



**Nutrition Smart
CommUNITY**

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

Pokhara, Nepal | 6-12 November 2022

REGIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM #1372

Participants

Welthungerhilfe,
Anando, Bangladesh,
FIVDB, Bangladesh,
Darshna Mahilyan Kalyan Samiti, India,
Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, India,
Vikas Samvad Samiti, India,
FORWARD, Nepal

Documentation

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Review: Sweta Banerjee
Photos: Review meeting participants





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BACKGROUND NOTE



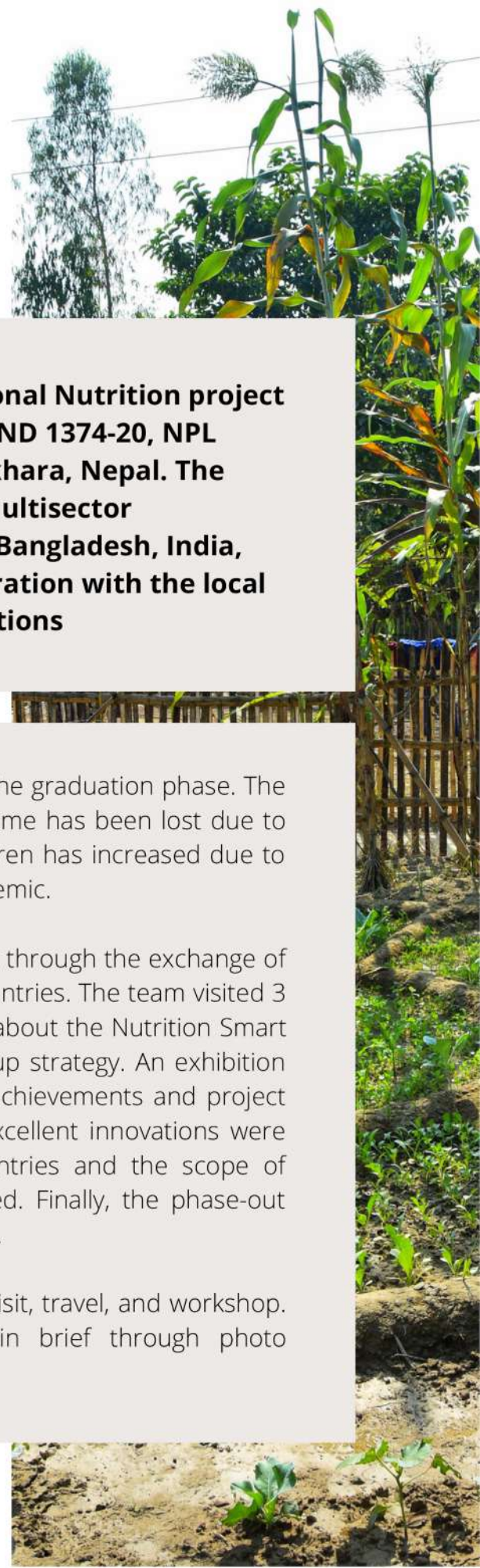
Sweta Banerjee,
Nutrition Specialist,
Welthungerhilfe

The second annual review under the Regional Nutrition project Phase II supported by BMZ (BGD 1036-20, IND 1374-20, NPL 1066-19) was hosted by NPL 1066-19 in Pokhara, Nepal. The focus of the project is on scaling -up the multisector approaches, piloted in 260 villages across Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to 200 more villages, in collaboration with the local government and the civil society organizations

The project has covered two years and is now in the graduation phase. The coming year is crucial for the project as a lot of time has been lost due to the lockdown and the malnutrition status of children has increased due to the sudden rise in food insecurity during the pandemic.

The focus of the review meeting was peer learning through the exchange of ideas between the six partners from the three countries. The team visited 3 villages in the District of Rautahat, Nepal to learn about the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY in Nepal and understand the scale-up strategy. An exhibition was organized to display some of the partners' achievements and project updates against the planned activities. Several excellent innovations were shared by the participants from the three countries and the scope of replication of these innovations was brainstormed. Finally, the phase-out strategy and fund utilization status were discussed.

