What happened this quarter? (brief synthesis of activities)

Information sharing: news, publications, vacancies

(please make reference to attachments, or knowledge bank)

Field activities

A. Micro-interventions

**MI Cluster I: School nutrition garden**

**Key progress**

1. Incorporating NSA in local curriculum: In the interaction meeting of concerned stakeholders from education sector in (Mugu) district, District Education Office (DEO) agreed and instructed its 8 Resource Persons and 2 School Inspectors to prepare curricula on NSA and teach through their respective resource centres at local level. In Dailekh district, DEO has also formulated and teaching a curriculum on kitchen garden technology.

2. Students are being regularly coached on NSA on monthly basis. NSA contents are also extracted from the MAAN platform. Similarly, NSA related knowledge are being imparted through different types of educational competitions (e.g., quiz) each month. The students are also given the practical knowledge on NSA. They have established a demonstration of vegetable nursery and farm, poly-house tunnel for vegetable farming etc in their schools.

3. The schools are arranging an exposure visit for the students in other schools, farmers’ field, agriculture resource centre. This event has supported in disseminating and exchanging theoretical and practical knowledge and skill. For instance, an exposure visit was arranged in a school (where deaf students are taught) in Chain village in Mugu district. It created an enthusiasm on establishing a school nutrition garden in Chain, and now they have already established it.

4. To promote NSA message at community level, different kinds of awareness creating activities are being jointly organized at VDC and district level. For instance, song competition was organized during Teej festival in collaboration with an NGO (Everest Club) in Dailekh district; good-performing groups were also awarded. In Mugu district, local Children Club is carrying out awareness activities on NSA.

5. To facilitate replication of NSA knowledge and skill (that is imparted at school) in household level, guardians are supported with different agricultural inputs (vegetable seed, plastic sheet for water harvest) in collaboration with District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), NGOs (e.g., SAHAS Nepal in Mugu district). They are also provided technical advice as required. Similarly, Women and Child Office (WCO) also supported the guardians of students to establish homestead garden. The agricultural products (they produce) are also demonstrated in nutrition exhibition in Mugu.

6. Mainstreaming NSA in local level policy: DADO is taking lead role in formulating agriculture development strategy in Mugu. RSPs are facilitating to incorporate NSA in the strategy.

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**What activities are not on track according to the plan? (Any issues you would like to raise and get feedback)**

- 6 MIs in Bajura, Achham and Dailekh districts as mentioned in point no. 4 under the section ‘Rural Service Providers and MAAN interaction’: These MIs are actually on track but are being relatively delay in field level implementation due to the mentioned cause.

**Issues**

- Not special any.

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**What are your plans for next month?**

1. RSP CDP (F2F2) on 22-25 November in Dailekh district.
2. National nutrition campaign in December.
3. Half-annual progress review of MIs in district.
student. Continue dialogue and advocacy to incorporate NSA in local curricula.

**MI Cluster II: Household level homestead garden promotion**

**Key progress**

1. Farmers are coached on NSA and establishing homestead garden. Economically poor and socially discriminated households are also provided agricultural inputs, like vegetable seeds, watering can etc to establish homestead garden.
2. In collaboration with World Vision International International Nepal, a radio programme on nutrition and agriculture is being developed and aired fortnightly via a local FM radio in Kalikot district. It’s expected to disseminate NSA knowledge and skill, BCC (behaviour change communication) message, and ultimately facilitate its field application.
3. VDC level project orientation is accomplished in all 5 VDCs.

**Plan**

2. Interaction among district level stakeholders on value chain marketing.
3. Awareness creating and BCC activities at local level.
4. Agricultural input support (e.g., planting materials of fruits, potato, legumes, poultry).

**MI Cluster III: Promotion of diversified food items (recipe)**

**Key progress**

1. In collaboration with DADO, beneficiary households were coached on NSA and establishing homestead kitchen and nutrition garden. Economically poor and socially discriminated households are also provided agricultural inputs, like vegetable seeds/seedlings, fruit seedling/planting material, watering can etc to establish homestead garden.
2. Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) were coached on NSA and nutritional improvement through agriculture. FCHVs are particularly aware on nutrition specific intervention but are little aware on nutrition sensitive interventions. They can be effective media to impart and disseminate knowledge on NSA to beneficiary households.
3. To promote NSA message at community level, different kinds of awareness creating and BCC activities are being organized at VDC level. For instance, song competition and nutrition exhibition events were organized in Kalbhairav and Goganpani VDCs of Dailekh district; good-performing groups were also awarded.
4. Students are being regularly imparted knowledge about NSA through different types of educational competitions (e.g., quiz). These events are organized coinciding with certain events, e.g., it was organized on Children Day in Kalikot district. Good-performing students were also awarded.
5. VDC level project orientation is accomplished in all 4 VDCs. In district level orientation in Kalikot district, message about consuming food items from at least 5 food groups were imparted by including these foods in snack to the participants.

