

**IMPLEMENTED BY:** 







Investing in rural people Co-funded by the European Union

#### JANUARY

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05	06	07	80	09	10	11
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Salt of the Earth. In the stillness of dawn, she wades through the saltwater, her strength etched in each pull of the heavy rake. The glistening crystals beneath her feet reflect the persistence of a woman, each one a symbol of sacrifice. Being away from her home and without a proper food facility and education for her children, she grinds just to craft livelihoods in this burning sun. Once relying on diesel pumps, she now draws power from the sun, thanks to SEWA's intervention. The shift from the noisy, pollutant pumps to the quiet, clean solar-powered ones not only eases her labor but also protects the environment she works in. SEWA's initiatives provide these women with tools, training, and confidence to elevate their work, ensuring they thrive against the odds of nature and time.

Photo by: Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India











#### FEBRUARY

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Zundui Bayarsaikhan has been involved in the agriculture sector for 32 years. Previously, she worked as a government extension service provider. After retiring, she transitioned to farming, cultivating onions on a one-hectare plot, where she harvests 5-6 tons annually. In addition to her farming, she serves as the manager of NAMAC's branch in Uvurkhangai province and is the chair of the Usukh Buyan Undram Cooperative.

Photo by: National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC), Mongolia













#### MARCH

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Y Ratha is the Secretary of the Kasekor Samaki Rong Roeung Agricultural Cooperative, located in Prey Khlai Village, Srae Cheng Commune, Chhum Kiri District, Kampot Province, Cambodia. In 2014, she started cultivating 1.60 hectares of land according to organic standards. Her organic rice field has expanded to 2 hectares, which she divided into three plots. The first plot, measuring 0.60 hectares, is dedicated to producing organic rice seed, yielding approximately 1,000 kilogram, which she sells for USD 0.50 per kilogram. The second plot, 0.40 hectares, is reserved for her family's consumption. The third plot, 1 hectare, is used for producing organic paddy rice, which she supplies to her agricultural cooperative through a contract farming arrangement with AMRU Rice. In 2023, she supplied 3,000 kilograms of organic paddy rice at a rate of USD 0.342 per kilogram, earning a total income of USD 1,526 from this harvest.

Photo by: Ung Vuthy, Farmer and Nature Net Association (FNN), Cambodia



## APRIL

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Rest and Refuel. After working in the paddy fields for hours, farmers can be seen in this peaceful photo enjoying a well-earned lunch break. Surrounded by vivid green saplings, they sit side by side, enjoying respite and companionship. The laid-back ambiance illustrates the tenacity and spirit of the farming community, while the terraced fields in the distance and the strewn tools show the laborious process of planting rice fields. This photo does a wonderful job of capturing the harmony between work and play in rural life.

Photo by: Kumar Thapa, Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), Nepal





#### ΜΑΥ

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Supporting a Healthier Ecosystem with Eco-Friendly Farming Practices. Agroecology in Meghalaya, India refers to the practice of sustainable agriculture that prioritizes the well-being of the environment, society, and the economy. The state's unique geography and climate, with rolling hills, valleys, and high rainfall supports a diverse range of crops, livestock, and agroforestry systems that aim to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services which also enhance soil fertility and water management. Adopting climate resilience farming it supports rural livelihoods, food, and nutrition security by preserving traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

