

MEDIUM TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATION  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016**  
SOUTH ASIA

CONSORTIUM ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFA)  
AND LA VIA CAMPESINA (LVC)



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## ABOUT MEDIUM-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)

The Farmers' Forum (FaFo) which was established in 2005 is an ongoing dialogue between IFAD and the small-scale women and men farmers. The forum aims to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between IFAD and FOs in country programmes, investment projects and in building FO capacity. In support to farmers forum, projects are established to strengthen the FOs and activities in the field. Thus, the first phase of the Medium Term Cooperation Program for Farmers Organizations in Asia and Pacific (MTCP1) was implemented from 2009 to 2012. The second phase of the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region – Phase 2 (MTCP2) was approved by IFAD on 12 June, 2013, and the Large Grant Agreement became effective on 4 September, 2013. The Programme's completion date is 30 September, 2018, and the financing closing date 31 March, 2019. The Programme builds on lessons learned from the MTCP1, which was in part implemented by FAO.

**Objectives:** MTCP2 aims to further strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations (FOs) in Asia and the Pacific to deliver better, improved and inclusive services to their members and to engage in effective dialogues with governments, thereby making FOs more viable, responsive and accountable to their members, more respected by their partners and with greater participation in policy-making and program implementation processes of governments and IFAD country operations. Its primary beneficiaries are smallholder farmers who are current or potential members of participating FOs. The MTCP2 is benefiting 200 national FOs as members of the national platforms/forums in the 17 participating countries in the three sub- regions (South-East Asia + China, South Asia and Pacific Regions). This includes 1045 sub-national FOs, together representing an estimated membership of about 22 million individual farmers, consisting of about 13 million members in South-East Asia + China, about 9 million in South Asia, and about 0.025 million in the Pacific sub-region.

**Components:** The Programme is articulated around four components: (i) Component 1 - Strengthen FOs and their networks; (ii) Component 2 - Support participation of FOs in policy processes; (iii) Component 3 - FO Services and Involvement in Agricultural Development Programmes ; and (iv) Component 4 - Programme management and coordination.

**Geographical coverage:** The MTCP2 is evolving in terms of geographical coverage and implementation modalities, aiming to increase the benefits of its actions to a larger number of farmers' organizations in the region, and also to enhance the FOs' ownership - both at regional and national level - in the implementation of the Programme's activities. Therefore, MTCP 2 has expanded its geographical coverage within South Asia and South East Asia, and has opened it to the Pacific Region.

**Implementation modalities:** The programme is based on national platforms grouping all farmers' organisations of each country deciding their own annual work plan and facilitated by a national implementing agency. Each sub-region is coordinated by a Sub-regional implementation agency (ANFPA, LVC/AFA and PIFON and the whole regional MTCP2 is under the coordination of the Regional Implementing agency managed by the consortium of AFA/LVC. RIA and SRIAs are farmer organisations, selected through a competitive process to ensure direct implementation of the Programme's activities.

The total programme base cost is estimated as of now for a total of USD 19,178,000. Programme costs are co-financed by an IFAD grant of US\$ 2 million (10% of total costs), a grant from SDC of US\$ 3 million (16% of total costs) and a contribution of EU (through AFOSP programme, see below) of US\$ 10 million (52% of total costs).

Additional EU funds focusing on the ASEAN sub region: the AFOSP. On 12 June 2015, MTCP2 received a new grant of EUR 7.4 million [= USD 8.3 million] under an agreement signed between the European Union (EU) and IFAD for the funding of the Asian Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) and Medium Term Cooperation Programme Phase 2 and regional policy dialogue in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region (AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN). The EU contribution through AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN is focused on the ASEAN sub-region; it is one of the two pillars of the global EU-funded AFOSP programme supporting MTCP2 and AgriCord under the AFOSP/FFP ASEAN grant agreement. The AFOSP was launched in September 2015. The recipient of the grant and implementing agency for the AFOSP/MTCP2 is AFA in partnership with LVC as SRIA. The funds will be downloaded to NIAs.

To learn more on MTCP2, visit our website: <http://www.asiapacificfarmersforum.com>

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## ACRONYMS USED

<b>AFA</b>	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
<b>AFOSP</b>	ASEAN Farmers' Organization Strengthening Program
<b>AFFM</b>	Association of Farmers Federation in Myanmar
<b>ANAPROFIKO</b>	National Association of Commercial Seed Producers
<b>ANPFa</b>	All Nepal Peasant Federation
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>AsiaDHRRA</b>	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human resources in Rural Areas
<b>AWPB</b>	Annual Workplan and Budget
<b>CSA</b>	Climate Resilient Agriculture
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DAR</b>	Department of Agrarian Reform
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FACT</b>	Farmers Advocacy and Consultation Tool
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FAO APRC</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization – Asia Pacific Regional Conference
<b>FNN</b>	Farmers and Nature Network
<b>FO</b>	Farmers' Organization
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Support Association
<b>FU</b>	Farmers' Union
<b>GAFFSP</b>	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
<b>GCARD3</b>	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
<b>CGIAR</b>	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
<b>GMO</b>	Genetically Modified Organism
<b>GroFed</b>	Growers' Federation of Tonga, Inc.
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IRR</b>	Implementing Rules and Regulations
<b>KGA</b>	Kastom Gaden Association
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management

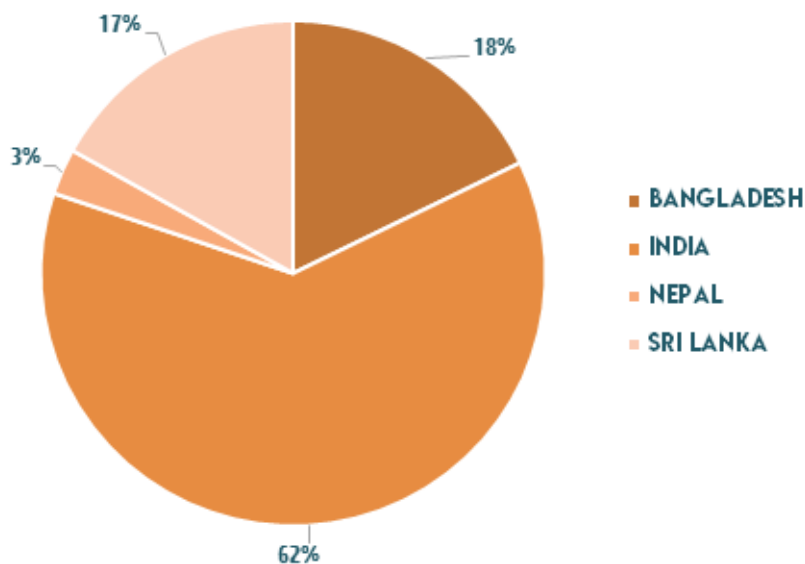
<b>LEAP</b>	Laos Extension for Agriculture Program
<b>LFN</b>	Lao Farmers' Network
<b>LURAS</b>	Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service
<b>LVC</b>	La Via Campesina
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>MFF</b>	Myanmar Fishery Federation
<b>MTR</b>	Medium Term Review
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MTCP2</b>	Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase Two
<b>NAC/NSC</b>	National Advisory Committee / National Steering Committee
<b>NAPC</b>	National Anti-Poverty Commission
<b>NFA</b>	National Food Authority
<b>NIA</b>	National Implementing Agency
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>NWC</b>	Nature's Way Cooperative
<b>NWP</b>	Netherlands Water Partnership
<b>PARO</b>	Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
<b>PCA</b>	Philippine Coconut Authority
<b>PIFON</b>	Pacific Island Farmers' Organization Network
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>PWC</b>	Philippine Women Commission
<b>RECOFTC</b>	The Center for People and Forests
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>RIA</b>	Regional Implementing Agency
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TRTC</b>	Tutu Rural Training Center
<b>TTT</b>	Tei Tei Taveuni
<b>SA</b>	South Asia
<b>SAGDD</b>	Summary of Activities with Gender Disaggregated Data
<b>SEA</b>	Southeast Asia
<b>SEARICE</b>	Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

<b>SEWA</b>	Self-Employed Women's Association
<b>SKP</b>	SorKorPor Farmers' Federation for Development Thailand
<b>SRIA</b>	Sub-Regional Implementing Agency
<b>SRSC</b>	Sub-regional Steering Committee
<b>TTT</b>	Tei Tei Taveuni
<b>VCOPA</b>	Virgin Coconut Oil Producers' Association
<b>VNFU</b>	Vietnam Farmers' Union
<b>WA</b>	Withdrawal Application
<b>WIADF</b>	Women in Agriculture Development Foundation



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. As SAARC chair, Nepal enjoined the member states to work towards an environment conducive for participation and ensure that their territories are safe from cross-border terrorism, especially in view of the 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC summit which was postponed due to the tension following the fatal terrorist attack in India. This situation affects movement and activities within the region, even among farmers. Thus, South Asia is the region with least learning exchanges between and among countries.
2. MTCP2 in South Asia covers 50 percent of the total member countries – Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In 2016, MTCP2 South Asia countries decided to expand to cover more countries, with Bhutan and Pakistan specifically mentioned. A scoping study in Bhutan has been completed in this regard.
3. Among the four countries, India conducted the most number of activities, a total of 62 percent among the four countries. Bangladesh comes next with 18 percent, Sri Lanka at 17 percent and Nepal at 3 percent. Nepal combined all its meetings in one entry, and was thus counted only as one.



