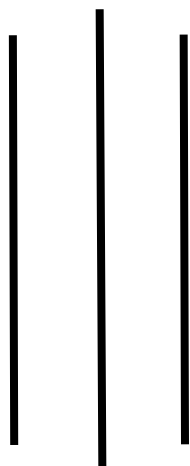


A Report on
Operation and Management of Community Agriculture Extension
Service Centers (CAESCs) in Karnali Province, Nepal



Submitted To:

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP)
Birendranagar, Surkhet

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) is a project of Government of Nepal (GON) with the loan and grant support from International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). ASDP applies the ADS principles to the development of the Agriculture Sector, building on the successful experience of the previous IFAD-financed High Value Agriculture Project in Hill and Mountain Areas (HVAP) in Nepal. ASDP aims to contribute to the achievement of Nepal's SDG1 and SDG2 targets by reducing poverty and nutrition insecurity amongst women and men in hill and mountain areas of Karnali Province. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) is the main executing agency of ASDP, with total funding of USD 52.69 million and implementation started from July 2018 for a period of seven years. Goal of the ASDP is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and food insecurity among women and men in hill and mountain areas of Karnali Province. The Development Objective is to contribute to the income and food security of smallholders and disadvantaged rural groups involved in commercially-oriented production and marketing system in selected high value agriculture value chains.

The programme is being implemented in Dailekh, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot, Mugu, Rukum (Western), Salyan, and Surkhet districts of Karnali Province, located in the mid-western area of Nepal along (i) Chhinchu-Jajarkot–Dolpa (ii) Surkhet-Kalikot-Jumla-Mugu (iii) Surkhet- Dailekh road corridors (iv) Salyan-Rukum West (Rapti corridor) and (iv) Mid-hill highway. The programme is being implemented in 58 municipalities in the road corridors. The value chain commodities of ASDP are ginger, turmeric, timur, off season vegetables (OSV), potato seed, apple, goat, honey, dairy, walnut, citrus and highly nutritious indigenous crops, such as bean, buckwheat, barely.

The program has two components: (i) Value chain development, and (ii) Programme coordination, and under the value chain development is SC-1.4.1 Agriculture services support innovation and value chain development. In line with the provisions of the new Constitution and the ADS, ASDP will support the development of participatory, pluralistic extension and service delivery systems for agriculture and livestock sectors at the municipal and ward levels. It will involve setting up and activating sustainable mechanisms at appropriate levels in the municipality for governance, active farmer participation, and the engagement of the private sector in service delivery.

ASDP piloted Community Agriculture Extension Service Centres (CAESCs) in selected 22 wards of the 16 Municipalities from 8 districts of Karnali Province of Nepal with the partnership of respective Municipalities. And the programme has been providing establishment and operation support fund to those CAESCs. CAESC as envisaged by ADS 2015, is an independent, self-operative and self-sustained institution established at ward level responsible for the development of participatory and pluralistic extension services that integrates both public and private service providers in delivery of services to farmers. The CAESC, with initial support from ASDP and respective Municipality, is expected to undertake range of community agriculture extension functions in business oriented and market-based approach, which is expected to be self-managed by community with increased revenue generated through increased volume, value and diversified services catering the local farmers needs as well as market-oriented service delivery/business in place. A CAESC Management team have the specific roles and responsibilities to operationalize and management of CAESC as per the ToR aligned with its constitution and guidelines.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The objective of the study was to review its progress made till and to point out potential issues, challenges, bottlenecks along with best practices and lessons learned, and to provide recommendations that can be shared to MOALD, development partners, and other stakeholders for corrective actions if needed along with the adaptation and replication of the CAESC interventions further in Karnali Provinces as well as other areas of Nepal.

The study involved key informant interviews with CAESC management committee, CAESC staff (operator) for collecting required data and information and reviewed reported data from 22 Community Agriculture Extension Service Centers (CAESCs) located in different Municipalities of Karnali Province. The objectives of the assessment are given below:

- Assessment of the available resources and support provided to CAESCs from ASDP and respective municipality that includes equipment and tools in anchoring and facilitating pluralistic agriculture extension services through CAESCs at community level for providing easier service access to farmers along with other physical capacity needs.
- Assessment of technical capacities of available human resources; dedicated technical staff hired by CAESCs/Municipalities, management committee members and associated local service providers in delivering extension services in a self-sustained way, and point out capacity development needs and support from local government.
- Assessment of diversified services and its volumes and business promotional environment for revenue generation of CAESCs for its self-operation and sustainability.
- Assessment of implemented activities, implementation strategy and approaches, challenges faced and how these challenges are addressed; and to what extent that these contribute to the objectives that is envisioned as self-managed, self-operation and self-sustained modality of CAESC piloted in Karnali Province by ASDP.
- Assessment of key challenges to the sustainability of the CAESCs, and measures and overcome those challenges.
- Drawing key findings and lessons learned and proposing improvement and adjustment needed to ensure that the CAESC operation remains relevant to the needs of the smallholder farmers and contributes to extension service development at local level.
- Assessment of institutional set up and mechanisms practiced in CAESCs, and recommend for appropriate and applicable provisions that contribute to review the current strategies, policies and approaches followed.

