

Annual Report 2021/22



*Diversifying Choices
Securing Livelihoods*





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Annual Report

2021/22

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to be leading LI-BIRD, a purpose-driven organization, at an exciting time as we enter into the next chapter of our proud 28-year history, with ample opportunities to build upon strong foundations to increase our reach, accelerate our pace, and expand our impacts. One thing that has deeply impressed us is how LI-BIRD's work is making a difference in so many people's lives. The part we play in helping build better futures for our beneficiaries, especially the smallholder farmers, their families, and their communities is a source of pride and purpose for our staff, members, partners, and stakeholders.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt the implementation of our planned activities on the ground, with concerted efforts of our 132 dedicated staff (103 full-time and 29 locally hired part-time Social Mobilizers and interns) and supported by our Executive Board and Founder Members, including 129 individual and institutional members, 7,577 Facebook, 2,600 YouTube, 1,293 Twitter, 869 LinkedIn, and 532 Instagram followers, our commitments to serving smallholder farmers remained unshakable. In the FY 2021/22, we were able to reach out to 141,009 beneficiary households organized into 961 community institutions in 48 municipalities spread across 18 districts in seven provinces. Our annual portfolio amounted to NPR 294 million (up by 29%). Despite the relatively hostile operating environment posed by COVID-19, we successfully mobilized NPR 263 million, with an overall burn rate of 89.62%. An additional NPR 47.49 million was generated as co-finance contributions from the communities and local and provincial governments. In the FY 2021/22, a number of projects were completed, new projects were secured, and a number of pipeline projects were designed and/or negotiated. We made steady progress in terms of diversifying our funding base, which has resulted in strong and healthy pipelines.

During the FY 2021/22, we expanded our presence in the Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces and deepened our collaboration with government entities. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC), Karnali Province was signed and the MoUs with the MoLMAC of the Gandaki and Sudurpaschim Provinces were renewed. These MoUs have provided an opportunity to legitimize our work and formalize the partnership for scaling out/up of climate-friendly agro-ecological farming practices, including the promotion of local crop diversity through exchanging knowledge and good practices, capacity building, and engagement in planning and policy processes. Additionally, partnership with the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), particularly with the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) were further strengthened for collaboration on climate actions, especially in terms of providing technical assistance support to implement MoFE/CCMD's 'Climate Model Village' programme in the Sudurpaschim Province, and in terms of accessing adaptation grant from the UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund as National Implementing Entity.

This year, we also made a deliberate effort to enhance the overall governance, we reviewed and strengthened our existing policies and introduced new policies. We reviewed and amended our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, and a new Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy, and Operational Guideline for Projects and Programmes were endorsed. Additionally, we also formulated and operationalized the Complaint Handling Policy to improve transparency and accountability in our actions.

This year, we conducted our Annual General Assembly using a hybrid approach - both physically and utilizing digital technology - that allowed a large number of our members and staff to participate and contribute. We

see the coming year as exciting, full of hope, inspiration, and expectations, as we embark on the development of our new strategy 2023-2030. As part of the new strategy development process, we will look at our strengths and our opportunities, as well as conduct a strategic review of our current business with an eye toward identifying new business opportunities, streamlining existing business functions, and accelerating execution. While our updated strategy will likely introduce new opportunities for us to pursue, we believe that building a high-performing team, driving efficiencies, deepening and expanding our ecosystem, and going digital, including defining who we are, what we will deliver, how we will deliver, and how we will measure success will continue to build our foundation for the future.

With that note, on behalf of everyone at LI-BIRD, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to our funding agencies and the Government of Nepal who believe in us and support our work. We thank our partners for their continued support in field delivery, and most importantly the people in the communities who saw hope for the future with us. Our young energetic staff provided the much-needed energy, enthusiasm, and ingenuity to our success. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.



Deepak Kumar Rijal, PhD
Chairperson, Executive Board



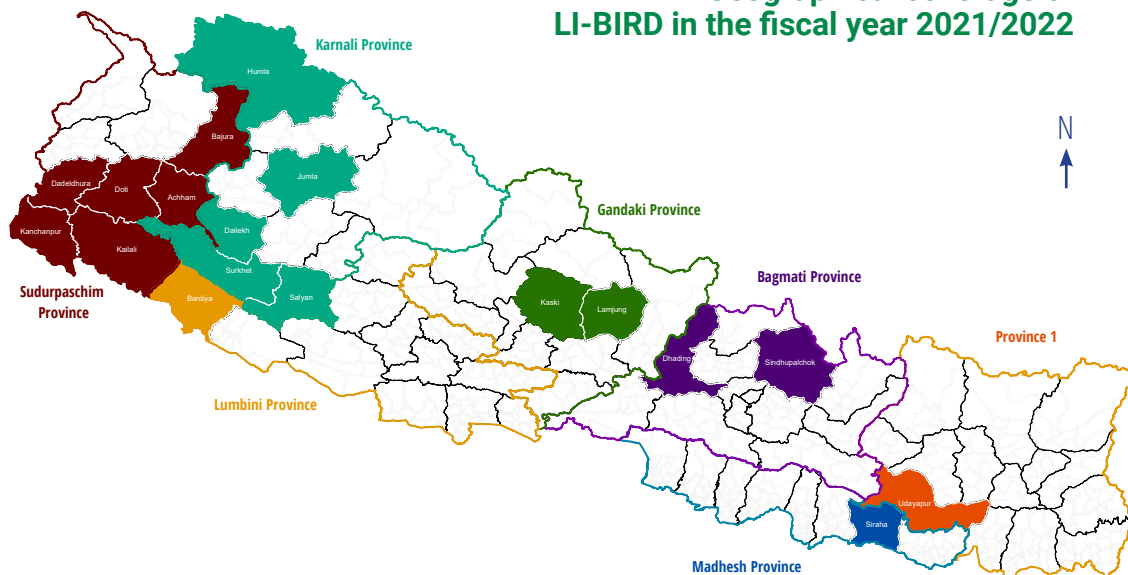
Balam Thapa, PhD
Executive Director

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFU	Agriculture and Forestry University
BftW	Bread for the World
CDMC	Community Disaster Management Committee
CSANN	Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition Nepal
CSB	Community Seed Bank
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DCA	DanChurchAid
FELM	Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
FFS	Farmer's Field School
FSEs	Farmer Seed Enterprises
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GRAPE	Green Resilience Agricultural Productive Ecosystems
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ILM	Improving Livelihoods of Poor and Marginalized Farmers through Promoting Agriculture Value Chains Approach
LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security
LREP	Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Project
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoLMAC	Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative
MoLMACPA	Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, Coop. & Poverty Alleviation
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NFGF	National Farmer's Group Federation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSB	National Seed Board
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
REALiZe	Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones
SAKSHAM	Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods
Samarthya	Participatory Testing and Scaling up Climate Resilient Models, Technologies and Practices to Enhance Adaptive Capacity
SD=HS	Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UTHAN	Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Geographical coverage of LI-BIRD in the fiscal year 2021/2022



Legend	Province	No. of Districts	No. of Municipalities	No. of Rural Municipalities	No. of Projects
	1	1	1	-	1
	Madhesh	1	1	1	1
	Bagmati	2	0	6	3
	Gandaki	2	1	2	3
	Lumbini	1	4	1	1
	Karnali	5	5	5	6
	Sudurpaschim	6	8	11	6
	Total	18	20	26	22 (exclusive)

LI-BIRD at a GLANCE



Technology demonstration and training site for farmer's field school on agro-ecological farming, Annapurna RM-3, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

INTRODUCTION

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) is a non-profit making non-governmental organization established in 1995 in Kaski, Nepal. LI-BIRD is committed to capitalizing on local initiatives for sustainable management of renewable natural resources to improve the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized farmers, especially women. LI-BIRD continues to work along the research to development continuum. Throughout its existence, LI-BIRD has contributed for the development of several innovative methodologies and approaches for participatory research and development. It works through partnerships in development-oriented research in agriculture, forestry, climate change, biodiversity, and natural resources management. It has generated positive impacts on the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized farmers through promotion of appropriate technological, social, and policy changes. LI-BIRD played an instrumental role in institutionalizing various approaches in the national systems of Nepal and expanded its outreach in selected

countries in South Asia. LI-BIRD's expertise is increasingly sought by government and international agencies. Investing in knowledge, innovations, and solutions, building leaders, and developing new partnerships with public and private sectors continue to be LI-BIRD's main working philosophy and culture.

OUR VISION

LI-BIRD envisions a society where people are resilient, food secure, healthy, and live with dignity.

OUR MISSION

LI-BIRD's mission is to diversify choices and secure livelihoods of smallholder farmers through innovative approaches to research and development in agriculture, biodiversity, and natural resources.

OUR IMPACT GOAL

Contribute to reducing poverty by strengthening resilient livelihood systems, improving ecosystem health and services, and ensuring food, nutrition and income security of smallholder farmers, especially women and youths.

OUR CORE VALUES

Local initiatives: We value local knowledge and cultures, local initiatives and innovations, and participation of local communities and institutions in all aspects of our work.

Integrity: We act consistently with our vision. We are honest, transparent, and accountable, and accept responsibility for our collective and individual actions.

Biodiversity: We believe in conserving biodiversity and improving ecosystem health as assets for reducing vulnerability and building resilient livelihoods

Investment for the future: We believe in investing in human capital, institutions, and natural resources to protect the environment for the prosperity of present and future generations.

Respect: We respect capabilities, opinions, and values of individuals, socially excluded groups, communities, development partners, stakeholders, staff, and our members.

Diversity: We value diversity in terms of people, ethnicity, culture, social norms, partners, staff, and our members.

PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES

The following programming principles will inform and guide the way we work in all of our programmes:

Principle 1: Demonstrate and deliver tangible benefit to target group.

Principle 2: Promote participation of multi-sectoral stakeholders in research and development to generate scalable solutions.

Principle 3: Align actions with national priorities to contribute to national food security and sustainable development goals.

Principle 4: Generate synergies and leverage resources for achieving cost-effectiveness and impact at scale.

Principle 5: Create an enabling environment by empowering communities, institutions, and networks.

OUR IMPACT GROUPS

Our impact group is the population upon which LI-BIRD's projects and programmes aim to have a positive impact, with long-term commitment. Our impact group is smallholder farmers, especially women and youths, who depend on agriculture, biodiversity, and natural resources for their livelihoods. The lasting changes we can bring in their lives will determine the extent of our success.

OUR TARGET GROUPS

Our target group is the subset population or subgroups within the impact group. Programme strategies may need to be focused or tailored specifically to meet the unique needs of the target group. Our strategic actions focus on six subgroups within the impact group. The unique needs of these subgroups determine the nature of the actions we undertake.

Our target groups are:

- » Communities in highly food deficit rural areas
- » Women and youths, especially aspirant and returnee migrants
- » Climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone communities
- » Disaster affected individuals and communities
- » Landless and land poor communities
- » Farmers living in rural-urban interface and road corridor areas

Key HIGHLIGHTS of FY 2021/22



Panchase Biodiversity Information Centre, Annapurna RM-4, Bhadaure, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

OVERALL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

The COVID-19 crisis, though subsided this year, has created unprecedented socio-economic damage and unfolded fragility of agricultural and food systems nationally and globally. The COVID-19 crisis coupled with climate change-induced disaster has further added challenges to expand agriculture production, improve food security, revive the economy, and achieve the country's commitment to sustainable development goals. Reports have shown that food insecurity and poverty in Nepal could rise further in the post-pandemic period if the country fails to implement appropriate measures to boost agriculture, generate employment, and income-earning opportunities while building resilience in the agriculture sector. Recognizing

the importance of agriculture, the United Nations has urged countries to prioritize transition towards sustainable food systems to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger, which is critical for meeting the other 16 SDGs. Following this, LI-BIRD's programming around sustainable agriculture and natural resource management has attempted to deepen its existing focus towards building local capacity in diversifying food production systems, co-creation and promotion of climate resilient solutions to address location-specific challenges, and therefore contributing to the localization of the global and national agenda on sustainable and resilient food systems transformation.

