

## Partnership Snapshot: Shreenagar Agro Farm

*Enhancing worker productivity through skilling, and improving market linkages to stimulate agriculture growth*

UKaid Skills for Employment (सीप) Programme's partnership with Shreenagar Agro Farm (SAF) has enabled an industry-led skilling approach to expand a combination of classroom and farm-based skilling capability for the farmers and aspiring agri-entrepreneurs in Lumbini Province.

The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015 - 2035 prioritizes to achieve its vision for self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agriculture sector through: enhanced productivity; profitable commercialisation and competitiveness while promoting inclusiveness; sustainability; development of private sector and cooperatives; and connectivity to market infrastructure; information infrastructure and ICT. Besides, the Nepal Labour Force Survey (NLFS) III carried out by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in 2017/18 maintains that the sector employs 66% of Nepal's total population and contributes about 36% of the nation's overall GDP. Transformation towards a more commercialised agriculture requires skilled farmers, and enabled agri enterprises that can respond to market needs.

Agriculture is UKaid सीप's key sectoral focus too and to stimulate the growth of the sector, सीप forged partnership with SAF in November 2019. By skilling the workforce, enhancing worker productivity, and improving linkages for better input and technology adoption and market access—complementing to the key growth priorities of ADS too—सीप's partnership with SAF has skilled 1,506 farmers/agri-entrepreneurs in poultry, livestock, cattle, aquaculture and agri-entrepreneurship, over the pilot phase between November 2019 - April 2021. Drawing on its partnerships with national and international academia, private sector and NGOs, सीप's partnership with SAF introduced market-relevant poultry, livestock and entrepreneurship skills using classroom and farm-based settings in Province 5. In collaboration with national and international poultry/livestock firms and academia, this partnership has improved accessibility to quality, market-relevant skilling.

### Summary of Activities

- Establish classroom and farm-based skilling facility catering to skills development of farmers through training of trainers (TOT) on livestock sector with special focus on poultry, at Butwal in Lumbini Province and serving the neighbouring provinces.
- Finalise practical curricula and training manuals with technical backstopping from international and national stakeholders such as Lohmann Tierzucht (Germany), Cobb-Vantress (U.S.A.), Aqua Vet (India), and Himalayan College of Agricultural Science and Technology (HICAST, Nepal), mainly covering the key areas aligned with industry-needs.
- Liaise with Nepali academia to help strengthen academia-industry linkages, such as through meaningful apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and internships.

### KEY FACTS:

**Duration:** November 2019 - April 2021

**Geographic coverage:** Lumbini Province

### Key Outcomes:

- Successfully skilled 1,506 farmers/agri-entrepreneurs including 1,082 from disadvantaged communities and 720 women.
- Established classroom and farm-based skilling facility catering to livestock sector with special focus on poultry in Butwal, Lumbini Province – serving neighbouring provinces as well.
- Developed curricula/training manuals covering key market-led topics and enhanced skilling capability in partnership with international and national stakeholders.
- Sustained collaboration with other industry players to facilitate and enable: 1) employment for skilled graduates; 2) support services to set-up agri-enterprises; and 3) access to input for improved farm management for farmers.
- Developed Shree Kisan Mobile App that serves as a farm data recording/monitoring tool, marketplace, and knowledge centre.
- Served as one-stop-solution for farmers (for raw materials, skilling and buy-back guarantee) via contract farming.



Prashant Khatiwada, skilled by SAF in meat processing, and placed at its deli outlet. / Courtesy: SAF

- Actively advocate to push for improved practical curriculum and qualifications with academia like the Agriculture and Forestry University and HICAST, as well as ownership and recognition of curricula by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD).
- Formalise productive, meaningful and long-term partnerships with key national and international actors such as agri-business employers, and input, service, and finance providers—to draw on expertise, build capability of SAF and consortium partners, and harmonise efforts to enable: i) employment for skilled graduates; ii) support services to set-up agri-enterprises such as through enabled access to finance; and iii) access to input for improved farm management like the day-old-chicks, improved feed, technical services, and buy back mechanism.
- Expand use of existing digital business platform Smart Krishi to strengthen the digital solutions to improve information, skilling, and advisory services; and bring key agri-stakeholders at a common digital platform to increase and improve market linkages. Mobilise trainees through private sector partners such as Smart Krishi and R&D Innovative Solution, NGO partner Paurakhi Samuha Nepal, academic institute partners, and local municipalities.

## Key Achievements

- Successfully skilled 1,506 people including 1,082 from disadvantaged communities and 720 women.
- Curricula and training manuals developed covering: Breeder Farm Hatchery, Commercial Broiler Farming, Commercial Cattle Farming, Commercial Goat Farming, Commercial Layers Farming, Commercial Maize Farming, Feed Mill Operations, Fish Processing, Meat Processing and Milk Processing. The training manuals were developed with technical support from Cobb, Lohmann, PUM (Netherlands), Aquavet, Department of Livestock, and local and national level skilling experts—and recognized by the Agriculture Information and Training Centre, and MoALD.
- State-of-the-art skilling facility and lab constructed in Butwal—with capacity to skill over 2,000 per year—along with model farms for farm-based skilling for aspiring farmers/agri-entrepreneurs of Lumbini and neighbouring provinces. Meanwhile, SAF strengthened the capacity of local trainers through TOT conducted by local and international experts.
- To combat the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on skilling initiatives, SAF launched effective e-learning initiatives that included virtual model farm tours encouraging participation from not only among returnee migrants but also the migrants based out of India, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. After the first lockdown in 2020, SAF provided boarding facilities for farm employees to restrict movement, set up sanitization tunnels, and provided remote working options for staff.



SAF has introduced market-relevant poultry, livestock and entrepreneurship skills using classroom and farm-based settings in Province 5/ Courtesy: SAF