The review was a five-day event including a field visit, travel, and workshop. The day-wise sessions have been described in brief through photo documentation.







ARRIVAL AT CHAPUR

All the participants from Bangladesh and India arrived at Kathmandu on 5th November and travelled to Chapur by bus the following day for the field visit. The Nepal team warmly greeted the participants and welcomed them to Nepal. Deependra Chaudhuri (Program Coordinator, Welthungerhilfe) and Archana (Project Coordinator, FORWARD) Gupta gave an overview to the participants on the field visit itinerary and formed 3 groups.

CHAPUR



KATHMANDU

42 Participants from Nutrition Smart CommUNITY across the three countries: Bangladesh (Anando and FIVDB), India (DMKS, MGSA and VSS), and Nepal (FORWARD) joined.



DAY: 2

07 Nov 2022



FIELD VISIT

To facilitate peer learning and understand the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY in Nepal, a field visit was organised to three villages (Jhingadwa, Tejapakad, and Bhedyahi) of the Paroha municipality. The participants were divided into three groups to observe the status and impact of the 5 best practices, implementation methodology, convergence with the government, community engagement and more.

A sharing session was organized later in the evening to discuss the three groups' key observations, innovations in practice, replicable avenues and suggestions for change and co-learning. Mr Bazle Raze, FIVDB chaired the session.





FIELD VISIT SHARING SESSION

Group 1: Jhingadwa (Pilot Village)

Interventions Observed: Basic Health Unit, Demo Farm, FFS Group Interaction, SIFS Model Farm, Nutrition Camp (NERP)

Heading	Basic Health Unit	Demonstration farm	FFS class (Interaction)	SIFS Model farm	NERP Camp (Nutrition Camp)
Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ vibrant collaboration with local Govt. stakeholders, project and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ Vegetables grown Different modern technologies (Bio-fertilizer, organic manure, Mordala beds) Liquid Fertilizers & Pesticide Year-round cultivation waste water management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication/ Educational IEE material Log Book Maintained Proper documentation of FFS activities Active Participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5+ Subsystems different types of technology Seed Preservation ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Screening Recipe Technical Support by Govt Budget Analysis (Govt & community contribution)
Good areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of the approaches by the community. Adoption of project initiatives by the local Govt. ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-round cultivation Sufficient Irrigation facility Bio-pesticide & Liquid Fertilizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log book Maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed Storage [nutritional value] Community Irrigation method Efficient Land Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Attendance (Govt & community) Active Govt. Staff (Health)
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Analysis
Replication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek Govt. involvement & Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mordala Garden/ Circle-bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Analysis
Feed forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Advocacy for the Govt. Stakeholders [in the future] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to increase involvement & participation of neighbouring houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to increase involvement of other farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓

Group 2: Tejapakad (Scale-up Village)

Interventions Observed: Municipal Office, Health Office, LANN+PLA Meeting, FFS, Demo Farm

Municipal Office:					
Health part:	Observation	Good area	Innovation	Replication	Improvement area
	<p>Provide service: ANC, PNC, Em Immunization, Child Growth Monitoring</p>	<p>⇒ Incentive for all NVD Mother Rs1000/ Mother.</p> <p>⇒ 24/7 delivery Services.</p> <p>⇒ 15 to 20 delivery Month.</p>	<p>⇒ Linkage Good with health providers & project</p>	<p>⇒ 24/7 delivery</p>	<p>⇒ GMP Card filled up/updated regularly</p> <p>⇒ Height measured MUAC (if possible)</p>
LANN+PLA					
	<p>⇒ 30-40 participant were present.</p> <p>⇒ Adolescent, Lactating women, Father in Law, Mother in Law, MAM, Child Mother or other criteria beneficiaries were present.</p> <p>⇒ Meeting Minute book were present. Flip chart available. Flash Card "</p>	<p>⇒ Meeting conducted Govt. Health Workers</p> <p>⇒ Participatory</p> <p>⇒ efficient & fruitful</p> <p>⇒ Benefited the community</p>	<p>⇒ Project involved the 6 Govt. health volunteers.</p>	<p>LANN+PLA Meeting conducted by health volunteers</p>	<p>Male participant ensure.</p>