**Figure 1. Percentage of Activities per Country, South Asia**

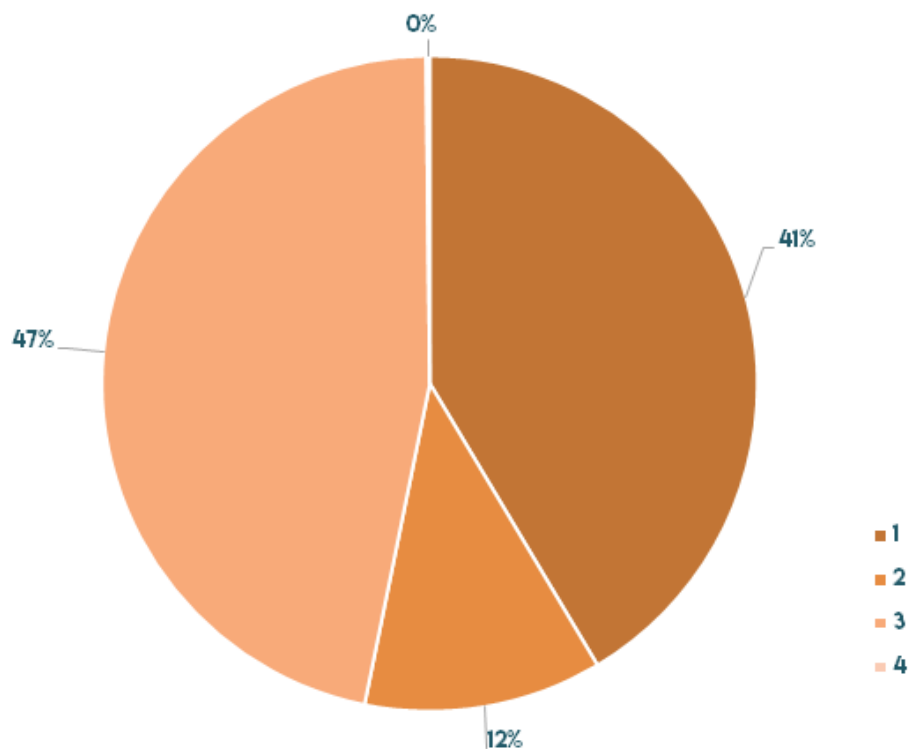
4. Component 3 activities has the highest percentage at 47; component 1 comes next at 41 percent. Component 2 comprised 12 percent of total activities conducted in South Asia. Component 4, largely management and coordination has the least number of activities.
5. MTR results proposed that SRIA functions be uploaded to RIA for more efficient operational coordination. Other areas for improvement needed in the sub-region include timely submission of reports, systematic capacity building support to identified areas of agriculture development and market access, implementing result-based component 3 activities, and expansion to Pakistan and Bhutan to include more state members in the region.



## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

### OVERALL PROGRESS

Component 3 comprise 47 percent of total activities in South Asia. Most of these activities are training-workshop and capacity building on agriculture and related topics and value chain.



**Figure 2. Activities per Component in South Asia**

Component 1 comprises 41 percent of total activities most of which are mostly meetings. There is only one activity reflected in component 4, a meeting in India that discussed joint policy of FOs with one another in relation to MTCP2.

Except for India with high participation of women and youth, the three other countries need to strive more to encourage these important sectors to be more active in the project.

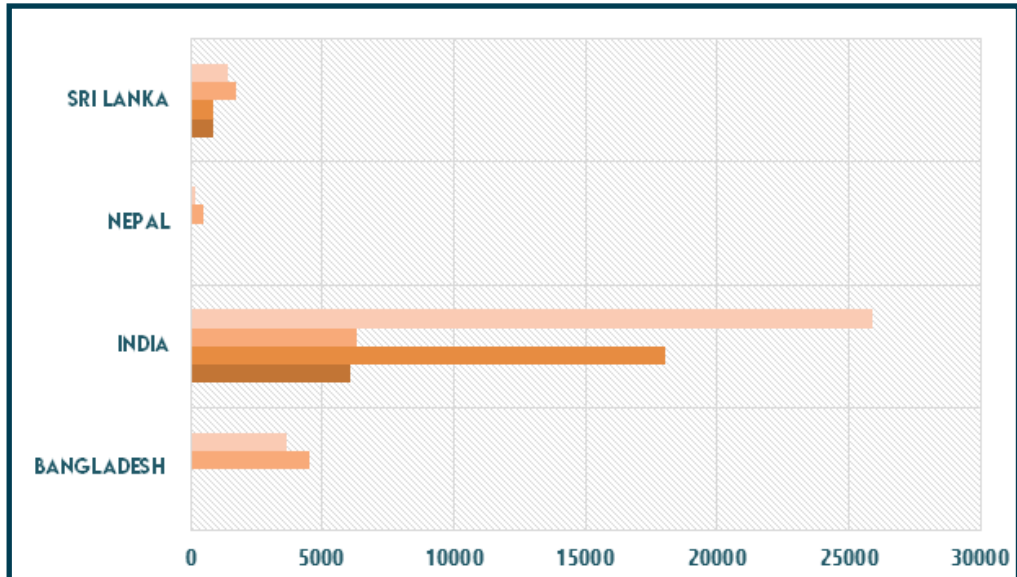


Figure 3. Youth and Female Participation in Country Activities

It is worth to note that other than the daily lost income in attending MTCP2 activities, farmers also contribute in kind such as free use of hall for meetings, local travel costs and resource persons' fees, especially in the case of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

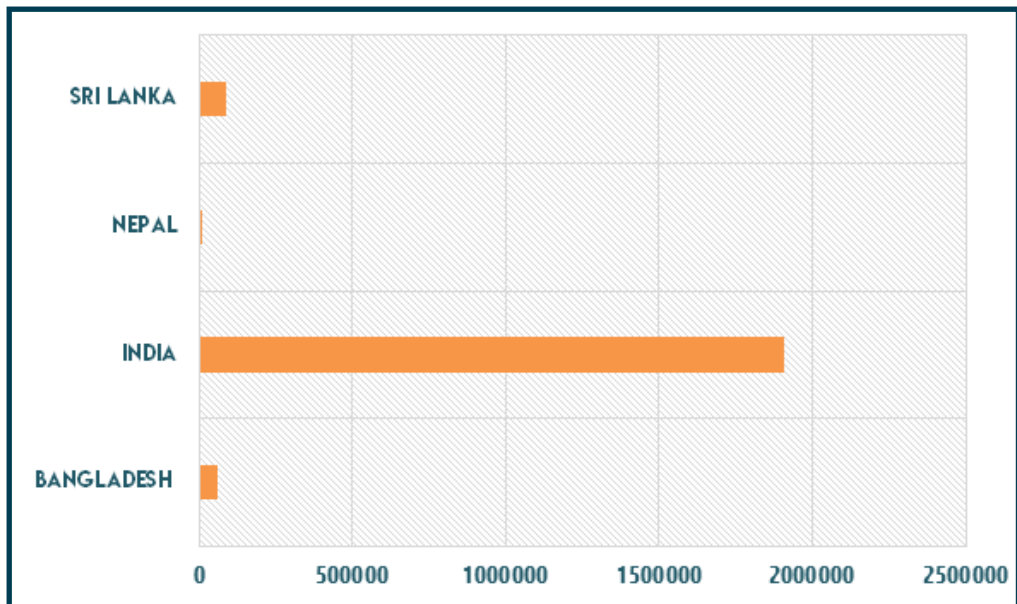


Figure 15. Farmers' Counterpart per Country, South Asia



## COMPONENT 1. FO STRENGTHENING

Component 1 aims to strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of FOs to achieve a level where they can effectively participate in policy process and provide economic services to their members.

To strengthen FOs' capacities, NIAs conducted the following:

- ✓ meetings of local and national organizations
- ✓ assessment of past activities
- ✓ planning for 2017
- ✓ meeting with partners – government, development partners
- ✓ training - organization management, leadership, climate change, and financial management among others

### BANGLADESH

Bangladesh conducted the most number of component 1 activities (52 percent of total country level activities).

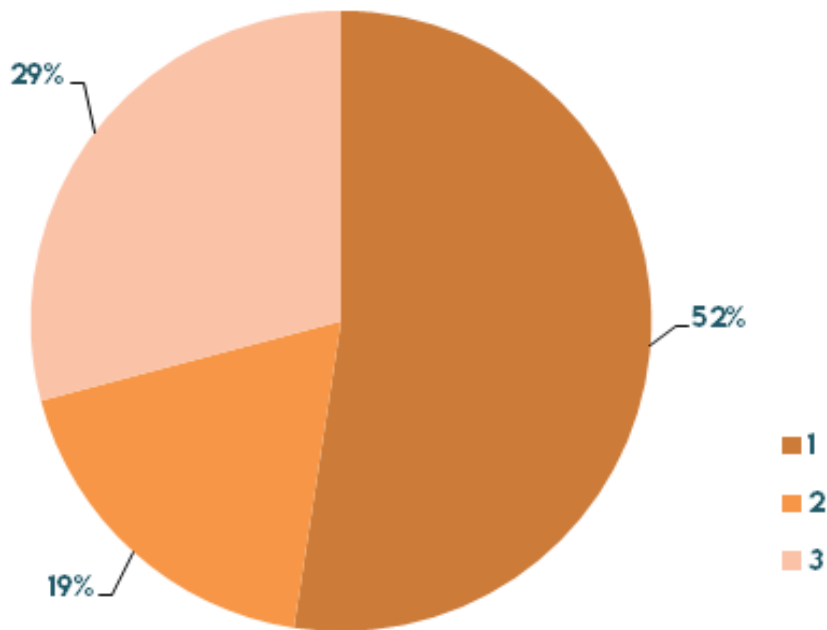
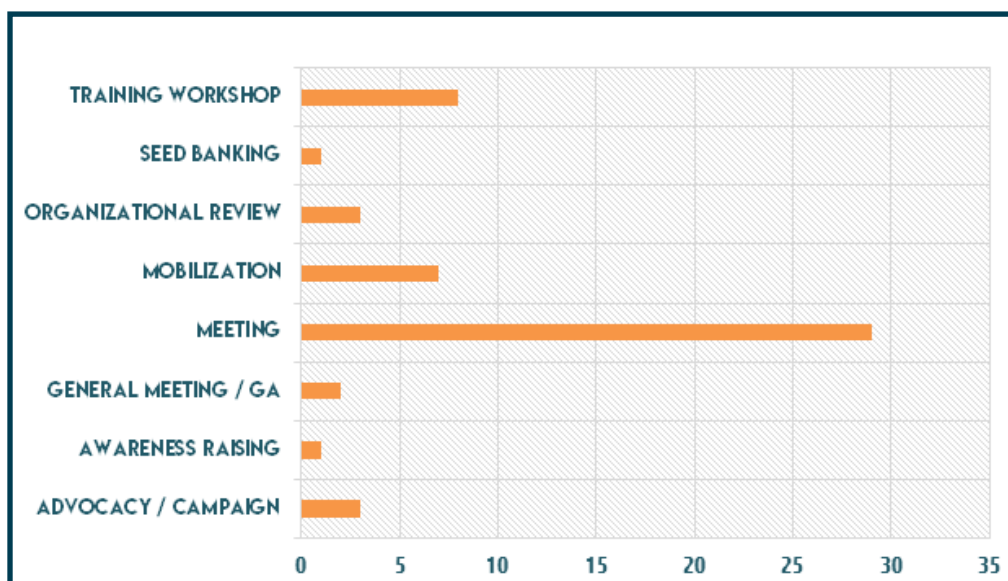


