

# **SMALL FARMER AGRICULTURE TRAINING PROGRAM**

(A Program for youths of small farmer families in association with  
Embassy of Israel, Kathmandu)

**A collective effort in transformations  
of rural agriculture system in Nepal**

**Feb 2019**

### Book

A collective effort in transformations of rural agriculture system in Nepal

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## **Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiyasanstha Ltd.**

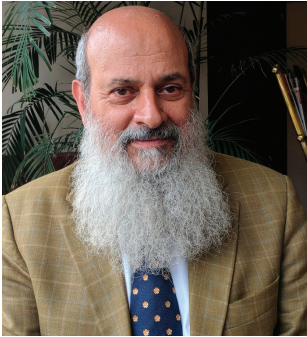
### **Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Nepal is an Agro based country with wide range of geographic and ethnic diversity. The country is divided into mountains, hills and terai region. About 67 percent of the total population is involved in agriculture and allied activities. This sector contributes about 28 percent to the GDP of the country. Agriculture is still the major source of livelihood of more than 80 percent of the people. Although the cultivable land across the country is suitable for harvesting high yield of varieties (HYV) of crops, this could have not been exploited to achievable extent. As a result, most of the agricultural including livestock products are imported. In fact, agriculture plays a major role in raising Nepal's economic growth. Higher production of agriculture in previous years made it possible to achieve satisfactory growth rate. Thus, increasing production and productivity of agriculture has been under top priority of the government from long time. The main reason of declining agricultural production and productivity is lack of adequate irrigation facility and improved inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and traditional farm practices which has not yet been replaced by modern technology in farming. On the other hand, it is observed that majority of country's total population are youths but agriculture sector could not attract them. Taking these facts into consideration, Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiyasanstha Ltd. (SKBBL) in collaboration with the Embassy of Israel in Nepal since year 2013, has started sending young students from the small farmer families to



participate in agricultural training program organized by different training institutes and colleges in order to learn improved farming as well as modern technologies practiced in the agriculture sector in Israel.



H.E. Benny Omer

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

As mentioned earlier, "Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program" is being implemented by SKBBL in collaboration with the Israel Embassy in Nepal with an objective of attracting the youth by providing basic knowledge and skills for commercial farming. Under this program, the youths of 22-30 years group belonging to small farmer families who are affiliated to Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperatives Ltd

(SFACLs) in different districts of Nepal are given opportunity to participate in 10-11 months long agricultural training in different colleges and agricultural training and research centers in Israel. Under this program during FY 2013/14, altogether 205 trainees from 8 eligible districts have returned after completing the foresaid training courses in 3 different colleges/training institution in Israel. The same process was applied for 518 trainees in FY 2014/15 from 21 eligible districts, in FY 2015/16 the process was applied for 431 trainees from 33 eligible districts. In the FY 2016/17 the process has been applied to 444 trainees from 60 eligible districts. In FY 2017/18 the process has been applied to 542 trainees from 66 eligible districts. Currently, in FY 2018/19 537 trainees are getting agriculture training in 5 different colleges/training institutions from 55 eligible districts. During the training program, the trainees are given ample opportunity to get exposed to modern agriculture as well as new technology. Besides class room sessions they have to do practical work on the farm to practice what they learned as in the theory classes. The important aspect here is that they get salary/wages for the practical work they do in the farm. Thus, the trainees learn and also earn in this program.

The participants are expected to undertake some kind of farm enterprise and activity where they will apply the modern technology and practice what they learned in Israel. This will be extended and slowly followed by large number of farmers and this will also motivate the youths of different parts of the country. In this way, this program can bring meaningful and positive changes in the agriculture sector of Nepal.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) Under this program, the youths belonging to small farmer families associated with SFCLs are sent to Israel for 10-11 months period as "agriculture trainees" Program.
- b) The program is designed in such a way that the trainees are given theoretical knowledge on first day of the week (i.e. just one day in every week) in the class room of the college/ training institute and then they have to work and learn practically on the farm during next five days in the week and one free day.
- c) The trainees get wages for the work they do in the farm according to the rules of Israeli government.
- d) Trainees have to manage and pay for two-way air tickets, passport, medical test, fees of the college, living and fooding and other expenses by themselves. The insurance facility is provided by the training institutions/ colleges.
- e) Trainees must have to return to Nepal after completion of the program.

The financial obligation/security on behalf of the trainee has to be mortgaged in the cooperatives as collateral.

- f) The trainees are expected to use the knowledge and skills in the work situation when they come back to Nepal. Incase of the need for financial support SFCLs will provide them.