1.3 Scope and limitation of the study

The study will cover 22 Community Agriculture Extension Service Centers (CAESC) of 16 municipalities from 8 districts of Karnali Province, and it specifically captures the information mainly on office operating system of the CAESCs, available resources and materials that are essential for service delivery provisions and its proper utilization, services catered and revenue generation status in a financially sustainability perspectives. Similarly, the study covers the information regarding the situation of CAESC business service promotional potentiality and environment at particular areas, and its coordination and linkage with local government including other private sector service providers for sustained service and business linkage establishment.

The scope includes the review of reported data, field data collection, its analysis and assessment of the findings. For the field level assessment were carried out by existing ASDP staff based on questionnaires and checklist.

2. Approaches and Methodology

The study comprised of desk review and field level data collection in order to identify and quantify the impact of contextual factors on the expected results.

Desk review: Reviewed available key relevant documents;

- Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), 2015
- Project Design Report and Project Implementation Manual of ASDP
- Guidelines for Resourcing Municipalities in Strengthening Agriculture Extension Service Delivery Capacity developed and approved by ASDP
- CAESC Establishment, Operation and Management Guidelines endorsed by (ASDP and Municipality)
- CAESC Constitution
- CAESC Business plan and tripartite agreement made among ASDP, Municipality and CAESC.
- Reported data and information of CAESCs to ASDP

Primary Data Collection: Collected primary data from quantitative and qualitative data collection methods that includes;

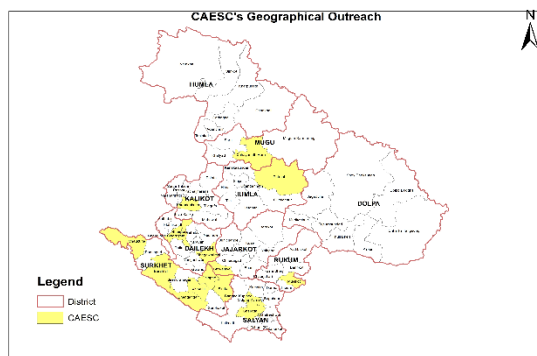
- Observation (physically available resources/materials at CAESC office),
- Mixed method approach both the Quantitative and qualitative Survey (mixed questionnaire)
- KII (discussion with CAESC staff and management committee key members).

Adopted a mixed-method approach consisting of qualitative and quantitative methods to obtain the required information.

Data Analysis and Reporting: Analyzed collected data and produced an analytical report. The analysis considered data segregation based on relevant traits. The report follows appropriate guidelines and finalized after incorporating feedback from thematic experts of ASDP.

3. Findings from the study

3.1 Geographical outreach of the CAESCs in Karnali Province



ASDP piloted and provided establishment and operation support in collaboration with respective municipalities to 22 Community Agriculture Extension Service Centers (CAESCs) located in 16 municipalities of 8 districts of Karnali Province. Out of total 22 CAESCs, 2 in Jajarkot corridor, 5 in Salyan corridor, 3 in Jumla corridor and 12 Surkhet-Dailekh corridor. The original target of 400 CAESC was downsized by ASDP mid-term review mission.

The detail of outreach information of CAESC is illustrated as below;

SN	CAESC Name	District	Palika	Ward	Service catchment area	Established date
1	Jhulkhet	Rukum (W)	Musikot	6	Ward No. 6, 7 and 8	2080/01/04
2	Chautara	Rukum (W)	Musikot	13	Ward No 13, 14, 3	2078/05/09

