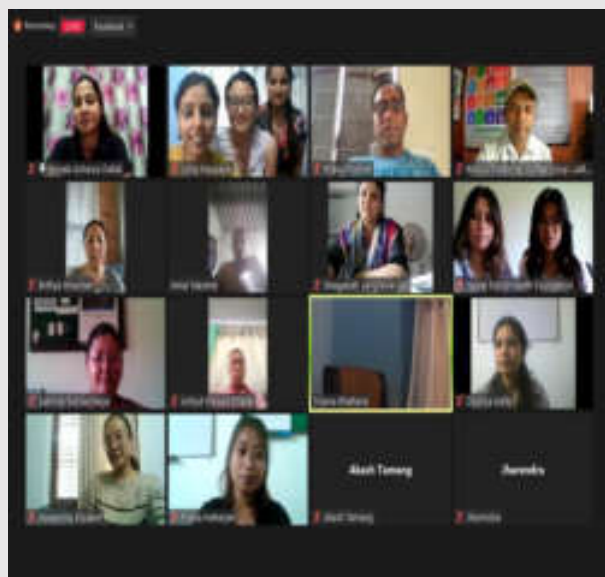


Figure 29: Webinar on Experience in Organic Farming: Best Practices and Innovations

Webinar and Panel Discussion On “Innovative Ideas for Pest Management and Policy Implementation at Federal, Provincial, and Local Levels.”

The event was carried out via Zoom meeting with participation from different stakeholders. Our participants were from Consumer Forum, Organic Farmer, Province Policy Officer, Chief of PQPMC, Agriculture Scientist, Executive Director, NARC and Consumer Association. We also invited pesticide retailers, school teachers, and different agriculture-related organizations as participants.

Objectives of the Webinar:

- To share innovative ideas for pest management and their suitability and challenges in Nepal.
- To exchange knowledge/ studies/ experiences on the issue of chemical pesticides.
- To identify alternative methods for chemical pesticides in the context of the policy of Nepal.
- To discuss and foster multi-sectoral engagement and the role of consumer association in the planning and implementation of policies regarding pesticides.



Panel Discussion: “For Pesticide Reduction and Transition to Organic Farming

The program was chaired by Dr. Badri Raj Pande, a prominent public health professional in Nepal and a founding member of Nepal Public Health Foundation. The main Objectives of the Panel Discussion were to facilitate policy dialogue to limit pesticide use and transition to organic farming and to discuss the issues of chemical pesticides and reflect on the responses of the local, provincial and federal governments in order to ensure the implementation of pesticide reduction guidelines and policies.

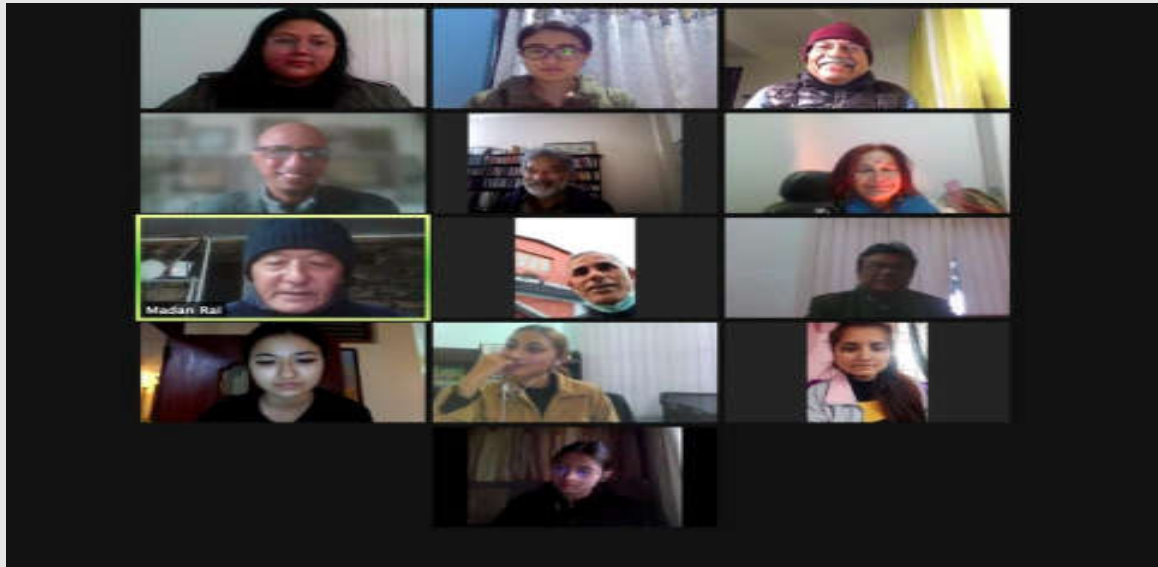


Figure 23: panel discussion on "pesticide reduction and Transition to Organic farming

Panel Discussion on “Linkage between Agricultural Research, Education and Extension for Pesticide Minimization”

A panel discussion was organized by Nepal Public Health Foundation with the aim to create a platform where the existing natures and characteristics of linkage among the research, extension and education are identified, which is very important for pesticide minimization.