Former H.E. Hanan Goder  
Goldberger



H.E. Yaron Mayer in Cooperative Tea Processing Factory in Prithvi Nagar, Jhapa, Nepal

## PROCESS OF SELECTING DISTRICTS

- a) Selection of districts is done by SKBBL in cooperation with the Embassy of Israel in Nepal. The training institutions in Israel are selected with the help of the Embassy. The quota for each of the training institute is determined by negotiating with them. The districts are selected with the consultation from the Embassy.

## SELECTION MODALITIES OF SMALL FARMERS COOPERATIVES LTD

The selected districts complying the following requirements can only recommend the trainees:

- a) SFCLs of the districts must be affiliated with SKBBL.
- b) The Cooperative must have to utilize microcredit facilities taken from SKBBL within the month January and at the end of running fiscal year.
- c) SFCL should have minimum of 375 members.
- d) SFCL must be categorized under "A" class cooperative in the last fiscal year.
- e) The board members must not violate the rules, regulations and guidelines of the cooperative.
- f) SFCLs must strictly comply the instructions and guidelines given by the SKBBL.



MOU Between SKBBL & CTEVT

## ELIGIBILITY CRITEREA FOR THE TRAINEES

The trainees fulfilling all the underneath mentioned criterion are only selected for the program:

- a) The trainees should be a share holder of the SFCLs or trainees should be (son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, sister in law, brother in law of the family). Membership of less than one year are not eligible to participate in this program.
- b) The trainees must be family member of those members who are living in those particular areas and are involved in agriculture for the last two year.
- c) 22 years of age within the current fiscal year and must not cross 30 years of age.



H.E. Benny Omer addressing Trainees at orientation programme



- d) Trainees must have atleast +2 degree and should have basic knowledge of English i.e. should be able to speak, read and write.
- e) Trainees must undertake 200 hrs of theoretical and Practical training at CTEVT affiliated colleges/institutions before going to Israel and 400 hrs of training after returning back from Israel.
- f) Trainees' family must be continuously involved in agriculture activities.
- g) Trainees must return to Nepal after completion of the training.
- h) Trainees must strictly fulfill the requirements/obligations of the implementing partners.

### **GUIDELINES FOR SFACLs**

- a) Trainees fulfilling all the requirements mentioned above are only recommended.
- b) Family members of trainees should ensure that the trainee returns to Nepal after completion of the program. For such assurance appropriate and adequate collateral has to be given in the respective SFCL.
- c) Trainees shall strictly fulfill the rules, regulations and guidelines set by the institutions. If they fail to do so, they shall be responsible to pay penalty. For this, the trainees with their trustworthy family member shall



Mr. Yakov Poleg, Director General, CINADCO, MoA, Jerusalem, visited farms in Dhading





Trainee Students getting practical knowledge in Israel

have to sign in the bond paper.

- d) The trainees must make a bond stating that they will come back to Nepal after completion of the training program. This commitment shall be made in written form in a bond paper by both the trainees themselves and their parents in presence of respective SFCL.
- e) Trainees having no agriculture background shall not be recommended. For the selection of trainees interviews shall be conducted in which level of knowledge in English language is also taken into consideration.
- f) Candidates recommended more than the given quotas to SFCLs shall be selected on the lottery basis. The candidates selected from the lottery shall be called for the interview. Candidates selected in the interview shall be considered for the program as the final one.

### **THE METHODOLOGY FOR SETTING QUOTAS TO SFCLs**

Training Institutions/Colleges from Israel provide quotas for the program in their respective institutions. For selection of qualified candidates, two to three times greater than the quota are nominated for interview. Thus, from each SFCL of 375 small farmers families' only one trainee should be considered for the selection process.



Nepalese Students engaged in Agriculture Activities in Israel

## LOTTERY/ INTERVIEW

- a) Each SFCL shall be given quota to nominate candidates from their members base. SFCLs shall nominate the required number of candidates according to the quota given to them. Verifying the name list from SFCLs, final name list for the program shall be prepared. After compiling the name list of the candidates each and every nominated candidate's name is put in a basket for lottery. In the lottery process, first required numbers of trainees are selected as quota given by the training institutions and then the list of the selected candidates is prepared which shall be a list for interview. After interview a final

list of successful candidates along with the list of alternate candidate is published. The interview is conducted by the representative's of training institutions.