3	Dobhan	Salyan	Sharada	9	Ward No.9	2078/05/10
4	Thardhunga	Salyan	Sharada	14	Ward No. 14, 15	2078/05/10
5	Dandakateri	Salyan	Siddhakumakh	3	Ward No. 3	2078/05/01
6	Chaurase	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	9	Ward No. 9, 10	2077/12/17
7	Dasharathpur	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	4	Ward No. 3, 4	2077/12/08
8	Maintada	Surkhet	Bheriganga	8	Ward No. 6, 7, 8,9	2078/11/19
9	Chalnechautara	Dailekh	Chamunda	2	Ward No. 1,2,3	2079/11/28
10	Kusapani	Dailekh	Bhairabi	6	Ward No. 6, 7	2079/12/13
11	Morka	Jajarkot	Shiwalaya	1	Ward No.1, Chhedagad-12,13	2078/05/16
12	Jumleamrai	Surkhet	Simta	8	Ward No. 5, 7, 8, 9	2080/01/20
13	Meheltoli	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	3	Ward No 3	2077/11/03
14	Ramghat	Surkhet	Bheriganga	11	Ward No. 11, 13	2078/10/25
15	Pagnath	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	1	Ward No. 1	2078/01/16
16	Dhotu	Mugu	Chhayanath Rara	8	Ward No. 8	2078/05/23
17	Sanneghari	Surkhet	Chaukune	7	Ward No. 7, 8	2079/11/28
18	Talfi	Jumla	Patarasi	2	Ward No. 1, 2, 3	2079/09/02
19	Chepang	Surkhet	Barahtal	5	Ward No. 5	2078/05/08
20	Lamakhali	Surkhet	Barahatal	7	Ward No. 6, 7	2078/04/09
21	Tadi	Kalikot	Khandachakra	3	Ward No. 3	2080/01/04
22	Matela	Surkhet	Chingad	3	Ward No. 3, 4	2078/05/09

3.2 Availability and utilization of physical assets by ASDP and Palika

3.2.1 Furniture and furnishing items

ASDP in partnership with respective Palika provided CAESC establishment support that includes different physical resources; office furniture and furnishing items to CAESCs as per the tripartite agreement made with Palika and CAESC. The total types of furniture and furnishing items is 8 that includes office chairs: 44, office table: 42, daraj:22, rack:17, information board:22, sign board:22, carpet:22 (330 meter) and plastic chair: 234, and the total number of those items is 425. The available physical resources related to CAESC office set up and its current utilization is illustrated as annex:1.

3.2.2 Information and technology related items

ASDP in partnership with respective Palika provided CAESC establishment support that includes ICT tools and equipment; computer, printer, phone and internet devices to CAESCs as per the tripartite agreement made with Palika and CAESC. The total type of ICT items is 5 that includes laptop computer: 9, desktop computer: 13, printer:22, telephone set:14 and internet devices:18, and the total number of those items is 76. The available physical resources related to ICT materials and its current utilization is illustrated as annex:2.

3.3.3 Agriculture and livestock tools and equipment for CAESC service strengthening

ASDP in partnership with respective Palika provided CAESC service strengthening support that includes different agriculture and livestock tools and equipment which directly support to CAESCs in delivering extension service. Total 50 type of agriculture and livestock tools and equipment are available in 22 CAESCs, and the total number of tools and equipment is 406 that comprises normal freeze: 3, deep freeze: 7, burdizo castrator large: 21, burdizo

castrator medium: 13, burdizo castrator small: 3, secateur: 36, sprayer: 16, microscope: 18, cool box: 20, surgical equipment set: 21, lap equipment set: 17, tag machine: 8, incubator: 5, seed bin: 8, moisture meter: 10, soil auger: 27, AI gun: 12, referee: 9, straw cutter: 6, digital thawing kit: 3, digital weight machine: 7, tray Vish: 1, casting rope: 6, pruning shear: 1, corn cellar: 3, vegetable seed planter: 9, jab planter: 8, soil kit box: 22, pH meter: 5, hoof cutter: 5, dial thermometer: 7, grafting machine: 1, apple picking machine: 2, juicer machine: 2, pit digger machine: 4, mini tiller: 7, AI materials: 4, grafting knife: 4, combine mill: 3, grafting toolbox: 2, portable dipping tank: 5, centrifuge: 3, power sprayer: 2, altimeter: 1, mother container: 11, millet thresher: 3, wool shearing machine: 3, solar system: 2, power wood cutter: 1 and others: 9. Each CAESC wise tools and equipment and their utilization status is given in annex:3

3.3 CAESC services delivery and income generation status;

Community Agriculture Extension Service Centers (CAESCs) are undertaking range of community agriculture extension services both public and business approach, which expects to increase revenue through increased volume and diversified services at local level. The detail of service types and quantities with revenue generated through the diverse business services along with beneficiaries is illustrated as below;

