



IMPACT STORY

THREE TIMES TILL TO NIL

Born in a farmers' family and raised learning farming techniques, Upendra Mehta, a 35-year-old young farmer in Nepal believed that he knew everything about farming after devoting 25 years of his life learning all the tricks. But profits were never enough to feed and care for his family of 11 members no matter how hard he worked. He had begun to feel “trapped” as a farmer.

With less investment and stable production, Zero Tillage technology is like a dream come true for farmers like him. It was the same for Upendra Mehta too. Only having traditional knowledge of farming, farmers were skeptical about Zero Tillage technology at first. But after first trial when wheat started to grow and the harvest turned out to be better than conventional 3 times ploughing- the-field method, there was no turning back.

With the support of his family, Upendra Mehta expressed his desire to continue using zero tillage technology. Though he is not financially stable to buy his own tractor yet, he intends to take the Zero Till machine on lease whenever needed.



Upendra Mehta, young farmer from Nepal



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Upendra Mehta is one of tens of thousands of farmers who not only benefitted economically from the CIMMYT led SRFSI project but who also feel liberated and have learned to be hopeful and positive about a better tomorrow.

Since smallholder farmers are strongly dependent on agriculture for food security and livelihoods and at the same time, also at risk climatically resulting in low productivity with substantial yield gap, SRFSI project aims to reach out to smallholder farmers in 6 districts of the EGP of Bangladesh, India and Nepal to understand their circumstances in relation to CASI, work with them to develop more productive and sustainable techniques, help establish an environment to support them at policy level and thus bring strong benefits to their livelihood.