- b) If because of various unavoidable reasons like medical test and others, the candidates from final list of trainees are unable to participate in the training, the candidates from alternate list are considered for the selection.
- c) The final decision making right to select the trainees and consider them for training shall rest upon Israeli representatives.
- d) In case of some unavoidable circumstances, if the program has to be cancelled the right to such cancellation is given to SKBBL and Embassy of Israel.

### CRITERIA AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

- a) Total duration of the Program shall be 10 to 11 months.
- b) Minimum Qualification Required: The minimum qualification required by each college/institute for selection of the trainee is 10+2 or an intermediate level education.
- c) The age bar for the trainees set for the program by these colleges is minimum 22 years and maximum of 30 years.



Dairy Technology



## PROVISION OF COST/EXPENSES

- a) During different phases of selection processes the trainees have to perform the under mentioned activities and bear cost by themselves.
  - (i) All the transportation cost
  - (ii) Preparation of all documents
  - (iii) Obtaining legal passports
  - (iv) All the medical check up and test
  - (v) Any other expenses required during their stay in Nepal
- b) The required visa fee is waived by the Embassy of Israel in Nepal.
- c) The two-way air tickets should be purchased by trainees themselves. For the returning purpose the air ticket cost is deducted from the wages of trainees.
- d) SKBBL has been bearing all the expenses required for interview, orientation and final selection of the candidates.
- e) Trainees have to manage all the costs by themselves during their stay in Israel. SKBBL shall not bear any expenses on behalf of trainees.
- f) Trainees after returning to Nepal shall inform to SKBBL and concerned SFACLs. The trainees have no right to demand any kind of financial losses/claim and compensation from SKBBL.



CEO of SKBBL addressing Trainee Students in Ashkelon College, Israel



Various activities carried by Nepalese students in Israel

- g) In providing all these services to the SFCLs, SKBBL will not claim any kind of fees/service charge and SFCLs also shall not claim any charges or fees for the services they provide to students/candidates.

### ACHIEVEMENT IN 2013/2014

- a) During the FY 2013-2014, 205 trainees participated from eight different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to three different colleges/training institutes in Israel.



- c) Name of the Colleges conducted program in FY 2013-2014 in Israel are:
- i) Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT)
  - ii) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced agriculture
  - iii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee.

### **ACHIEVEMENT IN 2014/2015**

- a) During the FY 2014-2015, 518 trainees participated from 21 different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to five different colleges/training institutes in Israel.
- e) Name of the Colleges conducted program in FY 2014-2015 in Israel are:
- i) Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT)
  - ii) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture
  - iii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
  - iv) Ashkelon Academic College
  - v) Sedot Negev Agriculture Center (SNAC)



Nepalese Trainee students in Floriculture, Israel



Officials from SKBBL held meetings with Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head, MASHAV and former Israeli Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Yaron Mayer, Director, South East Asia, in Jerusalem

### **ACHIEVEMENT IN 2015/2016**

- a) During the FY 2015-2016, 431 trainees participated from 33 different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to four different colleges/training institutes in Israel.
- c) Name of the Colleges conducted program in FY 2015-2016 in Israel are:
  - i) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture
  - ii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
  - iii) Ashkelon Academic College
  - iv) Sedot Negev Agriculture Center (SNAC)

### **ACHIEVEMENT IN 2016/2017**

- a) During the FY 2016-2017, 444 trainees participated from 60 different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to five different colleges/training institutes in Israel.
- c) Name of the Colleges for Learn and Earn program in Israel for FY 2016-2017 are:
  - i) Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT)



- ii) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture
- iii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
- iv) Ashkelon Academic College
- v) Sedot Negev Agriculture Center (SNAC)

### **ACHIEVEMENT IN 2017/2018**

- a) During the FY 2017-2018, 542 trainees participated from 66 different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to five different colleges/training institutes in Israel.
- (c) Name of the Colleges for Learn and Earn program in Israel for FY 2017-2018 are:
  - i) Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT)
  - ii) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture
  - iii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
  - iv) Ashkelon Academic College
  - v) Sedot Negev Agriculture Center (SNAC)

### **ACHIEVEMENT IN 2018/2019**

- a) During the FY 2018-2019, 537 trainees participated from 55 different districts.
- b) The trainees were sent to five different colleges/training institutes in Israel.
- (c) Name of the Colleges for Learn and Earn program in Israel for FY 2018-2019 are:
  - i) Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT)
  - ii) Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture
  - iii) Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
  - iv) Ashkelon Academic College
  - v) Sedot Negev Agriculture Center (SNAC)