**Plan**

1. Coaching on preparing different food items of local agricultural products.
2. Growth monitoring of <5 years old children through FCHVs.
3. Agricultural input (chicken) support.

**MI Cluster IV: Legume promotion for nutrition improvement**

**MI Sub-cluster IV.I: Promotion of common grain legumes for...**
**nutrition improvement**

**Key progress**

1. Beneficiary households were coached on homestead garden and legume cultivation, fruit cultivation. Economically poor and socially discriminated households were also provided agricultural inputs, like vegetable and legume (bean, horse gram) seeds, planting materials of improved variety of banana, irrigation pipe etc. Legume crops are being adopted as mono-crop in most of the MI areas. Agriculture technicians from DADO are providing technical support to the farmers, e.g., on seeding, staking, harvesting, banana planting etc.

**Plan**

1. Coaching on preparing food items of legumes, postharvest agriculture technology.
2. Awareness creating and BCC activities.

**MI Sub-cluster IV.II: Promotion of local bean for nutrition improvement**

**Key progress**

1. Farmers were practically trained on improved cultivation practice of bean: seed collection, seeding, harvesting, storage. They are supported with 5 different local varieties of bean - earlier farmers used to seed mixed varieties. Besides, a demonstration plot of bean cultivation was also established to disseminate the practical knowledge. Seed was collected from seed bank and farmers’ house in Jumla. RSPs from Mugu district exported seeds of local bean in their MI-working areas since varietal purity was not maintained in Mugu. Farmers will select seeds from their standing crops and keep for next season. Technical persons from DADO and RSPs’ organization facilitated the practical coaching; they are also providing technical support to the farmers.
2. Grain of local beans are linked with local market outlet (Kos heli Ghar) which collects the grain produced by the farmers and sell. Appropriate labelling (with the name of product, its nutrient content) is being developed to promote specific brand of local bean.
3. The beneficiary households were also coached on establishing kitchen garden and provided agricultural input.
4. Nutrition exhibition was carried at VDC level. In the event, nutritious local agricultural products were demonstrated and its nutritional message was disseminated. In the exhibition in Ghodasain VDC of Jumla district, around 25 different varieties of vegetables, cereals, fruits were displayed.
5. Local song (Deuda) competition on nutrition and NSA was also accompanied with nutrition exhibition. Around 300 people participated the event.
6. Similarly, 3 days agriculture exhibition was organized in collaboration with DADO and concerned organization at district level in Jumla district. Local agricultural products were displayed in the event.
7. A street drama was organized to disseminate the NSA message at district level.
8. Message of dietary diversity is being disseminated via different fora.

**Plan**

1. Coaching on postharvest technology.
2. Promotion of product brand of local bean.
3. Participatory market mapping.
4. Sapling support of walnut and coaching farmers on planting.

**MI Cluster V: Organic manure promotion**

**Key progress**
1. 15 vermi-compost pits were constructed at farmer level. DADO is also supporting those households NRs. 2,000 per household to construct vermi-compost pit and vegetable seeds. They are also providing technical advice to them.

2. District and VDC level project orientation was carried out.

3. A brochure on vermi-compost is prepared in collaboration with DADO.

4. An interaction meeting was arranged among those RSPs who don’t have internet access and knowledge: 10 participating-RSPs were enrolled in MAAN platform.

Plan

1. Coaching on vermi-compost, NSA and kitchen garden establishment.

2. Agriculture input support.

MI Cluster VI: Honey production and promotion

Key progress

1. Conducted bee keeping and marketing training in coordination with District Federation of Bee Keeping.

2. In collaboration with District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and other concerned organizations, celebrated the National Rice Day to promote NSA message and role of service providers in promoting nutritional message.

3. Selected 20 local resources persons from marginalized and economically poor communities and coached them on bee keeping from the perspective of developing local service providers in bee keeping and promoting entrepreneurship at grass root level. The local resource persons will also capacitate other farmers about bee keeping so that it can be promoted as a mean of income generation. It’s done in collaboration with district chapter of Federation of Beekeeping Nepal.

4. Coached (100) farmers and members of community forest user group about importance of forest and diversity of tree species for a pasture of bee.

5. Supported (100) farmers with seeds of different legumes (pea 60 kg), broadleaf mustard (40 kg) with an aim of promoting bee pasture.

