

Draft Report

Final Evaluation of the Project

Improved Food Security, Sustainable Livelihoods and Empowerment of Women

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Submitted to:

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November 2023

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Acronyms

AKC	Agriculture Knowledge Center
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CBOs	Community Based Organisations
DFO	Division Forest Office
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LG	Local Government
MRM	Masta Rural Municipality
NAFAN	National Forum for Advocacy Nepal
NGOs	Non-government Organizations
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SW	Single Women
ToR	Terms of Reference

Acknowledgement

I would like to sincerely acknowledge the Swallows of Finland and its family for offering the opportunity to undertake this study. Special thanks go to Heli Janhunen- the executive director of the Swallows of Finland for kind cooperation for preparing this report. Likewise, I am thankful to the staff, social mobilizers, and board members of the local implementing partner organization; Sahara Nepal for their excellent support in arranging field meetings and site observations. I appreciate the valuable comments and suggestions received from the Government Officials and representatives from Masta Rural Municipality. Finally, I am indebted to all the participants of the Focus Group Discussions and respondents of the interviews for their patience, cooperation, and valuable time in sharing their insights and experiences. I hope that the recommendations proposed of this study will be helpful to further improve and strengthen the design of the upcoming similar project.

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Evaluator

Executive Summary

Swallows of Finland with the funding support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland., has been implementing the Project "Improved food security, sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of women " in Masta Rural Municipality (ward 3-7), Bajhang district of Sudur Paschim Province, Nepal. The three-year project (2021- 2023) has been implemented by the local implementing partner; Sahara Nepal, Bajhang.

The overall objective of the project is, improved food security, gender equity and sustainable livelihoods of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Masta Rural Municipality of Bajhang District. The specific objectives of the project are-1) enhance the agricultural productivity, value addition and marketing for improved livelihoods and food security through capacity development, input support and market linkage development. 2) empower women through awareness raising and leadership development and mobilize both men and women to raise community awareness on gender and social issues. 3) contribute to increased community resilience by promoting sustainable animal husbandry and use of natural resources (non-timber forest products) for alternative livelihood option. 4) strengthening of the partner organization (Sahara Nepal) during the project through managerial and technical capacity building trainings and participatory PMER activities.

The project was evaluated in terms of relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and coherence and cooperation. The general approach of the evaluation consisted of the 3-step process as i) desk review ii) field visit and iii) report preparation.

Both, primary and secondary data were used to evaluate this project. The primary data were collected from field visits, through onsite observation, key informant interviews, focus group discussion with the beneficiaries and stakeholders. The secondary data included project proposal, progress report and financial report, etc. which was provided by the project team.

Based on overall study with empirical evidence from primary and secondary sources, it can be concluded that the project has very successfully achieved its goals of improving food security, gender equity and sustainable livelihoods of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Masta Rural Municipality of Bajhang District.

Specifically, the project has been instrumental to enhance the understanding of the community people on the importance of women empowerment, gender equality, and avoiding of malpractices such as *Chhaupadi* (sense of untouchability during menstruation period), child marriage and gender-based discrimination and violence. Women empowerment, building local leadership, capacity to raise voices and concern were found to be significantly improved on all women those who lead and actively take part in the group activities.

The project has also contributed to transform behavior of the people from subsistence-oriented mindset to commercial oriented agricultural production. In relation to farming practices, the farmers have started the practice of using organic fertilizer in their farmland, engaging in cash crop production and marketing, and developing connectivity with nearby urban center to sell their extra production which used to be the subsistence in the past. They also realized the importance and nutritional value of the indigenous crops due to which, they are motivated to increase its production and sell it in the market, to gain an extra income. Additionally, they improved their method on the way of goat rearing, which has now proven to be more effective and financially stable.

In terms of institutional capacity of local implementing partner, the project has significantly improved its capacity such as financial management and communication. The project was systematically managed with proper planning, monitoring, coordination, and reporting. that Sahara Nepal has successfully implemented the project activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the final evaluation of the project entitled *Improved food security, sustainable livelihoods, and empowerment of women*. The project is being implemented in Masta Rural Municipality of Bhajang district of Sudurpaschim Province of Nepal. The government of Finland, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported financially in collaboration with Swallows of Finland. At the local level, the project is being implemented by Sahara Nepal in collaboration with the Masta Rural Municipality of Bajhang district, one of the least developed districts of the country having 46% of the population below the poverty line.

According to the national population census 2021, the total population of the Masta Rural Municipality (MRM) is 13265 comprising of 53.9% female and 46.1% Male. More than 80% of the people are involved in agriculture sector. But the productivity is very low because of lack of use of advance agricultural technology, practicing traditional farming system and exposure to impact of climate change. Therefore, the MRM is among the most food insecure areas of the district.

However, the MRM is rich in natural resources like forests and non-timber forest products, mainly medicinal and aromatic plant resources, and water resources. Because of the lack of proper management, lack of technical know-how of processing of forest products, the people of MRM are not able to fully utilize these valuable natural resources of the palika to diversify their livelihoods. Though some attempts are seen at project level, to utilize the valuable natural resources of the area including the involvement of local government in fostering the market system, establish linkage between rural and urban, herbal collector with herbal seller, and local production with local market, yet the market based, and commercial scale of production has been lacking.

From socio-economic perspective, the district itself one of the poor and disadvantaged districts which also apply for the project municipality. Early marriage, *Chhaupadi* customs and gender-based discrimination and violence and caste system were the common social problems prevalent in the district. *Chhaupadi*, was one of the major social challenges faced by women in the project community. During which, women having their menstrual cycle, used to live in cowshed and small insecure mud hut and live under risk of snake bite and other risk of transmission of diseases, were highly prevalent in the project community. The persons with disabilities (PWDs) were not a priority in mainstream development interventions.

In such a backdrop, with an overall objective of improved food security, gender equity and sustainable livelihoods of socially and economically disadvantaged communities, the three-year project (2021 - 2023) was designed. The total budget of the project is €220,400. The project was designed to benefit 300 households directly in five wards (3,4,5,6 and 7) of the MRM. At least half of the beneficiaries were expected to be women. Among the direct beneficiaries at least 50 persons were expected to be Dalits and 25 persons with disabilities.

As the Project is in completion stage, Swallows of Finland has commissioned this Final Evaluation. The evaluation has brought key recommendations based on the field consultation, field observation, and review of project documents. The report is composed of introduction in its first

section and objective in the second section. The 3rd section briefly provides the methodology which is followed by major findings of the project in relation to evaluation criteria with analysis under the 4th section. Finally, the last section displays the conclusion and recommendation part.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION

The overall objective/goal of this assignment is to assess the Project output, outcome and impact referring to the Project logical framework; assess Project quality, efficiency, and effectiveness; and provide recommendations for future reference.