Trainee students in classroom in Ashkelon and Sedot Negev

### Quota 2018-19

Name of the College	FY	Total
AICAT College	2018-19	100
Ramat Negev College	2018-19	98
Ashkelon College	2018-19	99
Kinneret College	2018-19	140
Sedot Negev	2018-19	100

### CONCLUSION

As this program is targeted for the youths in order to inspire them to be involved in agriculture with new technologies, it is supported till date by the Ministry of Finance and other related ministries of the Government of Nepal. Besides, that CTEVT and various other organizations along with the media houses are also taking this program positively and supporting strongly. We expect such kind of helps and supports from them in the days to come as well. SKBBL hopes that the trainees after coming back to Nepal will be supported by concerned ministries and agencies. ■



Trainee students exposure visit to Jerusalem



**Success Stories of Selected Youth Israel  
Returnee Trainee Students**



## An Agriculture Warrior Mr. Yuddha Neupane

Yuddha Neupane is a citizen of Dhunibesi-5, Dhading district of Nepal. He lives there with his parents and other members. The main occupation of the family is agriculture. They mostly grow wheat, paddy, maize traditionally for family consumption and tomato and other vegetables to sell in the local market.



The 11 months long Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program at Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT), Israel initiated by Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiyasanstha Ltd (SKBBL) and Embassy of Israel in Nepal from the year 2013-14 helped Mr. Neupane to transform his farm. Mr. Neupane was in the first batch of trainee program and participated agriculture training at AICAT, Israel during September 2013 to July 2014.

### **Transformation from subsistence farming to commercial farming**

When he saw fresh vegetables and fruits growing in the scorching heat and in the sandy soil, he could not believe it. He realized that nothing is impossible in this earth. He gradually learned how the agriculture in Israel is done with the help of modern technology, drip irrigation and pesticides management. The Israeli farmers are producing tomato, green chilli, capsicum, cucumber, green pepper and so many other vegetables on commercial scale. The farm activities practiced in Israel encouraged and motivated Mr. Neupane to initiate commercial farming in Nepal.

Mr. Neupane's family owned 1.32 hectare of land. After coming back from the training, he built green house in 0.40 hectare of land and installed drip irrigation system for vegetable farming. He also built a shed for goat farming.



As Jeevanpur, Dhading is very near to Kathmandu just (30 km from Kalimati vegetable market), where demand for vegetables is high. He didn't have problem of market for his vegetable products. The vegetable farming is normally supposed as more profitable than other cereal crops in this area. From the earnings he saved in Israel and also earning from vegetables and goat farming, he purchased 1.22 hector of land to expand the farm. Besides, vegetables farming he also has expanded vegetables such as nursery tray for preparation of seedlings, green plastic house and sheds for vegetables and drip irrigation system.

Yearly net income of Mr. Neupane has reached to NPR 3 million. His farm has provided full employment to his family members and also to some other people of his village. Many youths of his village and youths who returned from Malaysia and gulf countries visit his farm to get information about vegetable and goat farming. So, Mr. Neupane is satisfied and happy with his progress. He is an idol for the youths of Nepal who wants to initiate commercial farming in Nepal.





## Success Story of Arava Nepal Modern-agriculture Company Limited



Arava Nepal Modern- agriculture Company Limited (ANMC) is a first public company which was established by the returnee of Israel in Lamjung district of Nepal in the year 2016 AD with the major aim to introduce the advanced technology in agricultural sectors, train youths and agricultural practices to contribute to the increase of agricultural production. Altogether, there were 74 youths involved in ANMC at the beginning (53 Israel returnee youths and 21 NRNA Israel members and others). At this time, they have more than 120 members involved in this company.

ANMC with the great references of knowledge and skills learned from Israelis agriculture systems are focused to grab the opportunities in agriculture scenario of Nepal . The company mainly deals with production, processing, manufacturing, supplying and retailing of agricultural commodities.

At present, in 12.20 hectare of land, there have 3 green houses where they grow vegetables, poultry farm where there are more than 20 thousand broiler, goat farming where there are more than 100 goats, pig farming there are more than 50 pigs, milk processing center, fish farming in 7,500





meter square and so on. The Authorized capital of the company is NPR 25 million and paid up capital is NPR4 million.

ANMC is an inspiration for 1000 of youths who wants to be completely involved in agriculture by being self employer and self employ.



## Team work pays off in Jhapa, Nepal

After completing 11 months long extensive modern agriculture practical training in Kinneret College, Israel group of 10 trainees from Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts of Nepal jointly started a farm called Agro Kinneret Agriculture Farm in Shiva Satakshi Municipality, Jhapa and Samunnat Jhapa Agriculture Farm in Birtamode, Jhapa.