6. Supported modern bee hive and colony of honey bee (Apis cerana) to 32 marginalized and poor households – one bee hive and a colony for each household – in collaboration with district chapter of Federation of Beekeeping Nepal.

7. Coached and developed business plan of bee keeping of 55 farmers.

Plan

1. Inter-district learning visit.

2. Interaction on postharvest problem of honey production.

3. Input support (processing machine, packaging vessel etc) to the farmers.

4. Promotion of production brand.

5. Coordinate and collaborate with concerned institutions to celebrate the Fiscal Year 2016/017 as ‘Honey Year’ in the district – as per the decision of the Ninth District Council.

MI Cluster VII: Nettle processing and marketing

Key progress

1. Beneficiary households were coached on nettle processing in one MI-working area; 21 women participated in the event. They were oriented on nutritional value of nettle, its processing as well as NSA and establishing kitchen garden. A nettle processing unit was also established to promote the nettle business. Other materials required for nettle processing were also supported to the farmers. They were also provided seasonal vegetable seeds to establish kitchen
garden. Besides promoting nettle entrepreneurship, its nutritional importance is also being promoted through this MI.

2. An agreement to provide 4 quintals of raw nettle is already made with a business person in Kathmandu.

**Plan**

1. Support packaging materials and vegetable seeds.
2. Conduct nettle processing coaching and establish processing unit in Belpata VDC of Dailekh district.

**MI Cluster VIII: Media for nutrition improvement**

**Key progress**

1. 3 special issues of printed newspaper concentrating on NSA were published.
2. District level journalists were oriented on NSA in Jajarkot district.
3. A news clip about nutritional and economic importance of nettle was prepared and broadcasted via national television (Nepal TV). Link for the clip ([bishnu sharma](#)):

   ![Unknown macro: ‘widget’](#)

4. 3 radio jingles on NSA were prepared and being broadcasted via local FM in the district.
5. A weekly programme on nutrition, NSA has been prepared and being broadcasted.
6. Progress and achievement related to MI is being brought into national level printed and digital media.

**Plan**

1. Broadcast radio programme via Local FM radio in all 8 working districts and publish NSA special issues of printed newspaper from those districts.
2. Prepare and broadcast video documentary entailing MIs’ progress and achievement.