This year, we continued achieving progress in terms of bringing farmers' varieties into the formal system in collaboration with farming communities, community seed banks, the National Gene Bank, and the Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC). Four farmers' varieties of rice (*dalle masino*, *tilki*, *ghiupuri*, *kanak jira*) and a soybean variety (*nepale bhatmas*) have been approved by the National Seed Board for national listing. The registration of these local varieties has created opportunities for the conservation and utilization of local varieties thereby contributing to the diversification and improvement of the food and nutrition security of hill and mountain farmers. At the same time, it has also added a new choice for consumption among consumers. This year, our Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project implemented 42 Farmer's Field Schools (FFS) in the Sudurpaschim Province have enhanced farmer capacity, particularly of women to select and utilize crop diversity benefitting 1,152 households. Total 47 crop varieties of spring and summer rice, wheat, potato, soybean, and garlic were tested on-farm through the FFS approach. Additionally, the project strengthened four Farmer's Seed Enterprise that produced and marketed 110 tons quality certified seeds of rice, wheat and vegetables.

This year has been productive in terms of reviewing and strengthening the organization's existing policies and introducing new policies and mechanisms for systematizing organizational functions for the improvement of overall programme quality and institutional governance. For instance, LI-BIRD's Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy has been amended, and a new Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy, and Operational Guideline for Projects and programmes have been introduced. Additionally, we have also formulated and operationalized the Complaint Handling Policy to improve transparency and accountability in our actions.

While managing projects and programmes, we introduced provincial-level cluster approaches for sharing expertise and good practices and to cross-fertilize learning among projects to improve synergy, teamwork, and programme quality. This year, LI-BIRD's website (www.libird.org) was redesigned to expand its reach and usability at both national and international levels to share our work, experiences, and results.

During the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD expanded its presence in the Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces programmatically and through collaboration especially with the government. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC) of the Karnali Province was signed and the MoUs with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, Cooperative and Poverty Reduction (MoLMACPA) of the Gandaki and MoLMAC of the Sudurpaschim Provinces were renewed. These MoUs have provided an opportunity to legitimize LI-BIRD's work in these provinces and formalize the partnership for scaling-up of climate-friendly and agro-ecological farming practices, including the promotion of local crop diversity through exchanging knowledge and good practices, capacity building, and engagement in planning and policy processes.

This year, new partnerships were built with a number of development partners for programme funding such as FELM Finland for the implementation of SAKSHAM Project, and ICIMOD and GIZ for the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystem (GRAPE) Programme. Additionally, partnership with the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), particularly with the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD), has been strengthened for collaboration on climate actions, including providing Technical Assistance (TA) support to implement 'Climate Model Village' (CMV) Programme in two rural municipalities in Doti district. In the meantime, collaboration with the MoFE/CCMD continues in terms of accessing adaptation grant from the UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund.

In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD reached out to 141009 beneficiary households (37,217 directly benefited households and 103792 indirectly benefitted households) organized in 961 community institutions such as farmers' groups and cooperatives from 48 municipalities and rural municipalities spread across 18 districts in seven provinces. A total amount of NPR 263 million of LI-BIRD's project funds were mobilized and an additional NPR 47.4 million was generated as co-finance contributions from the communities, local and provincial governments.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

► STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

Agricultural Innovations for Food and Nutrition Security

This thematic area aims to improve the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers through investing in knowledge, innovations, and providing appropriate solutions. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD started implementation of a four-year project entitled Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM) in Kanchanpur and Doti districts of Sudurpashchim Province with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland through FELM Nepal. The project aims to improve the livelihoods and well-being of 3500 marginal, resource-poor, and climate-vulnerable households, particularly *mukta kamaiya* and *haliya*, women-headed households, and people with disability. The project works

in close collaboration with 15 local governments and other key stakeholders for leveraging resources to support and deliver services to the rights-holders, ensuring improvement in food and nutrition security, diversifying diet, and creating income opportunities for targeted communities. It will also work on strengthening the capacities of local governments, community institutions, and communities on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.

Advocacy and strengthening resilience through Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security (LANN+) is an ongoing project in Dhading and Salyan districts of Bagmati and Karnali Provinces aiming to integrate nutrition-sensitive sectoral elements for addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition. In the FY 2021/22,



Medical professional screening a children for acute malnutrition using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape in Dhading. MUAC tape is widely used for early detection of acute malnutrition in children below 5 years. Photo: Chetan Bhattarai, LI-BIRD

the project has worked on empowering rural women and farming families for food and nutrition security by establishing the linkages among agriculture, natural resource management, water, sanitation and hygiene. A total of 90 groups with 2,664 Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) members (agriculture groups) and 90 groups with 2,624 LANN+ members (mother groups) have benefited from the project. Additionally, the project supported the construction and rehabilitation of 18 small irrigation schemes leveraging NPR 1.5 million local contributions from local governments and communities benefiting 728 households by irrigating 228 hectares of land. A total of 2,750 children under five years have had nutritional status assessment by measuring their height, weight and mid upper arm circumference (MUAC). Children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were referred to the outpatient therapeutic care (OTC) centre. A total of 26 Nutrition Education Rehabilitation Programme (NERP camps) were conducted aiming to recover the nutrition status of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases through nutrition education on the utilization of local resources and behavioural change sessions. Despite a number of challenges, efforts to institutionalize NERP as an integral part of government health post's activity continues unabated.

Since 2017, the Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Project (LREP) has been working to improve the livelihoods and resilience of 7,006 *mukta kamaiya* and marginal families in Bardiya, Kailali, and Humla districts. In the FY 2021/22, 1,000 beneficiary households have been able to increase their income by NPR 10,000 by selling vegetables, fruits, and livestock, and an additional 80 farmers benefitted from the production and marketing of over 70 tons of seeds. The project strengthened the capacity of 13 Cooperatives and five Community Seed Banks (CSBs). In Humla district, the project has been successful in scaling up and scaling out good practices in agriculture and livestock (rabbit rearing, tunnel farming, tree tomato cultivation, etc.) that were formerly introduced by LI-BIRD as innovative agricultural practices in high-altitude areas. In addition, the project has supported Bangsadhi Municipality of Bardiya district to develop

the Agriculture Act (*Krishi Ain*) in partnership with the National Farmer's Group Federation (NFGF), Nepal.

The ongoing Evolutionary Plant Breeding (EPB) project has been implemented in Jumla and Lamjung districts since July 2018. The project aims to enhance farmers' resilience to climate change for sustainable crop productivity and nutrition under rain-fed conditions. The project has developed twelve different evolutionary sub-populations of rice in Lamjung and nine different evolutionary populations in Jumla both for beans and rice by using landraces, improved varieties, and breeding materials in advanced stages. Based on the combined analyses of three seasons (2019-2021) data of beans in Jumla, the lowest mean value was observed on improved check (*trishuli*) both for grain yield (mean=955 Kg/ha) and thousand-grain weight (mean=197.1 gram). In contrast, the highest thousand-grain weight (mean=279.5 gram), moderate yield (mean=1874 Kg/ha) and moderate pod per plant (mean=7.96 no.) were observed in *kalo male* bean indicating that the local landrace population has better potential in the heterogeneous environment. Interestingly, evolutionary populations are leading varieties in terms of mean yield values (BeEP2 with 2037 Kg/ha, MSEP1 with 1994



Joint monitoring visit by government representatives and stakeholders at the 'Pokhareli Jethobudho' rice breeder seed production site, Kholachheu, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Kg/ha, and BeEP1 with 1971 Kg/ha) compared to improved check *trishuli* (1874 Kg/ha) and local check 'Kalo Male' (955 Kg/ha) suggesting the superior performance of evolutionary populations in hill farming and heterogeneous environments. Similarly, in evolutionary populations of rice in Jumla, the mean grain yield value (GYT=3.76 t/ha) was higher than the national average (3.5 t/ha) (MoALD, 2019) indicating the potential of these genotypes for increasing food security of smallholder farmers in the project sites.

The nutritional analyses in beans showed superior nutritional value in evolutionary populations compared to local and improved checks. The BeEP4 (sub-population derived from local landrace and improved varieties) seems nutritionally superior compared to check varieties showing better in marginal environments. We observed maximum nutritional value in BeEP4 for moisture (8.8%), phosphorus (403.3 mg/100g), polyphenol (392.62 mg/100g), flavonoid (2871.09 mgGAE/100g), and antioxidant (92.24 % RSA), respectively compared to improved check having moisture (8.4%), phosphorus (321.08 mg/100 g), polyphenol (321.07 mg/100 g), flavonoid (2862.44 mgGAE/100 g), and

antioxidant (91.64% % RSA). Similarly, we found lowest iron and phosphorus in improved check (Iron=5.05 mg/100g, phosphorus=321.08 mg/100 g) compared to evolutionary populations having iron and phosphorus in higher range (iron=5.26-9.56 mg/100g, phosphorus=350.62-390.57 mg/100g) confirming the superior nutritional performance of evolutionary populations. Overall, the evolutionary populations of the project sites were superior to local and improved checks and would be potential sources for nutritional security of smallholders' farmers in targeted production environments. These evolutionary populations have contributed in the conservation of rice and bean diversity on farms and is also providing access to these materials through locally established Community Seed Banks (CSBs) in the project districts.

Inclusive Economic Growth for Income and Employment

This thematic area aims to transform subsistence agriculture into business opportunities to generate tangible incomes and local employment for women and youth through a value chain approach. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD completed the implementation of Improving Livelihoods of Poor and Marginalized Farmers through Promoting Agriculture Value Chains Approach (ILM) project, funded by DANIDA via DCA Nepal in Achham, Bardiya, Doti, and Dailekh districts. In collaboration with local partners, the project built capacity of 14 cooperatives and introduced accounting software and monitoring tools along with basic policies that helped the cooperatives to better serve their 1390 household members. The project promoted the digital agro-met advisory services by linking cooperatives with service providers, i.e., the 'Geo-Krishi Path-way' that generated 25 digital leaders who coordinate farming communities to run E-Chautari and support farmers to install and operate Geo-Krishi Farm App. A total of 447 lead farmers were registered into the Geo-Krishi app who in turn are providing information on weather prediction, crop management, crop health management practices and market-related information in their communities.



In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD completed the implementation of the Market-led Approach to Sustainable Management of Agrobiodiversity for Livelihood Outcomes (LCPV-DI) project that started in July 2019 in Kaski district of Gandaki Province. The project directly benefitted 4,394 farmers through increased production of targeted crops and commodities (*pokhareli jethobudho* rice, *bariyo* foxtail millet, coffee, fresh vegetables, shitake mushroom, honey, and fish) that helped increase household incomes by 38% and created employment opportunities for 64 individuals. The project also contributed to the conservation of native and wild agricultural species like wild rice, aquatic species like *sahar (Tor putitora)* fish, and native/migratory bird species. Furthermore, the project supported the establishment of the Panchase Biodiversity Information Centre at Bhadaure to showcase information of orchids, different crops/varieties, and indigenous tools used by farmers. Additionally, the project facilitated the establishment of a private packaging house Annapaat Agro Pvt. Ltd which is now independently operating the collection, packaging, and marketing of various agricultural products including local crops.

In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD implemented Strengthening the Agriculture Value Chain (SAVC) Project in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk districts for enhancing economic and social resilience of the youth, women, and COVID-19 affected families. The project supported establishing six one-stop shop cooperatives to strengthen the value chain of fresh vegetables and agriculture input supply benefitting 1,350 households with transactions of NPR 3.26 million. Similarly, cooperatives and beneficiaries were able to sell 333 metric tonnes of fresh vegetables and potatoes through these one-stop shop cooperatives worth NPR 9.47 million, leading to an increased average income of households by NPR 84,000 per annum. Furthermore, the project has also contributed to strengthening the capacity of cooperatives in terms of improving their internal governance and management, formulation and amendment of policies, and development of physical infrastructures.

Since 2020, the Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones (REALiZe) Project is being implemented in Salyan and Surkhet districts to generate a sustainable renewable-energy enhanced income, conservation of the fragile forest landscape, and to empower local communities living in the buffer zones of Bardiya and Banke National Parks. In the FY 2021/22, the project has reached out to 1,380 households by working with four Buffer Zone Management Committees and 16 Community Forest User's Groups. It has supported 59 poor and marginal households with improved goat sheds and distributed 11 breeding bucks that provided breeding service to over 800 households. Furthermore, the project has also established three multi-purpose nurseries that provide quality planting materials of NTFPs (Non-timber forest products), fodder, fruits, and vegetables locally.