Figure 5. Activities per component in Bangladesh



**Figure 6. Type of Activities under Component 1, Bangladesh**

These activities include meetings with partners, mobilization against GMO, community-based seed bank management, and environment friendly agricultural technologies to name a few. A total of 2,141 farmers and fishers from 12 FOs participated in these activities. Focus of component 1 activities for 2016 include building the capacity and knowledge of FOs and establish linkages with different service providers – both GOs and NGOs. One of the major activities was orientation on community seed bank which resulted to establishment of two seed banks.

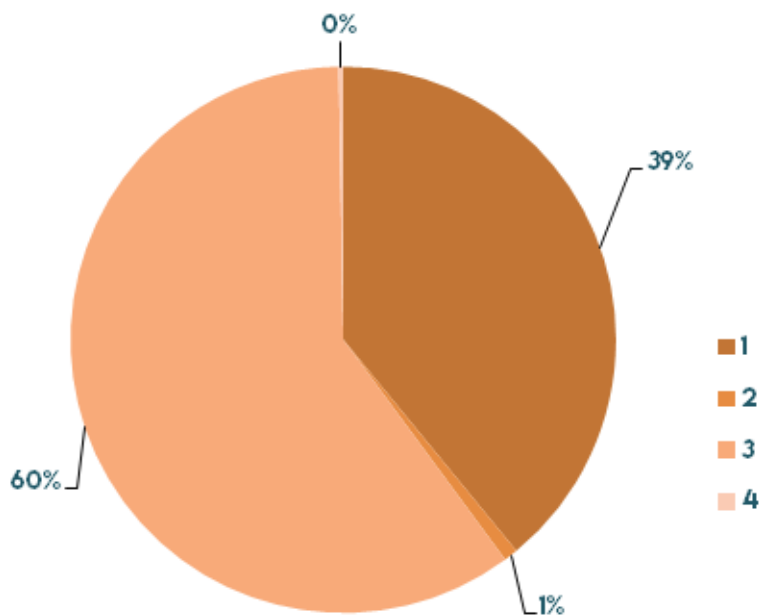
## INDIA

39 percent of activities conducted in India fall under component 1. These are mostly meetings to:

- ✓ discuss loans and bank linkages within the SHGs
- ✓ provide information on the benefits of organic farming, crop rotation and other agricultural innovations
- ✓ share issues that the members face, especially related to agriculture
- ✓ discuss organizational and operational matters such as proper recording of expenses
- ✓ meet with potential partners (Japanese cotton company officials, African farmers' group learning from India's experience)

**Table 5. Number of Activities Conducted per Type of Activity**

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED
Day Celebration	11
Meetings	108
Technical Exchange	2
Training	4
Trainings	7
Workshops	9
Grand Total	141

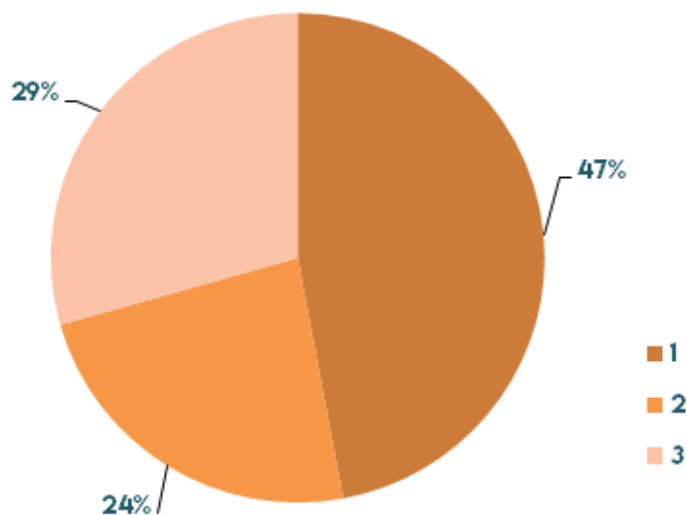


**Figure 7. Activities per component, India**

Other activities include celebration of women’s day, international Labor Day, children’s day, and earth day among other celebrations. They took the opportunity of the celebration to discuss related issues like climate change, resilient farming practices, etc.

**NEPAL**

Almost half of the activities in Nepal fall under component 1 (47 percent) as shown in the figure below.



**Figure 8. Activities per Component, Nepal**

Outcomes of these activities include:

- ✓ approval of workplan and budget
- ✓ updating of FO profiles
- ✓ expansion/additional FO member of ANPFa
- ✓ getting information on government's plan to increase production and consequently raising the issues of high use of pesticide, insufficient market, low price because of middle persons
- ✓ learning about the research, innovation and extension program on vegetable sector by the National Agriculture Research Centre
- ✓ Training of KM and Finance staff on their respective fields
- ✓ training on proposal writing, basic accounting, taxation, and financial report preparation

### SRI LANKA

Component 1 compose 38 percent of the total activities in Sri Lanka. These activities include regular meeting of the Lankan Farmers' Forum, committee meetings, general meetings, MTCP2 program orientation and MTR evaluation.

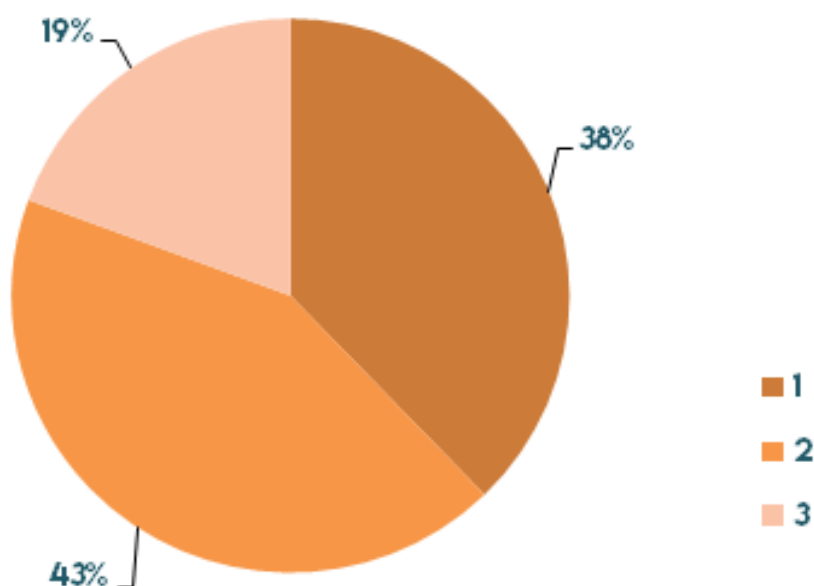


Figure 9. Activities per Component, Sri Lanka

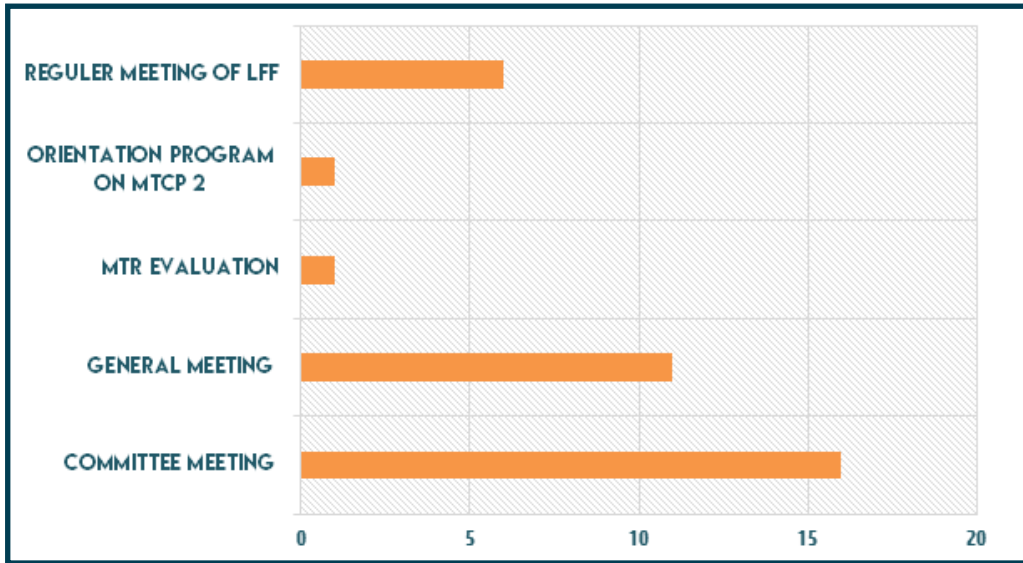


Figure 10. Type of Component 1 Activities, Sri Lanka

## COMPONENT 2. PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESS

There are many ways by which FOs in South Asia participate in policy process. One important step is educating the public on the issues through meetings and forums. Such is the case in Sri Lanka where NIA conducted several meetings to discuss issues affecting farmers. The same is true in Bangladesh where the FOs launched mobilization to call for increase in agriculture budget.