As per the ToR, the specific objectives of the assignment are:

- To evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project by reviewing the outputs achieved in relation to inputs provided, and the outcomes achieved as a result of project outputs delivered to date.
- To highlight good practices and provide practical recommendations for further improvement in the design, delivery, quality, and resourcing of the project to increase effectiveness, efficiency, relevance or impact.
- To develop capacity of Sahara Nepal in Project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

3. METHODOLOGY

To achieve the assigned objective, both; secondary and primary data were used in the analysis. The evaluation was carried out in a transparent manner, making sure that all relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries representing all groups participate, as deemed appropriate. The study had strictly followed the principle of participatory and consultative approach. The secondary data were also collected through the project documents which included project proposal, baseline report, project progress report, result matrix, monitoring reports etc.

As a part of project evaluation for the verification of the secondary data, the evaluator visited project sites in Masta Rural Municipality and interacted with the project staff at Sahara Nepal. Moreover, the primary data were collected through the focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). In total 5 FGDs and 7 KIIs were conducted. Among the FGDs, 4 FGDs represented 10 producer groups of the project and the last one FGD was with representatives of MRM. Altogether, 48 people (female-38, SW-3, PWD-1) were consulted through FGDs. Informant of the KIIs were from the division forest office, Bajhang, Agriculture Knowledge Center, Bajhang, Kul Masta Jan Higher Secondary School Bhatekhola, Entrepreneurship Development Section, Women and Children Development Section, Agriculture Section of MRM. Name list of the people that were consulted during field visit is provided in the annex 6.6.

4. FINDINGS

This section thoroughly demonstrates the main results and findings of the evaluation. The detail of each criterion is guided by the evaluation questions provided in the ToR. These criteria are explained based on the achievements made against log frame, overall outcome, outputs, and accomplished activities. The details of each activity and their status of achievements are given in Annex- 6.2.

4.1 Relevance:

Based on the empirical data from the interaction with the community and field observations and review of the project documents, it was found that the project was highly relevant in responding to the current needs of target beneficiaries. The project has been designed based on the community needs and key priorities of the MRM. From the interaction with the community and field observations, it was confirmed that the project was highly relevant in responding to the current needs and interests of the targeted beneficiaries.

Food security, livelihoods were the dire needs of the community since, MRM is among the most food insecure areas of the district. The baseline data of the project shows that majority of the people (67%) have food sufficiency from their farmland which lasts only for 3 to 9 months. Off seasonal and commercial farming was felt essential in the project area aiming to diversify livelihood options and addressing the food insecurity and increase in income and wellbeing.

Establishment of media partnership, campaigns, trainings, and workshops to spread awareness on prevalent *Chhaupadi*, gender-based discrimination and violence seemed relevant. Many participants during FGDs said that the radio program on gender-based violence has been effective to change the mindset of the people on the role of women in society. In this context, the project activities were very much aligned with their socio-economic context.

Community people from all the wards of the MRM are largely poor and vulnerable due to food insecurity, socio-economic as well as cultural context. Untouchability in terms of caste hierarchy, menstrual issues, status of women in the society from local cultural context are other elements that make the community people vulnerable. In addition to this, the project has also identified the needs of people with disability and accordingly helped in fostering their livelihood by providing dignified space in the community groups formed in the project. Hence, the beneficiaries were selected by mapping the most disadvantaged groups of the project area, in consultation with the local community and the local government representatives.

The needs and interest of the beneficiaries were assessed based on livelihoods and living conditions (health, hygiene, sanitation), socio-economic and cultural context (caste system) as well as the intervention made by other projects in the area. For example, while selecting the wards, wards 1 and 2 were excluded for this project, as those two wards were supported by another project with similar objectives. The Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) funded by the government of Finland was already working in wards 1 and 2 of the MRM. The wise selection of beneficiaries not only contributed to avoid duplications, but also

contributed to the right use of foreign assistance as well as helped in covering many needy populations.

The project actions are found targeted without any bias, based on political ideology, caste, and cultural practices. The project actions supported anyone of the communities that met the criteria developed for beneficiary selection. Everyone is respectable and everyone's views were found respected while decision making. Grievances and concerns hearing system has been established, and any concern coming from group members were respected and addressed during the meetings of the group.

In this project, the beneficiaries' selection criteria seemed comprehensive taking the socio economic, landholding, occupation, food sufficiency, family size etc. into consideration. However, climate change risk has not been considered while selecting beneficiaries. As per the conversation with the local communities, some wards of the MRM are exposed to drought, while some hamlets of a ward are exposed to landslide. Thunderstorm, windstorm, and hailstorm are common hazards in the area impacting the agricultural production. In many instants, ready to harvest crops were said to be damaged due to hailstorm. These factors should also be considered while selecting the beneficiaries.

This project is pertinent to contribute to the implementation of objective of the existing 15th national plan of Nepal. The project has contributed to implement the right to food and food sovereignty act 2018 which claims that every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty, to improved livelihoods and elimination of food insecurity as a basic human right. Similarly, the project was also well aligned with the national policies and strategies. This project has contributed to achieving the national priority in agriculture as outlined in the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015-2035. ADS prioritizes agricultural commercialization for economic growth and ending poverty and hunger. The project has also contributed to operationalize the local government operation act 2017, Climate change policy 2019, fiscal policy and plan of the MRM 2021-22 and 2022-23.

In addition to this, the project has also contributed to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The project, specifically, contributes to the SDG 2; End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and SDG 5; Gender Equality (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and partially to SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Integration of human rights-based approach (HRBA) was ensured by inclusive and participatory planning during which needs, concerns and capacity gaps of right-holders and duty-bearers have been identified. Similarly, HRBA was highly considered during implementation of the project activities.

The interaction with communities, as well as reviewing of annual reports of the projects, revealed that the information and communication system has been integrated into the operationalization of the project. In the beginning of the project, an inception workshop was

organized by informing the objectives and potential outcomes along with budget of the project. The project team established a system of public hearing which was conducted every year.

During the implementation of the project, different 15 producers' groups comprising of women, people with disability, Dalit, and single women and men were formed (see annex 6.1) Women empowerment is ensured mainly by providing space to women in leadership positions of those community-based agency (producers' group). In such a way, community people, particularly the women are empowered by organizing of 15 community groups, established with diverse objectives, mainly to foster livelihood and wellbeing. The action would contribute to right to access quality food, right to live dignified lives, and right to get right information via community engagement.

The project to some extent has also attempted to address the impact of climate change, through both, seasonal farming as well as off seasonal vegetable farming. Improved irrigation system, management and sustainable use of natural resources and use of improved technology and coordination with local government were found some of the key actions that were applied in relation to climate actions.

The evaluator has also realized that the ecosystem-based approaches has been applied in the project area mainly for resilient recovery in degraded land. The mass plantation in the forest degraded area, and good number of plant survival helped in the mitigation efforts of the government, as well as in the ecosystem restoration.