In the farm they grow vegetables, banana and other cash crops. They also have fish farm, poultry farm and pig farm. The trainees are given responsibilities according to their capability, knowledge and skills. Everybody has their own separate responsibility and they are doing it honestly with full dedication.

Kinneret Agro Farm in Shiva Satakshi Municipality is situated in total 3.71 hectare of land and Samunnat Jhapa Agriculture Farm in Birtamode is located in 2.70 hectare of land. From the beginning till today they have invested about 7.5 million Nepalese Rupees in their Farm. The income which they earn are reinvested for the growth of the farm. Each member in the group are hopeful that in future they are going to transform subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture and every body will have a good future. The vegetable which they grow in the farm are sold in their own vegetable mart located at Birtamode, municipality.







The group members believe that Nepal has an enormous opportunities in Agriculture and if it is mixed up the technology there would be a better production and output. Further, they are also hopeful that in the future days the Government of Nepal will look at them positively and help the youths of Nepal for transformation of Agriculture in Nepal.



## Fishergirl Ms. Srijana Tharu



Manmateriya is a small village in Rupandehi district of Nepal where Ms. Srijana was born, and brought up and completed her graduate level of studies. She lives with her parents younger sister and a small brother. There are altogether 5 members in her family. Both her younger sister and brother are students. The main occupation of the family is agriculture. They mostly grow wheat, red lentil and paddy.

Srijana was selected as an Agriculture Trainee in Israel in the year 2015-2016 at Ramat Negev International Training Center for 11 months. The training in Israel totally changed Ms. Srijana's life, her perception and thinking towards Agriculture. During her stay in Israel she realized that she must be a farmer and prove herself a successful business women. After completion of her training in Israel, she returned back to Nepal and started her own enterprise.

### Success needs planning

First of all after returning back to Nepal Srijana attended 10 days long Entrepreneurship Development Training organized by Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) and SKBBL. Training at IEDI helped her to decide about her career. Ms. Srijana made a business plan and started her journey with fish farming in a small scale where local fish was raised at first.

Quickly she made good earning and which encouraged her to expand the farm to 2.5 hectare of land. The land was used for constructing four managed earthen ponds where many indigenous fish of carp family like Labeo rohita (Rohu), Cirrhinus spp. (Naini), common carp, Grass carp, Silver Carp, Bighead etc., as well as some exotic fish are grown.

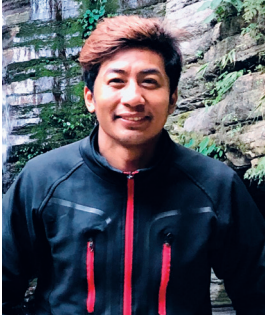
Lately, she had established 2 nursery earthen ponds where about 10000 fingerlings are reared and also two big earthen ponds where around 6000 market size fish are raised. Her family helps her in managing her farm and fully support her in farm activities. They sell fingerlings to a nearby hatchery home and also to nearby district. Mostly the big fish are sold in local market and some quantity is also supplied to nearby districts. She is making NPR 800,000 (Eight hundred thousand) per year from her fish farm business.

The knowledge and practical training Srijana gained at Ramat Negev International Training Center and hard work, dedication, training at IEDI and patience led her to take the step and become an entrepreneur. Hard work, patience and a business plan is key to her success. She is a perfect example for women in her village who wants to be an entrepreneur.





## Long run Horse Mr. Shiva Kumar Ale



Shiva Kumar Ale is a resident of Bhimad, Tanahu district of Nepal. He lives with his parents, wife and a small daughter. After completion of his basic academic studies in 2011 AD, he has no second thought rather than to establish himself in agriculture sector. He always wanted to be a farmer as well as a successful entrepreneur. He established a goat farm and named it as Shrijanshil Goat Farm.

In 2017, he got an opportunity to go to Israel to participate in agricultural training course at Ramat Negev International Agriculture Center. He learned a lot about modern agriculture practiced in Israel, technology, proper utilization of resources and management of water, farmer-friendly research, sense of entrepreneurship to farmers and above all knowledge by seeing and to some extent by practicing in Israel.

Additionally, he also got an opportunity to visualize quality seeds, quality water, science and technology, research center etc. For him, the time spent in Israel was both beneficial to his occupation and also for the development of his personality. Further, Mr. Ale got a chance to express his views and opinions about highly modernized agriculture systems of Israel to the people of his land.