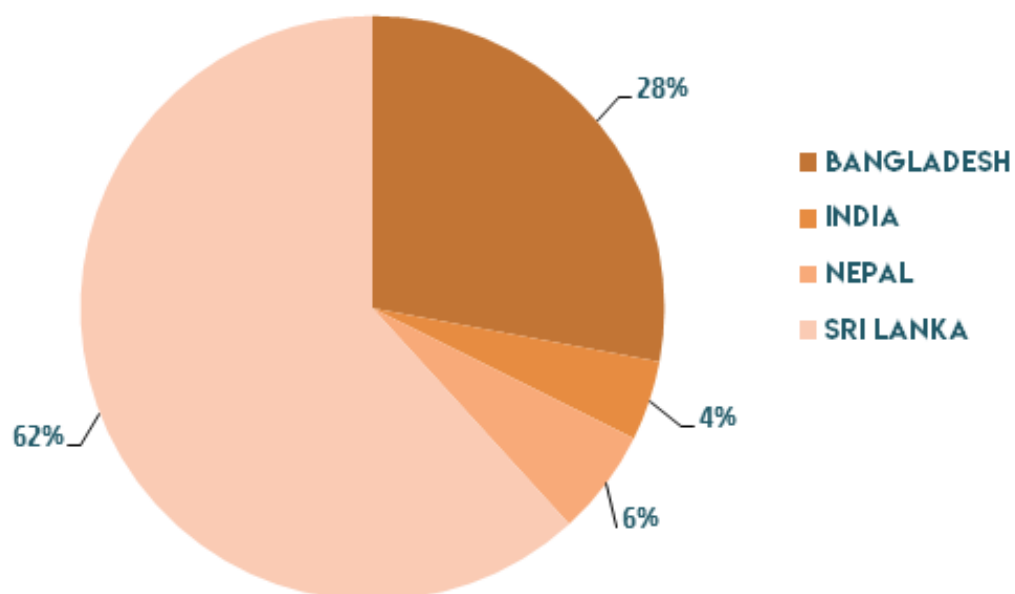
Negotiation is another form of participation, in the case of Bangladesh where FOs sat with government officials to discuss their issues that can be addressed with pro-farmer policies. The same is true with Nepal where the FO conducted a dialogue with Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock who ensured the farmers of government support in terms of budget and program.

India maximized the availability of services that can be accessed by farmers by going directly to the agriculture department to seek services that they need.

FO MEETING IN SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka took the lead in conducting component 2 activities in South Asia as shown on the figure below.



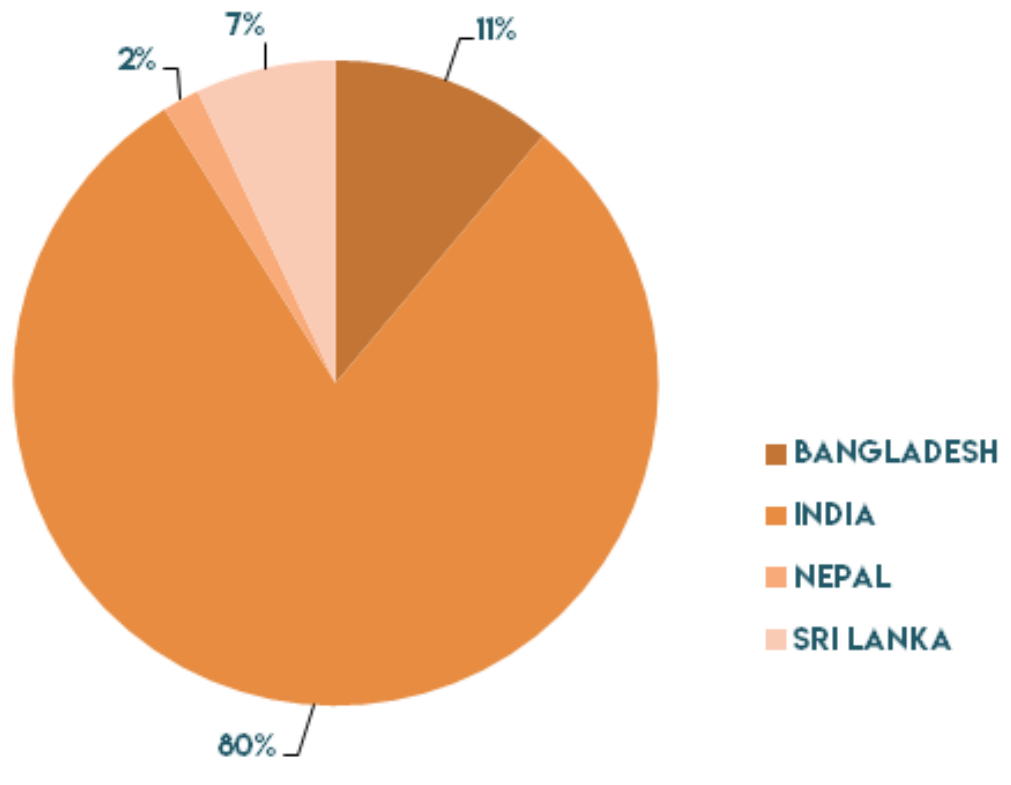
**Figure 11. Component 2 Activities per Country, South Asia.**

Major accomplishments under component 2 include:

- ✓ increase in Agriculture budget (Bangladesh)
- ✓ women farmers accessed services of the Department of Agriculture on hybrid seeds (India)
- ✓ commitment from the Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock to allocate budget to support farmers
- ✓ appointment of MONLAR Board member to the Commission on Communications (Sri Lanka)

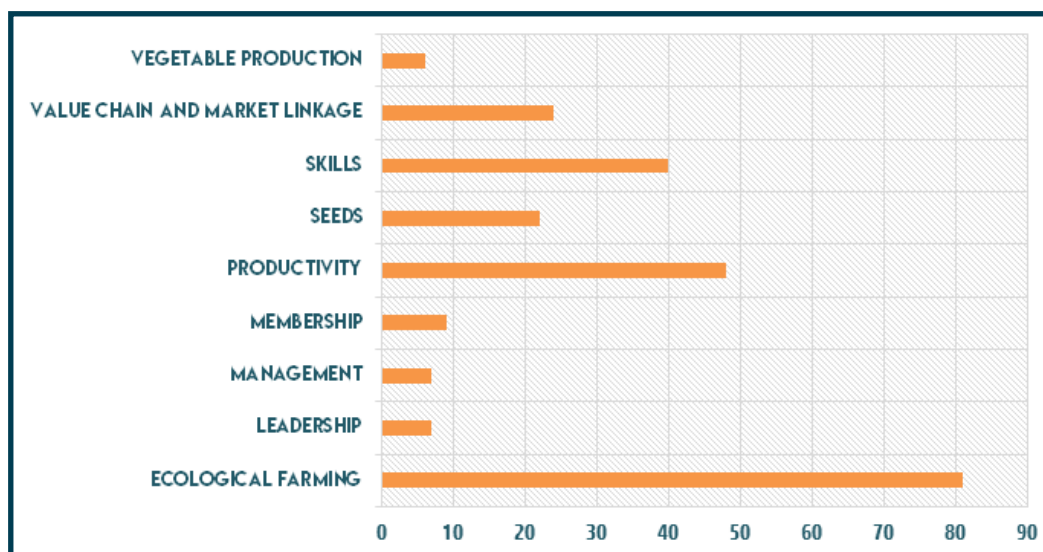
### COMPONENT 3. SERVICES TO FO AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Of the 47 percent component 3 activities in South Asia, 80 percent were conducted in India, 11 percent in Bangladesh, 7 percent in Sri Lanka and 2 percent in Nepal.



**Figure 12. Component 3 Activities in South Asia**

These activities addressed different topics including farming techniques that are environment friendly – compost pit preparation, SRI, organic farming, vermicomposting, bio-pesticide and use of solar power in the farm. Training-workshops to increase productivity were also conducted – poultry, animal husbandry, crop insurance, mixed cropping, soil testing, and crop rotation. Specific skills were also enhanced through training – food processing, baking, and literacy. Value chain and market linking orientation were also conducted.



**Figure 13. Topics/Needs Addressed by Component 3 Activities**

Outcome of these activities include the following:

#### BANGLADESH

- ✓ a total of 16 groups are engaged in value chain using both MTCP2 funds and local funds
- ✓ farmers engaged in value chain for local seeds campaigned and received immediate purchase orders for their products
- ✓ fishers trained on sustainable fishing committed themselves to avoid harmful fishing gears and planned to engage in dried fish value chain
- ✓ new customers for farmers' products as a result of local newspaper advertisement

#### INDIA

- ✓ 32 participants of baking started small business at CLBRC and in the village
- ✓ 110 women and one man formulated a plan to sow vegetables after exposure
- ✓ 15 farmers (13 of whom are young farmers) were given chicken for their livelihood activity
- ✓ 237 farmers/fishers were trained on value adding on fish and paddy to get better price for their produce
- ✓ over 600 farmers were trained on sustainable agriculture including climate smart techniques and environment-friendly farming approaches
- ✓ 152 farmers trained on bookkeeping and management-related training

#### NEPAL

- ✓ 36 participants developed simple business plans as a result of Entrepreneurship training
- ✓ 48 farmers were trained on mobile application use in marketing



Sri Lanka

- ✓ 63 farmers were trained on indigenous farming and given indigenous seeds (ginger, rice)
- ✓ 52 farmers were trained on food technology
- ✓ 11 women farmers were given equipment for small scale value adding production
- ✓ farmers trained on leadership which includes analysis of farmers' situation, role of organization and movement, and creative means of solving socio-economic problems like use of revolving funds

A FARMING FAMILY  
HARVESTING POISON-FREE  
CROPS IN BADULLA  
(A RESULT OF TRAINING ON  
ECOLOGICALLY-FRIENDLY  
FARMING TECHNIQUES)



IFAKRISHI MOBILE APPLICATION FOR NEPAL FARMERS

The Ritu Mausami Krishi Farm increased its vegetables production nearly about 20 percent and solved the problems of crop diseases, weather forecast and market prices through the use of IFAKrishi android based mobile application. MTCP2 Nepal supports and trains farmers for agriculture information access and dissemination.