4.2 Effectiveness

From the effectiveness perspective, the evaluator realized that in a large extent, the project has been able to meet most of the targets/ activities set for the project period. Most of the anticipated outcomes and outputs have been achieved (see details in Annex 6.2), despite the challenges of difficult terrain with scattered settlement and number of cultural complexities embedded with socio- cultural norms and values of the project implemented area and some unavoidable circumstances.

After having a number of field consultations and onsite observations, the evaluator realized that the activities under the outcome 2 of the project (i.e., women are socially and economically empowered) was the most successful. Whereas the output 3.1- Alternative NTFP-based livelihood opportunities developed and micro-enterprises supported under the outcome 3 which intend to build more resilient communities practicing sustainable animal husbandry and natural resource management and generating income from NTFPs was the least successful, despite the activities under this output designed based on the need of the people. The reason behind the less successful can be due to the availability of the resources far from the community, no market-based system established locally for NTFPs, and other forest based local products. Many productions are still produced for household needs, and no market-based approach penetrated at the working communities.

The evaluator realized that the weak institutional memory of government agencies was a challenge, to build frequent rapport with the different officials. For the effective implementation of the activities and achievement of the project's goal, clear channels of communication by field teams with defined roles and responsibilities was useful for addressing of such external factors that impacted the project implementation and sustainability.

From the beginning of the implementation of the activities, the project encountered number of challenges including COVID restrictions. Similarly, natural disasters like Bajhang flood 2021 and the recent Bajhang earthquake 2023 had also shifted the project activities and timeline. Other challenges faced by the project was that the project activities had to be conducted in the field by avoiding the beneficiaries' agricultural time. Procrastination of the concerned authorities of the government agencies including local government is another challenge to complete the project activities in a given timeframe. Project staff invested their efforts to manage time of government staff in order to implement the project in which synergy with government is required.

4.3 Efficiency

Despite the difficulties, the project staff were found to be efficient and dedicated to achieve the project objective. Likewise, in the field, the local communities are also highly motivated and were working efficiently to achieve the overall target of the project.

The project budget was prepared based on the required financial and human resources to achieve the expected outcomes. Operation and maintenance costs were kept to a minimum and most of the budget was allocated for implementation (including monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning) and human resources.

Reviewing of the project documents and field consultation as well as observation of the project activities at the ground, reveals that the budget was planned and invested, taking into consideration the local context (including geographical location of the project), local market rates and availability of the local human as well as other resources. Considering the needs of the local community people, a portion of the budget was allocated for intensive series of facilitation and training, awareness raising and community mobilization.

There are couple of excellent examples set by the project in getting matching fund from the local government in achieving the impact at scale. For instance, addressing the drought issues, a project was planned to construct an irrigation canal and NPR 1.2 million was allocated for the purpose. But, the allocated budget was not enough to construct the irrigation canal. In relation to addressing the needs of the community people in the ward number 7 of MRM, the project team approached to local government and become successful in getting matching fund worth of NPR 1.5 million which was an excellent example of synergy, foster sustainability and build ownership of local government authority.

The project has established strong coordination and synergy with the AKC, under the Department of Agriculture, the government agency. By means of their collaboration and synergy,

the AKC has funded NPR 0.5 million for vegetable farming aligning with the SAHARA project activities. The interaction with the community showed that, due to the frequent coordination and number of follow up meetings with the AKC, a project supported group i.e., Dudhillo Vegetable Production Group was able to receive NPR 0.5 million for vegetable farming. Similarly, the other two project supported farmers, had received technical support from the AKC in their mushroom farming.

In overall, Sahara Nepal has been able to implement the project activities at the community level in a highly efficient manner to achieve the project goal. The project activities were also regularly and jointly monitored by Sahara Nepal along with the concerned authority e.g., representatives from agriculture section, livestock section of the MRM. Moreover, the continuous support in results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation provided by the project coordinator from Swallows of Finland was outstanding to develop the capacity of Sahara Nepal.

Despite the above-mentioned fact, based on the demand of the Sahara Nepal team along with the realization of the evaluator, a need of national level focal person that could play a bridging role between Sahara Nepal with Swallows of Finland was felt. This could help in linking with the decision makers, help building synergy with federal stakeholders, and help in making smooth communication between project team and Swallows of Finland.

Many of the project activities are still being implemented. Financial report (Jan-oct 2023) of the project also shows a large amount of variance. According to the finance officer of the Sahara Nepal, maximum number of activities were held in the month of November which is yet to be uploaded in the finance report, since the finance report is prepared quarterly. She further mentioned that all the activities, including the public hearing and audit, will have been completed by the end of December.

4.4 Sustainability

The project has established several footprints in relation to the sustainability of the project action. The project has established strong coordination, and synergy with the local government i.e., MRM, which helped in integrating the project good practices into the fiscal policy and planning. During FGD with the MRM representatives which included chairperson, chief of administration officer and others, they expressed highly supportive opinions to the project activities and positive changes towards the beneficiaries and have shown commitment to continue the project's good practices into the coming fiscal planning as much as possible.

The project has organized several capacity building training, and workshop mainly in vegetable production and marketing that will certainly help the community people to continue their business even after the project. The target community people are committed to continue the activities from which they can generate income.

In addition to this, the community people through the different producers' groups have generated some administrative skills and business plan development as a result of the training and coaching

provided by the project. This knowledge and skill will be used by the people even after the project is over. During key informant interview, the key informant representing AKC stated that- *The members of producer groups came here to the AKC which is located at Chainpur- the district head quarter. They came here with the proposal because of the mentoring and coaching provided by the project. Before this project, they had never come here.*

Similarly, a plantation was conducted in degraded land with close coordination with the division forest office. In such a way, this project has been able to establish linkages with government agencies.

Small farmers in 5 wards of MRM in the form of 15 producer groups, are engaged in commercial vegetable farming, indigenous crops farming, handicraft making and goat rearing. The project delivered different training sessions on improved vegetable farming technology, indigenous crops farming, commercial goat rearing, women's leadership development and various orientation and awareness workshops in the project villages. These micro level producers' groups are not only contributing to social and behavior changes but, are also becoming agencies for sustaining the project actions as these producers group see their livelihoods opportunities in it, though, these agencies are at their early stage of their development, still lacking an operational plan defining role, responsibilities, and tenure ship of the executive committee members. The provision of operational plan of the agency, continuous periodic follow up, and some additional training may be required in near future to institutionalize of these locally built agencies. These agencies can also play a bridging role between community with local governments. As a result, they can be instrumental to foster project sustainability and can be a strong exit strategy of the project.

4.5 Impact

While analyzing the project log frame, indicators defined in the log frame, and looking into project annual report, field consultation as well as on site observation, in a large extent the project was able to meet the project goal and objectives, and significant level of changes. However, it's a difficult to evaluate long-term impact of the project within three years of implementation.