Branding of potato under leadership of Attarpur Agriculture Cooperative, Lisankhupakhar RM-4, Sindhupalchowk. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

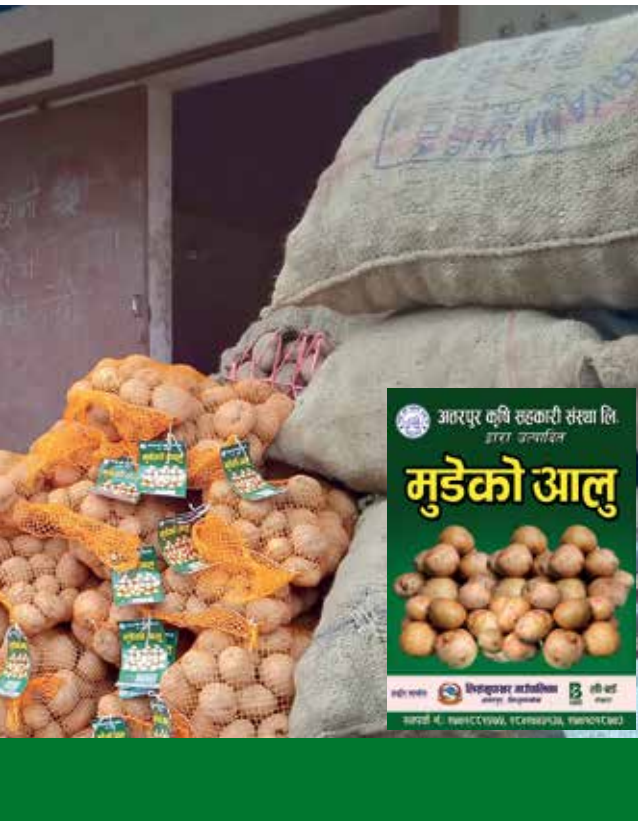
Community Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risks

This thematic area aims to build the adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone communities for resilient livelihoods through the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD successfully completed the implementation of Participatory Testing and Scaling up Climate Resilient Models, Technologies and Practices to Enhance Adaptive Capacity (Samarthya) project implemented in Siraha and Udayapur districts. The project piloted and promoted eight climate-resilient models directly benefiting 1,267 households. LI-BIRD worked closely with the National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF). The NFGF is further scaling-up these models through their network. The project supported local governments for the formulation of six policy guidelines (Climate-Smart Home Garden Guideline, Participatory Guarantee System Guideline, Solar Water Lifting Irrigation System Management Guideline, Agro-met Advisory

Services Guideline, Local Seed System Promotion Guideline and Climate Resilient Lease-based Farming Guideline). The project established seven Climate Smart Model Villages leveraging more than NPR 5 million from the local governments.

Similarly, in the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD initiated a five-year project Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in Karnali River Basins (Green Karnali) focusing on building resilience through climate-resilient ecological agriculture and greening of the value chain commodities. The project targets to reach out to 2,500 households of Achham, Dailekh and Surkhet districts of the Karnali Province and build local and provincial capacity on promoting climate resilient and agroecology-based farming. As a co-financing to this project, Solar Water Lifting Irrigation Scheme Supported by EKO Energy, Finland was also initiated this year in Pali Village of Dullu Municipality in Dailekh district leveraging NPR 3,000,000 from the Municipality. The project aims to transform the Pali Village with 246 households into a climate-smart village. The Green Resilience Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) Field of Action 2, another initiative taken in the FY 2021/22, is an action research and development project focusing on promoting climate-resilient agricultural solutions and building agroecosystem resilience. LI-BIRD is collaborating with ICIMOD for the project which is jointly funded by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The project is being implemented in Bajura, Dadelhdhura, Doti and Kailali districts of Sudurpaschim Province.

Since 2020, Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN) Project funded by EU and managed by DCA is promoting inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic growth in Dailekh and Kanchanpur districts of the Sudurpaschim Province. In the FY 2021/22, the project installed three solar irrigation systems, conducted nine action research studies on farm-based green enterprises, demonstrated six different climate-



resilient agriculture technologies and built the capacity of two local NGOs namely SOSEC and NNSWA working in Dailekh and Kanchanpur districts respectively. The project also supported four local governments in developing the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan and 25 capacity-building training on climate change vulnerability, risk/capacity assessment and adaptation at the municipal level.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Livelihoods

This thematic area aims to mobilize and empower communities, local institutions and networks for up-scaling integrated management of biodiversity and ecosystem services at sub-watershed, watershed, and river basin levels for sustainable livelihoods. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD successfully completed SDC funded Nepal Seed System Project (DADS II) which was implemented since 2019 in partnership with Nepal Agricultural Research Council and Bioversity International. The project concluded with exemplary work on farmer's variety registration in the national seed system. The project facilitated varietal registration, source seed production, and maintenance breeding process of 15 participatory plant breeding (PPB) and farmers' varieties during the project period. Similarly, SIANI SDG Policy Coherence Expert Group of Nepal, a project funded by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) through Oxfam Nepal was concluded this year that contributed on policy sensitization regarding agrobiodiversity, climate change, food and nutritional security. The project organized five policy discourse episodes on national television and published three newspaper articles covering the theme of climate change, food security, and agrobiodiversity, ten video documentaries on traditional *Tharu* cuisines from the Sudurpaschim Province, and research papers and posters. The project was able to reach out to 25,000 audiences through these activities. Similarly, in the FY 2021/22, the first phase of 'Climate Resilient Agriculture' project was completed. Phase II has been initiated to scale-up good practices and technologies generated during the first phase, promoting the



Participants of Annapurna farmer's field school on participatory varietal selection on wheat observing varietal performance at Jorajal RM-4, Doti. Photo: Mira Dhakal, LI-BIRD

concept of agroecological farming in Nepal and working to transform six villages into agroecological villages in Kaski and Sindhupalchowk of Gandaki and Bagmati provinces respectively. Agroecological farming tools and practices are being promoted among 3,300 households. The project is focusing on effective soil nutrient management, eco-friendly pest and disease management, efficient water use management, promotion of women-friendly agriculture tools, strengthening the capacity of social institutions for the sustainability of agroecological farming systems and value addition of agroecological produces.

Since 2019, Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project is working in Dadeldhura, Doti, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of the Sudurpaschim Province focusing on strengthening local seed system. In the FY 2021/22, the project facilitated the process of varietal registration of five crop landraces (four rice and one soyabean Varieties.) from Bardiya, Dang, Nawalparasi, Sankhuwasabha and Tanahu districts. The project organized more than 42 FFS on PPB benefitting 1152 households to enhance farmer capacity to manage



crop diversity. A total of 47 crop varieties including spring and summer rice, wheat, potato, soybean and garlic were tested on-farm via the FFS approach. The SD=HS project supported FSEs to produce 110 tons of seeds locally contributing access to quality seed and increasing income of farmers. The FFS approach on PPB is formally mainstreamed into Sudurpaschim Province's annual agriculture development plans and is considered as a major thematic area of institutional collaboration. A national-level policy advocacy workshop on "Farmer's varietal registration, issues and challenges" was organized for developing common understanding on the scope of schedule D provision, source seed maintenance, and certification guideline for schedule D registered varieties in Nepal.

Towards the end of the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD in partnership with the Bristol University in the UK initiated a new innovative three-year's project funded by the Darwin Initiative on Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems (DI Pollination). This project, with direct beneficiaries of 7,500, will assess pollinator declines

and pollinator-dependent crops in Nepal, raise awareness on pollination, and increase capacities of individuals and institutions to manage pollination services. In addition, the project will facilitate the design of a pollinator action plan of Karnali Province to embed pollinator conservation and management into provincial policy and advocate the process and learnings as a blueprint for developing the National Pollinator Strategy for Nepal. The project works in partnership with HERD International, the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC) Karnali, and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Nepal.

► CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Social and Policy Research for Inclusive Impacts

Generating evidence from social research and utilizing it for advocacy and mainstreaming approaches, models, good practices, and technologies in governmental plans, policies, and programmes at different levels is one of the key priority areas of LI-BIRD.

LI-BIRD facilitated the formation of an expert group "Nepal Agro-Biodiversity Society (NABS)" and is engaged in increasing awareness and policy coherence between emerging policy processes on agricultural biodiversity, nutrition, health, and climate change. Throughout the year, LI-BIRD actively participated and facilitated some of the UN food system transformation dialogues in Gandaki and Sudurpaschim Provinces in collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) by emphasizing promotion of local agrobiodiversity for resiliency and sustainability of food and agro-ecosystems. Similarly, a national-level consultation workshop on "Farmer's Variety Registration: Achievement, Issues and Challenges" was organized with active participation of relevant federal and provincial stakeholders in collaboration with the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), the National Gene Bank, and the Seed Quality Control

Centre (SQCC). The workshop has flagged gaps in the farmer's variety registration (Schedule D) process, especially in the seed certification and its source seed maintenance processes. The workshop concluded on a common consensus on the need for farmer-friendly guidelines for source seed maintenance and certification process for those varieties registered under Schedule D owned by the community who have initiated the registration process.

LI-BIRD provided technical support to the Centre for Crop Development and Agro-Biodiversity Conservation (CCDABC), for the development of a manual on "Community Seed Bank Establishment and Operation". The manual will be finalized and rolled out by 2079/80 by circulating to all governmental agencies working on CSB promotion. Additionally, a study on wild edible plants (WEPs) contribution to local food and nutrition security was conducted in three remote rural municipalities of Dhading (Gangajamuna, Khaniyabas, and Ruby Valley) showing 14% to 28% of meals included wild vegetables. Despite the significant contribution of WEPs to the food and nutrition security of rural communities, especially those dependent on natural resources for their livelihood, it is rarely prioritized in the government's policies and plans. Hence, prioritizing and investing in research and development on such resources along with awareness raising and documentation is a current need, and LI-BIRD is actively working on this front.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) for Strengthening Programme Effectiveness

LI-BIRD has been making a concerted effort to mainstream GESI in programmes, workforce and workplace to improve programme quality and to strengthen institutional governance and hence GESI Policy was revised during the FY 2021/22 to create an inclusive environment for assuring greater and more equitable participation of women and men from different socio-cultural, economic, geographic backgrounds, as well as different abilities. The revised GESI Policy 2021 is being implemented

in conjunction with other related policies, including LI-BIRD's Statute, Staff Administration & Personnel Regulation, Child Protection Policy, Whistle Blower Policy, and Safeguarding Policy. LI-BIRD's revised GESI Policy 2021 is designed to ensure that GESI concerns and perspectives are mainstreamed into LI-BIRD's projects, programmes and workforce, including GESI-responsive planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and to ensure that research and development activities carried out by LI-BIRD are GESI sensitive. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD developed and initiated five different projects that are working with indigenous, disadvantaged, and resource-poor communities. Currently, 68.81% of LI-BIRD's beneficiaries comprises resource-poor communities, Janajatis, disadvantaged and other ethnic minorities.

In the FY 2021/22, as part of strengthening LI-BIRD's programme quality and institutional governance, LI-BIRD also formulated a new Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy to ensure greater integration of environmental and social safeguards into project design, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation,



Chameli Maya Shrestha, Jethal RM-5, Sindhupalchowk milling finger millet in a women-friendly millet thresher promoted by LI-BIRD and NARC. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

and reporting. The environmental and social safeguard standards such as environmental pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, workforce and working conditions, indigenous people and local communities, and stakeholder engagement are some of the key features of the policy.