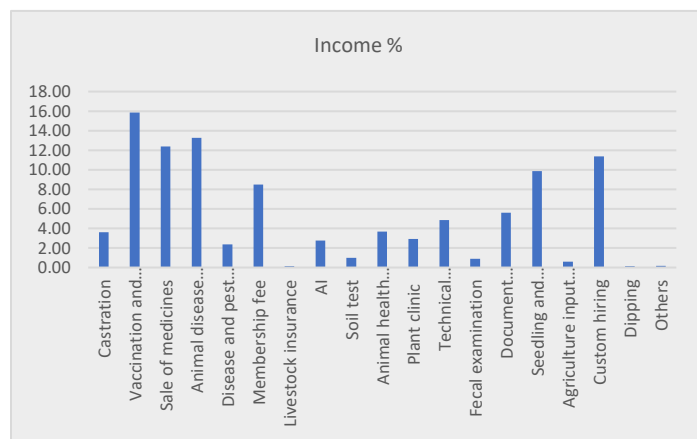
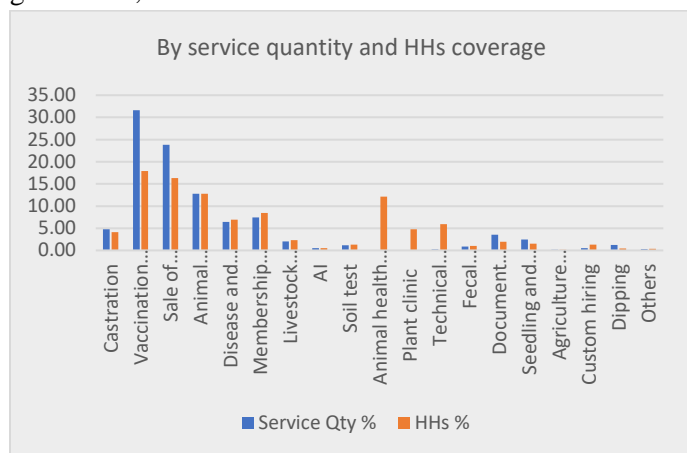
S N	Services	Service Qty	Service Qty %	Income Rs	Income %	Covered HHs	HHs %
1	Castration	847	4.74	31640	3.62	647	4.09
2	Vaccination and treatment	5651	31.62	138674	15.87	2831	17.88
3	Sale of medicines	4256	23.82	108310	12.39	2584	16.32
4	Animal disease treatment and parasite controlling	2288	12.80	116085	13.28	2028	12.81
5	Disease and pest management	1155	6.46	20800	2.38	1100	6.95
6	Membership fee	1335	7.47	74100	8.48	1335	8.43
7	Livestock insurance	361	2.02	1250	0.14	361	2.28
8	AI	85	0.48	24150	2.76	79	0.50
9	Soil test	202	1.13	8700	1.00	202	1.28
10	Animal health campaign	13	0.07	32053	3.67	1917	12.11
11	Plant clinic	2	0.01	25500	2.92	750	4.74
12	Technical training/support	39	0.22	42400	4.85	937	5.92
13	Fecal examination	157	0.88	7850	0.90	157	0.99
14	Document preparation	635	3.55	48890	5.59	312	1.97
15	Seedling and saplings sale	441	2.47	86220	9.87	236	1.49
16	Agriculture input supply	25	0.14	5345	0.61	25	0.16
17	Custom hiring	95	0.53	99500	11.38	207	1.31
18	Dipping	224	1.25	1120	0.13	64	0.40
19	Others	58	0.32	1400	0.16	58	0.37
	Total	17869	100.00	873987	100.00	15830	100

Total 19 type of services delivered from CAESCs that worths NPR. 873987 revenue generation with 15830 beneficiary coverage. Income from vaccination and treatment contributes 15.87% followed by animal disease treatment and parasite control 13.28%, and household covered by 17.88% and 16.32% respectively.

Average income of the CAESCs from delivering business services seems NPR. 39727 that varies from minimum

NPR. 500 to maximum NPR. 201945 that represents respectively newer to older CAESCs.

Below bar charts show current status of CAESCs in terms of service quantity, beneficiary coverage and income generation;



3.4 Annual expenditure of CAESCs for operations (recurrent cost estimation)

The operational cost of CAESCs includes house rent of office, cost for electricity, telephone and internet charges, cost of CAESC management committee, office supplies, management cost like transportations, repair and maintenance, auditing and staff salaries. Annual average operation cost of CAESC varies one to another according to its geographical location, market price, expenditure trend etc., and current annual expenditure trends of CAESCs reported minimum NPR. 346000 to maximum NPR. 424000 per year. The detail of the annual expenditure trend of CAESC operations is as given below chart;

Exp. headings	Annual average exp.	Range of exp.
Office house rent	16527	24000-30000
Electricity charge	2595	1200-10000
Telephone and internet charge	13405	6000-26000
Meeting cost	16818	12000-24000
Office supplies	9564	5000-24000
Management cost	17409	4000-30000
Staff salary	309818	30000-324000
Others	1591	0-10000