Through this project, community based local agencies (producers' groups) were created and community- local government communication system via community leadership has been established. In these producers' group, more than 60 % of the project's direct beneficiaries (353) are women who also hold key positions in the producer groups. More importantly, women empowerment, leadership development for influencing decision at ward level planning to Palika level decision making, was realized to be improving in a significant manner.

The project directly contributed to ensure, to address the superstitious traditional thinking and practices of *Chhaupadi*. Due to the introduction of the project, number of social changes have been observed. Women and girls who used to live in hut away from family during their menstruation are now living in the house. Though living separately for about four days is still

prevalent, but on the brighter side they started to demolish the cowshed where they used to live during their menstruation, at numerous risks, from snake bite to psychological terror of ghost.

Training, workshops, and campaign through the *Deuda* songs to raise awareness on *Chhaupadi*, early marriage and gender-based violence helped in changing the behavior of the people. In the local context, *Deuda* song is considered endemic, traditional, and locally popular song which holds a significant value for both maintaining social harmony and conserve local culture. The project has organized *Deuda* competition to raise awareness on local malpractices such as *Chhaupadi*. Many local has said that the *Deuda* song was become instrumental to raise awareness against such malpractices like *Chhaupadi*. Furthermore, local radio messages broadcasted via local FM Radio was also found to be impactful as it plays an effective role in raising awareness in the village. These social changes are the major positive impact that the project has brought in the project area. During FGDs, all the women briefed about their significant changing behaviors after the project implementation as-

“We all left to live in a cowshed or small insecure mud hut during menstruation period, rather we started living along with family on the second floor of the house. This makes us secure from the risk of snake bite and to other diseases transmission risk. Moreover, we started to have milk, curd and butter milk which were prohibited during menstruation before this project implementation. This project has become a milestone in changing our thought regarding the taboos of menstruation”.

The project has provided a significant space to the women and girls. More than 60% of project beneficiaries are women. To a large extent, women are now becoming vocal, and are able to raise their voices and concerns with the local decision makers, at community decision making. This shows that the project has significantly contributed to strengthen the leadership capacity of women through leadership development, capacity building training and awareness raising activities. These training and capacity building actions have largely supported to develop their moral, as well as social strength to address the human right of women and fight against gender-based discrimination and violence. Thus, the project has succeeded in promoting women empowerment in the project area.

Similarly, the project has organized number of capacity building training, and workshop, mainly in vegetable production and marketing. Because of these training and coaching provided by the project, the community people through the different producers' groups have generated some skills to sell their agricultural products. Thus, this project has also contributed to transform behavior of the people from subsistence-oriented mindset to commercial oriented agricultural production i.e. beneficiaries started earning extra by selling of their production. Community people have also shared that they are happy to get diverse taste of diverse agricultural production which was not in practice before the project entered into operation. During the FGD, many women leaders collectively revealed that all those who are involved in the project interventions are now thinking about income-based and market-oriented agriculture system to that of subsistence-based agriculture. The agricultural products are being sold in the nearby market up to

Chainpur- the district headquarter. However, because of the rural road, transportation is expensive. Similarly, during monsoon season they cannot sell the fresh vegetable due to the disconnection of the road linkage.

In relation to farming practices, the project has promoted organic production technologies including use of organic manure and bio-pesticides for crop cultivation. The farmers engaged in the project actions were found to be utilizing animal manure in vegetable farming which helped not only in production, but also reduced the impact of inorganic fertilizer in the soil. Farmers are engaged in cash crop production and marketing and developing connectivity with nearby urban center to sell their extra production which used to be the subsistence in the past.

Training/workshop /Support in local nutritious food productions has become instrumental to increase awareness on the importance of indigenous crops for health benefits and food security. Similarly, training for processing of the legumes /buckwheat/ millet/barley has ultimately empowered the local community people for increasing the production and consumption. Additionally, the locale people also claimed to be selling the product.

The farmers who are engaged in goat rearing traditionally were supported with the renovation of their existing goat sheds. They used to keep their goats in the traditional goat shed with other animals like cow, buffalo etc. Due to this practice the goats used to be suffer from different diseases. So, by keeping this fact in mind, the project has decided to improve the existing goat shed of the 34 farmers for the commercial goat farming. The project has also supported for a demo of improved goat shed construction. Trainings on improved goat husbandry practices given to the goat farming groups and support to fodder and forage production to the producers, has really brought positive changes to the groups. The groups are highly motivated by the project activities and excited to increase the number of goats as the buyers come to their front doors.

There is another important, visible, and positive impact, in terms of institutional capacity of local implementing partner. The project has significantly improved its capacity such as financial management, communication, hiring of staff etc. For Sahara Nepal, this was the first project in which, it directly received the foreign currency and had an opportunity in the management of exchange loss and gain. During the project management, Sahara Nepal learned how to use exchange gain, and get approval from donor before using the exchange gain etc. Similarly, in hiring of the staff, they also learned the procedures of staff recruitment and gender balance in the staff composition. Moreover, the continuous support in results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation provided by the Swallows of Finland was outstanding to develop the capacity of Sahara Nepal. Thus, this project became pivotal in upgrading Sahara Nepal regarding financial system, monitoring, and reporting of the project activities.

4.6 Coherence and Cooperation

The project interventions were consistent with many local agencies, mainly the government and bilateral projects. As an example, the project avoided duplication with other projects such as the Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) with similar objective and

activities. On the other hand, it built synergy and coordination with local government agencies for joint investments.

The project has established strong coordination, and synergy with the local government i.e., MRM, which helped in integrating project good practices, and learning into fiscal policy and planning. Community based inclusive 15 producers' groups (Veg: 7, Indigenous crops: 3, Goat rearing: 3, Handicrafts: 2) have been formed and legally registered in MRM. As a result, they have been getting both technical as well as input supports from the government agencies.

The MRM recognized the needs of the local people who are involved in the project and initiated to address the project requests to foster local livelihood. As an example, the MRM has constructed four agricultural collection centers in the key locations, where farmers can collect their production. Though, the centers are yet to come into operation, but they are expected to support in marketing of the farmers' agricultural products which helps in diversifying livelihoods in the face of climate change. This helps in improving livelihoods and food security of the socially and economically marginalized communities, paying special attention to women to reduce gender-based discrimination and violence and enhance the rights and dignities of women in the society.

Another example of building partnership and synergy is to achieve the objective of getting a matching funding from the local government to achieve the impact at scale. Addressing the drought issues, this project planned to construct an irrigation canal and was allocated NPR 1.2 million for the purpose. But, the allocated budget was not enough to construct the irrigation canal. To address the needs of the community people in the ward number 7 of MRM, the project team approached the local government and became successful in getting matching fund, worth of NPR 1.5 million which was an excellent example of synergy, fostering sustainability and building ownership of local government authority.

Similarly, one demo goat shed was constructed by the MRM in addition to the one by the project. The established joint monitoring system between local government and project team also show case a good example of partnership, coordination, and synergy of the project activities.