Photo by North East India Committee on Relief and Development (NEICORD), India

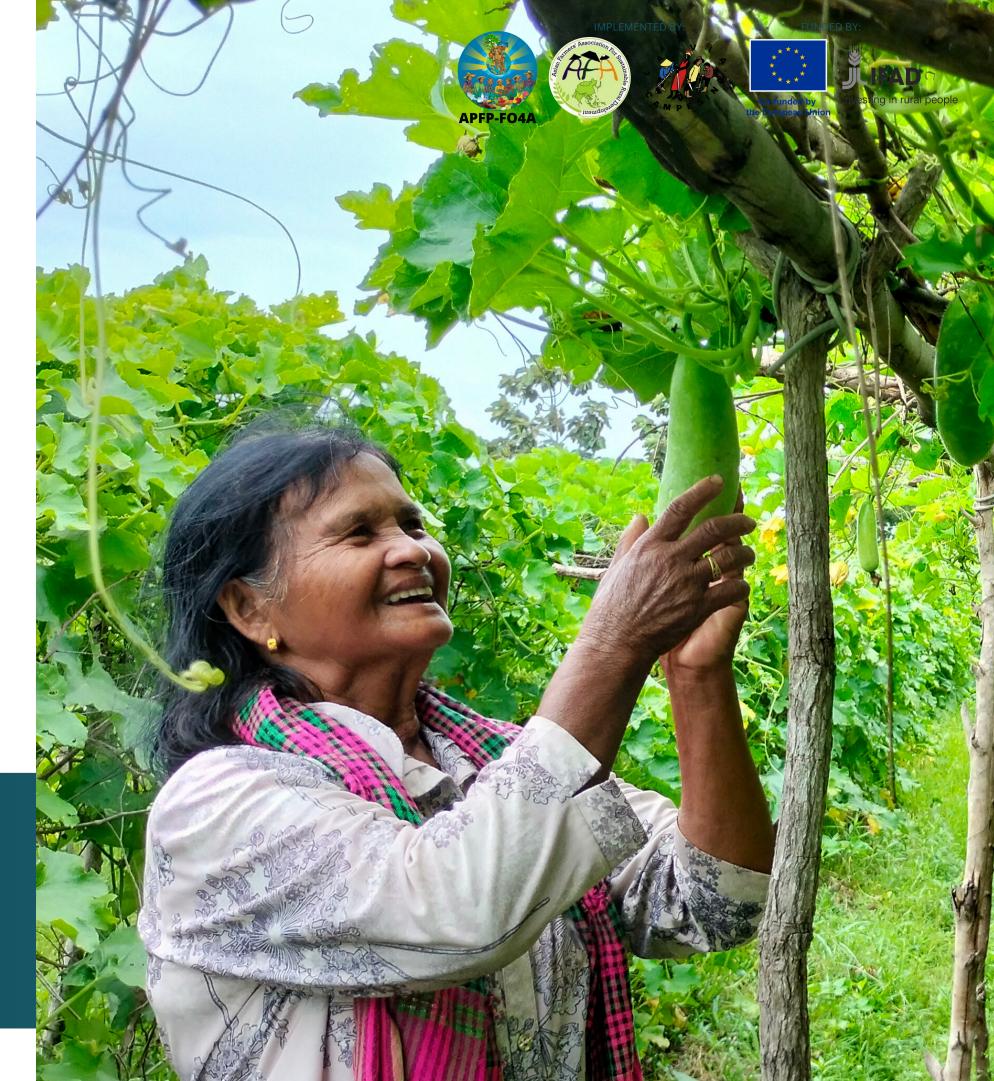


### JUNE

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Mey Theing is a leader of an organic vegetable producer group based in Thlork Vien Village, Thlok Vien Commune, Samaki Meanchey District, Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia. She began practicing organic farming in 2019 after participating in organic and ecological training sessions provided by Farmet and Nature Net Association (FNN). She cultivates a variety of crops, including gourds, eggplants, yard-long beans, leafy vegetables, and herbs, which she supplies to markets in Phnom Penh and local markets. Her organic produce generates a minimum income of USD 300 per month.

Photo by Ung Vuthy, Farmer and Nature Net Association (FNN), Cambodia



### JULY

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Leading by Example. Ganesh Kunwar, Chairperson of the All Nepal Poultry Farmers Association and Treasurer of the All Nepal Peasants Federation (Revolutionary Centre), is a prominent poultry farmer in Nepal. He runs a family-owned poultry farm and feed factory, starting each day by feeding his chickens and delivering egg boxes to the market. Ganesh leads not with words, but through action. He educates other farmers to on professional farming practices and value chain, standing by their side—whether it's advocating for fair compensation for bird flu victims or pushing for poultry insurance.

Photo by: All Nepal Peasants Federation (Revolutionary Centre), Nepal



#### A U G U S T

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Coastal Traditions: Sorting Salted Fish on the Shore. Fisherfolk from the Ujung Kulon Fishermen Cluster sort freshly caught fish to be processed into dried salted fish in Ujung Jaya Village, Sumur District, Pandeglang Regency, Banten, Indonesia.

Photo by: Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API), Indonesia



#### S E P T E M B E R

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A Young Tea Farmer Leading Change. Saroj Rai is a young tea farmer from Nepal, deeply involved in his local tea farming community. As a member of the Youth Committee of the Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF), he represents a new generation of farmers committed to promoting sustainable tea cultivation and driving the growth of the tea industry in the region.