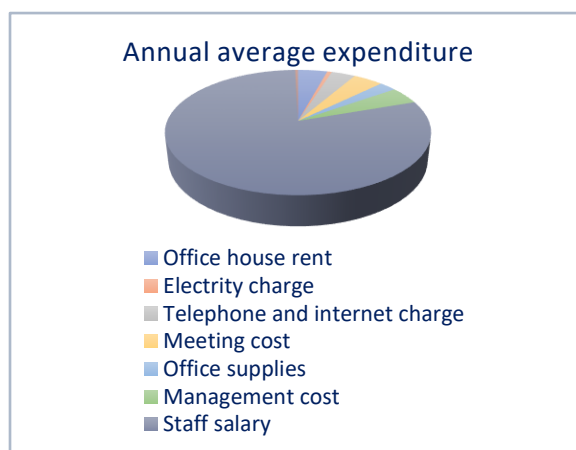


Table:6

3.5 Linkage, coordination and partnership of CAESC with other agencies

CAESCs have been established linkage and partnership with different formal agencies and non-formal actors involving in agriculture extension service directly and indirectly. The current status of linkage, coordination and partnership of CAESCs is described as below;

Agency/Actors	Fund leveraged/Support	Exchange of technical support	Discussed for support and partnerships development	Proposed for partnership
ASDP	22	22	22	22
Palika	22	21	20	18
Ward	6	14	18	13
Provincial government	x	1	1	1
Local Service providers	3	8	7	3
Cooperatives	1	3	4	3
Farmers groups	3	10	5	4
Other government agencies	x	x	1	x
Other non-government organizations	x	x	x	x

3.6 Attitudes of CAESC operators towards service delivery through CAESC

Total 12 statements related to agriculture extension, 22 respondents were asked to indicate their degree of agreement with the statement in a five-point scale (1-strongly agree, 2-agree, 3-neutral, 4- disagree and 5-strongly disagree). The detail of degree of agreement with given statements about agriculture extension service mechanism at local level is as illustrated below;

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
After the federal structure, the delivery of agricultural extension services has improved	32%	64%	0%	0%	5%
Agricultural extension services cannot be provided only by the established government mechanism	36%	36%	23%	5%	0%
The established community agricultural extension service center seems to provide more support in the delivery of agricultural extension services	41%	59%	0%	0%	0%
Budget and program have been managed by local government for community agriculture extension service centers	27%	68%	0%	5%	0%
The local government supported to manage the salary of technical staff	23%	50%	5%	14%	9%

Enough attention given by local representatives towards the promotion of Community Agricultural Extension Service Center	14%	50%	14%	23%	0%
The Community Agricultural Extension Service Center also needs support from the community level	64%	36%	0%	0%	0%
Community Agricultural Extension Service Center can run sustainably even when no provision of government budget	9%	23%	50%	0%	18%
Program operation and management process at Community Agriculture Extension Service Center is easy	14%	45%	32%	9%	0%
The Community Agricultural Extension Service Center has fully utilized its potential	14%	59%	18%	5%	5%
The community agriculture extension service center has been working in coordination with federal, provincial and local government	14%	64%	14%	9%	0%
There is problem in availability of technician at Community Agriculture Extension Service Center	18%	50%	14%	14%	5%

3.7 Ranking of problems associated to CAESCs

Major problems associated to CAESC operation and management are categorized into five that relates to; i) willingness to pay money for service to CAESC, ii) Adequacy of budget and programs according to service need, iii) Availability of competent technicians to deliver the service, iv) Coordination and cooperation among support organizations, and v) Getting support from local representatives. The higher problem indicates scale of 1 to lower 5 score.

The data from the study shows that farmers' unwillingness to pay money for the service from CAESC is significant problems so the CAESCs have an obligation to provide most of the service free with limited paid service, and this finally limiting the revenue streams, and bit difficult situation to achieve target of revenue generation expectation. Consequently, they may face shortage of budget for operation cost and for promotional activities as well. Another problem is unavailability of competent technicians for the successful operation of CAESCs with low remuneration as compared to current competitive markets. Major problems associated with CAESCs and their scale score is given below;

Problems	Scale (1: high to 5: low)					Total Score	Problem Rank
	1	2	3	4	5		
Farmers are willing to pay money to the service center	9	5	7	1	0	44	1
Adequacy of budget and programs according to service need	6	2	6	7	1	61	2
Availability of competent technicians to conduct the programs	3	6	3	4	6	70	3
Coordination and cooperation among support organizations	2	5	2	7	6	76	4

Getting support from local representatives	1	4	5	4	8	80	5
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Table:8

3.8 CAESCs' expectations from governments (federal, provincial and local)

Smooth and sustainable operation of CAESCs and to deliver extension services as per farmers need, they expect different support from government which are mainly categorized into five that relates to; i) support on budget and program management, ii) support to avail competent technical regularly, iii) support to coordination with various support agencies, iv) support of essential materials, land and building management, and v) support on policy formulation and planning as require. The higher expectation indicates scale of 5 to lower 1 score.