The project not only coordinated with the local government but also with the other government agencies like AKC and the Division Forest Office. The vegetable farming support from the AKC and tree saplings support for the plantation on degraded land from the division forest office is an example of effective coordination and synergy to achieve the project goal as well as to meet development agenda of the government of Nepal.

Sahara Nepal has a long history of working with projects, funded and supported by multiple development partners. The organization has worked with a wide range of international non-government agencies, national NGOs, and built synergistic relationship with many local non-government organizations. It has built strong relationship and established coordination mechanism with the local government. People of this organization have a good network and personnel relation at national level, to local level. However, the organization didn't consider the existence of the other NGOs, networks, and CBOs, while implementing this project activities.

For instance, it could have done collaboration with Community Forest Users Group (CFUG) while conducting the plantation activities. But the evaluator found no coordination maintained with local CFUG, one of the largest civil society organizations in Nepal.

Cooperation with Swallows of Finland played a pivotal role in building capacity of Sahara Nepal, building agencies at local level, and to a large extent bringing local issues in the international level. The continuous support since the beginning of the project in results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation from Swallows of Finland was realized to be outstanding to develop the capacity of Sahara Nepal and to achieve the project's objective.

The training activities provided by the NAFAN and exposure visit organized to the NAFAN project area i.e. Raksirang rural municipality found effective in building the capacity, cross-learning and exposure to other area, which was become one of the motivational factors for Sahara Nepal staff, since they never got such an exposure. The staff including the board members while in discussion expressed their pleasure as,

We became monotonous working in the same community for a long time, and never got such an exposure to other distant districts. We also believe that such training would be more effective, if organized in the beginning or in the middle of the project duration.

To foster cooperation and partnerships at national and provincial level, a provision of national level focal point based in Kathmandu can be highly beneficial. Such provision helps in cross learning, policy engagement, and networking with a wide range of NGOs, INGOs together with federal government agencies and upscaling project good practices.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on desk review, consultation and interaction meetings, interviews and field observations, the evaluator draws the following conclusions and proposes some major recommendations for improvement of the future projects of similar nature.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on overall study with empirical evidences from primary and secondary sources, it can be concluded that the project has very successfully achieved its goal of improving food security, gender equity and sustainable livelihoods of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Masta Rural Municipality of Bajhang District.

Specifically, the project has been instrumental to enhance the understanding of the community people on the importance of women empowerment, gender equality, and avoiding of malpractices such as *Chhaupadi* (sense of untouchability during menstruation period) and child marriage.

In relation to farming practices, the farmers started the practice of using organic fertilizer in their farmland, engaging in cash crop production and marketing, and developing connectivity with nearby urban center to sell their extra production which used to be the subsistence in the past. They also realized the importance and nutritional value of the indigenous crops due to which, they are motivated to increase its production and sell it in the market, to gain an extra income. Additionally, they improved their method on the way of goat rearing, which has now proven to be more effective and financially stable.

In terms of institutional capacity of local implementing partner, the project has significantly improved its capacity such as financial management, communication, hiring of staff etc., in comparison to the pre-project implementation situation. The first direct foreign project with direct management of exchange loss and gain, was one of the biggest learning for the local implementing partner. During project management, they learned how to use exchange gain, and get approval from donor before using of exchange gain etc. In hiring of staff, they also learned the procedures of staff recruitment, gender balance in the staff composition.

Almost all planned activities were completed within stipulated time and budget. The project was systematically managed with proper planning, monitoring, coordination, and reporting.

In all the sites that were visited, it was found that the community people, particularly the women very empowered; they can speak about their issues.

5.2 Recommendations

After thorough review of all project documents, field observation and consultations, following recommendations are drawn which the evaluator felt can be useful to the Swallows of Finland while designing and implementing such projects in the future.

- 1 Capacity building of project staff, and the local partner in emerging issues, such as strategic communication and dissemination, financial management with new software, and technical aspects in agriculture modernization etc.
- 2 Training and capacity building activities including value addition training value chain development and market linkages of NTFPs can be instrumental to foster livelihoods of marginalized families in the area.
- 3 The project activities designed for this MRM are very relevant to foster local livelihoods, enhance adaptive capacity of the people mainly in the context of climate

- change. These activities are timely to address the local needs. Therefore, these can be extended in other two wards of the MRM together with neighboring local governments to achieve impact at a scale.
- 4 Citizen science approaches in rural developments are proven to be effective. Therefore, involvement of youths-girls and boys and school children can foster the project interventions. This can be done by forming the eco/environment club at the school level , mobilization of producers group, and the mobilization of community forest users group, which is already proven to be effective in mobilization of local communities and building local ownership.
 - 5 Renewable energy based traditional technologies such as water mills, clean cook stove can provide efficient, and effective services at local level. But these technologies require an additional innovation, which can make them cost effective, faster, and foster climate mitigation action. Further assessment and advancement on these traditional local technologies can be the part of future extension of the project. Clean cook stoves can also support in reducing household pollution, reduce use of firewood, and contribute to make healthy kitchen environment for women who normally responsible for cooking.
 - 6 The producers group's constitution and operational plan, need to be prepared to define role, responsibilities, accountability, and tenure ship of the producers group formed by the project. Though, the producers groups are currently doing excellent job, they lack the legitimacy which is important to ensure transparency, accountability and fundamental human rights.
 - 7 To foster cooperation and partnerships at national and provincial level, a provision of national level focal point based in Kathmandu can be highly beneficial. Such provision helps in cross learning, policy engagement, and networking with a wide range of NGOs, INGOs together with federal government agencies and upscaling project good practices.

6. ANNEXES

6.1 List of Beneficiary Groups of the Project

S.N	Name List of Farmer Group	Address	Total Member	Female	Male	Dalit	PWDs	Single women
1	Dudhillo Farmer Group	Masta - 3	20	20	0	2	1	0
2	Kailash Farmer Group	Masta - 3	23	23	0	0	0	0
3	Masta Bathpala Goat Rearing Group	Masta - 3	21	20	1	7	0	0
4	Masta Parishrmik Farmer Group	Masta - 4	21	9	12	0	0	0
5	Malika Farmer Group	Masta - 5 Dwari	25	18	7	3	0	2
6	Bhawani Farmer Group	Masta - 5 Kinada	18	12	6	2	0	0
7	Nauli Farmer Group	Masta - 6 Rilu	25	15	10	0	1	1
8	Kalika Goat Rearing Group	Masta - 6 Rilu	25	11	14	2	1	1
9	Organic Farmer Group	Masta - 7 Thakunna	25	21	4	0	4	1
10	Malika Farmer Group	Masta - 7 Daya	28	24	4	0	1	3
11	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Crops Farmer Group	Masta - 7 Daya	25	21	4	0	0	3
12	Bhawani Handicraft Group	Masta - 7 Daya	26	6	20	0	0	0
13	Masta 7 Goat Rearing Group	Masta - 7 Daya	25	5	20	0	0	1
14	Bhawani Farmer Group	Masta - 7 Lataun	23	7	16	0	0	2
15	Kailash Handicraft Group	Masta - 7 Lataun	23	1	22	0	0	0
		Total	353	213	140	16	8	14
	Total Percentage		100%	60.40%	39.60%	4.60%	0.30%	1.90%