His goal after learning in Ramat Negev, was to develop his own sustainable farm. Initially, he started with an investment of one hundred thousand rupees which he spent in buying five local gene goats, called 'Khari'. He also imported he-goat of Boer gene from Africa and Australia and the farm is growing tremendously. Further, he also planted 15,000 trees and green grass in his farm. In future, he has a plan to implement drip irrigation system which he learned in Israel. He is hopeful to transform his farm into a model farm in his area.



Alongside these activities, he is also trying to develop his own farm and land to an Argo-Touristic project-with rooms, dining options and tours. He is practically working according to his business plan which he learnt in Ramat Negev. Currently, yearly net income of Mr. Ale has reached to NPR 1.2 million. He stands as an example and role model for all those youths who want to involve themselves in livestock enterprises.





## An innovative entrepreneur Mr. Navin Joshi

Navin Joshi was born on far western mountainous district of Nepal Achham. From the beginning of his student life he was a very meritorious student. He completed his school level examination from Dododhara, Kailali in First Division. After that he studied at first science and then management in higher level of studies and completed both successfully. Further, he studied Diploma in Computer Hardware and Networking and worked in Mumbai, India for couple of months. After working there for some months he came back to Nepal with a vision to bring transformation in Agriculture.



The only income source of Mr. Joshi family was agriculture which they were doing it traditionally. Buffalo farming was done from generations but that too was not done in large scale. They started selling 2-4 liters of milk per day only after they shifted to Kailali. So livelihood for them was quite difficult. Mr. Joshi had a dream to establish himself in agriculture enterprise. So he registered the farm in the name of Tripura Sundari Agriculture farm but to make it successful he had no other source of income. He went to bank and some other financial institutions but no one accepted his proposal and was rejected from every where.

Association with SKBBL was established when he heard the news about Agriculture Training Program to Israel for 10-11 months. He applied for the program and was selected in Sedot Negev Agriculture Center for 2016-





17 and went to participate in the training in Israel. He earned 1.5 million Nepalese rupees in Israel. This was the turning point of his life.

### **Commercialization of Agriculture**

After returning back from Israel he got 1 million Nepalese rupees from his cooperative. So he started his journey with 2.5 million Nepalese rupees. First of all he built appropriate shed for buffalo farming, started commercial vegetable farming in large scale and also built a modern green house. He also got reward of NPR 2.1 million from the Government of Nepal. He is currently providing employment opportunities to 10 persons directly and 100 other persons of his area indirectly. His yearly net income has reached to NPR 3.5 million. He is thankful to SKBBL for his success and give well wishes to SKBBL to make the journey of million of youths of Nepal successful by doing exemplary work like this. Mr. Navin Joshi is a role model for youths who have determination to establish themselves in Agriculture sector.





## Thoughtful farmer Mr. Laxman Devkota



Mr. Laxman Devkota is a native of Jitpur Simara sub metropolitan city which lies in Bara district of Nepal. He lives with his parents and a younger brother and a small sister. Altogether there are 5 members in his family. His father is a farmer and has been involved in farming and other agro based activities. So, Mr. Devkota had keen interest to work in the agriculture farm from very beginning. He completed his higher secondary level education and took admission in Bachelor in Business Studies but somehow couldn't complete because he had responsibility to look after his family. In 2070 BS he started working in Dumwarwana Dairy Production

Cooperative Ltd as a branch manager to support his family.

Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program at Ashkelon College, has helped him a lot to determine his future. While he was in Israel he decided that after going back to Nepal he will be involved in agriculture farm and use modern agriculture technology.

After returning back to Nepal, he met with many people with his concepts but no body answered him positively. But he was fully determined to use his skills and knowledge in his own country.

He started his journey by implementing drip irrigation system in his brother's field at Hatiya village development committee of Bara district of Nepal. In no time his farm production was higher than what he reaped before. Some people from the village was very happy seeing his progress and congratulated him. It motivated him a lot and decided to start vegetable farming in his own village. His parents responded him positively. And for the last 3 years he has been involved in vegetable farming. His yearly net income is about NPR 400,000 (Four hundred thousand) But he believes that if he gets financial support from financial institutes it will definitely go up.





Mr. Devkota also got a chance to participate in Entrepreneurship Development Training initiated by SKBBL and Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) for 10 days. Besides that his mother was rewarded from her cooperative for establishing commercial

vegetable farming in her village. He also got an opportunity to participate in an international seminar where he was praised by distinguished persons of the seminar.