FFS Session:				
Observation	Good area	Innovation	Replication	Improvement area
<p>⇒ 30-35 farmers were present.</p> <p>⇒ Use the flip chart.</p> <p>⇒ Active participation</p>	<p>⇒ Facilitator ^{skills} efficient</p> <p>⇒ Subject matter knowledge good.</p> <p>⇒ Sifted from mono-cropping to multi-cropping.</p> <p>⇒ own seed and Agri input available</p> <p>⇒ Cost</p>	<p>⇒ group Registration for Requirement of Govt. schemes.</p>	<p>- group Registration</p>	<p>⇒ Required to adopt chemical free farming on all fields.</p>
Demo farm:				
<p>⇒ Land 1.5 Katha.</p> <p>⇒ Muter, fencing net, water Dam, liquid manure, Bio-fertilizer, Compost.</p>	<p>⇒ 5+ Food group available</p> <p>⇒ Irrigation facility available</p> <p>⇒ Maximum Land use</p> <p>⇒ Planning Good.</p> <p>⇒ Documentation.</p>	<p>⇒ Mandala garden</p>		<p>Plot / Bed</p>

Group 3: Bhedyahi (Scale-up Village)

Interventions Observed: Municipal Office, LANN+PLA Group, FFS Group, Nutrition Garden, Meeting with Ward Chairman and Secretary

Group-3
village - "Bhedyahi"

* What we saw -: Meeting with Mayor
- and municipal commissioner.
- LANN+PLA Group. Nutrition Garden
- FFS, SIFS Group.
- Ward chairman, ward secretary.

* What we like most -:

Clear understanding of Stakeholder/Municipality on project approach focusing Nutritional interventions	Excellent understanding and skill of LANN+PLA facilitator (FCHV)	All farmers of SIFS Group Cultivating Crops Using organic practices
IEC use in LANN+PLA and SIFS	Budget allocation from municipality to implement NSMP Plans (4 lacs)	Malnutrition screening of all children 6m to 59m by Govt health system and providing support.

* New Ideas/Innovations

Budget allocation from Municipality for implementation of NSMP (NSC)	CNAM linkage in Project - RUTF + ready to eat kichri & khura to all SAM & MAM
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GR-3
* We can replicated in our Country -:

Govt. budget allocation by Municipality for NSC	SIFS register- Production Logbook
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* Suggestions for improvement -:

Promotion of poultry & other birds in home-stead Improved garden fencing	Male participation in LANN+PLA
Focus on non-budgeted activity Awareness of environment - Waste sanitation - cleaning of drains, soak pit, gutter - collection of plastic.	Re use of waste water in Nutritional garden
NSMP process needs to follow (SOP) while preparation of hand & the HH plan Explore more Govt. budget	More linkage of EQL with Govt. departments

Badslahi
Thomas

DAY: 3 **08 Nov 2022**

TRAVEL TO POKHARA

The following day, all the participants travelled to Pokhara by bus for the workshop.





WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The three-day annual review meeting at Pokhara started with a warm welcome and a fun introduction round facilitated by the host team. Nivedita Varshneya (Country Director WHH India,) and Shakeb Nabi, Country Director WHH Nepal), together with coordinators and partner representatives lit the lamp. Sweta Banerjee (Nutrition Specialist, WHH) briefed the participants on the agenda.



STATUS OF INDICATORS

Mamunur Rashid, Pratibha Srivastava and Deependra Chaudhari (project coordinators of BGD, IND, and NPL teams) shared the status of indicators of the three countries. Each shared data for the following indicators: Under Weight (WAZ 6 months to 3 years), MDDW, MDDC, Safely Managed Drinking Water and Household Using Sanitation Services. The data findings suggested a significant improvement across the three countries. The country-wise presentations are available [here](#).