6.2 Target Vs Achievement of the Project

Outputs	Activities	Target	Achievements	Remarks
Outcome-1: Improved food security and livelihoods of target communities through improved farming practices, value addition and better access to markets				
1. Increased awareness of target communities on improved production technology and better quality of selected commodities	1. Establishment and functioning of producer groups	15	15	
	2. Trainings on improved vegetable farming technology	9	12	Additional 14 will be completed by the December 15
	3. Trainings on improved production technology of indigenous crops (legumes/buckwheat/ millet/barley)	8	8	
	4. Support farm inputs (i.e., seeds,tools, /poly house) to producers	50	54	Additional 10 will be completed by the December 15
	5. Support for water harvesting tank/pond, manage irrigation canalsand irrigation pipe, spring and drip irrigation, garden pipe	25/100/5 /1/50	25/100/5/1/50	
2. Target communities have better access to markets and processing for value addition.	1. Market study of selected commodities	1	1	
	2. Training for processing of the legumes /buckwheat/ millet/barley	2	2	
	3. Orientation on processing, post-harvest practices /leveling/packaging /marketing of the product.	2	2	
	4. Interaction meeting with producers, buyers, and service providers	4	2	1 will be completed by the December 15

	5. Collection center establishment to promote local products at district headquarters.	1	1	
	6. Input (tools/bin/crates) materials support for storage and marketing	100/100	72/75	60 will be completed by the December 15
	7. Machinery support to extract process and produce to small farmers	2	2	
3. Indigenous food crops promoted for health benefits and food security	1. Awareness workshop on the importance of indigenous crops for health benefits and food security	3	3	
	2. Training /Support in local nutritious food productions (flour of dry fried barley/corn/ buckwheat/ Foxtail Bristle Grass and multigrain cereal, barley rice)	3	3	
	3. Demo for indigenous crops for health benefits	3	3	
Outcome 2- Women are socially and economically empowered				
1. Women's knowledge and leadership skills developed	1. Trainings on women empowerment and leadership development (Specially Women & Marginalized Groups)	3	3	
	2. Trainings on gender equality and social inclusion, to women	3	3	
	3. Trainings on early marriage and <i>Chhaupadi</i>	2	3	
	4. Trainings on domestic and gender -based violence to women	3	3	
2. Women and men engaged in awareness raising campaign	1. Awareness campaigns against child marriage, <i>Chhaupadi</i> & gender awareness through <i>Deuda</i> song competition	3	3	
	2. Broadcast radio programs on gender and domestic violence through the local Radio FM	3	3	

against gender discrimination, <i>Chhaupadi</i> , early marriage and gender-based violence	3. Leadership & personal development workshop for women and story - telling competition on <i>Chhaupadi</i> and gender-based violence	3	3	
	4. Social wellbeing ranking survey (15 FGDs) to reach poor and most marginalized		1	
	5. Production of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to raise awareness about <i>Chhaupadi</i> , GBV and early marriage	1	0	Because of the illiterate and semiliterate People habitat in the society these kind of IEC materials not necessary to make
Outcome 3- More resilient communities practicing sustainable animal husbandry and natural resource management and generating income from NTFPs				
1. Alternative NTFP-based livelihood opportunities developed and micro-enterprises supported	1. Training on bamboo handicraft making (basket, big eye basket) enterprise development	2	2	
	2. Support to establish Non-timber forest product-based microenterprises and handicraft industry	3 groups	3	
	3. Production of IEC materials of environment friendly infrastructure and micro-enterprise development to raise awareness.	1	0	Because of the illiterate and semiliterate People habitat in the society these kind of IEC materials not necessary to make
	4. Training on honeybee rearing technology to the producers	2	2	
	5. Support beehive for honey production to the producers	25	26	
	6. Input support to PWDs		8	
2. Communities have acquired new skills and	1. Trainings on improved goat husbandry practices to the goat farming groups	2	2	

enhanced their knowledge on sustainable animal husbandry, pasture management and forest conservation	2. Support to demo improved goat shed construction	2	1	34 goat sheds Renovated
	3. Support to fodder and forage production to the producers	2	2	
	4. Plantation at disaster prone, water source and landslide areas in cooperation with local government	1	1	
	5. Training to local government representatives and users committee on environment friendly rural infrastructure and enterprise development	1	2	
	6. Orientation workshop on the proper use of small bamboos, lokta plants, fodder shrubs etc. and their plantation for sustainable profession	3	2	1 - Removed from last year budget plan
Outcome 4- Partner organization's managerial and technical capacities improved				
1. Effective and participatory planning, monitoring, documentation , and dissemination of learnings. Increased PMER capacity of Sahara Nepal.	1. Orientation/training to project staff	2	2	
	2. Planning workshop at local level including relevant stakeholders	3	3	
	3. Baseline & endline surveys and capacity building of staffs/enumerators on baseline/Endline survey tools/methodologies	2	1	
	4. Conduct quarterly monitoring	12	11	1 in the Last quarter
	5. Conduct joint monitoring	3	2	1 in the Last year
	6. Conduct public hearing	3	2	1 in the Last year
	7. Mid-term evaluation	1	-	
	8. External evaluation (final evaluation) - evaluator will be contracted by Swallows	1	1	

	9. Develop video documentary based on handicrafts and indigenous crops and vegetable farming.	1	-	1 (We will be able to complete the process by December 15)
	10. Monitoring and capacity building visits by the Finnish project team	3	2	1 (We will be able to complete the process by December 15)
	11. Project Audits in Nepal and Finland	3	2	1 in the Last year
	12. Training to project staff on transformative social mobilization at Makawanpur with NAFAN team and exposure visit		1	
	13. Exposure visit to the producer group members		1	
	14. Monitoring and capacity building visits by NAFAN		1	
	15. Publication of booklet that reflects the project achievement			1 (We will be able to complete the process by December 15)

6.3 Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation question		Data needed	Data source	Data collection method
	Main question	Sub question			
Relevance	Is the Project in line with the priorities of the development plans of the country and the sector and the need of the community?	Was the project formulated according to the needs and interests of the targeted beneficiary groups? Was there any need assessment survey carried out before the project implementation? Was the socio-economic and resource baseline study carried out?	Government policies & priority	Community Opinion, National plan and Policy on food security	FGDs with the community Document review
		Have the beneficiaries been selected so that most vulnerable households are properly represented? Was the gender mainstreaming considered during project design and implementation? To what extent social inclusion was considered in the project? How were these needs and interests assessed? How should the selection procedures be improved? Are the objectives and achievements of the project consistent with the needs, priorities and rights of the beneficiaries and stakeholders?			
		Are all the project activities relevant? Is the project relevant in the context of Nepalese development policy? How the promotion of human rights-based approach, strengthening of civil society, gender equality and promotion of climate resilience (climate change mitigation and adaptation) have been integrated into project design and implementation	National policies & programs related to food security, women empowerment		