In the FY 2021/22, as part of strengthening programme quality, especially the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) function, LI-BIRD made a deliberate effort to set up MEAL Unit by on boarding a dedicated full-time MEAL Manager. Relevant staff were trained with the necessary skills and competencies needed to conduct quality monitoring and evaluation, including collecting and analyzing monitoring data, and undertaking and/or commissioning project evaluations. At the institutional level, cluster coordination meetings are organized and institutionalized. Similarly, two Team Leader meetings were organized to provide a platform for staff for sharing expertise, good practices, and cross-

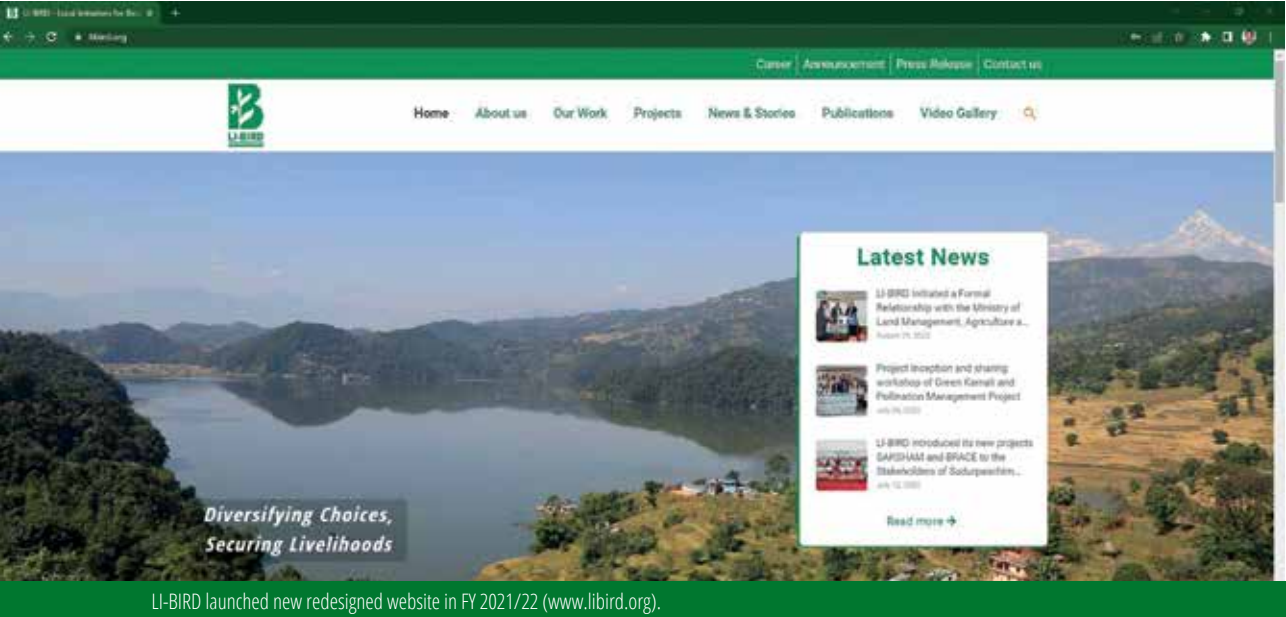
fertilization of learnings across the organization. LI-BIRD organizes travelling seminars and workshops at local, provincial and national levels for learning and sharing. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD organized two travelling seminars for scaling up climate-resilient models in Udayapur district and FFS on PPB in Kailali district. Altogether 80 participants, including government representatives, parliamentarians, local leaders, and beneficiaries participated in the travelling seminar.

LI-BIRD aims to be a transparent and result-oriented organization that is accountable for its actions. LI-BIRD has established a complaint handling and response mechanism to receive feedback from its staff, beneficiary and other key stakeholders. In the FY 2021/22, the mechanism was further strengthened by providing multiple access (e.g., placement of complaint boxes at field offices and complaint section have been added to the website) to receive feedback from multiple sources. LI-BIRD has also initiated publishing the project information, including the budget, on the notice board of local governments for transparency. The feedback received are monitored on a periodic basis by LI-BIRD Management. These mechanisms have provide the much needed stimulus for improving organizational transparency and accountability.

Knowledge Management and Capacity Building for Wider Impacts

In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD built capacity of members of more than 900 different groups, including farmers, health and nutrition, natural resource management, saving and credit, and climate change and disaster management groups. LI-BIRD also supported 28 different local government's representatives and officials in capacity building activities through training, workshops and exposure visits. In addition to this, staff were engaged in different capacity-building training nationally and internationally. As part of strengthening local community-based organizations and Networks, LI-BIRD collaborated with the Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition Nepal (CSANN) in sensitizing and strengthening its member organizations, building





LI-BIRD launched new redesigned website in FY 2021/22 (www.libird.org).

capacity in raising nutrition related issues and concerns in various provincial and national platforms. LI-BIRD supported CSANN in preparing their Karnali and Bagmati Provincial Chapter's action plan based on four intervention areas as outlined by the Scaling up Nutrition initiative (SUN). The Provincial Chapters of CSANN are coordinating with governmental agencies, especially the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, in mainstreaming nutrition-related agendas and practices in their policies and plans.

The learnings, challenges and good practices generated by LI-BIRD's works were also documented in various forms of knowledge products. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD redesigned its website (www.libird.org) to make it a more user-friendly and responsive resource across all platforms and devices. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD's website was visited by 28,333 visitors. In addition to the website, LI-BIRD also disseminated information through other social media with more than 26,000 followers (Facebook 7,577; Twitter 1,295; Youtube 2,600; LinkedIn 869; Instagram: 532; and Soundcloud 402 tracks). A total of 41 publications were produced and disseminated via the website and other platforms. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD launched a newly redesigned website (www.libird.org) with a much faster, user-friendly, and responsive resource across all platforms and devices.

KMC in Numbers



Total 644 Episodes of
Radio Programme
'LI-BIRDKo Chautari'

www.soundcloud.com/li-birdko-chautari



41 Publications
Peer reviewed articles,
books, proceedings, book
chapters and flyers



Communication & Network

28,333 website visitor (FY 2021/22)
7,577 Facebook followers **1,295** Twitter followers
869 LinkedIn followers **2,600** YouTube subscribers
532 Instagram followers

Emergency Preparedness and Response for Building Institutional Capacity for Delivering Effective Emergency Response

In the FY 2021/22, based on the forecast of unpredictable characteristics of monsoon rain and the resulting potential disasters, LI-BIRD prepared the monsoon contingency plan in all working districts (led by SAKSHAM project and replicated to other projects) to improve the readiness of communities, local governments, and other line agencies to respond to floods and landslides in a timely and effective manner. The contingency plan helped ensure that appropriate skills, resources, information, systems, and structures are in place for dealing with monsoon-related disasters. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD supported the 945 seed producer households, from three FSEs in Jorajal rural municipality, Kailali rural municipality, and Krishnapur municipality that were affected by the previous year's monsoon floods.

A disaster coping fund of NPR 0.26 million has been established to help FSEs to better cope with and mitigate the risk resulting from the recurrent monsoon floods. In collaboration with local stakeholders and FSE members, a guideline for the mobilization of disaster coping fund was developed. As a result, 59 seed producers have insured their crop covering 44 hectares of land. Through the recovery project, LI-BIRD supported two FSEs to the amount of NPR 2.1 million for upgrading the seed storage capacity, and repair and maintenance of the seed storage house damaged by previous year's monsoon rain. Additionally, through the recovery project, LI-BIRD also supported two FSEs to the amount of NPR 2.8 million for buying grading machines and tractor-modelled threshing machines to increase FSE's capacity and efficiency to thresh and grade large quantity of seeds for marketing.



A training on disaster risk reduction and preparedness for the members of the municipal local disaster management committees of the Sudurpaschim province. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Key IMPACTS

TRANSFORMING SAVING AND CREDIT COOPERATIVE INTO A FARMER'S SEED ENTERPRISE IN KAILALI



Joint monitoring visit of government representatives and stakeholders at a rice demonstration plot maintained by the Janabatabaran Multipurpose Cooperatives with technical support of LI-BIRD. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Janawatawaran Saving and Credit Cooperative was established in Kailari rural municipality of Kailali district in 2013. The cooperative was known as a savings and credit cooperative locally. It started seed production and marketing in 2020, after the intervention of LI-BIRD through the Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) Project. The cooperative was transformed into a multi-purpose cooperative by widening its scope. LI-BIRD supported and facilitated the development of necessary policies and mechanisms for institutional development and governance, building technical capacity and facilities for seed production, storage and marketing, linkage development with line agencies and resource leveraging for infrastructural development. The cooperative's statute

was amended to include the scope of seed production and marketing, agro-input's business and custom hiring service of agri-tools.

The cooperative had 25 members in 2013, and by collaborating with the SD=HS Project, the cooperative expanded its membership, now it has 513 members with 40% women. The cooperative is currently led by a woman setting an example as a women-led institution in the community. Earlier, the cooperative used to be operated on a volunteer basis by its management committee but there was a lack of accountability and commitment amongst the members to drive and do better. Now, they have four full-time staff including two women. The

cooperative has undoubtedly made a quantum leap in the annual seed transaction of rice and wheat. In 2020, a total of 20.6 tons (7.5 tons rice, 13.1 tons wheat) of certified seed was produced and sold to the market. In 2021, seed production and sale doubled to 47 tons of certified seeds (16 tons rice, 31 tons wheat). In 2022, 61 tons of certified wheat seed is in stock and 50 tons of rice seed is expected to be produced. The cooperative has made a net profit of NPR 223,910 in 2020, NPR 434,865 in 2021, and is expected to make a net profit of more than NPR one million in 2022. This trend of net profit is a clear indication of the progressive development of the cooperative in the locally-led seed business. The generated revenues are being revolved in credit services, added to the seed fund while a certain percentage is distributed to its shareholders as a bonus dividend on an annual basis. Now, the cooperative has a seed fund of NPR 1.3 million for operating seed business and the amount is increasing each year as a certain percentage of net profit goes to the seed fund. The total area of seed production has increased from 10 hectares to 40 hectares and the number of seed-producing farmers increased from 21 to 97 within two years.

The cooperative has been able to leverage resources both in-cash and in-kind. From the Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Kailali, the cooperative has received an underground irrigation system, electric motor pump, power tillers, and crop rippers worth approximately NPR 6 million. Projects have supported large rice/wheat threshers with a transportation tractor, seed grading machines, and other storage materials to enhance efficiency and reduce loss during harvest and post-harvest. At present, the cooperative is engaged in providing custom hiring services on crop harvesting, threshing, and transportation to its members on a seasonal basis. Along with these, cooperatives have coordinated with technical schools and municipal offices to mobilize agriculture technicians as interns who provide technical support for seed producer farmers. They have been able to maintain institutional-level coordination and partnership with multiple agencies for its growth and service diversification. Janawatawaran Cooperative has set an example of a successful and growing farmer-led seed enterprise.



Newly built service building with seed storage of the Janawatawaran Multipurpose Cooperative, Kailali. Photo: Niranjana Pudasaini, LI-BIRD

SEEDING HAPPINESS: THE STORY OF VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION BY THAMI COMMUNITY IN SINDHUPALCHOWK



Masina Thami, Sunkoshi RM-5 expresses eternal happiness after she knew she can earn even from selling radish seed. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Double checking the payment received for seeds she sold, Ms. Bhujuri Bhujel, the Chairperson of Setidevi Mothers' Group, smiled and said "After the mega earthquake, we had to rely on private seed shops for seeds of our need. It is hard to believe that we are earning by selling vegetable seeds these days". While many lost their jobs during COVID-19 pandemic, 12 members of the Setidevi Mothers' Group earned NPR 192,000 by selling radish seeds in 2021. Setidevi Mothers' Group in Sindhupalchowk district includes members from disadvantaged and marginalized ethnic groups such as Bhujel and Thami, who are also impoverished. The Thami ethnic group has been listed as a highly marginalized ethnic group by the Government of Nepal.

Ms. Dil Kumari Thami, another member of the Setidevi Mothers' Group, considers the year 2021 as the year of happiness. That year, eight farmers from this group started seed production with the support of LI-BIRD's Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Project. In the beginning, they produced 621 kg seeds of Mino Early variety of radish and were able to sell it to Anamolbiu Pvt. Ltd. The process for bridging this group and the seed company was facilitated by LI-BIRD. They sold radish seeds produced from one hectare of land for NPR 124,000. Looking at the success of some members, many others have started seed production these days. In 2021, 12 members grew radish seeds in 1.5 hectares of land whereas five members grew *khumal-4* rice in 0.75 hectare. Thus, they earned NPR

192,000 by selling radish seeds to the same company. Considering the success in seed production, the chairperson Bhujuri shared that they have a plan to continue and further expand seed production of radish and other feasible crops.

Ms. Chameli Thami, another member, added “It was easier to produce radish seeds this time than last year. With the radish thresher, we were able to separate the seeds from pods very quickly. Last year, I got callous on my hands while separating seeds manually. But with the machine we could save more time.” Chameli was successful in producing 100 Kg radish seed in her 1500 sq. meter land from which she earned NPR 19,900 this year. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Thami aged 90, watches his granddaughter-in-law negotiate with seed buyers as he speaks with tearful eyes “Now my children don’t have to struggle for food.” He remembers how his forefathers migrated due to some epidemic many years ago from Chokati, their ancestral land, to Dhuskun in Sindhupalchowk district. But the misery didn’t end there, as Locust destroyed their crops repeatedly forcing them to migrate to Ramche, now Sunkoshi rural municipality in ward number 5.