The expectation of program and budget management for CAESC is significant that ranked first because they could hardly manage operation cost and depending on external supports. Second expectation is to avail competent and experience technical staff regularly in CAESCs but due to budget limitation, and low staff remuneration, hard to avail competent and experience staff regular basis. Similarly, other expectations are to support for external coordination with various support agencies, providing essential materials related to service delivery, management of office building, support on policy and planning etc.

Major expectations of CAESCs from government; federal, provincial and local are detailed out as given below;

Expectation from government	Scale (5: high to 1: low)					Total score	%	Rank
	5	4	3	2	1			
Program and budget management	15	4	0	2	1	96	29	1
Management of competent technical staff	4	5	6	3	4	68	21	2
Support for coordination with various support agencies	1	7	7	4	3	65	20	3
Materials, land and building management	1	5	5	7	4	58	18	4
Support on policy formulation and planning	1	1	4	6	10	43	13	5

3.9 Extension approaches followed by CAESCs

CAESCs has been providing extension services both of agriculture and livestock sectors, and all have been following the individual extension approaches where the CAESC technical staff meets the farmer at home or on the farm and discusses issues of mutual interest, gives the farmer both information and advice. Similarly, sometimes they have been following group extension approaches where the technical staff or service providers brings the farmers together in one form or another in order to undertake his/her extension work. If needed, CAESCs coordinate with cooperatives, registered forms and LRPs as well as municipal technical units in service delivery functions; such as campaigning, mass activities etc.

3.10 Some best practices of CAESCs

ASDP piloted Community Agriculture Extension Service Centres (CAESCs) in selected 22 wards of the 16 Municipalities from 8 districts of Karnali Province of Nepal with the partnership of respective Municipalities. And the programme has been providing establishment and operation support fund to those CAESCs. The CAESC, with initial support from ASDP and respective Municipality, is expected to undertake range of community agriculture

extension functions in business oriented and market-based approach. CAESCs have been diversifying and delivering extension services at local level. Currently they have been providing 19 types of paid services that includes; castration, vaccination and treatment, animal disease treatment and parasite control, pest and disease management, livestock insurance, AI, soil testing, fecal examination, seeding and sapling sale, custom hiring input supply etc. Total 17869 service quantities reported that CAESC catered and generated Rs. 873987 incomes from the paid services covering 15830 household.

Access to Agriculture Services in Chapang after CAESC Establishment

Located on the banks of the Bheri River, this settlement is predominantly inhabited by indigenous ethnic groups. The settlement is 12 kilometers away from the headquarters of Barahatal Rural Municipality. As you descend from the rural municipality towards this settlement, you can see a beautiful flat land along the riverbank that appears excellent for agricultural production. However, there is no paved road leading to the settlement. Farmers face geographical challenges in accessing agricultural facilities provided by the rural municipality, and due to the lack of resources, it is not possible to provide all services from the ward office. In this context, the establishment of a nearby Community Agricultural Extension Service Center (CAESC) and the initiation of agricultural and livestock-related services have increased the Chepang residents' access to agriculture extension services.



In coordination and partnership with Barahatal Rural Municipality, the Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP) established the Community Agricultural Extension Service Center in Barahatal-5 Chepang in 2021 (2078 BS). ASDP with partnership with Barahatal Rural Municipality provided basic tools and equipment and ICT materials related to office establishment and service delivery along with provision of basic operation cost and staff salary.



Ganga Raji, a resident of Chepang, is employed as an agricultural technician. An 11-member center management committee, co-chaired by Yubaraj Basnet and Bir Bahadur Gharti, and overseen by the ward chairperson, is actively managing the center. This community service center provides extension services approximately to 400 households in Ward No. 5 Chepang of Barahatal Rural Municipality, as well as the Ikhani settlement in Ward No. 6 and the Chamribbachhi settlement in Ward No. 10 of Panchapuri Municipality. Previously, only one agro-vet existed in the settlement, and villagers had to walk 4-5 hours to the rural municipality's agricultural and livestock branch to access necessary services. Now, basic services and consultations are available right in their neighborhood. The Agriculture Sector Development Program operates through six vegetable production groups in the Chepang settlement. These groups have integrated programs, including Financial Education and Business Literacy classes, agricultural equipment support for women group members to reduce workload, the establishment of nutrition gardens, and nutrition awareness campaigns. This has led to increased capacity among group members and enabled them to start commercial farming. Farmers

who previously produced only for personal consumption are now selling their surplus vegetables for income. During monitoring, Co-chair Yubaraj Basnet mentioned that the community used to face difficulties visiting the municipality for minor tasks. The establishment of the Community Agricultural Extension Service Center now provided the services as per farmers service needs.