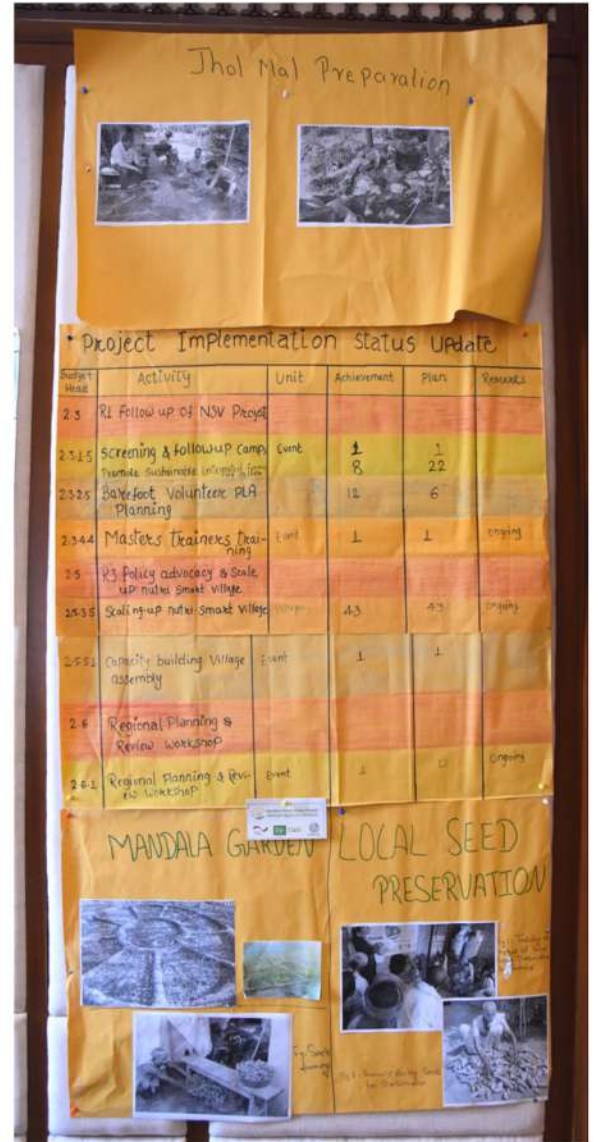


EXHIBITION

The partners presented result-wise project updates and creatively displayed models, achievements, case studies and photographs from the project villages.

Partner-wise updates and plans are available [here](#).







INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES

In this session, each partner presented at least one innovative activity, strategy or case story from their project areas which was duly judged by peers to award the best achievement. Seven outstanding achievements were presented in the workshop (FORWARD presented two) and briefly described below:

1. Scaling up Nutrition Smart CommUNITY with Health & Agriculture Department in Bangladesh:

Ratan Kumar Dey (Anando) presented how Nutrition Camp & Nutrition Gardens out of the 5 best practices were scaled up with the Health & Agriculture departments. They engaged local departments through orientations, meetings and master trainers' training and provided evidence through field visits & various consultation meetings. Resulting, the local Govt issued official orders to replicate Nutrition Camp and Nutrition Gardens in 30 villages of 2 unions of the Dhingla sub-district, bear costs & provide technical & material support.



2. Empowering Community Towards the Nutrition Security of Children (Scaling up Through ICDS)

Niranjan Yadav (DMKS) presented how over 70% of the children enrolled in Nutrition Camps moved to the normal category because of direct engagement by ICDS in the camps in both districts of India. To initiate scale-up and empowering change, the teams formally organized camps at the local child care centres which were co-facilitated by the ICDS service providers (AWW) who were prior provided IEC and training support by the team. Timely house visits and monitoring activities by AWW were ensured by them. "Bal Bhoj" (village-level one-day nutrition camps) were also organized as follow-ups to engage and reinforce learning. This enabled the community to learn and adopt healthier child-feeding practices, empowered the service providers to skill up and eased the scale-up and adoption of the activity.



3. Case story of Community Service Provider

Laily Akhter (FIVDB) beautifully narrated the story of Sahana Begum, a local community service provider from a particularly vulnerable village in the Haor region who skilled up, diversified her income sources and is providing counselling, training and other support to the community through a hygiene centre to bring better health, behaviour change and empower the local women and adolescents all with the support and continuous guidance of the project.

