

STORY OF CHANGE

MULTIPURPOSE NURSERY BOOSTING INCOME OF A POOR FARMER



Khim Bahadur Kuwar (47 years), a resident of Bangadh, Salyan district, had difficulty earning and supporting his family by traditional farming practices. However, within a short period of time, he is now recognized as a commercial nursery farmer in his locale. With the help of a commercial nursery enterprise, he is earning well for his family. He acknowledges the project 'Improving the Livelihood of Marginalized Groups of Salyan District (ILMC)' implemented by LI-BIRD, RRN-Nepal, and Aasaman Nepal, supported for his success. With the help of the project and the effort of his family, he earned 61,000 rupees in the first year of the nursery enterprise itself.

The credit for the success of his nursery business goes to the booming goat farming in his village and adjacent villages. Many farmers are doing goat businesses there. The goats are supplied to cities like Kathmandu and Pokhara. Though it is a good business, there weren't enough nutritious grasses and fodder for the goats. The locals were dependent on local *Bhimal* and other fodders to feed the goats. But there wasn't any nursery in the village that provides improved fodder and grasses and fodders.

Realizing the potentialities of goat rearing, the project conducted a study which found that Kavra, Kalimati, Kalche, Kaprechaur, Majhkanda, Kupindedaha, Laxmipur and Nigalchula villages had no diversity in grasses and fodders. Among those villages, Majhkanda, Nigalchula, and Kupindedaha had comparatively high goat rearing. The groups of these villages wished for saplings of grasses of hybrid varieties. As there were no nurseries in these villages, the farmers had to resort to buying saplings from outside which was expensive due to transportation cost. Thus, in order to meet the demands of these villages, the project provided training on grass nursery to Khim Bahadur.



After receiving the training, Khim Bahadur diligently started nursery to grow improved fodder and grasses and other fruits. In order to establish the nursery, Mr. Kuwar brought soil from the forest, managed manure, soil and sand, and necessary partition. The project provided seeds of Nimaro and Raikhanyu. Later on, he himself brought lemon seed to add to the nursery. He collected the grown plants in a polybag. Due to adequate moisture and proper management, the plants grew well and fast in the nursery. The project also supplied him with the seeds of Moringa (*Sitalchini*) and *Bhatmase* while Khim Bahadur himself managed the cuttings of Mulberry, Timur, and Pear, making his nursery attractive.

Table 1: Details of support received from the project for the establishment of Nursery

S.N.	Materials/Tools	Quantity	Price (NPR)
1	Watering Can	1	500
2	Spreyer (2 ltr.)	1	250
3	Rai-Khanayo Seed	500 gm	5000
4	Nevaro Seed	500 gm	4000
5	<i>Bhatmase</i> Seed	1 kg	5500
6	Sikechar	1	1100
Total			16,350

Khim Bahadur faced some challenges while establishing nurseries. The nursery initiated in 2017 with Rai-khanayo, Lemon, Timur, Mulberry (*Kimbu*), Pear, Moringa (*Sitalchini*), and *Bhatmase* had grown well in April 2017. However, the proper roof was not placed in the nursery. In 29 and 30 April 2017, hailstone badly affected the plants. 40 percent of the saplings were destroyed. Despite such hurdle, Khim Bahadur took care of the remaining plants and was successfully able to earn Rs. 61,000 in the first year (See Table 2). He distributed 20 plants each to the 25 members of his group.

Table 2: Details of sales of plants and earning from them in 2075 Ashar

Name of Plants	Plants Grown (No.)	Plants Sold (No.)	Per Plant Price (NPR)	Total Income (NPR)
Mulberry (<i>Kimbu</i>)	600	525	15	7875
Rai-Khanayo	500	205	15	3075
Nevaro	500	205	15	3075
Moringa (<i>Sitalchini</i>)	300	265	15	3975
Lemon	250	220	30	6600
Pomegranate	400	230	50	11500
<i>Bhatmase</i>	12000	10000	2.5	25000
Total	14550	11650		61100

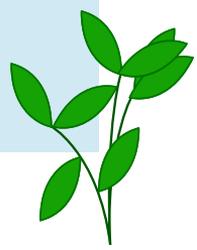




Table 3: Details of the groups and households benefitted from the grass and fruits supported through the nursery in ILMC project area

S.N.	Name of the Group	Address	Benefited HHs
1	Ujjyalo Women Goat Rearing Group	Kauche	25
2	Kupindeshwori Farmers' Group	Shera	22
3	Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative Group	Shera	18
4	Basanta Self-reliance Goat Rearing Group	Lachuale	39
5	Simalchaur Goat Rearing Group	Simalchaur	25
Total			129

After the suggestions to register nursery for commercial plant production, Khim Bahadur registered the nursery farm in the name 'Binod Multipurpose Nursery Farm' in Department of Cottage and Small Industries after receiving permission from Ward Office and Municipality. Likewise, he joined the membership of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and also registered permanent account number (PAN) number for the nursery.

Mr. Kuwar supplies nutritious grasses to 450 goats of 140 households of five goat-rearing groups and other farmers. The local goat rearing farmers are relieved with the nutritious support of fodder and grasses to their goats' from Khim Bahadur's nursery.

Khim Bahadur was having a hard time supporting his family of eight members including his wife and six children. He didn't have knowledge about commercial farming and applied traditional farming. At first, through membership in Chisapani farmer's group initiated by the ILMC project, he didn't have general knowledge about the nursery. He garnered interest after learning about nursery through the project's technicians and diligently started nursery. Despite facing several challenges in the first year, he succeeded in growing good plants in the nursery and earned more than he had expected. In the second year, he grew more than 26,000 plants of Jackfruit, Black Pepper (*Timur*), Lemon, Mulberry (*Kimbu*), Ipil Ipil, Fig tree, Nigalo (*Drepanostachyum intermedium* (Munro) Keng f.), Moringa (*Sitalchini*), soybeans, etc. (See Table 4).



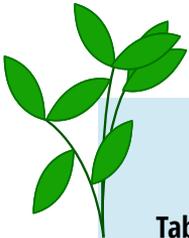


Table 4: Quantity of plants until January 2019

Name of Plants	Quantity
Mulberry	2000
Rai-Khanayo	500
Ipil Ipil	5000
Jackfruit	1500
Black Pepper	250
Moringa	2500
Lemon	500
Pomegranate	500
<i>Bhatmase</i>	12000
Citrus	500
Total	26750



Khim Bahadur plans to run his nursery regularly. He aims to produce 25 to 30 thousand fodder and grasses earning about 4 lakhs rupees every year. To fulfill his aim, he requested for financial and technical support from Ward and Municipality's Agriculture unit. He said that the past year's earning has supported his children's studies and nutrition. After the start of the nursery, his life of wage-earning is passed behind him. Nowadays, he can be regularly seen in the nursery and vegetable garden. He is very thankful to the ILMC project for supporting him to permanently establish nursery which is helping in the value chain of goat rearing in Salayan district.

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