Out of 35 households in Ramche, 25 belong to the Thami ethnic group and have their own indigenous living and lifestyle. Rajan Thami, who studied history and teaches at the local school, shared, “Though at present we can observe representation of Thami ethnicity in various sectors, many are still living under the poverty line. Traditionally, Thami earned their livelihood by making ‘Doko and Namlo’ (traditional basket made of bamboo and rope to carry the basket) and many of us do not have experience of farming and agriculture.” Setidevi Mothers’ Group was established by Unnatishil Mahila Co-operative in 2013. The community has seen gradual changes in women after becoming members of this group, according to the founder of the Co-operative, Ms. Mangala devi Thami. Ms. Parbati Thami, Secretary of the mother’s group, added “We were living a very

difficult life, away from modern technologies and lifestyle, in our own indigenous traditions. The mega earthquake of 2015 added further difficulties to our lives. We were facing scarcity of seeds, lack of technical knowledge and modern equipment but LI-BIRD has helped us overcome such difficulties.”

LI-BIRD has been implementing the CRA Project in Sindhupalchowk with support from the Bread for the World (BftW), Germany. The project supports communities in diversifying their farms and promoting agroecological practices targeting smallholders and marginalised groups for improving their food, nutrition, and income security. When asked about how she got into seed production, Ms. Masina Thami replied “We were trying to find out which crop would be more profitable in this area. Later, we learned from the LI-BIRD team that seed production would be one of the profitable options for the area. We are thankful to LI-BIRD for providing technical knowledge about it and guiding us to work out agreements with seed companies for sustainable business. After the agreement, we discussed in the mothers’ group and eight of us agreed to produce seeds of Mino Early radish. I was skeptical at that time but after receiving the returns of my effort I feel more enthusiastic about seed production.”

LI-BIRD supported Setidevi Mothers’ Group with radish seed thresher in 2022 to support their motivation towards commercializing seed production. Success of the Setidevi Mothers’ Group has attracted other mothers’ groups from nearby villages into this activity. This practice has been replicated by Deepshikha Mother’s Group and Deepjyoti Mother’s Group as they were also producing bean seeds last year in a hectare of land. Women farmers from disadvantaged and marginalized ethnic groups have been able to benefit economically from vegetable seed production activity by providing easy access to quality seeds to local farming communities, as well as selling seeds to private seed companies.

CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY THROUGH MARKET-LED APPROACH IN KASKI



Farmer harvesting foxtail millet in Kaure, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

LI-BIRD has been taking initiatives to bring light to the wide range of lesser-known native crops of Nepal, which are a part of the rich and diverse agro-ecosystem through various interventions. The organization believes in the 'Conservation through Use' principle, which means unless agrobiodiversity is used widely and there is return on conservation efforts, they are less likely to be conserved by the community. Thus, the emphasis has been given on the marketing of agrobiodiversity-based produces so that the community is motivated for continuing production of local crop diversity. With that focus, a project entitled "Market-Led Approach to Sustainable Management of Agrobiodiversity for Livelihood Outcomes" funded by the Darwin Initiative worked in the watershed area of Pokhara

valley adopting market-led approach for sustaining and improving production and marketing of high value agrobiodiversity-based produces. The project focused on empowering smallholder farmers and their agencies to increase production and productivity of local crops. The popularization of one of the neglected and underutilized crops, i.e., foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), which was on the brink of extinction in the project area, has been the pride of the project. This crop is now being cultivated as a cash crop in the project area with an ever-increasing number of households (from 12 households in 2018 to 87 households in 2021) allocating more area (from 1.4 hectares in 2018 to over 4 hectares in 2021) under the crop each year.

With a vision of connecting farmers and consumers with not only the agrobiodiversity-based products but the stories behind those products, a social enterprise, Annapaat Agro Private Limited, has been established in Pokhara for delivering sustainably produced food, paying producers fairly, and conserving biodiversity. This approach of supporting local producers and locally-produced crops creates a sense of connection and trust between the producer and the buyer, making the whole process more accountable. Annapaat is also sourcing safe and locally produced foods like 'Pokhareli Jethobudo' rice, foxtail millet, honey, shiitake mushrooms, kiwi,

coffee, fresh vegetables, fruits, and spices from and the vicinity of Pokhara Valley, as well as unique and diverse agro-products from all over Nepal, and marketing those products to regional and national markets in Nepal. Diversification from this approach allows preserving native species while also adding new species to benefit both farmers and buyers. During the project period, the project team ensured that crop production is done employing good agricultural practices thereby reducing the use of external inputs to limit the pollution in the watersheds. Annapaat will reinvest 3-7% of its profit for the watershed's broader conservation efforts.



Processed grain of foxtail millet. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

PROSPERITY THROUGH PIGGERY: A CASE OF LIKMA MUKTA KAMAIIYA SETTLEMENT IN KAILALI



Phool Kumari Chaudhary, Gauriganga RM-8, Kailali, established herself as an entrepreneur after receiving training and piglets from LI-BIRD. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Likma Shivar is a settlement of 89 former freed bonded labourer families that lies in Gauriganga RM-8, Kailali. The settlement is adjoining to the East-West highway at the Gauriganga municipality in Kailali. The settlement was selected for implementing Climate Adaptive Village (CAV) activities under the Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Programme (LREP) funded by NORAD through the Development Fund, Norway in 2017. The CAV activities were designed and implemented in a participatory way to address climate change, disaster, and livelihood related issues. Construction of a wall to protect the settlement from flood, solar energy-

based irrigation, fencing of the village to protect crops from the freed cattle, farming in plastic tunnels and promoting piggery were interventions of the interest of the community, thus support was provided by the LREP Programme accordingly.

The programme provided support to 14 households for piggery, 12 households for vegetable cultivation, and three households for poultry. In addition, all households received training and seed support for home garden improvement to improve family nutrition.

LI-BIRD promoted piggyery as a major source of income for the people of Likma as per their interest and worked on various aspects of piggyery such as shed improvement, feed production training, insurance and animal health improvement. The first step was pig shed improvement as none of the participants had proper pig shed.

Ms. Phool Kumari Chaudhary (27 years) is one of the exemplary farmers in the settlement whose livelihood has been transformed through piggyery. Phool Kumari's father-in-law was one of the recipients of support for piggyery, she was closely watching the activities despite not being a direct part of the project. The project had planned to provide 35 days training to youth from the villages where livestock related activities were implemented. Only a few youths had completed a secondary level of education at Likma settlement, thus, the community anonymously recommended Phool Kumari who fulfilled the criteria and was interested to pursue Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) training.

This training became a turning point for Phool Kumari and her family as she started helping her father-in-law in piggyery and vegetable cultivation right after the completion of the training. During the COVID-19

lockdown, her husband was unable to go out for wage work, so they decided to expand their piggyery which was getting popular in Likma village. In addition, they also started rearing local poultry and quails, and cultivating vegetables under the plastic tunnel. In between, Phool Kumari gave birth to a daughter, but Ram Kumar, her father-in-law, continued their farm activities. They constructed a pig shed for rearing 12 pigs at a time with their own investment. LI-BIRD provided piglets, fencing materials and some tools to expand their piggyery as a breeding centre. LI-BIRD also facilitated the process to register their farm as 'Natasha Pig Farm' in the municipality.

Now, Natasha Pig Farm has eight adult sows, two boars and 36 piglets worth NPR 506,400. They have a plan of producing and selling at least 300 piglets every year which will give a turnover of NPR 2.14 million in a year. In 2021, they earned NPR 141,680 by selling pigs, piglets, providing boar, and veterinary services to neighbours. "It was the VAHW training and various support from the project which helped me to come to this stage", Phool Kumari expressed her satisfaction with a smiling face. The family has diversified income sources within a few years and are no more worried about their livelihoods.

BAGAR TO BAGAICHA : A CASE ON CONVERTING FLOOD PLAINS INTO MEANS OF EARNING IN KANCHANPUR



Shayam Bihari Rana showing Cucumber after he successfully produced it in river bed farming on Donda River, Laljhadi RM-4 Kanchanpur. Photo: Laxmi Prasad Bhatt, LI-BIRD

Khallajai is a small remote village in Laljhadi rural municipality in Kanchanpur. The village is highly vulnerable to floods where the Donda River used to cut hectares of agricultural land and convert it into riverbeds every monsoon. Subsistence farming and wage based labour works were the main sources of income. In the context of frequent loss of agricultural lands to flooding, there is scope to utilize the riverbeds for cultivating vegetables. However, lack of technical knowledge to use riverbeds for farming, unavailability of agricultural input, and unawareness of climate change and climate-resilient farming practices to use riverbeds were the major challenges to be overcome.

In 2020, LI-BIRD started implementing the UTHAN Project, funded by the European Union (EU) through DanChurchAid (DCA), in Kanchanpur and Dailekh districts. The project was intended to demonstrate and conduct action research on different Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices to minimize the climate change impacts and promote efficient use of natural resources. The project demonstrated riverbed farming as a model in the riverbed areas of the Donda River in Laljhadi rural municipality to sustainably utilize the riverbeds to increase income and enhance livelihoods. For this, the project selected the Kanchan Community

Disaster Management Committee (CDMC), comprising 35 members (15 women and 20 men) as a demonstration site. With the support from the project and Laljhadi rural municipality, Kanchan CDMC initiated cultivation of different seasonal fruits and vegetables (cucumber, pumpkin, watermelon, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, etc.), spices, fodders, and fruits in about 13 hectares on the riverbank areas of the Donda River. Furthermore, the community was provided skill training on riverbed farming with the aim of converting “Bagar to Bagaincha” (riverbed to green garden or orchard) and also supported with a spice powder grinding machine along with other inputs/equipment required for this farming.

By selling the fruits and vegetables from riverbed farming in a 5 hectares area, 35 members of the group earned a total of NPR 4.2 million in a single crop season which is in fact a huge earning for them. Additionally, the community also earned NPR 20,000 from the selling of ground spices (turmeric, chilli, and ginger). One of the members of the group Mr. Siyanand Rana shared that the income generated

from the riverbed farming has been used for basic home expenses, education of children, and some portion of the amount has been saved in groups and cooperatives. Besides generating income from a single season, the Kanchan CDMC has also planted lemon and bamboo as a bio-engineering means in the riverbanks with the idea of establishing “Bagar to Bagaicha”.

The knowledge and skills provided to the communities by the UTHAN project through training on environmentally-friendly climate-resilient farming approaches and practices along with orientations on vulnerability and capacity assessment has further strengthened the capacity of communities on disaster risk management, environment protection and adoption of climate resilient agriculture. With this initiative, the Laljhadi rural municipality has planned to mainstream and upscale riverbed farming by integrating it in their policy and supporting communities residing in the river basin areas of the Donda and other rivers.