The center has been providing service such as; castration, vaccination and treatment, pest and disease management, soil test, seedling and sapling sales, agriculture input supply like seed, medicines, chemical fertilizers, custom hiring service, technical consultation service, document preparation support to farmers etc.

So far, CAESC Chepang provided various extension service counted at 1761 (including repetition of service types and service receivers) and cover around 400 plus HHs which counted at 1709. Through providing the different paid service the CAESC earned Rs. 201945.

ASDP piloted Community Agriculture Extension Service Centres (CAESCs) in selected 22 wards of the 16 Municipalities from 8 districts of Karnali Province of Nepal with the partnership of respective Municipalities. And the programme has been providing establishment and operation support fund to those CAESCs.

3.11 Some Lessons learned from the CAESC piloting

- Since the service can be taken at the doorstep, the farmers are happy and the farmers' time for reaching municipality headquarter or markets for getting services is also saved as CAESC provides services quickly and easily at local level.
- The more diversification of the services, higher the revenue options and potentiality to generate revenue of CAESCs. Wherever diversified service provisions in place, the revenue volume comparatively higher.
- CAESCs services reached to 15000 plus household and providing basic extension services to farmers which is significant in the context of Karnali.
- Availability of CAESC technical staff (operator) having relevant experience, qualification and maturity, and activeness of CAESC management committee is vital to operate CAESC effectively and towards sustainable way. The CAESC having competent technical staff and active management committee leading CAESC effectively and delivering quality service addressing the farmer's needs.
- Paid services and revenue streams found lower than the beginning assumptions due to farmers' habit of getting free services. So, there is an obligation to provide free services by CAESCs along with limited paid services for revenue generation. Farmers choose options of free services from government and other support agencies.
- Ownership and cooperation of local government specially from local representatives and municipal officials place value to CAESC operation and management mechanism. CAESCs expectations from government mainly are; facilitation on policy and planning, programing and budgeting, hiring competent technical staff for CAESC, support for coordination with various support agencies, providing essential materials related to service, office management of CAESC as well frequent monitoring, technical backstopping and coaching & mentoring support.

3.12 Issues and challenges

- Some services are available to farmers free of charge from the local government including other agencies, and since farmers are in the habit of trying to get them for free, they do not intense to take paid services from CAESCs, so the centers are also obliged to provide free services along with limited paid services for revenue generation.

- Regarding the mobilization of service providers through CAESC for service delivery mechanism practically not accepted by service providers because there is already established business and service linkage among farmers and service providers. They are not willing to pay extra commission affiliating to CAESCs.
- Due to the provisions of low remuneration of CAESC staff, difficult to avail competent staff and high possibility of turn over that hampering service delivery directly.
- CAESC management committee members should work voluntarily but some of them expecting minimum allowance or something else from government, and some of them gradually being inactive towards their roles and responsibility.
- CAESC operation mechanism is totally new in Karnali province, so needed adequate backstopping, coaching and mentoring support to CAESCs from the beginning, and ASDP has been providing such support through existing human resource but such supports from Palika seems sporadic and monitoring also occasional.

3.13 Way forward with few recommendations

- Explore and diversify CAESC services as much as possible to increase internal financial resources to manage the expenses of recurrent cost of CAESCs. And also expedite direct services in coordination with Palika, coordinate for channelizing the Palika' programs through CAESCs, and fulfill the financial gaps.
- Increase the service volumes and service coverage by establishing linkage, coordination and partnership with farmers groups, cooperatives, local service providers and local government.
- Discuss and coordinate with Palika through ward representatives for additional budget allocation by Palika which could contribute to manage recurrent cost of CAESC, and if possible, seed money to promote business activities.
- Avail experienced and technically competent staff, and continue capacity building support to staff including management committee, and actors associated with CAESCs.
- Palika support on policy and planning, programing and budgeting, hiring competent technical staff for CAESC, support for coordination with various support agencies, providing essential materials related to service, office management of CAESC as well frequent monitoring, technical backstopping and coaching & mentoring support are crucial.