The farm runs by group of farmers and led by women farmer Tika Bastola. The group established the farm with a financial investment of Rs 2 million in 2014 at Dhaphakhel village, Lalitpur district of Nepal. They produced 15000 kg Tomato and 15000 kg other vegetables per season.

35-years old farmer Ms Tika Bastola said "We are growing tomato including various vegetables at our Krishi Farm (Ritu Mausami). At this phase weather forecast and market price information of IFAKrishi is big help to us. Tomato under plastic tunnel is about to harvest. We are taking market price reference by using IFAKrishi app to sell in coming days. Besides weather forecast and market price we are also taking the ideas of using organic fertilizer, vitamins and pesticide."

IFAKrishi, an android based mobile application platform is one stop solution for information access and information dissemination. Larger part of the application feature supports farmers to provide agriculture news, fertilizer calculation, pest/disease and remedies for crops and animals, facility to post instant inquiries in farmer forum and get solutions from experts, find market price and trader information of various markets etc. Farmers can also get notifications of opportunities posted by government and non-government organizations.

MTCP2 Value chain and market linkage- use of ICT and connect farmers with market traders and agriculture experts program supported individual farmers and farmers' group including youth, dalit, women and indigenous farmers on agriculture production and marketing through Information and communication technology. Approximately 200 farmers were benefited by this program.

#### **COMPONENT 4. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**

Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). VGGT workshop was conducted in February 28-29, 2016. The two-day activity was attended by women, youth, dalits, consumer groups, CSOs and human rights activists. A paper on VGGT was presented highlighting the implementation process in the context of small scale farmers. Agenda related to VGGT was identified during the workshop.

Medium-Term Review. The MTR visited South Asia in March 2016 to review the performance and implementation progress of MTCP2 in the region. Presentation of MTR findings was done in Laos during the RSC. Functions of the SRIA in South Asia was uploaded to RIA based in Manila.

Climate Change and Value Chain in Agriculture: Issues and Challenges from Small Farmers. The workshop on climate change was conducted in June 28-29, 2016 in Pokhara, Nepal. From different paper presentations, each country (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal) shared the impact of climate change to the farmers. There were sharing also on current practices to address climate change such as shared by LIBIRD in the presentation "Climate Resilient Inventories and Small Farmers' Livelihood Protection".



CLIMATE CHANGE AND VALUE CHAIN IN AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP

Sub-regional Steering Committee meeting. The meeting was conducted on September 7-10, 2016 in Kavre, Nepal. As per the MTR recommendations, RIA conducted simultaneous workshops to enhance NIA capacity on financial management, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. Planning for the remaining life of the project was also done during the workshop. Timeline for submission of required documents was also agreed.

Participation in other South Asia activities. Other activities at the sub-regional level where MTCP2 engaged include the following:

1. People's SAARC, 4-5 November 2016, Lahur, Pakistan. The program was eventually cancelled upon cancellation of SAARC summit due to political instability that was further ignited by recent terrorist attack in India, allegedly by Pakistan. Some of the preparatory activities have already been done prior to its cancellation.
2. Expansion in Bhutan and Pakistan. There have been email exchanges and meetings with potential partners for expansion of MTCP2 in other South Asian countries.

PARTICIPANTS OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND VALUE CHAIN: IS-  
SUES FOR SMALL AND  
MARGINAL FARMERS  
OF SOUTH ASIA



MTCP2 Nepal organized training on Information Technology in Agriculture for vegetable farmers' in Kathmandu Nepal. Approximately 40 individual vegetables producers from different 14 Peasants' Organizations including youth, Dalit, indigenous and women attended the program and around 10 vegetables business persons from Kalitmati vegetables market also attended the program.







## COUNTRY REPORTS

### INDIA

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. For this period, there were some relevant events (local or national) which have affected the implementation of the program.
  - Demonetization was the biggest shock for the country. Since the next day of its official announcement, SEWA and Farmers Organizations (FOs) started getting information on effect of daily farm operations and market. To help farmers SEWA and FOs have started meeting with government and government organizations at district and state level. Shri Mahila SEWA Sahakari Bank has launched a small amount loan scheme for 60 days in cash to take care of the financial needs of the farmers to help them with their basic operations. Farmers need to learn about cashless transactions and they require training on using credit card, debit card, M paisa, Pay tm etc. In 2017 this would be kept in plan by NIA and all FOs in terms of coping strategy. Farmers from all the states of the country, involved with all FOs suffered, losing daily labour as had to stand in long queues at the banks to exchange old notes, secondly were cashless as were not able to withdraw money from the banks. In the last quarter, efforts of all FOs was in facilitating the farmers in exchanging old notes and providing them with small cash loans and also food kits.

Vegetable Farmers too had to suffer in the market as they were having to sell off their vegetables at throwaway prices, due to non availability of cash for transportation facility. All the vegetables were sold at the same price whether it was high valued capsicum or low value potato. Hence, SEWA, on a pilot basis, linked up the vegetable vendors with Agriculture Producers' Marketing Committee, and a special place was allocated to the vegetable vendors in two districts of Gujarat. SEWA also started, daily cash vegetable market for farmers in Ahmedabad to facilitate direct selling to the consumers at district level as well as at the block places. Farmers are getting a very positive response. On seeing these results SEWA is planning to replicate this in other districts.

During this crisis period, SEWA immediately designed training programmes for the farmer members to go digital. Members were oriented on use of wallets like paytm, and other digital payment. One of the farmer federations also installed a swipe machine in their seeds and fertilizer depot to enable the farmers to buy seeds on timely basis.

The year 2017 focus would be to continue to make farmers more techno savvy and train them in using these digital devices so they could go cashless and do the digital transactions.

- **Other Events**

Environment Day was celebrated by all the FOs on June 5, 2016. On June 2, 2016, solar energy celebration was carried out by farmers in Gujarat. International Farmers Innovation Day was celebrated in Uttarakhand with whole-hearted participation from 146 farmers. The main objective of the celebration was to share methods employed in agriculture; to help farmers adopt new technologies; and information dissemination. Farmers discussed the technologies they are currently using and the benefits they reap out of it. Farmers explained by role play about using old techniques which are good in terms of soil health, productivity and quality of the product. Farmers also shared about the many problems they face. International Soil Health Day was celebrated in 2 districts of Gujarat and 300 farmers participated in the same. The main agenda was to create awareness about organic farming and how to keep the

soil fertile. Different methods of keeping soil fertile were discussed and the significance of soil laboratory checkup was explained to the farmers. International Labor Day was celebrated by Indore and Bihar FOs and 615 small farmers and farm laborers participated. They discussed about share cropping system and sustainability practices in agriculture. Children's Day Celebration was carried out in Bihar and 80 people along with school children participated in the event. Bihar FO team discussed regarding: environment friendly climate; village cleanliness; vegetable cultivation in the back yard of houses; making and use of vermi compost; and sustainable agriculture practices through organic farming.

- **Capacity Building Initiatives and Trainings**

FOs carried out 126 capacity building trainings, awareness programs, village level meetings, value addition trainings, group discussions with farmers on sustainable agriculture, fishing farmers training, formation of self-help groups, etc. A total of 31037 farmers of 11 FOs were benefited by such programs.

Various schemes and services like - registration of farmers in cooperative, poultry farm, crop insurance, water pumps and pipes for irrigation, national food security scheme, Indira Aavas Scheme (housing scheme), marketing support, agriculture expert visit to farm by linking local government and other partners were provided to the farmers.

NIA has created a page for farmers on social media and to disseminate learning during the programme on a larger scale. SEWA is planning to roll it out to the farmers with a view to motivate them and it could also be a platform for lateral learning.

Other trainings like rural marketing, personality development communication and presentation skills, negotiation skills and other similar managerial and soft skill training needs emerged out for farmer micro entrepreneur, especially after taking value addition trainings. NIA is providing such trainings in 9 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya. A cadre of young master trainers has been created to reach the needs of training.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Component 1

In terms of component 1, a total of 313 activities were conducted ( 126 trainings, 40 workshops, 134 meetings, monthly meeting by each FO, two NPOB meetings and 13 value supply chain meetings) engaging a total of 39532 number of farmer leaders from 11 number of FOs and reaching out to more than 19,76,600 farmers. The focus of the activities for component 1 for this period was on integrated farm management, livestock management, FO and Farmer Groups Management Capacity, SHG Book Keeping, value addition in fish, income generation through kitchen gardening , food processing trainings, other income generative trainings etc.

Two National Program Oversight Board Meetings were held which focused on understanding and adopting common formats for all FOs to submit activity and finance reports and climate resilient agriculture techniques.

Value addition trainings have been carried out for spices and grains and also on value addition product development through making of snacks, pickles, jams and jellies and other food products. There has also been a focus on involving apasmall fishing farmers in dehydration of fish which could fetch more price and value.

The vegetable value chain as piloted by SEWA also received positive response and would now be replicated in other districts as well.



WOMEN MEMBERS LEARNED ABOUT FOOD AND NUTRITION

SEWA is promoting micro irrigation system for farm management, efficient water use and water saving. In tribal area farmers have very small land holdings and they believe that only big farmers can afford drip irrigation system though tribals can avail of a higher government subsidy on it than other category farmers. SEWA has set up demonstration of drip irrigation in one farm and provided the farmer with subsidy. Other farmers have expressed their keenness to set up drip irrigation system in their farm.

FAO Rome invited SEWA as a resource person in the workshop with women farmers to train them in setting up cooperative. Two Senior Coordinators participated in the four-day capacity development workshop held at Kenya (in its west pocket Kapenguria) from 14 to 17 November 2016.