Figure 24: Glimpses of Panel Discussion Media Interaction

Press Meet

A press meet was organized in order to address the issue of chemical pesticide use in agriculture, its detrimental effects on health and environment and the urgent need for transitioning to organic farming. The meet was attended by several members of the central steering committee (CSC) of FHEN project including the committee chairperson Dr. Badri Raj Pande along with project coordinator Dr. Abhinav Vaidya and project advisor Dr. Mahesh K Maskey.



A question answer session was organized with media personnel from various national and local news agencies. In addition to this, the media personnel were briefed on the project activities and updated on the progress of the project in the past 1 year.

Press Meet on “Pesticides and Human Health”

The Press meet between a few speakers and media was organized by Nepal Public Health Foundation with the aim of raising awareness among the masses about the harms of chemical pesticides to human health through our art competition/exhibition.



Figure 25: Press Meet

Art Competition and Exhibition: Pesticides and Human Health

This event was carried out with a theme “Pesticides and Human Health”, for two days and 19 participants were involved in this event. The participants were from Lalit Kala campus, College of Fine Arts, and Sirjana College of Fine Arts.



Mr. Kiran Manandhar was honored as a chief guest for the event and he congratulated all the participants and appreciated everyone as the winner. He further appreciated the NPHF efforts in supporting the artists as giving the platforms for artists in these kinds of events and also further suggested conducting these kinds of art competitions as well as exhibitions in future as well.





Figure 26: Art competition and Exhibition

Workshop on “Facilitation of Organic Products Certification and Market Management”

Two day’s workshops on facilitation of organic products certification and market management were organized in coordination with Agriculture Knowledge Centre with the objectives of facilitation of organic and IPM products certification and market space management. The major participants of the workshop were: Agriculture Officers, organic farmer activist, PQPMC chief, DCC chief, Agriculture Development Directorate officer of Bagmati province, cooperative representatives, and Organic Agriculture practitioners. The main objectives of this event were to coordinate with different stakeholders for facilitation of organic product certification and to enable market space management for organic products.



Group A

Major Suggestions

- Need of Public awareness program about benefits and requirements of organic products.
- Mobilization of cooperatives, farmer group.
- Exhibition programs should be conducted timely
- Training tour should be managed for farmers.
- Include and encourage farmers for research.
- Skillful training should be provided to organic certifiers.
- Stakeholder's role should be emphasized in each and every activity of organic production and certification.



Group B

Major Suggestions:

- Awareness should be role of all the organization associated with it.
- Awareness and branding of organic product.
- Demand should be created, accessed.
- Quantity and demand, consumer identification and supply accordingly.
- Should be viewed as running project.
- Moral hazard should be addressed.

Policy Workshop on “Multisectoral Inputs for Improvising Pesticide minimization policies and Guidelines in Nepal”.

As a part of advocacy FHEN has prepared a draft Pesticide Minimization Guideline intending to reduce the negative effects of chemical pesticides on humans, animals, and the environment through its safe and judicious use and the use of alternative methods. Hence, through this workshop, FHEN aims to bring the concerned policymakers from three levels under the same roof to get reviews and feedback on the guideline prepared by FHEN.



The program was inaugurated by the gracious presence of the Secretary of the Nepal Planning Commission Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari and the Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr Govinda Prasad Sharma.

Mr. Achyut Prasad Dhakal, a member of the Central Steering Committee (CSC) from Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) gave detailed information about the guidelines and policy prepared with the objective to minimize pesticide use



STREET DRAMA

Nepal Public Health Foundation in collaboration with Better Chitwan and Chautho Aayam Theatre Group conducted a street drama “Aafnai Samadhan” on the issue of pesticide minimization. The drama was shown in seven different municipalities of Chitwan. Two shows were performed in each municipality.



Figure 31: team with ward representative



Figure 30: banner of the program



Figure 32: Actors performance



Figure 34: Performing using PPE



Figure 33: Spurs of happiness

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