Annexes

Annex: 1. Furniture and furnishing items

SN	CAESC Name	District	Palika	Ward	Total items	Used %
1	Jhulkhet	Rukum (W)	Musikot	6	19	100
2	Chautara	Rukum (W)	Musikot	13	21	100
3	Dobhan	Salyan	Sharada	9	18	100
4	Thardhunga	Salyan	Sharada	14	18	100
5	Dandakateri	Salyan	Siddhakumakh	3	18	100
6	Chaurase	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	9	18	100
7	Dasharathpur	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	4	19	100
8	Maintada	Surkhet	Bheriganga	8	18	100
9	Chalnechautara	Dailekh	Chamunda	2	19	100
10	Kusapani	Dailekh	Bhairabi	6	19	100
11	Morka	Jajarkot	Shiwalaya	1	19	100
12	Jumleamrai	Surkhet	Simta	8	20	100
13	Meheltoli	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	3	19	100
14	Ramghat	Surkhet	Bheriganga	11	19	100
15	Pagnath	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	1	19	100
16	Dhotu	Mugu	Chhayanath Rara	8	19	100
17	Sanneghari	Surkhet	Chaukune	7	19	100
18	Talfi	Jumla	Patarasi	2	19	100
19	Chepong	Surkhet	Barahtal	5	18	100
20	Lamakhali	Surkhet	Barahatal	7	19	100
21	Tadi	Kalikot	Khandachakra	3	29	100
22	Matela	Surkhet	Chingad	3	19	100
	Total				425	100

Annex:2 Information and technology related items

SN	CAESC Name	District	Palika	Ward	Total items	Used %
1	Jhulkhet	Rukum (W)	Musikot	6	3	100
2	Chautara	Rukum (W)	Musikot	13	3	100
3	Dobhan	Salyan	Sharada	9	3	100
4	Thardhunga	Salyan	Sharada	14	3	100
5	Dandakateri	Salyan	Siddhakumakh	3	4	100
6	Chaurase	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	9	3	100
7	Dasharathpur	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	4	3	100
8	Maintada	Surkhet	Bheriganga	8	4	100
9	Chalnechautara	Dailekh	Chamunda	2	2	100
10	Kusapani	Dailekh	Bhairabi	6	4	100
11	Morka	Jajarkot	Shiwalaya	1	3	100

12	Jumleamrai	Surkhet	Simta	8	3	100
13	Meheltoli	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	3	4	50
14	Ramghat	Surkhet	Bheriganga	11	4	100
15	Pagnath	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	1	3	67
16	Dhotu	Mugu	Chhayanath Rara	8	4	100
17	Sanneghari	Surkhet	Chaukune	7	4	100
18	Talfi	Jumla	Patarasi	2	4	50
19	Chepang	Surkhet	Barahtal	5	4	100
20	Lamakhali	Surkhet	Barahatal	7	4	100
21	Tadi	Kalikot	Khandachakra	3	3	100
22	Matela	Surkhet	Chingad	3	4	75
	Total				76	92

Annex:3 Agriculture and livestock tools and equipment for CAESC service strengthening

SN	CAESC Name	District	Palika	Ward	Tools and equipment	Used %
1	Jhulkhet	Rukum (W)	Musikot	6	9	44
2	Chautara	Rukum (W)	Musikot	13	29	38
3	Dobhan	Salyan	Sharada	9	15	100
4	Thardhunga	Salyan	Sharada	14	21	72
5	Dandakateri	Salyan	Siddhakumakh	3	16	44
6	Chaurase	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	9	19	100
7	Dasharathpur	Surkhet	Lekbeshi	4	17	53
8	Maintada	Surkhet	Bheriganga	8	29	50
9	Chalnechautara	Dailekh	Chamunda	2	18	67
10	Kusapani	Dailekh	Bhairabi	6	25	73
11	Morka	Jajarkot	Shiwalaya	1	26	40
12	Jumleamrai	Surkhet	Simta	8	15	69
13	Meheltoli	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	3	15	43
14	Ramghat	Surkhet	Bheriganga	11	22	72
15	Pagnath	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai	1	13	46
16	Dhotu	Mugu	Chhayanath Rara	8	14	56
17	Sanneghari	Surkhet	Chaukune	7	11	67
18	Talfi	Jumla	Patarasi	2	18	55
19	Chepang	Surkhet	Barahtal	5	15	92
20	Lamakhali	Surkhet	Barahatal	7	33	92
21	Tadi	Kalikot	Khandachakra	3	15	69
22	Matela	Surkhet	Chingad	3	11	64
	Total				406	63