Currently, along with his friends he has taken a piece of land on lease in Chuchekhola-6, hetauda, Nepal where they have established a high tech tunnel and drip irrigation with the hope that they would have good income from it. He has done every thing from his own source but believes that he would get some help from the government in the future. Mr. Devkota is also helping his unemployed friends and motivating them for creating employment.

He is thankful from his heart to SKBBL for creating such a platform for the youths of Nepal and inspiring them to be involved in agriculture. Laxman Devkota is an example for all those people who want to undertake agriculture activities in his own country.





## Hardworking Youth Mr. Dipesh Thapa



Maharanijhoda village is located in Jhapa district of Nepal. Mr. Thapa lives with his parents and a younger brother and a small sister. Altogether there are 5 members in his family. His family has been involved in farming and other agriculture related activities for more than a decade. They mostly grow wheat, paddy, corn and also do cow farming in small scale.

Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program at Kinneret College, has helped him a lot to improve his cow farm. As, he got an opportunity to work in a cow farm where he learnt a lot about cattle farm management, the technologies used in milking the cow, the dedication and hard work required to run a farm, discipline in the work and so on. While he was in Israel he decided that after going back to Nepal he will try to use modern technologies in his farm and run it scientifically.

After returning back to Nepal, he worked very hard to modernize his cow farm with full dedication. Right now he has 10 cows and 7 calves in his farm. He aims to gradually develop his small farm to a large one. He believes that the large size farm will generate employment opportunities to the people of his village development committee.





Moreover, he is also dreaming to establish a national level dairy farm in future.

He is pleased with what he is doing now but have self-confidence that if some support is given to him he will certainly rise in a very short period of time as he has an ample of experience in cow farming.

Currently, his yearly net income has reached to NPR 350,000 which is sufficient for him to get established. He is optimistic that it wise rise tremendously in future. Mr. Thapa is growing his farm step by step according to his plan. Dipesh Thapa is a role model for all those people who want to undertake livestock farming in his areas.



## Creative farmer Mr. Bal Krishna Balami

Bal Krishna Balami is an inhabitant of Dakshinkali municipality, Kathmandu district of Nepal. He lives there with his grandfather, parents and other members. Altogether there are 11 members in his family. The main occupation of his family is agriculture. They mostly grow tomato, cucumber, beans and other vegetables in a small scale to sell in the local



market. Mr. Balami by profession was a teacher in a local school for 8 years. He left it and went Israel for a small farmer agriculture training because he was more passionate in agriculture sector.

The 11 months long Small Farmer Agriculture Training Program at Ashkelon College, Israel initiated by Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiyasanstha Ltd (SKBBL) and Embassy of Israel in Nepal from the year 2016-17 helped Mr. Balami to transform himself from a professional teacher to a commercial farmer.

Mr. Balami in Israel learned how the agriculture in Israel is done with the help of modern technology, drip irrigation and pesticides management. The Israeli farmers are producing tomato, green chilli, capsicum, cucumber,





green pepper and so many other vegetables on commercial scale. The farm activities practiced in Israel encouraged and motivated Mr. Balami to makeover his small scale farm to commercial farm in Nepal.

After coming back from training in Israel, first of all by his earnings in Israel he purchased 0.86 hectare of land and registered a farm as BK Agriculture farm to do vegetables farming in a large scale. There are two people who is directly involved in his vegetable farm. Currently, in Mr. Balami's farm there are 10 bamboo tunnel, in which he grows tomato, capsicum, cauliflower, cucumber, potato and so on. The vegetable farming basically is more profitable than other cereal crops in this area. In future he is hoping to built a high-tech agriculture farm and make the farm more systematic.

Yearly net income of Mr. Balami has reached to NPR 800,000 (Eight hundred thousand) which he believes will increase in the future. His farm has provided full employment to his family members and also to some other people of his Village. Many youths of his village and youths visit his farm to get information about vegetable farming. So, Mr. Balami is satisfied and happy with his progress. He is an inspiration for the youths of Nepal who wants to initiate commercial farming in Nepal.



## Inspiration to unemployed youth: A case of leading Farmer Mr. Dipendra Karki



Mr. Dipendra Karki is an inspiration for unemployed youths of Nepal, who was born at Latikoili VDC of Surkhet, Karnali Province on 1990. Where the youth aspire their future outside Nepal in the form of foreign employment, Mr. Karki seek his future in Nepal. While acquiring knowledge as Survey Engineer at Chitwan, he had the familiarity on

cow rearing. After the completion of his education he returned to Surkhet.