4. Women's Empowerment towards Nutrition

Archana Gupta (FORWARD) presented how they empowered the women of LANN+ PLA meetings beyond the knowledge of nutrition in their project area and taught them to sign their names in their meeting registers through a special drive. Now, the local government has linked this initiative with their Adult Literacy Program and plans to expand in all the municipality villages with the Nepal team.

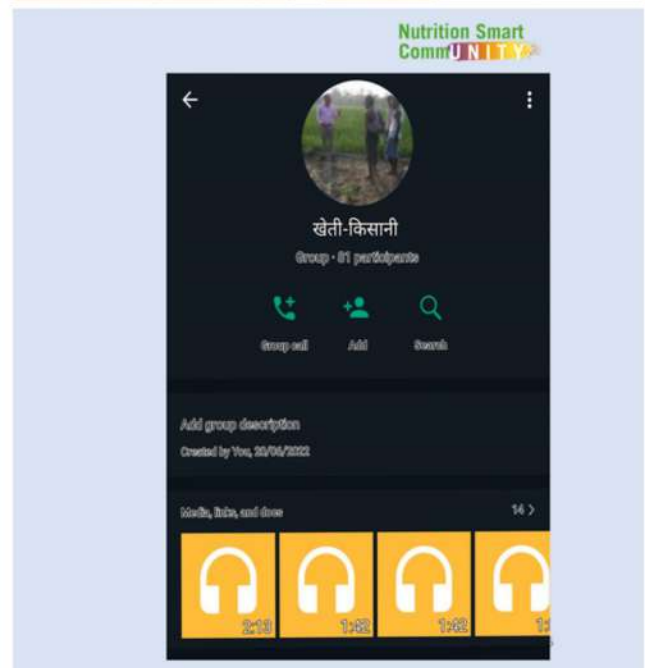


5. Scaling up Nutri-entrepreneurship with Govt

Archana Gupta (FORWARD) presented how the Municipal Health Department of Saptari has planned to establish Nutri-entrepreneurship units with 2 LANN+PLA self-help groups to produce Nutri-mix. They plan to buy Nutri-mix and distribute it to all children under 5 who visit the outreach clinics/health centres to improve child health and motivate women and children to growth monitoring regularly.

6. Reaching Out to Farmers using Technology

Punit Mishra (MGSA) shared the creative ways the team is trying to disseminate voice message agro-advisories in the local language to engage farmers using WhatsApp groups. The erratic rains and climate change effects led to this idea to reduce production loss and costs, and enhance farmers' knowledge. 80 Lead Farmers are connected to this group who engage 950+ farmers of the project area.



7. Using Grassroots Evidence for Policy Advocacy & Knowledge Products

Implementation in isolation is not sustainable. To expand the approach of Nutrition Smart CommUNITY, Shreya Patel (VSS) presented their strategy to bring together state ownership, community ownership and sustainability with evidence-based interventions across different levels which involved building the capacities and knowledge on the ground, focusing on knowledge-based inputs and taking up the ground realities and facilitating collaboratively with the government to bring policy level changes.



The partner-wise innovations or case studies are available [here](#).

DAY: 5

10 Nov 2022



STATUS OF FUND UTILISATION

Meethu Zakir (Programme Finance Officer, WHH) shared a combined overview of the finances, an update on the partner-wise fund utilization, unspent budget, reporting, audit, etc. The PPT is available [here](#).

FINANCE OVERVIEW AS OF 30.09.22

Total approved budget (for 4 years)	€ 32,39,916.00
Expenditure reported as of 30.09.2022	€ 18,21,705.00
Admin lumpsum (@10%)	€ 1,82,171.00
Total expenses as of 30.09.2022	€ 20,03,876.00
<i>Overall spending is 61 % against the required % of 75% .</i>	

BUDGET UTILISATION AS OF 30.09.22

	MGSA	DMKS	VSS	TRIF	ANANDO	FIVDB	FORWARD
Investment Costs	98	87	95	74	28	109	98
Operational Costs	50	49	68	34	51	57	66
Personnel Costs	61	63	61	60	79	73	58
Total Costs	65	62	68	60	62	64	76

AMOUNT TO BE SPENT BY DECEMBER 2022

(Expenditure deadline of budget (Yr-1, Yr-2 and Yr-3) upto April 2023)

Project	Total project budget till Dec 2022(yr 1 ,Yr 2and Yr 3-2020, 2021,2022)	Total Expenditure as of Sep 2022	Amount to be spent by Apr 2023
ANANDO	1,76,800	1,54,709	22,091
FIVDB	2,23,517	1,99,681	23,836
MGSA	3,31,514	2,67,951	63,653
DMKS	3,40,264	2,55,547	84,717
TRIF	5,14,297	3,10,260	2,04,037
VSS	1,19,616	95,584	24,032
FORWARD	4,45,637	4,06,233	39,404

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS!