		How relevant was the project to the interest and need of the private sector?	Understanding of private sector	Opinion of Private sector, meeting minutes, agreements,	Interview with the private sector representative
		<p>Were the activities designed to the priorities of the local government?</p> <p>Were the concerned authorities (Local Level) consulted and got approval before the project start-up?</p> <p>Was project inception meeting held with partners and relevant stakeholders?</p> <p>Were the activities finalized and planned with the consultation of stakeholders?</p> <p>Was there any resource sharing from various organizations?</p>	Government policies & and priority, Amount and source of funds	Opinion of Local Government Authorities, Project records, Minutes, Agreement	Interview with the local Government representative
Effectiveness	To What extent the project purpose/outputs/outcomes were achieved?	To what extent the targeted activities were achieved?	Information on the activities status	Project stakeholders, Project documents	Document review, Interview
		<p>Was there any revision/ variation in the targets during the course of implementation? If yes, explain?</p> <p>Which factors have hindered the immediate objectives to be reached? Are there objectives that are not achieved or realized and why? What should have been done differently to improve effectiveness?</p>			
		How effective was the involvement /collaboration with the private sector?	Contribution of private sector	Opinion of Private Sector representatives	Interview with the Project Team, partner and Private sector representative
		Is the logical sequences between outputs and Project purpose still secured?	Information on the results of activities that indicate the	Project documents, Log frame	

			cause-effect relationship		
Has there been any influence of important assumptions?	To implement the Project smoothly, are there any big influences by external factors? What external factors are posing risks to the achievement of project outcomes? What could be done to alleviate these?		Information on any related events, problem surrounding to the Project	Project stakeholders, Project documents, Records	Document review, interaction meeting with the Project team
	What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the project's partnership strategy?	Judgement from the implementation experience	Opinion of implementing Partner organization		
	Which project activities have been most successful and which activities are less sustainable? What are the specific learnings, best practices and challenges?		Project records, case stories, progress reports, Monitoring reports		
Has there been any other hindering or contributing factors?	What are the positive factors that encouraged the achievement of the Project purpose? What are the negative factors that inhibited the achievement of the Project purpose?		Information on any relevant events in the course of Project implementation	Project stakeholders, Project documents	Interaction meeting with the Project team
Are the target groups well aware of	Were the project beneficiaries aware the Project activities? How was the participation of the community while conducting the Project activities?		Number and type of beneficiaries	Project documents, Targeted beneficiaries, minutes	Interaction meeting with the Project team, FGDs with the community

	the Project?		Involvement of beneficiaries		
Efficiency	How cost efficient has the project been?	<p>Were the project budgets allocated as planned? Were the activities been timely implemented? Was there any change in the implementation Schedule?</p> <p>How well was the project management (Human Resources, Finance) handled?</p> <p>Are the resources used justified by the quality and quantity of the results?</p> <p>What should be done differently in the next project phase to improve efficiency and reach more beneficiaries?</p> <p>What is the quality of the management of the project?</p>	Budget plan and expenditure, Logical sequence between activities and outputs, progress of activities and levels of achievements	Project stakeholders, Project documents	Document review, Interviews
	Have the Project activities been appropriate to produce the outputs?	Are the activities contributing to achieve the outputs? Was there any obstacle for the achievement of the outputs?	Information on any relevant events in the course of Project implementation		Interview with the Project team
		Was the timing, duration, contents of training/orientation appropriate?	Records on training		Interaction meeting with the community and line agencies
		Was the number, quality and specification of the structures/ equipment been appropriate?	Number of existing structures/ Records equipment		
		Were the scale of Project outputs appropriate for the planned inputs?	Budget and expenditure	Project records, opinions of	Interview with the Project Team

		How was the quality of the support received by the community and partners?	Degree of support and quality results achieved	project team including partner	interaction meeting with the Project team
		Were the results delivered in the stipulated timeline?	Budget and expenditure		Documents review, Interview with the project team
	Have there been any problem related to the management of the Project?	How well were the Project activities monitored? How smooth was the communication among the Project stakeholders?	Monitoring results	Project stakeholders, Project records	Documents review, Interview, with the Project Team
		Were there any challenges faced by Project during implementation process? What measures were taken to resolve those challenges? Have there been any other factors affecting the efficiency?	List of problems/ issues faced		Interview with the Project team and the partner staff
Impacts	What results have been achieved by the project?	What have been the most significant changes in the lives of the beneficiaries? What has happened or is likely to happen because of the project?	Information on the changes	Project stakeholders, Project documents	FGDs with the community, Interaction meeting with project team and KII with stakeholders, Documents review,
		What have been the impacts in the business of the private sector participants? What are their suggestions for future plans?			Interview with the private sector representative

		Are there any visible changes that can lead to the overall objective after having reached the project objectives?			Interview with the Project team and government agencies
		What kind of changes have been brought about by the project, intended and unintended, short term and long term, positive and negative?			FGDs with the community and Interview with key stakeholders, site observation
		Has there been any effect in terms of gender, disability, socioeconomic and cultural, environmental issues?			
Sustainability	Are the community people capable to continue the activities?	Are the implementing agency/community people (management committee) committed to continue the activities? How sustainable are the results and impact achieved? How can the results be made more sustainable? Will the benefits produced by the project be maintained after the termination of external support? What are indications of increased capacity or indications of weak sustainability?	Opinions of stakeholders / partners	Project stakeholders	Interaction meeting with the community and interview with the executive of Management committee
		Will there be participation of the private sector to continue the good results? If yes, in what form?	Opinion of the private sector	Project stakeholders	Interview with the private sector representative
		What efforts have been made to institutionalize and sustain the good results?	Opinion of the project staff, and stakeholders	Minute, Agreements progress report, project Document	Interview with the project team
		Has the project been successful in building institutional capacity with the local community to take over the project activities in the near future? To	Records / Opinions of		

		what extent has the project developed institutional capacity?	the local institution		
		Is there a relevant exit strategy and gradual handing over plan in place and will it ensure sustainability?	Log frame / project document/		
	Are there any factors that may affect the sustainability of the Project?	What are the main factors affecting, either positively or negatively, the sustainability of project outcomes?	Information on the local situation	Project stakeholders	Interaction meeting, interview with the local government and line agency staff
Coherence and Cooperation	To what extent were the partnerships with other agencies been established?	Is the project intervention consistent with other related interventions in the same area, does it add value while avoiding duplication of effort? To what extent have partnerships with other NGOs, networks, CBOs, local government of Masta Rural Municipality, government agencies, etc. been sought and established and synergies been created during the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation? How has cooperation with Swallows and NAFAN contributed to the project? How could cooperation and partnerships be strengthened in the continuation project?	Information on the local situation	Project Documents	Document Review, Interaction meeting, Interviews with stakeholders

