



IMPACT STORY

CHITWAN AGRI-MECHANISATION FAIR, NEPAL

To bridge the gap between farmers, suppliers and manufacturers working in agricultural machineries, tools and equipment within the nation and internationally, the National Agricultural Mechanization exhibition was held from 22nd-25th November 2019. The event was supported by Government bodies (Centre for Agricultural Infrastructure Development and Mechanization Promotion; Prime Minister's Agriculture Modernization Project; and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Co-operative Province 3, Hetauda); NAMEA (Nepal Agricultural Machinery Entrepreneurs' Association) and also backed by CIMMYT (SRFSI and CSISA projects) as an associate partner.

Along with 140 exhibitors comprising NGOs and INGOs, national and international importers, distributors, Chinese and India manufacturers, and research and educational institutes, CIMMYT set up a stall to disseminate project-based information from the SRFSI and CSISA projects to the visitors, which mainly focused on conservation agriculture based technologies like the Multi-Crop Zero Till Planter.



Photo: Manisha Shrestha



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With more than 2,000 modern farm equipment machineries, processing technologies, mechanized irrigation, conservation agriculture-based technologies, poultry livestock and dairy technologies promoted by 140 exhibitors, this exhibition welcomed thousands of visitors from various districts ranging from farmers to farmer groups, politicians to policy makers, students to researchers and development organizations to the business community.

This platform was well utilized by SRFISI to bring participants from Province 1 and Province 2 together and take a step ahead in the 'Roadmaps' project (funded by ACIAR and led by CIMMYT), which functions to help provincial governments create an enabling environment for sustainable agricultural mechanization in Province 1 and Province 2 of Nepal.

At separate workshops held with Province 2 and Province 1 on 23rd and 24th November respectively during the Agri-Mech exhibition, both government officials and non-government stakeholders of Province 2 agreed on the need for CIMMYT support for improved mechanization.

Participants from Province 1 comprising government official, suppliers, farmers groups and other related stakeholders, discussed broader themes like knowledge generation, land utilization, farmers' status, capacity building and custom hiring centres, and came to a mutual decision that CIMMYT will provide technical support along with seed drills for planting in Morang and also planned to arrange another meeting for the working group in Biratnagar.

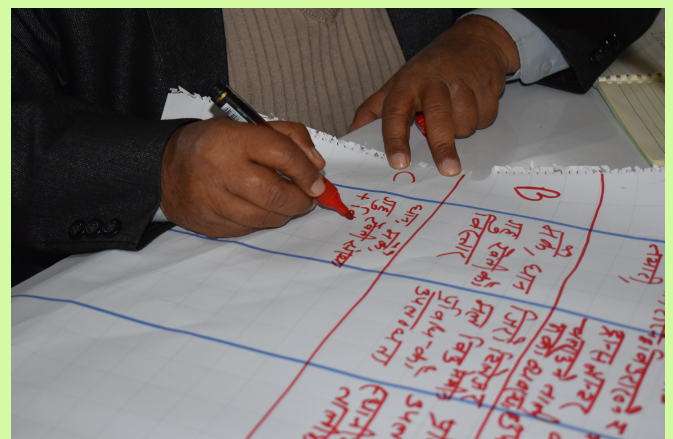


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After two intense workshops with provincial participants, the Agri-Mech fair was concluded with a National Symposium on 'Sustainable Intensification on the Nepal Terai' held on 24th November. The symposium was attended by guests of honour Dr Shreemat Shrestha (Director, Agricultural Engineering Division, Nepal Agricultural Research Council); Dr Ram Krishna Shrestha (Senior Agriculture Extension Officer, Department of Agriculture); Eng Jagannath Tiwari (Senior Agricultural Engineer, Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization project); and Prof Ram Hari Timilsina (Head of the Department, Agriculture and Forestry University), along with other provincial participants, focused on the CSISA, SRFISI and Roadmaps projects led by CIMMYT which are working to promote sustainable intensification in the Nepal Terai.

As an outcome of the Agri-Mech Fair combined with Roadmaps Workshops, two of the cooperatives from Province 1 (NMC and Maharanijhoda) purchased a minimum till seed drill from the fair and planned to use it for wheat and maize, provided with technical support from CIMMYT and Morang NGO JBS.