The winners of the best innovative activity were presented in this session. VSS won the first prize followed by team FORWARD then DMKS. Peers scored the presentations on the basis of content, presentation, timeliness, & replicability. All the teams were presented mementoes as a token of appreciation for their dedication to building Nutrition Smart Community.





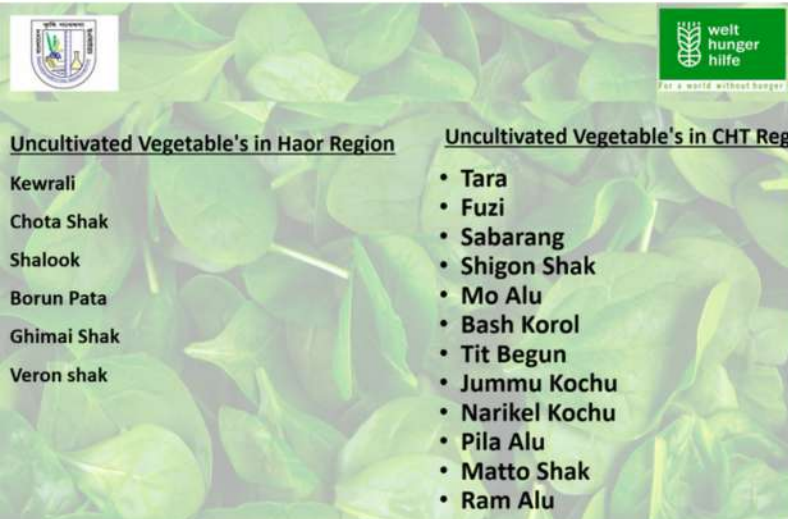
SITE SEEING





SHARING OF FINDINGS OF A STUDY ON THE NUTRITIVE VALUES OF UNCULTIVATED FOODS

Mamunur Rashid (Program Coordinator, Welthungerhilfe) presented the findings of a study on “Assessing the Nutritive Value of the Uncultivated Foods Found in the CHT and Hoar Region” of Bangladesh. This study was conducted with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) which found 12 uncultivated crops in CHT and 6 in the Haor region. The study dug deep to know the production and harvesting time, edible parts, local recipe, cooking process, etc. Uncultivated foods are packed with nutrients. Such studies can help understand more of what's locally available and can be revived for consumption. The PPT is available [here](#).



COMMUNICATION AND STORY TELLING

Later in the evening, Sachin Kumar Jain (Director, VSS) facilitated an impromptu session on the essence, importance and approach of storytelling for all the partners to strengthen our communication. The session focused on stirring thoughts and ideas around the possible themes and topics on the ground which can come up as stories to share with the world.

He led the session with 5 simple questions:

- **What change** are we bringing?
- **What is being done to realise** this change?
- **How** are we seeing the transition of change?
- **What is contributing** to bring this change?

More discussions are planned to be held to figure out VSS' role and support in communication for all the partners.



OVERALL PROJECT DISCUSSION AND GRADUATION PLAN

The last session of the meeting was facilitated by Sweta Banerjee (Nutrition Specialist, Welthungerhilfe) around the overall project matrix, objectives, and strategic planning for graduation and scale-up of each best practice. She emphasised that the teams ensure the process is followed now, not implementation. She shared checklists for process monitoring. Reporting and data collection were also discussed. The PPT and checklists are available [here](#).