6.4 Check list for data collection

S No	Indicators	Source of Information	Method of data collection
1	Building Community Awareness/Mobilization	Progress Reports	Document Review, Interaction meeting
2	Number of people- male, female and PWD participating in training	Progress Reports, Minutes	Document Review
3	Number of people who gain skills and knowledge	Progress Reports,	Document Review, Interaction Meeting, Interviews
4	Number of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community	Progress Reports, Minutes	Document Review,
5	Number of women led producer groups	Records, Minute	Document Review
6	Number and types of trainings held	Records	Document Review, Interview
7	Contents of trainings	Records	Checklist for data collection
8	Number of women trainers	Progress Reports, Records	Document Review
9	Number of people participating in discussions	Progress Reports, Records	Document Review, Interview
10	Number of jointly organized events held	Progress Reports	Interaction meeting, Interviews

6.5 Questionnaire

Questionnaires to the Implementing Partner-Sahara Nepal

- Did you get preapproval and coordinate with Local Level during implementation of the project?
- What are the criteria to identify the needy under this project?
- What are the major challenges that you have been facing to implement the project as per the objectives?
- If the project was deviated from planned, how was the budget allocated?
- In your experience, what kinds of changes did you find after implementing this project?
- What is your plan for the sustainability of the activities in the days to come?
- What are the feedbacks from stakeholders?
- What about the social audit/public hearing of the project?
- Which SDG number does this project contribute to and how?
- How does this project contribute to the nations' 15th plan, and other which policy?
- How do you evaluate the overall project?

Questionnaires to the Local level representatives

- Do you have any ideas about the organization and the project?
- How is the coordination level of the organization while implementing the project?
- How effective is the project to bring changes in society?
- What is your observation about the relevancy of the project?
- Would you like to suggest something for the progress in the days to come?

Questionnaires to the beneficiaries

- What do you know about the Sahara Nepal?
- What benefits are you getting from the organization? Is the support satisfactory/sufficient?
- How effectively does Sahara Nepal implement activities?
- How transparent is the decision making and fund mobilization within the group?
- Do you feel you have more confidence in taking part in decision making of the local government or your organization with activities of this project?
- What is the investment Vs rate of return?

- Have you, or the producer group in which you belong to, changed your practices because of the influence of Sahara Nepal? How and why?
- Will your group be able to continue the activities without external funding support?
- Do you have any suggestions for Sahara Nepal and evaluator?
- What is your further expectation?

6.6 List of People Consulted

S.N	Name	Position	Organisation	Gender
KIIs				
1	Puskar Rawal	Assistance First	Agriculture Knowledge Center, Bajhang	M
2	Komal Bahadur Patali	Forest officer	Division Forest Office, Bajhang	M
3	Mohan Thapa	Headmaster	Kul Masta Jan Higher Secondary School	M
4	Pushpa Joshi	Focal Person	Entrepreneurship Development Section, MRM	F
5	Goma Joshi	Focal Person	Women and Children Development Section, MRM	F
6	Suresh Bahadur Oli	Junior Technician	Agriculture Section, MRM	M
7	Bhawani Bohara	Former Vice Chairperson	Masta rural Municipality	F
FGDs				
1	Gyan Bahdur Bohora	Chairperson	Masta Rural Municipality	M
2	Hark Bahadur Dhami	Vice chairperson	Masta Rural Municipality	M
3	Ammar Jethara	Acting Chief Administrative Officer	Masta Rural Municipality	M
4	Uttam Raj Joshi	Chairperson, Ward No 4	Masta Rural Municipality	M
5	Narayani Kathayat	Member	Dudhillo Farmer Group (Vegetable Group)	F
6	Surjakala Devi Kathayat	Member	Dudhillo Farmer Group (Vegetable Group)	F
7	Bhagwati Khadka	Member	Dudhillo Farmer Group (Vegetable Group)	F
8	Gyanmati Khadka	Member	Dudhillo Farmer Group (Vegetable Group)	F
9	Aasha Bohara	Secretary	Kailash Farmer Group (Indigenous Group)	F
10	Narada Dhami	Chairperson	Kailash Farmer Group (Indigenous Group)	F
11	Himala Khadka	Vice chairperson	Masta Bathpala Goat Rearing Group	F
12	Phachu Devi Dwal	Treasurer	Masta Bathpala Goat Rearing Group	F
13	Ulja Jethara	Member	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Farmer Group	F
14	Janaki Dwal	Member	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Farmer Group	F
15	Laxmi Jethara	Secretary	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Farmer Group	F
16	Tulasi Dwal Jethara	Member	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Farmer Group	F
17	Jharana Jethara	Chairperson	Durga Bhawani Indigenous Farmer Group	F

18	Birbhan Jethara	Member	Bhawani Handicraft Group	M
19	Sailaja Dwal	Secretary	Malika Farmer Group	F/SW
20	Bima Jethara	Vice chairperson	Malika Farmer Group	F
21	Hiukala Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F
22	Bipana Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F
23	Junkala Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F
24	Dipa Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F
25	Rammati Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F/PWD
26	Surasa Jethara	Member	Malika Farmer Group	F
27	Raju Jethara	Chairperson	Masta 7 Goat Rearing Group	F
28	Sara Jethara	Member	Masta 7 Goat Rearing Group	M
29	Pirma Jethara	Member	Masta 7 Goat Rearing Group	F
30	Bhekudi Jethara	Secretary	Masta 7 Goat Rearing Group	F/SW
31	Deukala Bohara	Chairperson	Organic Farmer Group	F
32	Binita Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	F
33	Sarmila Bohara	Secretary	Organic Farmer Group	F
34	Sulachana Bohara	Treasurer	Organic Farmer Group	F
35	Surata Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	F
36	Bimala Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	F
37	Siddha Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	F/SW
38	Indra Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	F
39	Badure Bohara	Member	Organic Farmer Group	M
40	Bhuji Devi Bohara	Treasurer	Nauli Farmer Group	F
41	Manbir Bohara	Chairperson	Nauli Farmer Group	M
42	Kali Jethara	Member	Nauli Farmer Group	F
43	Bhagawati Bohara	Member	Nauli Farmer Group	F
44	Bisna Bohara	Member	Nauli Farmer Group	F
45	Suna Bohara	Member	Nauli Farmer Group	F
46	Puni Bohara	Member	Nauli Farmer Group	F
47	Rajendra Bahadur Bohara	Secretary	Kalika Goat Rearing Group	M
48	Dadimal Bohara	Member	Kalika Goat Rearing Group	M

6.7 Sample Pictures of field visit



FGD at MRM



KII with agricultural section, MRM



FGD at Bhatekhola, Masta-3



Site Observation



Bamboo basket making observation.



FGD at Daya, Masta-7



FGD at Rilun, Masta-7



FGD at Thakunna, Masta-7