SEWA participated in the knowledge exchange forum of farmer organisation engagement in public investment programme in August 2016 arranged by Asian Farmers Forum. This year SEWA has become a member of this regional network. This decision was taken after putting it up in the agenda to the SEWA Executive Committee and Farmers Meeting and receiving their approval.

SEWA was invited by World Health Organisation (WHO) for the five days' workshop on 'Clean Household Energy Tool Kit' held from December 11 to 15, 2016 at Nepal. World Health Organisation is preparing a tool kit for cooking under green livelihood concerns. Two Senior Coordinators from the SEWA team shared the experience of cooking patterns in villages and various types of requirement of cook stove and flame depending on staple food.

## Component 2

In terms of component 2, a total of 100 activities were conducted (4 policy dialogues, 36 forums, 6 campaigns etc) engaging more than 6, 43,337 number of farmers from 12 number of FOs.

FOs are continuously working closely with the local government officials, Panchayati Raj members, NABARD, ICAR and focusing primarily on availability of seeds, fertilizers, exposure visits, training, seed and fertilizer license, soil fertility and moisture management.

SEWA has linked up with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and has developed training modules for agriculture, animal husbandry and food processing. Three modules are ready and 5 modules are in pipeline.

Government officials and other dignitaries from the Government as well as non governmental bodies visit the Van Laxmi Tree Growers' Cooperative, which is also an Eco Tourism Center in Ganeshpura, Mehsana.

District Collector of Mehsana District, in his recent visit appreciated the work done by the cooperative members. In his speech, the Collector applauded the women power and compared the Cooperative and Women Village Leaders with Goddess Amba. He also shared that it was really amazing that all the members were working towards protecting our environment and providing employment to the



WOMEN PERFORM IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

self-employed women workers. These cooperative women have been a role model for other farmer federations and landless farmers. The farm labour women from the Dalit community from Bihar has also gathered together and taken a waste land to grow vegetables and paddy.

FOs are running campaign to motivate the farmers not to give up their farming lands for urban development as the issue of reclamation of farming land is posing a new threat to our country on the grounds of food security.

In West Bengal IMSE FO has taken up two issues of action for advocacy. One is to introduce sustainable agriculture practices to make small scale farming viable and to protect our environment. In connection with this, the FO started village level awareness generation camps among the farmers to introduce organic farming. And another issue is to set up policies of strengthening the Gram Sansad i.e. Village Parliament, (the lower rung of the PRI) and to promote sustainable agricultural practices for the benefit of the farmers and others.

SEWA Madhya Pradesh has taken up crop compensation issue as an advocacy issue for a huge mass of the farmers who have lost their crop due to the climate change effect.

The women fish vendors in Kerala protested against getting better place to sell. They negotiated with the Mayor who represented their ward and the women got a better space. New market building activities have restarted with FO's continuous lobbying with the municipal corporation. Vendors gathered together to push for the building work. Around 200 vendors will be rehabilitated with better facilities in this market.

Demonetization is the current shocking issue in the country. It required lot of mass awareness in the rural areas of the country. SEWA and other FOs have initiated 36 campaigns during the last two months. In 2017 NIA is planning to conduct capacity building trainings to support farmers in cashless transactions.



### Component 3

In terms of component 3, a total of 414 activities were conducted (85 meetings with various development agencies eg Agriculture Department, forestry department, horticulture and animal husbandry department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Skill Development Council (NSDC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Fisheries department and other several such agencies. 20 numbers of direct agricultural projects mobilized for 12 FOs.

SEWA signed a memorandum of understanding last September 13 with FAO to intensify joint efforts aimed at building the capacities of the rural poor to fully benefit from rural economies, with particular emphasis on ensuring that women and youth are engaged and empowered. In continuation to the MOU, a LOA has been entered into between SEWA and FAO for case study documenting innovations in the delivery of financial services by SEWA and other SEWA Affiliates-



VEGETABLE PLANTING AS  
AN ALTERNATIVE INCOME  
EARNING ACTIVITY FOR  
WOMEN

Two studies in fisheries sector have been carried out by two FOs. One study is about existing policies-its efficacy and gaps, in strengthening fisherwomen empowerment with special reference to their better positioning in small scale fishery value chain and one study is about benefits of loan facilities to fisher women. Study in Kerala is still ongoing and may finish in the first quarter of 2017. Some of the recommendations which have emerged from the study are - formation of strong fisherwomen's organization; organisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs); setting up a Fisher Women's Food Processing Unit; propagation of existing schemes in local language along with assistance in filling up the forms and submission with complete documents to the Authorities for obtaining benefits legally meant for them; organising an exposure visit; providing basic skills in Satellite Technology; advocating for suitable compensation package; ensuring basic amenities in fish landing centres with toilets and wash rooms for women; bringing focus on tight to land and housing for single women and destitute fisherwomen who have nobody to fall back upon; protection of traditional rights of fishermen; introduction of Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA); availability of credit to fisherwomen from nationalized banks/financial institutions etc.

NIA has prepared training modules, posters and leaflets for the farmers - eloped three training modules namely: 'Cotton Cultivator', 'Food Processing and its Preservation' and 'Hand Pump Repairing'; posters on cotton cultivator and informative calendar. These informative materials have also been circulated among farmers. NIA has developed three training modules for agriculture; food processing and hand pump repairing and has tested it with master trainers before rolling down for trainings. Farmers are filling farm diary to know at the end of the season the status of expenses, income and profit margin, usage of seeds, fertilizer and pesticide, labour cost etc. The FO in Uttar Pradesh has developed a poster on 'Why Woman is not recognized as a Farmer. SEWA was invited to present views on adopting Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Targeting the Agro-food Sec-

tors at International Labour Organisation (ILO) in September 2016. NIA met the IFAD country Director of India twice and the Country Director at Rome once - to strengthen the national platform of Farmers in India; facilitate climate resilient agriculture; and garner support from other resources.



TRAINING ON BIO-PESTICIDE PRODUCTION

Under North East Rural Livelihood Programme (NERLP) a team of village leaders mainly from agriculture sector came to SEWA for exposure visit. They shared about their learning with the management team and officials. NERLP has signed MOU with SEWA as a resource organisation to train members of Sikkim and Nagaland and establish Community Learning and Resource Centre there.

World Rural Forum has an association of countries, which is working on country strategies in agriculture. This association periodically conducts Skype meeting for four to five hours with its members, NIA is a part of this association.

Skype discussions have been initiated with Drought Drought Product for aquafierpipes. There is potential for joining hands to pilot a project to reduce water usage and energy usage in irrigation.

NIA was invited in International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Senior Coordinator of SEWA participated as a panel member at the event on 21 November on India's shifting role in the Global Rice Sector. NIA presented its approach on reducing poverty and hunger in improving people's lives and SEWA's experience on Farmer Field School, owned and managed by farmers, Rural Distributing network: Connecting farmer to consumer, digital Inclusion of farmers, financial Inclusion, access to infrastructure, agro based value chains and minimum Support Income.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In terms of program management, one National Farmer Forum meeting was conducted during this half year period and training was provided on reporting formats. The Country Program Manager, IFAD of India and Senior Agri. Business Specialist World Bank were invited and Each farmer organization presented their legal status, structure, number of Farmers they work with and on the kind of interventions they do with farmers. IFAD and World Bank guests presented information about ongoing projects in India. NIA has employed a full time Chartered Accountant for operation and management of funds disbursed to FOs and for financial reports of NIA.

## KEY PROGRAM CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

1. FOs need more funds to - develop proper structures; set up value supply chain; to give revolving fund for starting agro based micro enterprise; to conduct research studies; and to help them support their campaigns and capacity building programs. As national implementing agency, SEWA is continuously conducting capacity building of farmer organizations to get financial and program reports. But it has to continuously follow up for procuring reports which leads to waste of manpower time.

2. Delay in fund disbursement is also a critical issue and without timely fund allocation project activities suffer and the gap slowdowns the enthusiasm of farmers and FOs.
3. Demonetization has brought in new challenges. A major challenge is to build the capacity of farmers in terms of non cash transaction and use of technology for easy monetary operations.
4. Need to give training to FOs to get reports as per the formats provided by IFAD for which trainings need to be planned in the year 2017.
5. NIA is provided with limited funds vis-à-vis the size of the country to conduct NPOB meetings. Hence in the year 2016 NIA has been able to organize only 2 meetings. To overcome this challenge NIA team is connecting over Skype with each FO.

### KEY LEARNING FOR THE PERIOD

This year SEWA has developed a social media page to disseminate learning during the programme on a larger scale. SEWA is planning to roll it out to the farmers with a view to motivate them and it could also be a platform for lateral learning.

Another key learning has been to meet the felt need of making the farmers go cashless and become techno savvy.

NIA learned that drip irrigation is very effective in terms of land fertility, water saving and energy usage. This can be up scaled.

A fishery has a very different periodic cycle and needs finance, training, administrative and market support at that particular time. Keeping this in view, NIA would plan accordingly in the year 2017.

SEWA has initiated open market for vegetable growers at various spots in Ahmedabad which is receiving a very good response and this could be further replicated at other spots in villages or at district block places.

To build further capacity of FOs for preparing project reports NIA is planning to arrange Skype calls on a monthly basis with them.

### KEY CONCERNS NEEDING DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS INCLUDE

Climate change is the most important global environmental challenge being faced by humanity with implications to natural ecosystems, agriculture and health. Climate change mitigation and climate smart agriculture is the core concern.

Demonetization has left a drastic impact on the urban as well as the rural economy. Farmers face problems due to cheque transaction – their daily farm operations require cash payments but they receive cheques when they go for marketing; and again if they ask for payment in cash then they have to pay a hefty commission which ends up in a worst situation.

Farmers currently lack digital exposure. Hence they are not comfortable with cashless transactions, so building their digital skills is a challenging and mammoth task for all FOs.

Reverse migration has been observed due to economic crisis post the demonetization decision taken by government.

The year 2017 has already started and the slow pace of the fund disbursement process is an issue of deep concern in order to fulfil project targets.

