

RVWRMP Value Chain Support

The Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) supports WASH and livelihoods development in Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces. RVWRMP livelihoods support has gradually developed from household (home gardens) to community (income generation activities) to regional and national (value chain) level.

Five value chain areas in five Rural Municipalities (RM) were selected in 2019. The criteria for selection included poverty alleviation, existing potential, possibility of supporting activities as well as geographical and climatic potential. The five value chains are: Chiuri (Marma RM, Darchula), Citrus (Chure RM, Kailali), Ginger (Badikedar RM, Doti), Large Cardamom (Naumule RM, Dailekh) and Vegetable (Alital RM, Dadeldhura).

The interventions began by improving production, capacity building and local market linkages. Physical support for processing machines, collection centres, nurseries, storage houses and dryers. Then, focus on building regional and national linkages through e.g., collective workshops with cooperatives and traders. Local government support was substantial.

In total, value chain support benefitted 4,890 households: Chiuri 664, Citrus 1,015, Ginger 1,030, Vegetable 1,817 and Large Cardamom 364.



Fresh Vegetables in Alital RM, Dadeldhura

Vegetables are common plants or portfacilitationions of plants which are eaten whole or in parts (roots, leaves, flowers, fruits, shoots, etc.), dried, cooked or raw. Vegetables are a common and rich source of nutrition. In the mid-hills of Nepal, vegetables can be grown throughout the year seasonal and off-seasonally. Common vegetable varieties grown in Alital RM are cauliflower, cabbage, radish, potatoes, peas, beans, tomatoes, cucumber, pumpkins, gourds, spinach, lettuce and mustard. Vegetables can be sold fresh.

Existing potential and suitable geographical and climactic conditions were the main reasons for vegetable value chain interventions in Alital RM. Good road connections to the main highway in the region and close proximity to the Attariya regional market and beyond were taken into account. To increase the impact of the value chain interventions, RVWRMP worked closely together with Chetana multipurpose cooperative and Alital RM.



Project Support for Fresh Vegetable Value Chain

Major value chain interventions in Alital RM were related to production, diversification, collection, promotion, market linkages, cooperative capacity building, extension services and agricultural modernization. Focus was also in supporting value additions to the products through cleaning, sorting, grading, packaging and labelling.

RVWRMP supported the construction of a collection centre as well as numerous polyhouses. Capacity building was at the forefront with the mobilisation of lead farmers, seasonal and off-seasonal production training as well as polyhouse management.

Thanks to Project and Alital RM, the linkages between farmers and the Chetana cooperative was strengthened. Likewise the connection between the cooperative and farmers with the RM and its agricultural section.



Impact of Fresh Vegetable Value Chain

The vegetable value chain is running in a profitable way in Alital RM. In average, around 1000 quintals of vegetable is being produced with 1817 households as beneficiaries. The following impact was observed during the project interventions:

- The average farm size grew from 1.35 ropanis to 2.85 ropanis.
- The average annual income of farmers grew from 26,500 NPR to 50,000 NPR.
- The collection centre supported by the project is providing an annual income of 150,000 NPR.
- 56 locals are employed through vegetable value chain

The Chetana cooperative has increased its shareholders to around 2000 and strengthened its position as a leading actor of vegetable production in Alital RM. There are five agrovets, a nursery and more than 30 lead farmers providing technical support to the farmers. Eight collection points have been established by the cooperative. It is one of the best performing cooperatives supported by the Project.

Capacitation efforts have been successful. Thanks to off-seasonal production partners can get more income from products when cultivated at the right time as there is less competition, due to off-season in other areas.

Challenges of Fresh Vegetable Value Chain

Though vegetable value chain activities in Alital RM are well established, there are still some challenges.

- Pests and diseases: Farmers have received support from capacitated lead farmers, but more technical support is required from the agriculture section of the RM to mitigate negative impacts.
- Droughts and over exploitation: Farmers in dry areas need to carefully manage their water supply so that there is enough irrigation water. Rainwater harvesting systems are mitigating the issue.
- Trust-building is required between actors, such as farmers-lead farmers and farmers-vendors. The cooperative needs to play a leading role.
- Competition from low priced vegetables from India. Linkages with regional markets, improved vehicle management and road connections will improve supply and competitiveness.

Future of Fresh Vegetable Value Chain

Vegetable production has become popular in the Project working area and demand has increased beyond the current production capacity.

Actors in Alital RM are aware of the potential profits of the value chain with the Chetana cooperative being motivated to continue activities together with the farmers and RM. Farmers could benefit from further capacitation especially related to production patterns during off-season. The RM needs to support water scarce areas with improved irrigation systems.

Traders in regional markets are linked with the farmers through the cooperative and have pledged to continue purchasing products from Alital RM. The cooperative has in turn pledged to ensure optimal quantities and good quality of the products. There have been discussions that if the cooperative can provide large quantities of vegetables during off-season, they could even be sold to India.



FRESH VEGETABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

RURAL VILLAGE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT PHASE III

Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces, Nepal

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