Photo by: Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF) Ltd., Nepal







IFAD



APFP-FO4A







#### O C T O B E R

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Ariunsan, a young farmer from Bumbugur soum in Bayankhongor province, Mongolia and a member of the Uguuj Bayan Ulziit cooperative, participated in a handloom training in December 2023. Since completing the training, she has been balancing her household responsibilities and caring for her baby while producing 32-38 pairs of cashmere baby shoes each month in her spare time. She supplies these shoes to the Eeltei Fayalag secondary cooperative, earning an additional income of around USD 120 per month.

Photo by: National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC), Mongolia





#### NOVEMBER

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My Fish, My Smile. I fish near my home, staying close to my family. There's no need to leave for work elsewhere. Being a local fisherman is my chosen career —a profession I love and am proud of, passed down from my grandfather's generation.

Photo by: Federation of Thai Fisherfolks Association (FTFA), Thailand



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Investing in rural people

#### DECEMBER

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Gathering the Golden Harvest. An indigenous woman harvests millet in a serene rural landscape, surrounded by lush green fields and bathed in the warm glow of the sun. With a curved knife (hasiya) in hand, she carefully cuts the stalks, gathering the golden grains into her basket. This image beautifully captures the harmony between hard work and nature, underscoring the vital role of manual labor in agriculture.

Photo by: Kumar Thapa, Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), Nepal



### JANUARY

- New Year's Day
- Pongal (India & Sri Lanka)
- Lunar New Year
- Tet (Vietnam)

### FEBRUARY

- World Wetlands Day
- World Pulses Day
- Ramadan

### APRIL

- Qingming Festival (China)
- Songkran (Thailand)
- Pi Mai (Laos)
- Thingyan (Myanmar)
- Chol Chnam Thmay (Cambodia)
- Aluth Avurudda (Sri Lanka)
- Navavarsha (Nepal)
- Pohela Boishakh (Bangladesh)

#### MAY

- Labor Day
- Buddha's Birthday
- Dragon Boat Festival
- International Tea Day
- International Day for Biological Diversity

### MARCH

- Ramadan
- Holi (India)
- Eid'l Fitr
- World Seagrass Day
- World Wildlife Day
- International Women's Day
- International Day of Forests
- World Water Day

### JUNE

- Eid'l Adha
- Pancasila Day (Indonesia)
- World Milk Day
- World Environment Day
- World Oceans Day

• Tsagaan Sar (Mongolia)

### JULY

- Ashura
- Asalha Puja (Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, & Myanmar)
- Naadam (Mongolia)
- International Day of Cooperatives
- World Mangrove Day

## A U G U S T

- Gai Jatra (Nepal)
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- International Youth Day

### OCTOBER

- Dashain (Nepal)
- Durga Puja (India)
- Mid-Autumn Festival (China)
- Vijayadashami (India)
- Diwali (India)
- International Day of Coffee
- International Day of Rural Women
- World Food Day

### NOVEMBER

- All Saints' Day
- All Souls Day
- Tihar (Nepal)
- Loy Krathong (Thailand)
- World Fisheries Day

### SEPTEMBER

- Mawlid al-Nabi
- Durga Puja (India)
- Dashain (Nepal)

#### DECEMBER

- Christmas
- World Soil Day
- International Human Rights Day



individuals benefitted from the APFP-FO4A program



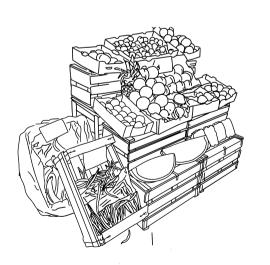


**5.6 MILLION** 

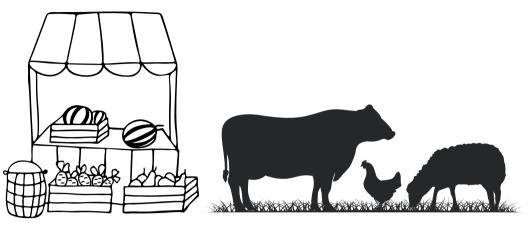
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9.8 MILLION

women

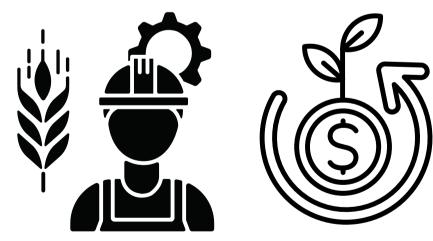


**161 COMMODITIES & ENTERPRISES** invested in



## **161 BUSINESS PLANS**

approved, funded, and implemented



# **USD 6.2 MILLION**

invested in Farmers' Organizations' business enterprises





**-UNDED BY** 





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people nvesting in rural



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