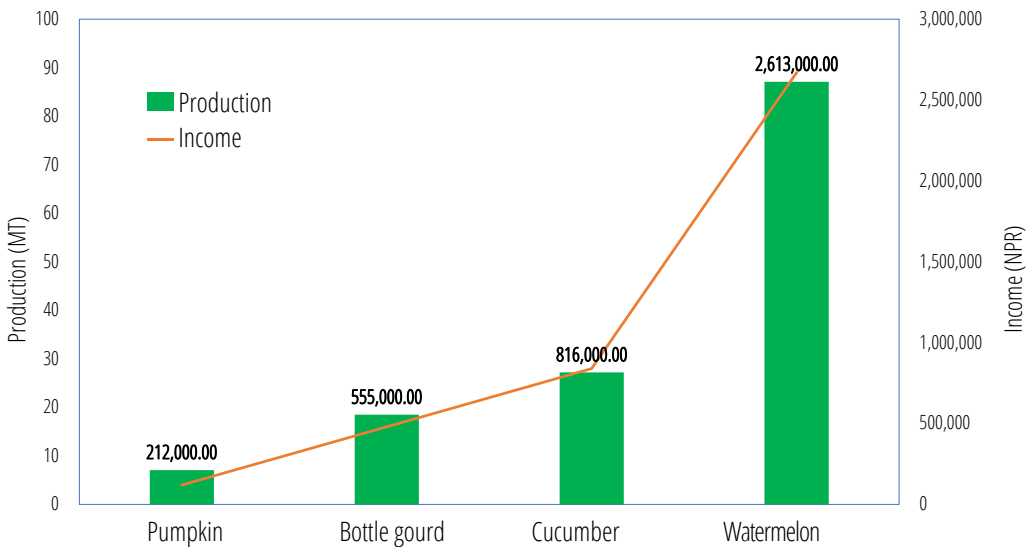


Fig 1: Production and income from four different seasonal fruits and vegetables from river bed farming

Major ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

REGISTRATION OF LOCAL CROP LANDRACES INTO THE NATIONAL SEED INVENTORY SYSTEM



Parbati Bhandari, Nawalpur, presenting variety registration proposal of *kanak jira*, to the Variety Release and Registration Committee (VRRC) at SQCC, Lalitpur. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

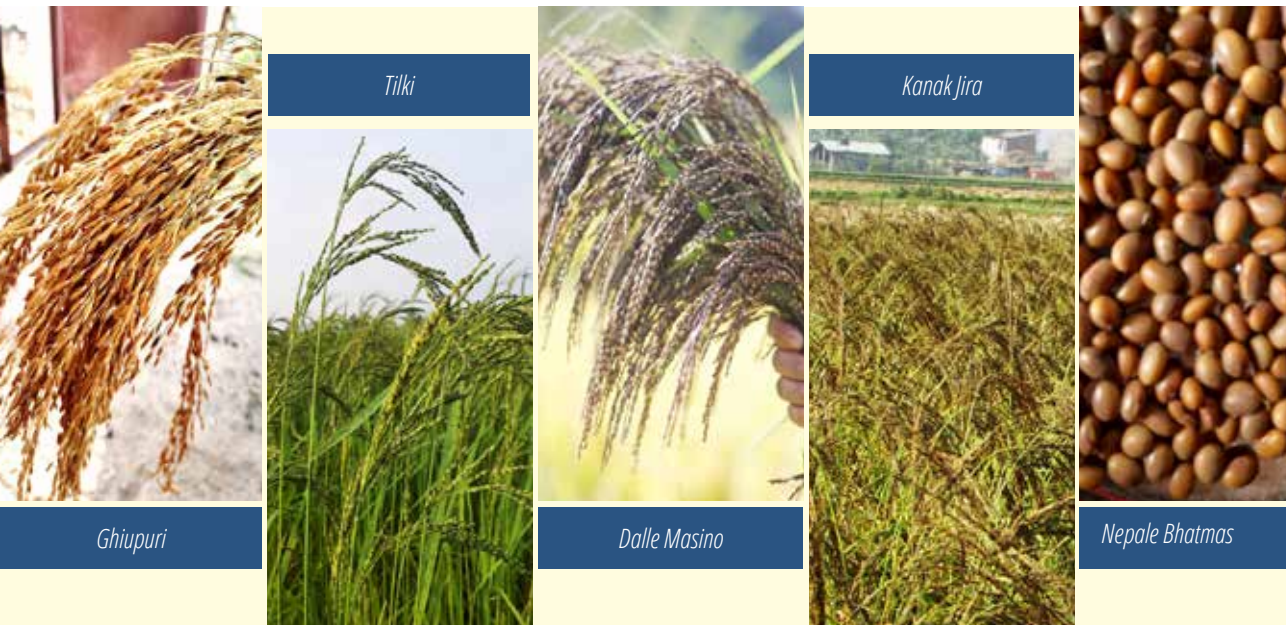
Schedule D is often understood as a flexible provision of the Seed Regulation 2013 for the registration and promotion of promising local crop landraces (locally known as *raithane bali*) through seed production and dissemination in a formal way. In 2021, the National Seed Board (NSB) approved the registration of five unique local landraces under the Schedule D of the Seed Regulation 2013. All five landraces were proposed by Community Seed Banks and farmers' organizations with the technical facilitation of LI-BIRD, NARC-National Gene Bank, and Crop Development and Agrobiodiversity Conservation Centre.

The registered landraces include four rice landraces and one soybean landrace. '*Dalle Masino*' from Tanahun, '*Ghiupuri*' from Bardiya, '*Kanak Jira*' from Nawalparasi, '*Tilki*' from Dang, and '*Nepale Bhatmas*' (soybean) from Sankhuwasabha districts. All five landraces have unique traits and socio-cultural values. '*Ghiupuri*' is medium fine rice with good taste and softness like ghee when cooked as steamed rice and is mostly preferred as porridge. '*Dalle Masino*' and '*Kanak Jira*' are coarse rice with good aroma and cooking quality. Both rice varieties are highly preferred by locals for their good milling

recovery and market price. 'Tilki' rice is widely cultivated and the preferred local variety in Dang with growing market demand due to its softness and unique taste. 'Nepale Bhatmas' is the most commonly cultivated and high-yielding soybean landrace in Sankhuwasabha and nearby areas. It is the preferred variety for making Kinema, a fermented food item which is famous among the Rai and Limbu communities in eastern Nepal. It is used as a flavour enhancer additive to all types of curries and pickles, which are also gaining popularity in major urban areas.

As aspired by the Schedule D provision, Community Seed Banks and the farmer's organizations led the process of proposal development, submission, and presentation to the National Seed Board successfully. The Community Seed Bank Association played a coordinating role among concerned farmer's institutions whereas LI-BIRD and the National Gene Bank built their capacity and facilitated the process. The registration of local crop landraces in the leadership of farmers' organization is an approach to recognize the community contribution to the conservation

and promotion agrobiodiversity. In the meantime, respective local governments have taken ownership of the process by providing a support letter for the registration of local crop landraces and by allocating resources to Community Seed Banks and cooperatives for quality seed production and dissemination of these registered landraces. Jaiwik Biwidhata Krishi Sahakari Sanstha in Bardiya, Sunaulo Samudayik Biu Bank in Dang, Krishi Bikas Tatha Sanrakshyan Samiti in Nawalparasi, Jaiwik Biwidhata Sanrakshyan Samiti in Tanahun and Tamaphok Krishi Jaiwik Biwidhata Sanrakshyan Tatha Bikas Samiti in Sankhuwasabha are the farmer's organization who took the lead in the varietal registration process. These organizations are producing and supplying quality seeds of respective registered crop varieties as per demand while maintaining source seeds with the technical support of LI-BIRD and government agencies. Though there are still some administrative hassles on seed certification and source seed maintenance under Schedule D varieties, registration of such farmer's varieties has been a stepping stone towards utilizing our rich local crop diversity.



Five local landraces registered in 2021 under Schedule D of the Seed Regulation 2013.
Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES FOR SCALING UP/OUT GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, MODELS, APPROACHES AND TECHNOLOGIES



Executive Director of LI-BIRD (left) and Secretary of the MoLMACPA, Gandaki Province (right) exchanging renewed MoU in witness of Hon. Chandra Bahadur Buda. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

LI-BIRD believes in partnership and works in close coordination with government entities at all levels. LI-BIRD's approach of formalizing cooperation and collaboration with local and provincial governments and their relevant agencies is through signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and its joint implementation. Such MoUs legitimize LI-BIRD's work while providing an opportunity to meaningfully engage and contribute for achieving the government's priorities. In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD along with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC) of the Sudurpaschim Province

and the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMACPA), Gandaki Province jointly reviewed the progress made against the past partnership and renewed the MoU for five years. The MoU has provided the scope of strategic collaboration in areas of research and development in agrobiodiversity, strengthening seed systems, climate-smart agriculture, agroecological farming, capacity building, and policy formulation through sharing expertise, good practices, and joint actions.

LI-BIRD has worked for more than a decade in the Karnali Province through its various projects and has plans to continue the work in the future. This year, we have formally signed a MoU with the MoLMAC, Karnali Province with a focus on promoting agrobiodiversity, climate-resilient and ecological agriculture, strengthening local seed systems, pollination management, and building agricultural value chain for enhanced income and increased employment opportunities. Honourable Chief Minister of the Karnali Province Mr. Jiban Bahadur Shahi witnessed the MoU signing ceremony and applauded LI-BIRD's works in Humla, his home district. He appraised that each of the signatory organizations should put equal effort for everlasting partnership and acknowledged LI-BIRD for its significant contribution to the

conservation and promotion of local crops through promoting CSBs in Humla. In his closing statement, he reiterated that MoLMAC and LI-BIRD working hand-in-hand will be a milestone in the overall growth of the agriculture sector in the province.

The MoU is expected to serve as a foundation for the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture, ecological agriculture, and agricultural innovations for enhancing food and nutrition security. The MoU is also expected to enhance the exchange of knowledge, good practices and learnings, capacity building of staff and farming communities, and leveraging resources for the implementation of ongoing and future projects in these provinces.



Executive Director of LI-BIRD (left) and Secretary of the MoLMAC, Karnali Province (right) exchanging signed MoU in witness of Chief Minister Mr. Jiban Bahadur Shahi, and Minister of MoLMAC, Mr. Chandra Bahadur Shahi. Photos: Shamis Basnet, LI-BIRD

INVESTING IN HUMAN RESOURCES

STATUS OF WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN LI-BIRD



LI-BIRD Staffs participating in sixth Team Leaders meeting in Pokhara, March 2022. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

In the FY 2021/22, LI-BIRD had 103 full-time staff (63 men and 40 women) from different ethnic backgrounds (56 Brahmins, Chhetris and Thakuris; 32 Janajatis; 10 Newars; 4 Dalits; and 1 Madhesi. Our additional human resources include 29 locally hired part-time Social Mobilizers.

LI-BIRD has been prioritizing candidates from discriminated groups (women, Dalit, Janajati, Madhesi and other minority communities) in its staff and intern recruitments. LI-BIRD provides opportunities to fresh graduates to learn, grow, and become competitive in the professional world and contribute towards the career development of young professionals by providing practical work experience through exposure in LI-BIRD's projects and programmes. LI-BIRD also promotes workforce diversity by providing opportunities to promising interns to advance their career path when

opportunities arise in the organization. In addition, LI-BIRD prioritizes local women from its project sites to work as part-time staff (as Social Mobilizers, Motivators, Field Facilitators or Local Resource Persons) so that more women move into or take up the full-time professional jobs. Over the past few years, we have been able to on-board 21 full-time Social Mobilizers (15 women and 6 men) who are from the communities where the projects are being implemented. We have carried out staff recruitments at the field itself which has helped us to better understand ground realities and find committed staff to work on the frontlines.

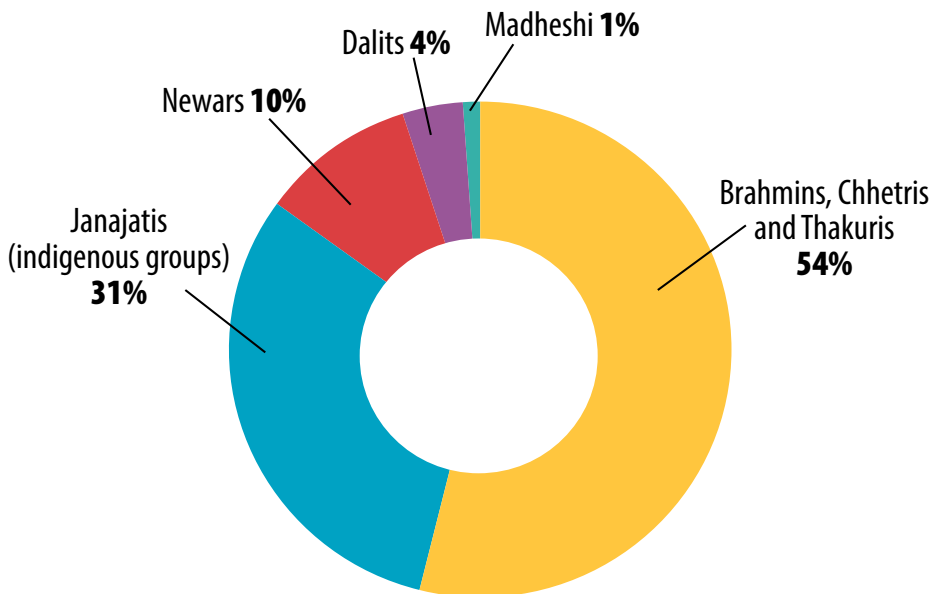
LI-BIRD recognizes the need to adopt different approaches to attract and retain talents and diverse workforce at different levels. However, attracting and retaining talents, especially women leaders at the Senior Manager positions

have been a challenge. Hence, to close the gender gap, LI-BIRD is focusing on the recruitment of women and other minorities at the Mid-Level Manager positions followed by intensive coaching and mentoring for them to progress into leadership roles. We have been utilizing forums like Team Leaders Meeting and Extended Management Committee Meetings as an in-house leadership development platform to enhance Mid-Level Manager's decision-making ability and preparing them for higher responsibility. This approach has proved to be extremely beneficial, as over the past few years, we have been able to on board five women staff in Senior Manager's positions (as the Head of Administration and Finance, as Compliance Manager, as HR Manager, and as Team Leaders/Project Managers).