**Table: Theme of micro-intervention, responsible RSPs, their working areas and beneficiaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>MI theme (cluster)</th>
<th>MI topic</th>
<th>Responsible RSPs</th>
<th>Working areas</th>
<th>Number of beneficiary hhs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>School nutrition garden</td>
<td>School nutrition garden</td>
<td>Ms. Chetana Malla Shahi</td>
<td>Shreenagar 9, Mugu</td>
<td>75 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vegetable and fruit garden establishment in school for health and nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Maharup Khatri</td>
<td>Kalbhairav 7, Toranya, Dailekh</td>
<td>300 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vegetable and fruit garden establishment in school for health and nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Krishna Bahadur Shrestha</td>
<td>Narayan Municipality 1, 2, 3, Dailekh</td>
<td>200 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Implementor</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Number of Households</td>
<td></td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>School nutrition garden</td>
<td>Mr. Jagat Rijal</td>
<td>Dullu Municipality, Dailekh</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Households level homestead garden promotion</td>
<td>Vegetable farming for improvement of agriculture productivity and nutrition</td>
<td>Mr. Durga Bahadur Bista</td>
<td>Lalu VDC, Kalikot</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vegetable farming for improvement of agriculture productivity and nutrition</td>
<td>Mr. Hari Bahadur Shahi</td>
<td>Danha 5,7, Kalikot</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Potato farming and legume promotion program</td>
<td>Mr. Katak Bahadur Dhami</td>
<td>Birpath 6, Achham</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Potato farming and legumes promotion program</td>
<td>Mr. Nar Bahadur Saud</td>
<td>Nandegada 2, Achham</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Potato farming and legumes promotion program</td>
<td>Mr. Tikendra Bhandari</td>
<td>Ghughurkot 3, Achham</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Promotion of diversified food items (recipe)</td>
<td>Improving nutritional status of golden 1000 days children and women practical knowledge</td>
<td>Ms. Harikala Thapa</td>
<td>Kalbhaira v 6, Dailekh</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Improving nutritional status of golden 1000 days children and women practical knowledge</td>
<td>Ms. Sunita Chand</td>
<td>Goganpani 3 (Kafalmela), 5 (Dandapo khara), 6 (Syalabhai ri), 7 (Badkada, Jiliane, Shreecha ur), 8, Dailekh</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nutrition improvement project</td>
<td>Mr. Hansha Raj Nyaupane</td>
<td>Sipkhana VDC, Kalikot</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nutrition improvement project</td>
<td>Mr. Pushpa Raj Acharya</td>
<td>Sukatiya VDC, Kalikot</td>
<td>60 hhs</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Promotion of common grain legumes for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Subarna Sharma</td>
<td>Lanha 3,4, Jajarkot</td>
<td>75 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Legume and fruit promotion for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Ms. Krishna Dani</td>
<td>Badimalika 2, Bajura</td>
<td>75 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Legume promotion for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Dhan Bahadur Rawat</td>
<td>Aatichaur, Bajura</td>
<td>75 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Legume and fruit promotion for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Ishwor Mall</td>
<td>Rara 5, Mugu</td>
<td>60 hhs</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Legume and fruit promotion for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Prakash Budh Thapa</td>
<td>Rara 8, 9, Murma, Mugu</td>
<td>60 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Legume promotion for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Ms. Samjhana Shah</td>
<td>Rowa 5, Mugu</td>
<td>60 hhs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Production, consumption, processing and marketing of local agricultural products</td>
<td>Mr. Dabal Kumai</td>
<td>Rowa, Shreenagar, Ruga VDC, Mugu</td>
<td>75 hhs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sustainable Initiatives in Mountain Economic Engagement (SIMEE)</td>
<td>Ms. Jaya Shrestha</td>
<td>Ghodema hadnep, Jumla</td>
<td>84 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Implementer</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Duration</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Sustainable Initiatives in Mountain Economic Engagement (SIMEE)</td>
<td>Mr. Ghanashyam Nagarkoti</td>
<td>Dillichaur 6, Jumla</td>
<td>60 hhs</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Organic manure promotion</td>
<td>Mr. Bir Bahadur Hamal</td>
<td>Nepalgunj 24, Tejnagar, Banke</td>
<td>70 hhs</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Improving nutrition through organic manure</td>
<td>Mr. Ashok Kumar Thapa</td>
<td>Nepalgunj 26, Thapuwa, Banke</td>
<td>70 hhs</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Honey production and marketing</td>
<td>Ms. Sarswati Giri</td>
<td>Dandagau n 2, Kalpat &amp; adjoining toles, Jajarkot</td>
<td>50 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Honey production and processing</td>
<td>Mr. Rajendra Bikram Shah</td>
<td>Dandagau n 1, Pali &amp; adjoining toles, Jajarkot</td>
<td>50 hhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nettle processing and marketing</td>
<td>Ms. Sumitra Thapa Magar</td>
<td>Narayan Municipality 5, Dailekh</td>
<td>50 hhs</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Consumption and processing of nettle plant</td>
<td>Ms. Parbati Bisunke</td>
<td>Belpata VDC, Dailekh</td>
<td>50 hhs</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Media for nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Bishnu Prasad Sharma</td>
<td>Narayan Municipality 1,2,6,7, Dailekh</td>
<td>800 hhs</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Our agriculture, our nutrition: Promoting nutrition through printed media</td>
<td>Mr. Chakra Bahadur KC</td>
<td>Narayan Municipality 1,2,6,7, Dailekh</td>
<td>8000 hhs</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Online media for sustainable agriculture and nutrition improvement</td>
<td>Mr. Dip Bahadur Gharti</td>
<td>Bherimali ka Municipality, Khalanga, Jajarkot</td>
<td>400 hhs</td>
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</table>

### B. Project orientation at local level

Local level project orientation (that is at Village Development Committee (VDC) and district level) is carried out by all RSPs in 8 districts and respective working VDCs. Local level stakeholders were informed about goal, expected result and main message of the
Majority of the stakeholders, including primary stakeholders (beneficiaries) showed their concern and interest on nutritional aspect of the MIs, though they are doing production and marketing to some extent. For instance, farmers are producing honey in Dandagaun VDC of Jajarkot district but it was not related with its nutritional importance, and it’s the aspect that they are interested and concerned with.

In few districts, district level project orientation was carried out in collaboration with governmental organization, e.g., with District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) in Mugu.

C. Baseline study

Baseline study is carried out by all RSPs in their respective MI areas. They collected the information about MDD-W from 20 women farmers (household) and carried out 1 FGD in their respective MI areas. Key findings are highlighted in the link: Key finding and message of baseline study (MDD-W)

Rural Service Providers and MAAN interaction

1. Till now, 262 RSPs have joined internet-based platform of MAAN. RSPs are basically sharing progress of their micro-intervention and subsequently discussing on the topic under their respective IM cluster. Information and knowledge exchange among RSPs via this platform is encouraging. Attracting more RSPs in MAAN platform as well as getting them registered in the platform and increasing their flow and discussion is ongoing.

