



IMPACT STORY

NEPAL MULTIPURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE: TAKING A STEP AHEAD



Photo: Manisha Shrestha

CHC operated by NMC-COOP providing reaper to farmers

At such political stage where the Provincial Government structures are not fully developed, plans to support sustainable agricultural mechanization having the potential to benefit millions of smallholder farmers, are still underexplored. With an aim to create an enabling environment for sustainable agricultural mechanization in Province 1 and Province 2 of Nepal, the 'Roadmaps' project (funded by ACIAR and led by CIMMY) functions to help provincial governments.

In this process, an inception workshop was held in Province 1 on 27th September 2019 at Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Biratnagar.

The main purpose of this workshop was to collaborate with provincial government bodies to develop plan to build enabling environment for farmers to apprehend and hone their skills in sustainable agricultural mechanization and, to link MoLMAC, farmer-groups, farmers and other stakeholders together for a common goal of maintaining enabling environments.



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Among the participants at the workshop, which was attended by both from the Ministry and private sectors, Mr. Ram Chandra Uprety, Chairman of Nepal Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd. (NMC-COOP), Jhapa voiced his strong interest in providing services to the farmers who are unable to afford their own machines. Fascinated by the concept of one-stop solution where farmers can receive all farming-related service, at Mr. Uprety's initiation NMC-COOP started operating a Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) at Jhapa, Nepal. With an objective to expand the scope of services, the initial service this center provides to the farmers is the hiring of reaper. And following the Chitwan Agri-Mech Fair (22- 25 November), the CHC is also making a minimum till seed drill available for hire.

A step taken forward by NMC-COOP towards developing enabling environment for sustainable agricultural mechanization in Province 1 is an appropriate act which can help scale up the use of sustainable agricultural mechanization in Nepal, and thus leading closer to success of the 'Roadmaps' project.