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on our work. We applied the learnings generated from the last two years of operating amidst COVID-19 to better organize our diverse workforce scattered around different corners of the country. We utilized both physical and virtual platforms for the capacity building of our staff by ensuring adequate safety measures.

In the FY2021/22, LI-BIRD conducted a comprehensive staff's salary review based on funding and affordability analysis/trends and revised the organization's remuneration package taking account of the prevailing and projected inflation rate, reference to job market analysis and talent mapping/requirements of the organization. The revised package is expected to help attract and retain talents.

LI-BIRD adheres to the Government of Nepal's policy provisions and is registered with the Social Security Fund and makes regular contributions. As in the previous year, we also carried out labour audit this year. The key findings of this year's labour audit led to the amendment of LI-BIRD's policies on two fronts to ensure that our policies is fully aligned to and consistent with the Labour Act 2017. These amendments included: (i) amendment of LI-BIRD's maternity leave provision from 90 to 98 days; and (ii) amendments of LI-BIRD's minimum wage rate for locally hired Social Mobilizers from NPR 12,566 to NPR 17,056.



LI-BIRD's workforce diversity

Financial HIGHLIGHTS

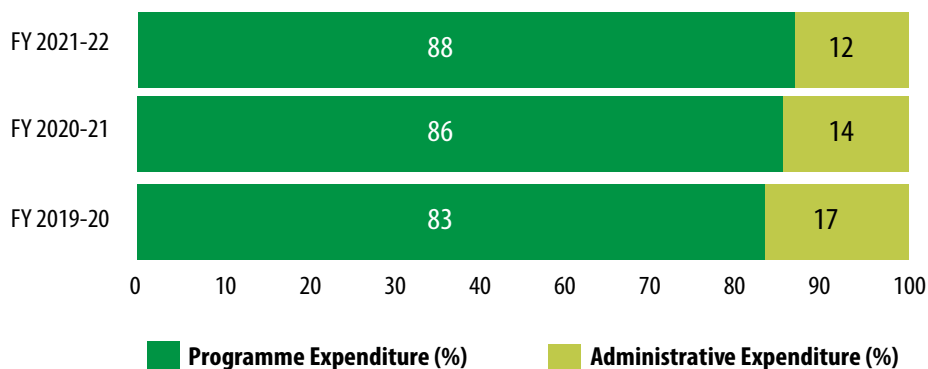
The total budget of LI-BIRD in the FY 2021/22 amounted to NPR 293,681,357, of which, the actual expenditure amounted to NPR 263,192,802, with the overall burn rate of 89.62%. Of the total expenditure, 88% was spent in programme activity, while 12% was utilized to cover the administrative expenses.

LI-BIRD received financial support for its research and development work from a range of donors. In the FY 2021/22, a number of projects were completed, new projects were secured, and a number of pipeline projects were designed and/or negotiated. The status of completed, new, ongoing, and pipeline projects are summarized in Table below.

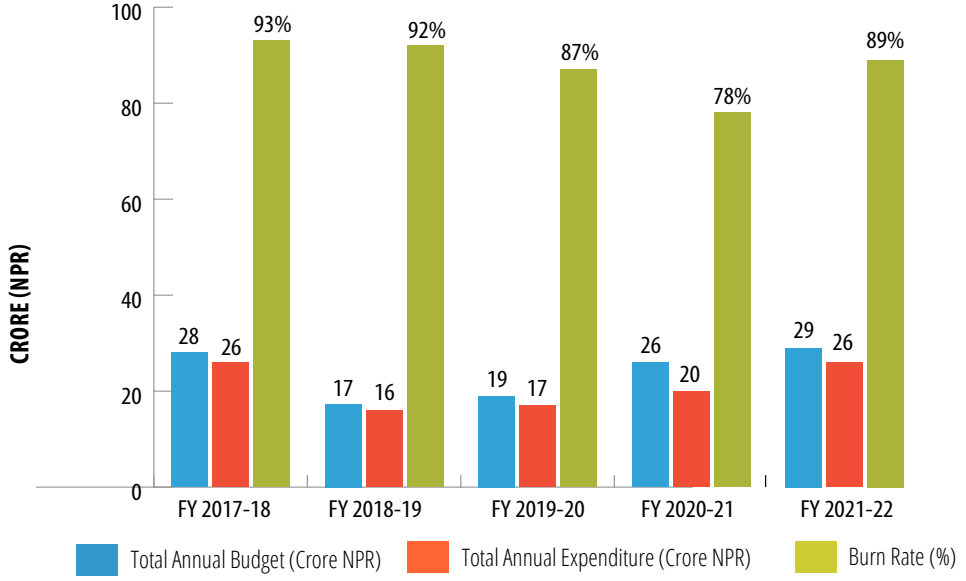
Project status	Funding Agency	District
Completed projects		
Market Led Approach to Sustainable Management of Agrobiodiversity for Livelihood Outcomes	Darwin Initiatives through the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK	Kaski
SIANI SDG Policy Coherence Expert Group of Nepal	Oxfam Novib via Oxfam Nepal	Across LI-BIRD project sites
Actions for Strengthening Family Farming and Economic Activities of Returnee Migrants and Vulnerable Members of the Host Communities in the Selected LPED Municipalities in the Context of COVID-19	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Banke, Dang, Kailali, Rupandehi and Surkhet
Climate Smart Village (CSV)	CGIAR Research Program On Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), South Asia	Kaski
Improving the Availability and Use of Diverse Seed and other Planting Materials to Reduce Vulnerability and Improve Food Security for Smallholders in Vulnerable Ecosystems	Bioversity International	Bara, Jumla, Kaski
Improving the Livelihoods of the Poor and Marginalized Smallholder Farmers	DanChurchAid (DCA)	Accham, Bardiya, Doti, Kanchanpur
Participatory Testing and Scaling Up Climate Resilient Models, Technologies and Practices to Enhance Adaptive Capacity in Udayapur and Siraha Districts (SAMARTHYA)	CARE Nepal	Siraha and Udayapur
Ecological and Organic Farming Promotion Activity in Kaski District	SeedChange, then USC-Canada	Kaski
Ongoing projects		
Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Project	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) via the Development Fund (DF), Norway	Bardiya, Kailali and Humla districts.
Scaling Up Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Sindhupalchowk and Kaski Districts	Bread for the World (BftW)	Kaski and Sindhupalchowk
Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SD=HS)	Oxfam Novib via Oxfam Nepal	Dadeldhura, Doti, Kailali and Kanchanpur

Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones in Salyan and Surkhet Districts (REALiZe)	Renewable World	Salyan and Surkhet
Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN)	European Union via DanChurchAid	Dailekh and Kanchanpur
Advocacy and Strengthening Resilience through LANN+: Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Towards Nutrition Security	Welthungerhilfe	Dhading and Salyan
Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk Districts of Nepal	Welthungerhilfe	Salyan and Sindhupalchowk
Use of Genetic Diversity and Evolutionary Plant Breeding for Enhanced Farmer Resilience to Climate Change, Sustainable Crop Productivity, and Nutrition under Rainfed Condition	Bioversity International	Jumla and Lamjung
New projects		
Strengthening Farmers-Led Participatory Plant Breeding Initiative for Increasing Access to Seeds of Climate Resilient and Locally Adapted Crop Varieties Among Smallholder Farmers in Nepal	SeedChange, then USC-Canada	Kaski
Green Karnali - Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in Karnali River Basin	DanChurchAid	Achham, Dailekh, and Surkhet
Building Resilience of Agro-Ecosystem and Community Empowerment Implemented in Ten Municipalities of Sudurpaschim Province	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Bajura, Doti and Kailali
Strengthening Capacity Of Smallholder Farmers For Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM)	Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)	Doti and Kanchanpur
Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities through the Establishment of Solar-Based Lift Irrigation Scheme in Dullu Municipality, Dailekh District, Karnali Province, Nepal	EKOenergy ecolabel - Finnish Association for Nature Conservation	Dailekh
Technical Support for Planning, Demonstration and Local Capacity Building to Promote Organic Farming in Laliguransh Municipality of Terhathum District	ActionAid Nepal	Terhathum
Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems	University of Bristol, UK	Jumla

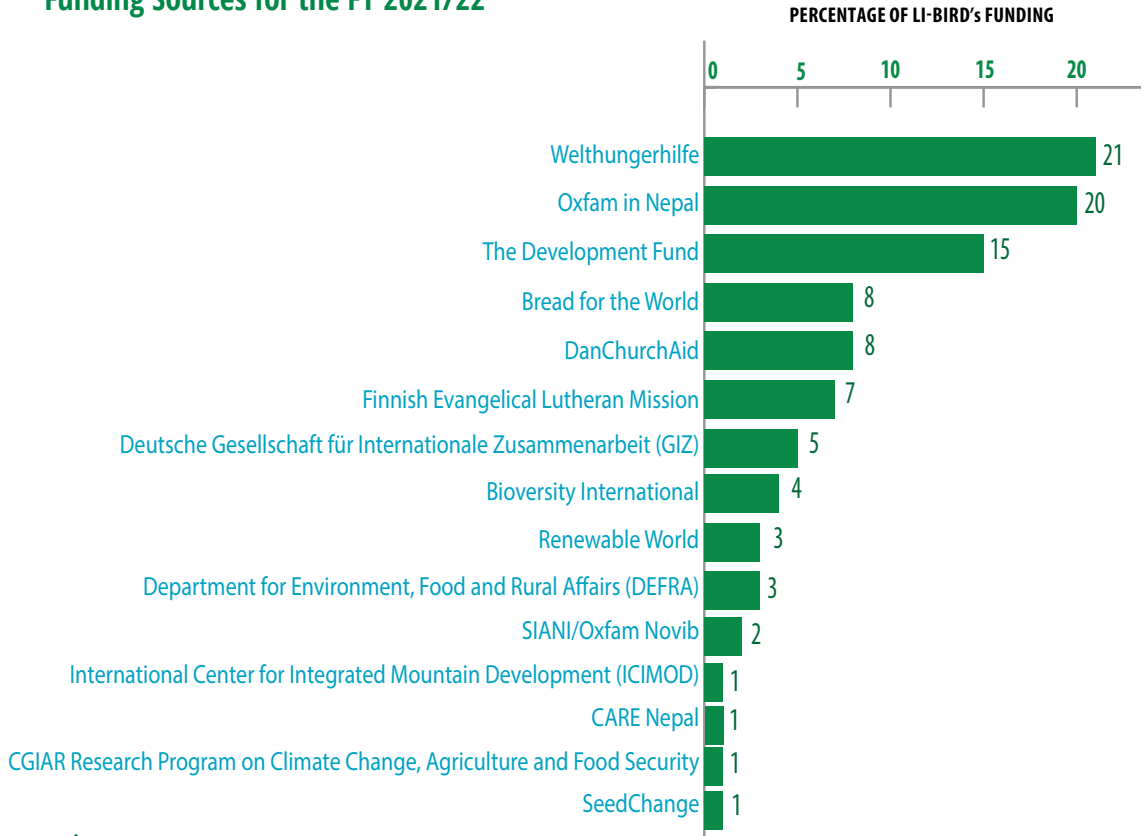
Programme vs Administrative Expenditure



Resource Mobilization Trends



Funding Sources for the FY 2021/22



Financial Statement of FY 2021/22

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Pokhara

Statement of Financial Position as at 16 July 2022

Particulars	Annex	Current year Rs	Previous year Rs
Capital and Liabilities			
Capital and Reserve Fund			
Unrestricted Fund	1	67,417,286.23	69,462,126.17
Restricted Fund	2	9,936,228.43	9,978,883.03
Fixed Assets Capital Fund	3	10,647,922.17	7,889,859.31
Long Term Liability			
Gratuity Fund		71,523.27	66,445.65
Grand Total		88,072,960.09	87,397,314.16
Assets			
Fixed Assets	4	40,197,298.20	38,460,389.01
Earmarked Fund	5	32,270,045.58	31,346,410.53
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank Balances	6	50,756,753.35	56,249,395.82
Account Receivables	7	5,941,264.89	5,020,872.90
Staff Loan, Advances and Deposit	8	736,531.21	462,487.14
Grants Receivable from Donor	10	5,269,513.94	7,626,017.22
VAT Receivable		-	560,336.31
Total Current Assets		62,704,063.39	69,919,109.39
Less : Current Liabilities and Provisions			
Sundry Creditors	9	8,276,359.00	11,983,344.36
Grants Received in Advance	10	38,822,088.08	40,345,250.41
Total Current Liabilities and Provisions		47,098,447.08	52,328,594.77
Net Current Assets		15,605,616.31	17,590,514.62
Grand Total		88,072,960.09	87,397,314.16

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Account

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(Chairperson : Deepak Kumar Rijal, PhD)



As per our report of even date attached

(Executive Director : Balam Thapa, PhD)

CA Pradeep Kumar Shrestha
For Pradeep & Co.
Chartered Accountants

(Member/Treasurer : Ramkali Khadka)



(Head of Admin. & Finance : Laxmi Gurung)

The external audit was performed by Pradeep & Company 'Class A' Chartered Accounts.
The financial statements were approved by the Executive Board of LI-BIRD in September 2022.