Mr. Karki thought to expand the cow farm using innovative method. Initially, he started the business with four cows. His beloved wife Nita Chand, who is by profession JTA, is helping him in the cow farm. Neighbors used to thrust them for their involvement in agriculture despite of their educational background. People used to intrude that the might not gain the education as they claim, and that is why, the are engaged in agriculture sector. Mr. and Mrs. Karki didn't bother to what other speaks. They were engaged in the farm to achieve their dream. Both thought to expand their farm, but could not expand due to the lack of available resources.

Then they heard about Small Farmer Agricultural Cooperative Limited (SFACL) Latikoili, Surkhet. Mr. Karki knew about the cooperative as it focuses on agricultural transformation, as other SFACLs of the country does, the area of his interest. He motivated his wife to join the cooperative and attended the meeting and saved regularly in the SFACL. After which they got a loan from the SFACL to expand in cow farm and his agricultural farm. SFACL Latikoili provided NPR One Million concessional to Mrs. Karki from Livestock Promotion Loan availed from the Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha, Nepalgunj, Banke. From the Loan amount, Mr. Karki added two improved Jersey Cows in his farm. All the cows owned by Mr. Karki have insured the loan from the

Livestock Assurance program of the SFACL, whose 75% premium amount is subsidized from the SKBBL.

In order to enlarge the knowledge on agriculture, Mr. Karki thought to apply in the Small Farmer Agriculture Training program. He had got the opportunity to represent the SFACL Latikoili, Surkhet and went for 11 months long agriculture training at Sedot Negev College, Israel in the year 2015-16. It was his luck that he had opportunity to get practical experience on Cow farm at Israel. During his stay at Israel Mr. Karki made up his mind to make his farm big and do the farming commercially. After completion of his training in Israel, Mr. Karki returned back Nepal and renovated his farm and made necessary scientific changes in his farm. During his absence Mrs. Karki had managed the farm. Mr. Karki farm has 21 cows now. He sells about 80 liters of milk daily to nearby market, Birendranagar Surkhet, Nepal. He also produces vegetables in 0.71 hectare of land. Fresh vegetables, milk, cow dung and urine as manure, and vermicompost as major source of income. Mr. Karki have signed annual sells contract with an INGO located at Surkhet, that supports orphan child for better living and education. As per the contract, Mr. Karki supply organic vegetables, fresh milk, cereals, and other agricultural inputs. There is no dearth of selling the produces, however, lacks organic production.

Those youths who used to speak negatively, now visit his firm to learn improved farming. Mr. and Mrs. Karki are now inspirational for many youths and ray of hope for the organizations dedicated towards agricultural transformation. SFACL Latikoili, have appointed Mr. Karki as agricultural counselor Agricultural counseling and motivation are given by Mr. Karki not only to the members of SFACLs but to all the other agriculture aspirants.

This is only the beginning of the transformation of agriculture in Nepal. We need thousands of Karki like youth's to change the scenario of agriculture of Nepal. As this is one of the fastest ways to make our country develop. Keep it up Mr. and Mrs. Karki.





## An unstoppable Mr. Ram Sogarath Yadav

Ram Sogarath Yadav is a civilian of Ganeshman Charnath Municipality, Dhanusha district of Nepal. He lives with his parents and other members. Mr. Yadav has completed Bachelor Level of education. His family has been involved in farming and other agriculture related activities for generations.

Ram Sogarath was selected in Small Farmer Agriculture Trainee at Kinneret College, Israel in 2015-16 for 11 months. The training in Israel has equipped him to start his career in agricultural sector. During his stay in Israel Mr. Yadav learnt the dedication and hard work required to run a farm, discipline in the work and so on. While he was in Israel he decided that after going back to Nepal he will invest money in livestock and run it scientifically.

After returning back from Israel first of all, Ram Sogarath undertook a 10 days long Entrepreneurship Development Training organized by Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) and SKBBL. Training at IEDI helped him a lot to decide about his career. He started his journey with poultry farming in a small scale at first. Quickly he made good earning and which encouraged him to increase the number of broiler chicken. Currently, he has almost 7000 broiler chicken in his farm. He is happy with what he is doing now but believes that if some support is given to him he will definitely rise in very short period of time.

Currently, Mr. Yadav yearly net income has reached to NPR 500,000 (Five hundred thousand) and he is hopeful that it will rise significantly in future. And he is growing his farm step by step according to his business plan. Ram Sogarath Yadav is an example for all those people who want to undertake livestock farming in his own areas.

