

Update on Prolinnova–Nepal by SAHAS Nepal (Secretariat)

May 2019

Prolinnova–Nepal aims at developing and institutionalising partnership and methodologies that promote processes of local innovation in environmentally sound use of natural resources. It is an initiative undertaken in partnership between several Nepal-based organisations.

On 29 November 2018, the Prolinnova–Nepal chapter decided that Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal will take on the Secretariat role from the Natural History Museum, and Dharma Dangol, the then coordinator of Prolinnova–Nepal, handed over to Surendra Shrestha, Executive Director of SAHAS Nepal. Afterward, Surendra shared the concept and objectives of Prolinnova to the Board members and Management Team of SAHAS Nepal. SAHAS Nepal developed a proposal for capacity development of staff about Prolinnova, in consultation with Chesha Wettasinha from the International Support Team, but the proposal did not succeed. Surendra was continuously involved in sharing the concept of Prolinnova for networking with like-minded organisations in Nepal.

On 16 March 2019, the first meeting was hosted in SAHAS Nepal central office, where the representatives from different like-minded non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and senior staff of SAHAS were present. Pratap Kumar Shrestha, former Country Coordinator of Prolinnova–Nepal, gave orientation about the history and importance of Prolinnova, followed by an intensive discussion among the group. Later on, a meeting with the members of SAHAS Nepal was organised where the possible ways for networking and linkages were discussed. Further, SAHAS Nepal plans to integrate the Prolinnova approach into the current programmes and projects, where it is possible, and to write a proposal that will promote farmer-led participatory innovation processes and expand the Prolinnova–Nepal practice among a wide range of people and organisations in Nepal.

SAHAS Nepal is actively engaging in the revitalisation of the National Working Group (NWG) and National Steering Committee (NSC). Formal letters are already dispatched to the like-minded organisation's representatives for NWG and NSC reformation.



Meeting at SAHAS Nepal for Prolinnova

Promotion of local innovations by farmers



Sapling production in Shorea robusta leaf



Table nursery



Grey water collection pond



Macchan

International Farmer Day Celebration in Nepal

Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal participated in the "Celebration of International Farmers Innovation Day" when the Natural History Museum and the Center for Nepal Environment and Education Development jointly organised a seminar on "Linkage innovations into museum education" at the Natural History Museum Swayambhu, Kathmandu.

There was participation representing several like-minded organisations like the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Tribhuvan University, schools, colleges, and national and international NGOs. Several innovative farmers, especially in the field of terrace gardening in Kathmandu and Chitwan, participated and shared their experiences and learning during the meeting. SAHAS Nepal described several technologies developed from the farmer level and disseminated to new areas, such as promotion of legume cultivation, production of vermicompost using various recyclable materials, practising zero tillage, construction of rainwater-harvesting tank, table nursery, drip irrigation, promotion and registration of local crop varieties, etc. Some innovative farmers who took part in the seminar were willing to join with other organisations including schools/university to promote technologies newly developed by farmers.

Agro-biodiversity fair

SAHAS Nepal organised a one-day agro-biodiversity fair on 1 March 2019 in collaboration with the community seed bank in Lalitpur District. The main aim of organising the fair was to explore the agro-biodiversity in the district, educate farmers on the importance of agro-biodiversity in improving livelihoods and promoting local seed production by small-scale farmers. There was overwhelming participation of different stakeholders such as the elected Provincial leader, the national agriculture genetic resource centre (gene bank), the rural municipality, local political leaders and the farmers themselves. Around 200 farmers, the majority women, from the nearby hamlets participated in the fair and were able to observe different local seeds and varieties of cereals, legumes, and vegetables during the fair. A total of 31 community-based organisations (CBOs) took part in the fair. All the CBO participants were provided with three varieties of seasonal seeds for their homegardens, and the CBOs exhibiting diversity and local crop varieties were also rewarded. The fair has been able to increase awareness of the farmers in relation to the importance of agro-biodiversity, promotion of local seeds and potential of generating income through local seed production of different crops and vegetables.



Promotion of local seed varieties



Participants observing stalls