2. To organize the discussion and facilitation in MAAN platform, RSPs are being regularly and virtually coached and facilitated on creating individual sub-pages of similar activities in each MI’s that fall under a thematic cluster. It is intended to minimize dispersed posting/sharing/commenting and carry on discussion and facilitation according to the activities of MI under respective cluster. For instance, under MI cluster ‘school nutrition’, there is an activity related to stakeholders’ meeting to facilitate integration of NSA topics in school curricula at local (district) level. Once a RSP with this MI carry out this activity, s/he shares outcome and learning under this MI Cluster by creating a page, and other RSPs (with this MI) also keep on sharing their progress, outcome under that page - they don’t create new page. And, whatever the facilitation, guidance, support is needed for them, it would also be shared under that page.

3. RSPs are also utilizing the knowledge, information posted in MAAN platform in their respective MIs. RSPs with school nutrition garden are using the relevant information and knowledge about nutrition and NSA to teach their students. This information, farmers’ experience is also being published in local newspaper and broadcasted through local FM radio targeting the (RSP) audience who don’t have internet and computer knowledge and access.

4. Three webinars are accomplished till now.
   a. Operating MAAN platform and progress & update sharing of MIs (July)
   b. Participatory guarantee system (PGS) (August)
   c. Value chain and marketing (September)
   d. Quarterly progress review of MIs (October)

In October-webinar, RSPs shared the progress, achievements of their MIs individually and according to their MI-cluster. They also presented their plan for the coming months. Key finding of baseline study was shared in the webinar. Existing problems and way forward was also discussed. During the discussion, it was realized that some of the MIs (2 in Bajura district and 3 in Achham district, 1 in Dailekh district) are not running as expected. It was because of engagement of RSPs
in their regular job. RSP change (especially in Achham), unavailability of local government official in VDC (Dailek). However, they committed to speed up their activities in coordination with respective coordinating organization in the district.

Expertise of other projects of HELVETAS as well as RSPs was also utilized in the webinar. Mr. Prabin Poudel, Enterprise Development Coordinator of Bio-energy project shared the knowledge and experience of market system development of LINK project (where he worked before joining Bio-energy). Similarly, the RSP-Mr. Ghanashyam Nagarkoti also facilitated the webinar based on his experience and knowledge on market system development.

Knowledge management

1. NMA and NSA message, intended objectives and progress of MIs were covered in national media. Sagarmatha television prepared and broadcasted a video clip it ‘Public Concern’ programme; the clip captured the nutritional status of country, purpose of NMA to improve nutrition through its MIs and NSA, MAAN and service delivery through RSPs. Link for the TV programme: NMA Activities Broadcast in Sagarmatha Television
2. A news clip about nutritional and economic importance of stinging nettle (being promoted by 2 RSPs in Dailekh district) was prepared and broadcasted via national television (Nepal TV).
3. In collaboration with DADO, RSPs from Banke district developed a brochure on vermi-compost for technology dissemination.

Coordination and networking at national level

1. Engaged in developing second phase programme of MSNP. NSA is identified as one of the major cause of nutrition, and put thrust on promoting NSA.
2. Engaged regularly in different fora of the government and civil society on agriculture, food security and nutrition, and utilized these platforms to disseminate the project’s message as well as contributed in these platforms from project’s perspective.
3. In a virtual meeting with World Vegetable Centre (WVC), following areas were identified as a scope to support NMA for the time being.
   - Knowledge sharing: Provide training/coaching on production technologies, value chain, value addition, home garden technology, school garden etc to NMA/HELVETAS persons and then dissemination to RSPs.
   - Package of practices (documentary and other materials).
   - Seed/planting materials that could be new and adaptable in NMA area, e.g., iron-fortified mung bean; drought, insect and disease resistant varieties of vegetables (they have largest
connection of indigenous vegetables, disease and drought resistant varieties). These varieties are promoted particular climate and agro – climatic area.

To initiate the collaboration, it was agreed on:

- Outline the areas of support (in NMA) expected from WVC.
- Knowledge sharing in MAAN from the WVC personnels (they are communicated mentioning about process to sign up and share knowledge in the platform)

In long run, scope of collaboration is foreseen in the following areas:

- Exploring new project jointly since WVC explores new location and partners and HELVETAS can better implement in field level.
- Partnership with WVC in ongoing projects of HELVETAS.