## ANALYSIS

### On Results of Activities

***Which component has the most significant output or is most experience by FO members?***

Component C1: Institutional Strengthening has been a very significant component as members learnt a lot through various trainings and exposure visit

***Which component has the highest cost? Why?***

Component 2.1 FOs participation in national platform has highest cost more than 100% has been spent.

***Which component has encountered the maximum challenges and difficulties? Why? How was it addressed?***

Collecting quarterly report from FOs takes maximum challenges as FOs are good in field work implementation and they find difficult in filling data and making reports. Close coordination and Skype call discussion have met somewhat with the information but still refreshment training on strengthening their reporting capacity is needed. They also need be sensitized on sending information timely.

***On Gender Concern What does the figure on number of women and men participants show? Is there a gender balance? Why do you say so?***

In various programmes such as training, workshop, day celebration and meeting participation of women are higher than the man. Total 56,270 farmers participated directly in which 12,361 were men and 43,908 were women. Majority of the FOs are women based farmers group federations. Also, women have remarkable contribution in farm operations and allied activities and they have no reorganization as a farmer. NIA is trying to involve more women into programmes to refrain them out of hardships and get good earning by availing knowledge and support at different stages. So women participation is higher in compare to men.

***Which activities have more women or men participation? Why? How can this be improved?***

Almost all the activities implemented in India have more women participation due to the fact that SEWA, NIA is women's organisation and most of the FOs affiliated are also working primarily with women.

### On Program Management

NIA and FOs are doing close coordination for activities and learn mutually from each other's experience. They have done proper planning and budgeting for the programme implementation. FOs too contacts each other for advice and concerns. SRIA team is also available to help and facilitate NIA wherever and whenever stuck –technically or project reporting wise.

### On Challenges Encountered

What are the problems or difficulties encountered and how were they addressed Demonetization has badly affected lives of daily earners and farmers. This was the time of harvesting and crucial time for financial dealings. It is the big challenge for all FOs to come forward and support farmers. NIA and FOs have started meeting with government and government organizations at district and state level. NIA has started, on a trial basis, daily cash vegetable market for farmers to facilitate direct selling to the consumers in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar district at district level as well as at the block places. Farmers are getting a very positive response. On seeing these results NIA is planning to replicate this in other districts.

### On Facilitating Factors

NIA has started Skype meeting with All FO and this helps NIA as well as to FO to discuss issues of farmers and also to prepare financial and narrative progress report. FOs are following same formats of financial reporting which NIA is using for SOE and advance request and NIA has developed narrative reporting format for FOs. This helps in implementation of the programme.

### Some Lessons Learned

Whenever any challenge come FOs come with some strategy for the betterment of farmers. They visit government departments for solutions and various schemes for the farmers and get alternative sources for farmers. E.g. Bihar FO has managed shared cropping farms for the very poor maha dalit families who lost their livelihood from traditional wine because all of a sudden government put ban on wine. All Fos have taken measures to help farmers to get relief in demonetization issue.

NIA has learnt that fishery has a very different periodic cycle and needs finance, training, administrative and market support as per their cyclic needs. Keeping this in view, NIA would plan accordingly in the year 2017.

Periodical contacting each FOs has created good rapport building with them so NIA has decided to have regular Skype call with FOs every month.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS NEEDED

Demonetization has brought in new challenges. A major challenge is to build the capacity of farmers in terms of non cash transaction and use of technology for easy monetary operations.

Need to give training to FOs to get reports as per the formats provided by IFAD for which trainings need to be planned in the year 2017.

## BANGLADESH

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This 2016 full year was a bit different from the previous two years. This was the first year where we could implement almost all the planned activities. Not only that, MTCP2 Bangladesh revised its budget in the middle of the year and included some new activities in its work plan those were not in place during the plan preparation. In 2016 fund came in time, and it helped us a lot. Like the previous years, MTCP2 Bangladesh emphasized mainly in policy participation and value chain development. We have identified some new products of value chain and very much hopeful to accelerate our endeavor to established farmers based value chain.
2. In terms of component 1, total of 15 activities were conducted. The activities were organizational review, organizational general assembly, Campaign against pesticides, meeting with stakeholders, meeting with NGOs, Meeting with service providers, local mobilization against GMO, orientation on community based seed bank management, training on land management, training on eco-friendly agri technologies, training on pesticides free vegetables cultivation, workshop on financial manual, workshop to review annual progress etc. (10 trainings, 3 workshop, 29 meetings, 5 Campaigns, 2 local level mobilizations, 2 general assemblies and 1 review ) engaging a total of 24 number of farmer leaders from 12 number of FOs. Total 2141 farmers and fishers participated directly in these activities. The focus of the activities for component 1 for this quarter was on capacity building and knowledge development. Establishing linkages with different service providers was also another focused area. One of the major activities of this year under the component one was orientation on community seed bank. This helped the FOs to understand better about the community seed bank. Two FOs established two seed banks.

3. In terms of component 2, total of 6 activities were conducted (2 Studies, 2 meeting with government high officials, 5 meetings with local government organizations, 12 policy dialogues, and using community radio for knowledge dissemination.) engaging a total of 736 number of farmers from 12 number of FOs. The focus of these activities was mainly on engagement with policy process.
4. In terms of component 3, total of 8 activities were conducted. The major activities were training in value chain, seed fair and training on sustainable fisheries. Two meetings were with IFAD. Major focus under component three was to develop value chain commodities. Now are working with only seeds, from 2017 we will also work with dry fish, poultry.
5. In terms of program management, 8 steering committee meetings were conducted which resulted to important decisions and actions related to program management
6. There was no major challenge during 2016. We faced a minor challenge, some FOs could not implement activities in time.

## ANALYSIS

### On Results of Activities

Component three has the most significant output in 2016. In 2014 our focus was on organizational capacity building, in 2015 our main focus on capacity building and on establishing linkages with service providers. In 2016 we have emphasized on Value Chain. The coordination committee from its very first meeting had decided design the annual work plan keeping this considering in their mind.

Under component 3 in total 8 activities were implemented, under these activities total 30 events were implemented. As seeds producing groups are our pioneer value chain group, to promote their production we arrange seed fair in various parts of Bangladesh. We got huge response from the community people. Value chain groups are now getting significance response and supports from the community.

We have also established two community based seed bank, these bank will help our members, FOs and community members to be self-reliant in seeds.

We also arranged refreshers training for the old groups and new training for the new seed producing groups. In 2016 we have identified two other commodities to work under the value chain. We organized training on dry fish and poultry. We are very much hopeful to have about 25 value chain groups in 2017.

#### ***Which component has the highest cost? Why?***

Component three has the highest cost. It is in fact obvious since we gave more efforts to component three. As value chain was under this component and we emphasized on this, component three has the highest cost.

#### ***Which component has the most challenges of difficulty encountered? Why? How was it addressed?***

As usual we faced some difficulties to achieve desired result under the component. As the present, the situation of Bangladesh is not that much favorable for the CSOs, it was a bit tough for us to establish linkages with the government policy makers and policy implementers. MTCP2 stands against GMO seeds, but the government is very much keen to enhance expansion of GMO seeds cultivation. MTCP2 participating FOs have been advocating and demanding to increase allocation for agriculture in the national budget. The demand from the FOs has been to increase allocation for agriculture proportionately with the increased national total budget. But previous two years, government has increased the total budget but it is lower compared with the increment of the total size of the budget.



### On Gender concern

As a Muslim majority country and since most of our events were hold in the rural areas, ensuring women participation same as men was a great challenge for us. We are very much pleased to observe that, women participation has been increased gradually. In all events in 2016, total 8183 number of farmers and fishers participated directly. Of them more than 44% were women, which is very much encouraging for us. That is why we have been able to ensure gender balance. The seed fair has the most participation both men and women.



MEN AND WOMEN FARMERS DISCUSS ISSUES AROUND THE USE OF GMO AND PESTICIDES

### On Program Management

The regular coordination meeting has been a very useful mechanism to address gaps among the participating FOs. It has been helping us to ensure better coordination too. In the meeting we discuss all the issues and decisions are taken there. From very meeting we take plan of activities.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

#### A. Efforts to establish linkages with Service providers

From our field level experiences and research, we have found that there are huge gaps among farmers and service providers. Government agricultural department has some very essentials services for farmers, department of fisheries has some services for fishers, there are ministry land to serve the farmers and fishers on the issues of land. Besides various government offices, there are some other NGOs and organizations who are working fir farmers and fishers. For various reasons actual and effective linkages among these service providers and farmers-fishers have been absent in many areas. To address this problem, we organized linkage meeting among Farmers and service providers. There three types of meeting, one was only with government officers, one was with NGOs representatives and another one was with different stakeholders like journalists, teachers, political elites etc.

We have got huge response. Some immediate results those have been captured by or FOs are as mentioned below:

SL	Results	Areas	Process
1	1200 Fishermen have got ID fishermen ID cards from the department of Fisheries	Cox's Bazar	The department of Fisheries, Cox's Bazar has been providing ID Cards. But member of BFWA (MTCP2 Bangladesh partner) were not been able to manage. From one linkage meeting they raised the issue to the district officer. The officer then took immediate steps.
2	442 Fishers got livelihood support	Bhola	From meeting with NGOs, our farmers and fishers members came to know about activities of an NGO who had been supporting fishers during the lean period, specially when fishing is banned. The NGO representatives instantly take lists of vulnerable fishers and they later provided supports.
3	35 Vegetable cultivators got suggestions from agriculture officer	Kurigram	One field level agriculture officer is supposed to visit farms and framers regularly. But it is not happened in that way. From one meeting farmers forced the officer to go their vegetable garden and took some essential suggestion from him.
4	25 landless farmers got government land	Bogra	Government of Bangladesh has a very nice scheme of allocating government land to landless. Some researches show that, in many cases lands are being captured by riches and influential in the name of landless. From continuous linkages with government 25 actual landless got land.
5	5 Farmers got Tube well,	Cox's Bazar	Recently a cyclone hit the island named Kutubdia. Sources of drinking water have been destroyed seriously. One MGO named Brac has been providing tube well to affected families. Five of our members have got two tube wells, their names were listed from ine linkage meeting.
6	670 farmers/fishers got health services	Cox's Bazar and Bhola	They have got the services from different NGOs.
7	8200 farmers/fishers have got different services from government	In 16 districts	Farmers visits to government offices have been increased in our working areas. From our records/data provide by of FOs, we have found that about 8200 farmers and fishers have got different services from government.