PUBLICATIONS



ARTICLES, BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND PROCEEDINGS

- Bai, Y. L., Fu. C., Thapa, B., Rana, R. B., & Zhang, L. X. (2022). Effects of conservation measures on crop diversity and their implications for climate-resilient livelihoods: the case of Rupa Lake Watershed in Nepal. *Journal of mountain science*, 19(4), 945–957. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11629-020-6426-3>
- GC, S. & Khatri, L. (2021). Travelling seminar: An approach to engage the representatives from provincial and local governments for the scaling up of climate resilient models. *LI-BIRD*, Pokhara.
- Ghimire, K.H., & Thapa, P. (2021). Proceedings of the Second Agrobiodiversity Working Group Meeting (BK Joshi, RK Shrestha and S Shrestha, eds.). Held 9-10 Mangsir, 2078 (25-26 November, 2021) at Directorate of Agricultural Research, Province-1, Tarahara, Sunsari, Nepal. *NAGRC, CCDABC, LI-BIRD and NABS*.
- Jonge, D. B., Noriega, I.L., Otieno, G., Cadima, X., Terrazas, F., Hpommalath, S., Oudenhoven, F.V., Shrestha, S., Pudasaini, N., Shrestha, D.S., Gauchan, D., Kasasa, P., Bwerazuva, T., Mujaju, C. & Manjengwa, S. (2021). Advances in the Registration of Farmers' Varieties: Four Cases from the Global South. *Agronomy*. 11, 2282. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy11112282>
- Joshi, L., & Basnet, S. (2022). Wild Edible Plants in Three Northern Municipalities of Dhading, Nepal – Current Use and Future Potential. *LI-BIRD*, Pokhara
- Khanal, S., Joshi, B., Shrestha, R., Shivakoti, S., Bhusal, A., & Shrestha, S. (2022). Perceptive Study on Policy Interlinkage and Institutional Arrangement of Agrobiodiversity with Climate Change, Food And Nutrition. *Journal of Agriculture and Environment*, 23(1), 29–43. <https://doi.org/10.3126/aej.v23i1.46864>
- Neupane, S., Khatri, L., Bhusal, A., Awasthi, H.R., Bohora G.P., & Bhatta, K.L. (2021). Climate Investment Plan for the Agriculture Sector: A Decision Support Tool for Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal. *Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC)*, Sudurpashchim Province, Dhangadhi, Nepal

- Neupane, S., Khatri, L. & Bhusal, A. (2021). Climate Investment Plan for the Agriculture Sector: A Decision Support Tool for Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in Karnali Province, Nepal. *Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Pokhara, Nepal and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC)*, Karnali Province, Surkhet, Nepal
- Neupane, S., Khatri, L., Bhusal, A., Neupane, G. & Shivakoti, S. (2021). Climate Investment Plan for the Agriculture Sector: A Decision Support Tool for Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in Gandaki Province, Nepal. *Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Pokhara and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMACPA)*, Gandaki Province, Pokhara, Nepal
- Neupane, S., Khatri, L. & Bhusal, A. (2021). Climate Investment Plan for the Agriculture Sector: A Decision Support Tool for Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in Bagmati Province, Nepal. *Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)*
- Neupane, S., Khatri, L., & Bhusal, A. (2021). Climate Investment Plan for the Agriculture Sector: A Decision Support Tool for Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in Lumbini Province, Nepal. *Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)*, Pokhara, Nepal.
- Pradhan, M.S., Rai-Paudyal, B., Rai, A., Bai, Y., Hengsuwan, P., Bun, P., & Yangzom, D. (2021). Exploring the role of gender equality in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and food security. In: Thapa, B., Fu, C., and Zhang, L (Eds), *Gender Equality and Sustainable Development in the Mountain Areas of Asia. LI-BIRD*, Pokhara, Nepal.
- Shiwakoti, T., Paudel, I.P., & Rana, R.B. (2022). Designing a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme: Lessons from revisiting the PES mechanism at Rupa and Kulekhani Watershed. *LI-BIRD*, Pokhara.
- Shrestha P., Dhakal, B., Bhusal, A., & Thapa, R. (2021). Strengthening the Agriculture Value Chains in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk Districts of Nepal: Baseline Study Report. *LI-BIRD*, Pokhara.
- Vernooy, R., Rana, J., Otieno, G., Mbozi, H. & Shrestha, P. (2022). Farmer-Led Seed Production: Community Seed Banks Enter the National Seed Market. *Seeds*, 1, 164–180. <https://doi.org/10.3390/seeds1030015>

PUBLICATIONS IN NEPALI LANGUAGE

- गौतम तोयानाथ, गौतम अनिता, पौडेल इन्द्र प्रसाद र श्रेष्ठ पीताम्बर (वि.स. २०७९) । पर्यावरणीय कृषि प्रवर्द्धन कार्यक्रमले ल्याएका प्रारम्भिक परिवर्तनहरू: सिन्धुपाल्चोक र कास्की । ली-बर्ड, नेपाल ।
- गौतम तोयानाथ, भुसाल आस्था, खत्री लक्ष्मण, न्यौपाने सन्तोष र शिवाकोटी सबनम (वि.स. २०७८) । गण्डकी प्रदेश सरकार, मुख्यमन्त्री जलवायुमैत्री नमूना कृषि गाउँ कार्यक्रमअन्तर्गत प्रवर्द्धन गरिएका प्रयत्नहरूको अध्ययन, पोखरा: जैविक विविधता, अनुसन्धान तथा विकासका लागि स्थानीय पहल (ली-बर्ड) र भूमि व्यवस्था, कृषि, सहकारी तथा गरिबी निवारण मन्त्रालय, गण्डकी प्रदेश, पोखरा ।
- चौधरी बीरेन्द्र, वली ऋषिराज, बोहरा कृष्ण, के.सी.मुकेश, कडेल विजय, र चौधरी लक्ष्मी (वि.स. २०७८) । सफलताका कथाहरू । ली-बर्ड, नेपाल ।
- पुडासैनी निरन्जन, कोइराला आकाश, आचार्य विनोद, बि.क. निर बहादुर र श्रेष्ठ सन्तोष (वि.स.२०७८) । बीउ व्यवसायिक योजना निर्माण सहयोगी पुस्तिका । ली-बर्ड, नेपाल ।
- पौडेल इन्द्र प्रसाद, पुडासैनी निरन्जन, तामाङ वीरबहादुर, पन्त लीलाधर र पौडेल कल्पना (वि.स. २०७८) । अन्नपूर्ण गाउँपालिका-३ र ४ मा पाइने स्थानीय बाली तथा जातहरूको सूचीपुस्तिका । ली-बर्ड, नेपाल ।
- श्रेष्ठ सन्तोष र ढकाल राजेन्द्र (वि.सं. २०७८) । सहभागितामूलक बाली प्रजननमा आधारित कृषक पाठशाला: नैदानिक चरण । ली-बर्ड, नेपाल ।



RADIO PROGRAMME

Radio Programme 'LI-BIRDko Chautari': All Episodes can be found at: <https://soundcloud.com/li-birdko-chautari>

VIDEOS

LI-BIRD. 2021. Diversified Income Sources of Sita Devi Chaudhary. Available at <https://youtu.be/y-Q-UEajoWI>

LI-BIRD. 2021. Diversified Income Sources of Rampyari Chaudhary. Available at https://youtu.be/bVPcS33_Urs

LI-BIRD. 2022. Farmer's Field School on Participatory Plant Breeding for Climate Resilience. Available at <https://youtu.be/EQsOckKlhA8>

LI-BIRD. 2022. Local Crops for Food and Nutrition Security. Available at <https://youtu.be/BmDv5PY0QrA>

LI-BIRD. 2022. Dhikri (ढिकि) [Healthy food recipes among Tharu community]. Available at <https://youtu.be/sQelGE7Tncl>

LI-BIRD. 2022. Thasaura (थसौरा) [Local cuisine prepared on the auspicious occasion of baby-birth in far western]. Available at <https://youtu.be/GobVzAdDdN4>

LI-BIRD. 2022. Anadiko Roti (अनदीको रोटी) [Popular dish in Tharu community, cooked especially in Anatwa and Atwari]. Available at <https://youtu.be/YTUX09ZDwE4>

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All videos can also be found at www.youtube.com/libird

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND FUNDING AGENCIES FY 2021/22



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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
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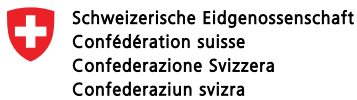
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PROJECTS IN 2021/22

- Actions for Strengthening Family Farming and Economic Activities of Returnee Migrants and Vulnerable Members of the Host Communities in the selected LPED Municipalities in the Context of COVID-19
- Advocacy and strengthening resilience through LANN+: Linking agriculture and natural resource management towards nutrition security
- Agriculture and Livestock Development Project Bhirkot Municipality
- Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN)
- Improving the Availability and Use of Diverse Seed and other Planting Materials to Reduce Vulnerability and Improve food Security for Smallholders in Vulnerable Ecosystems
- Improving the Livelihoods of Poor and Marginalized Farmers through Value Chain Approach in Doti and Achham District
- Livelihood and Resilience Enhancement Project
- Market Led Approach to Sustainable Management of Agrobiodiversity for Livelihood Outcomes
- Participatory Testing and Scaling up Climate Resilient Models, Technologies and Practices to Enhance Adaptive Capacity in Udayapur and Siraha districts (SAMARTHYA)
- Piloting and Scaling-out Climate-smart Village Programme in Nepal
- Plant Genetic Resources and Resilient Seed Systems for Sustainable Food Security
- Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in fragile buffer Zones (REALIZE)
- Scaling Up Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Nepal
- Scaling Up of Seeds of Survival Program in Nepal
- SIANI SDG Policy Coherence Expert Group of NEPAL
- Sowing Diversity= Harvesting Security (SD=HS)
- Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk Districts of Nepal
- Use of Genetic Diversity and Evolutionary Plant Breeding for Enhanced Farmer Resilience to Climate Change, Sustainable Crop Productivity, and Nutrition Under Rainfed Conditions
- Building Resilience of Agro-ecosystem and Community Empowerment implemented in ten municipalities of Sudurpaschim province
- Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM)
- Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities through the Establishment of Solar-based Lift Irrigation Scheme in Dullu Municipality, Dailekh District, Karnali Province, Nepal
- Technical support for planning, demonstration and local capacity building to promote organic farming in Laliguransh Municipality of Terathum District
- Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems

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Full list of ongoing projects is available here: <https://libird.org/projects/>



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
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**Local Initiatives for Biodiversity,
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