Strategic planning for graduation & scale-up

- **Nutrition Camps- 2-3 days event on a quarterly basis only if required (>10 children in MAM+ SAM)**
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) should be developed for Nutrition Camps and be followed strictly
 - Reduce costs on Nutrition camps. Only nutri-mix demonstration can be done
 - Home visits and follow-up is mandatory
 - 100% children 6 to 36 months must be reached and followed till the end of the project period
 - Monthly growth monitoring is mandatory
 - All mothers should have growth charts/health cards/GMP cards. Mother should know the nutritional grade of the child red/yellow/green
 - All HH of 6-to-36-month children should have live nutrition gardens with 8 variety of crops and at least 4 food groups
- **NSIFS- Nutrition sensitive sustainable integrated farming systems**
 - 100% pilot villages should have at least 1 lead farmer running a farmer field school (FFS) with demonstration of diverse crops, mixed cropping, multilayer cropping integrated with animal husbandry, composting, bio pesticides, seed bank, reuse of wastewater, fodder, sack gardens, live fence and any other
 - The Lead farmer should maintain a logbook of production, consumption and income
 - All SIFS farmers should have a sub-system plan
 - 100% pilot villages should have farmer groups. The group will meet once every quarter. Meeting Register should be maintained.
 - Exposure visits should be organized for the scale-up villages. The volunteers will explain processes, not project staff
 - Minimise procurement of seeds, encourage revolving of the seeds from seed banks
 - Mobilize government funds/ schemes/projects/training centres/ research centres



Strategic planning for pilot & scale-up villages

- **LANN+ PLA**
 - One round of PLA meetings in the Pilot villages, do not repeat all the 22 meetings.
 - If needed, organize specific meetings on a quarterly basis
 - Identify & Train master trainers for PLA in scale-up villages
 - Provide PLA manuals to the master trainers and e-manuals to village facilitators.
 - Printed picture cards must be given to the facilitators in scale-up villages
- **Nutrition sensitive micro planning**
 - At least 100% pilot villages have village micro plans in place
 - At least 50% of the planned activities have been achieved in the pilot villages
 - NSMP master trainer teams have been formed for the scale-up villages
 - Ensure HH resource planning is done for the most vulnerable families (families with malnourished children)
 - Organise exposure visits for scale-up village representatives to learn about the NSMP from the community.
- **Institution building**
 - 100% pilot villages must have active VHSNC/SHG/ CBOs who aware about the multisector approach and support the 5 good practices in the village.
 - The CBOs should maintain a meeting register
 - Village assembly members/panchayat member/ward members/ union member are oriented on multisector approach and NSMP



Shakeb Nabi,
Country Director, Nepal,
Welthungerhilfe

LOOKING FORWARD

“ For scale-up, we need to have a thorough model which says this is the best way to address malnutrition which can be promoted with the government and other stakeholders. I think it will be very interesting to know the difference between the initial design and the new learnings and challenges according to the relevant ground conditions... The changes we see in the project will be very crucial.

VOTE OF THANKS

I am grateful to everyone from the Nepal team for hosting us and to everyone for coming and making this event happen. It is always a pleasure meeting the Bangladesh and Nepal teams. I look forward to our next workshop in Bangladesh.



Pratibha Srivastava,
Program Coordinator, India,
Welthungerhilfe



Manmunur Rashid,
Program Coordinator,
Bangladesh,
Welthungerhilfe

“ It feels great to see that we are going into second-level leadership now. We saw presentations from now only the coordinators, but specialists, field officers and other team members as well. Such platforms build the confidence of everyone and give a learning avenue too.

Thanks for the very detailed discussions. The critical self-reflection that we've had over the past few days has been very insightful. As development actors, we have very ambitious goals. We need to be critical of our work and really think about how we can have the biggest impact and serve all participants and beneficiaries the best.



Jasper Anton
Expert Program Coordinator,
Bangladesh, Welthungerhilfe



Bazle Razez,
Director,
FIVDB, Bangladesh

“ Since we're promoting NSV in different regions, we need to be able to tell our stories very convincingly. Over the years, I have observed efforts to document the stories but probably there's room for improvement so it's great to see efforts being planned in this direction.

Any more details?

[ARCHIVE](#)

*Click here to find the meeting agenda,
photos, presentations and more from the
review meet-up*