**B. Efforts to establish linkages with Service providers**

Land is the most important primary capital of farmers. From our experiences we came to know the following situation:

- Most of our farmers don't know proper procedure of land management
- There are lack of proper knowledge on how to complete necessary government formalities regarding land seling, buying and managing.

We have found that, many farmers are facing different types of problems due to their lack of knowledge. To address this situation we organized training on land management. We have implemented this activities in three forms:

- We have developed one resource person for each participating FOs
- We have organized village and sub district level orientation for farmers
- We discussed this issue with the presence of government land officer and farmers during the linkage meeting.

The immediate result of this activity is encouraging. Many local land related problems have been solved so far. There are huge demands for this training in other areas.

**C. Using the Clout of Community Radio**

MTCP 2 Bangladesh is utilizing the power of community radio. During 2016 MTCP2 Bangladesh provided support to coastal Community Radio named Radio Meghan to broadcast special programs for farmers and fishers.

Main beneficiaries of this radio are the Fishers and Farmers of the coastal sub district Char fasson. One of the major professions of the Char Fasson area is Fishing, an important number of people are involved in fishing. They are facing various challenges; specially they are not getting the weather signal in time. Community radio can help them in this regard. Fisher people have little knowledge on sustainable fisheries, fisheries laws, rights, rules on access to the fishing grounds. Middlemen and influential people exploit fishermen in various ways; fisher people also don't have appropriate access to their rights and finance. They also have little knowledge on government services, their access to those services are also limited. MTCP2 Bangladesh provided support to broadcast program on various awareness, weather foresting, and live communication with service providers. Community radio program helps the fishers of the area to enhance their capacity in facing these challenges.

Farmers of Char Fasson are also suffering from various challenges. One of the major challenges is knowledge gap. Land grabbing is common in Char Fasson, lack of government services, excessive use of pesticides are other problems that the farmers are facing. Unavailability of linkages among the farmers and different service providers is also another serious problem. With the support of MTCP2 Radio Meghna broadcasts regular program focusing the challenges of the farmers, way out of those problems, there are programs with the participation of farmers. There are also some programs with the participation of the service providers.

**D. Seed Fair**

One of the major efforts of MTCP2 Bangladesh is to establish value chain groups. We have already established 14 Value Chain groups who are producing seeds and selling. They producing seeds using local technologies. To promote their products we have organized seed fair locally. Huge gathering were their in every fair. Our group members got instant orders for seeds!



LOCAL SEEDS GROWN AND STORED BY FARMERS IN BANGLADESH



Mr Akhtar, Secretary of Coastal Farmers Association (CFA), achieved the national award for his contribution in seed production and preservation at the community level. He has been awarded with the Sher-E-Bangla agriculture Award. Mr. Akhtar is main promoter of Community Seed Bank in Bhola district. This Seed Bank is supported by MTCP2 Bangladesh. This Community Seed Bank produces only local seeds.

## SRI LANKA

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Parliament has approved the Right to Information Act, and appointed the Commission. The citizens will be able to get the information on most of the government activities, except for the sensitive information with regard to National security etc. Mr. S. G. Punchihewa (Attorney at Law) one of a close associate of MONLAR from the inception, and currently a National Board member of MONLAR was appointed as a member of the Commission by the HE President of Sri Lanka.
- The Committee meetings of the Lanka Farmer Forum were held in Monaragala, Badulla, Kandy, Matale, Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya.
- Two General Meetings of the Lanka Farmer Forum were held to discuss broader issues.
- Three Leadership Training Programs were conducted for the District Leaders of the Lanka Farmer Forum of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Matale, Anuradhapura, Monaragala and Badulla.
- A long waited, United National Farmer Movement was launched, with the participation of 300+ farmers and farmer leaders in Colombo on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016. At this convention;
  - A Policy Document was submitted for the approval of the members and adopted
  - An Action Committee was elected by the participants to plan out the future program for the Farmer Movement
  - The participants donated Rs 9000+ for the Farmer Movement's Fund for its work and agreed to develop this fund
- A small committee drafted the Annual Work Plan and the Budget for 2017

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

#### Component 1. Strengthening of FO and their network

Committee meeting of Farmers Forum at Monaragala, Matale, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa. Conducted eight district committee farmer's forum where the farmers:

- ✓ Discussed past activities and future planning of Monaragala District Farmer's Forum.
- ✓ Decided to collect information about the lands belong to farmers which do not have deeds in two location.
- ✓ Selected farmer leaders for the Leadership training workshop.
- ✓ Discussed land problems with Dole Company.
- ✓ Renewed budget and work plan for 2017.
- The Committee meetings of the Lanka Farmer Forum were held in Monaragala, Badulla, Kandy, Matale, Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya.
- The Lanka Farmer Forum decided to work with the Womens Organization of Umaoya Victims in solidarity.

- Participated in the campaign for demanding a Just Constitution for Sri Lanka, which should include the rights of the people and provisions for settling the long due ethnic problem with power sharing.
- Participated in the campaign demanding Land Rights for the Plantation Community held in Badulla.

### **Component 2. Participation in policy process**

Awareness raising program on policy issues and conference for the United National Farmers' Movement. Conducted awareness program on Water Tax Act, Seed Act and Land issue and Zero Budget Natural farming at Medawewa and Megodawewa- Kekirawa at Anuradhapura District where the following concerns were discussed:

- ✓ Water Tax Act,
- ✓ Seed Act
- ✓ Land & Agricultural issue.
- ✓ Learned how to farming without chemical usage.

Conducted conference for United National Farmers' Movement in Colombo where:

- ✓ Held the inaugural meeting of the United National Farmer Movement
  - ✓ Two Farmer Leader/ Activist were awarded with a plaque to recognize and honor their services and commitments for the Farmer Movement in Sri Lanka.
  - ✓ Delivered two lectures on the experiences of World Farmer's Movement and why we need an Independence Farmer Movement to fight against the injustices in the field of agriculture.
  - ✓ Elected committee members for the planning, organizing and building up the Farmer Movement throughout the country.
  - ✓ A Policy Document submitted for the approval and adopted.
  - ✓ Commencing a basic fund for farmer movement.
- A discussion was held with the key farmer leaders of six Farmer Organizations in Anuradhapura District and makes them aware of the ill effects of the Water Tax Act, Seed Act, the Land Policy of the present government, the proposals of the National Budget and the Fertilizer Subsidy scheme.
  - The need of a United National Farmer Movement (UNFM) to safeguard the rights of the farmers in particular and people in general, the Policy thrusts that should present to the inaugural meeting of the UNFM, appointing an Action Committee to plan out the future work of it and the logistical aspects of the meeting were discussed with the farmer leaders

### **Component 3. FO services and involvement in Agricultural Development program**

Conducted three Leadership Training workshops in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts Farmer's Forums; Matale and Anuradhapura Districts Farmer's Forums; and Badulla and Monaragala Districts Farmer's Forums where farmers:

- ✓ Conducted two day residential workshop on leadership.
- ✓ Analysis of socio economic problems and possible solutions.

- ✓ Differences between the “organization” and “movement”.
- ✓ Creative ways and means for establishing and usage of revolving funds
- ✓ Green revolution and its effects on food sovereignty.
- The members of the respective Farmer Organizations were made aware of the Environmental Farming methods by the Farmer Leaders who obtained training from the Lanka Farmer Forum
- The technical needs for the newly started small scale value added agricultural productions were linked and introduced with the relevant institutions/ officers
- Sharing experiences and the problems of marketing encountered by the farmers.
- Facilitating sharing traditional seeds among the farmers from the other districts (inter district sharing)
- Make the farmers aware of the chemical fertilizer subsidy scheme of the government and encourage them to make and use organic fertilizer and agitate to get subsidies from the government for organic fertilizer.

#### **Component 4. Program Coordination and Management**

Conducted regular and special meetings of Lanka Farmers’ Forum

- (1) 14 July 2016, Kandy where the farmers:
  - ✓ Discussed progress of activities for each districts.
  - ✓ Discussed policy documents for farmer conference.
  - ✓ Discussed the handout for distributing on farmer conference day.
- (2) 24 August 2016, MONLAR Office
  - ✓ Conducted special meeting with the top level management of MONLAR and social activist and other movement leaders.
  - ✓ Discussed about relevant documents and policy documents need for the farmer conference.
  - ✓ Selected several groups for the conference.
- (3) 01 September 2016, MONLAR Office
  - ✓ Conducted special meeting with the top level management of MONLAR.
  - ✓ Discussed progress of last activities.
  - ✓ Finalized the relevant policy documents and got approval for the printing.
  - ✓ Confirm the participation of several groups for the conference.
- A General Meeting of Lanka Farmer Forum was conducted to evaluate the Project activities and to plan the future programs.
- A discussion was held with the Moderator, Manager and the Unit Heads of MONLAR, to discuss the progress of the project and to have an understanding of the future directions and the modalities of the proposed United National Farmer Movement.



### ISSUES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Sri Lanka is experiencing a severe drought and the South-West Monsoon was delayed, putting the farmers and their livelihood in a miserable state.

The Small Scale producers are facing with a huge problem with regard to the marketing their productions due to the interventions of the mega and chain marketers throughout the country. A new arrangement is needed to have a producer-consumer relationship and need novel approaches to overcome this problem.

BADULLA DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE MEETING



A DISTORTED HOUSE AS PER THE  
UMA OYA FAILED PROJECT



MONARAGALA DFF COMMITTEE  
MEETING AT BANDARAWELA





INAUGURAL MEETING OF  
UNITED NATIONAL FARMER  
MOVEMENT

25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA







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