



*Diversifying Choices
Securing Livelihoods*



Annual Report 2022/23



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2022/23



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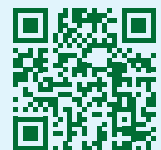
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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is our immense pleasure to report back to members, stakeholders, development partners, staff, communities, and well-wishers on behalf of LI-BIRD, a purpose-driven organization active in the sector of biodiversity, agriculture, and natural resources management for the last 29 years. The year 2022/23 remained a new normal for us in field operations as communities and businesses continue to adapt to post-COVID challenges to fully revive as agribusinesses and create demand in the markets.

In the FY 2022/2023, LI-BIRD served 41,260 beneficiary households that were members of 910 community institutions representing 18 municipalities and 24 rural municipalities in 16 districts. It was made possible from generous support of our development partners, tireless efforts of dedicated staff, receiving stakeholders, and communities. The Board and the management would like to sincerely acknowledge the contribution of each and every one to the achievements of the year and expect meaningful engagement in the upcoming year too.

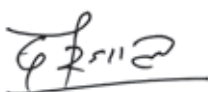
We deepened our partnerships by establishing strategic partnership agreements for the next five years with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) in Sudharpaschim, Karnali and Gandaki provinces and with the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) and the Far Western University (FWU). We joined hands with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) for the initiatives to celebrate the year of agrobiodiversity and the international year of millets through joint events, sharing knowledge and joint publications.

The year 2022/23 has been remarkable for LI-BIRD's journey for many reasons. We have rolled out a new research and

development strategy for the period of 2024-2030 to further increase our reach and accelerate impact towards improving the lives and livelihoods of our beneficiaries. We adopted a process-led, evidence-based and forward-looking approach building on organizational strength and learnings to better address challenges and capitalize opportunities while generating, demonstrating and scaling content-specific solutions appropriate for our beneficiaries. We ensured participation of staff and stakeholders through perception mapping, self-assessment of current strategy and analysis of the operating environment. We are excited to unveil and widely share our new R&D strategy document in early 2024.

The year was marked with significance due to the leadership transition at the organization in the last quarter. Dr. Balaram Thapa, a founding member, stepped down from his incredible 10-year tenure as the Executive Director. He was replaced by Mr. Bharat Bhandari, the then Programme Development Director following a standard hiring process rolled out by the Executive Board. At this juncture, the Executive Board, management and entire LI-BIRD family would like to extend sincere gratitude to Dr. Thapa for providing exemplary leadership to the organization and further heightening the organizational profile. His footprint and legacy will remain there and act as a source of inspiration towards managing and driving the organization in years to come.

Finally, our commitments to improve as a professional and accountable organization remain unshakable for which we are making continuous progress in sharpening our approach, improving programme delivery, and strengthening internal controls and institutional governance.



Deepak Kumar Rijal, PhD
Chairperson, Executive Board



Bharat Bhandari
Executive Director

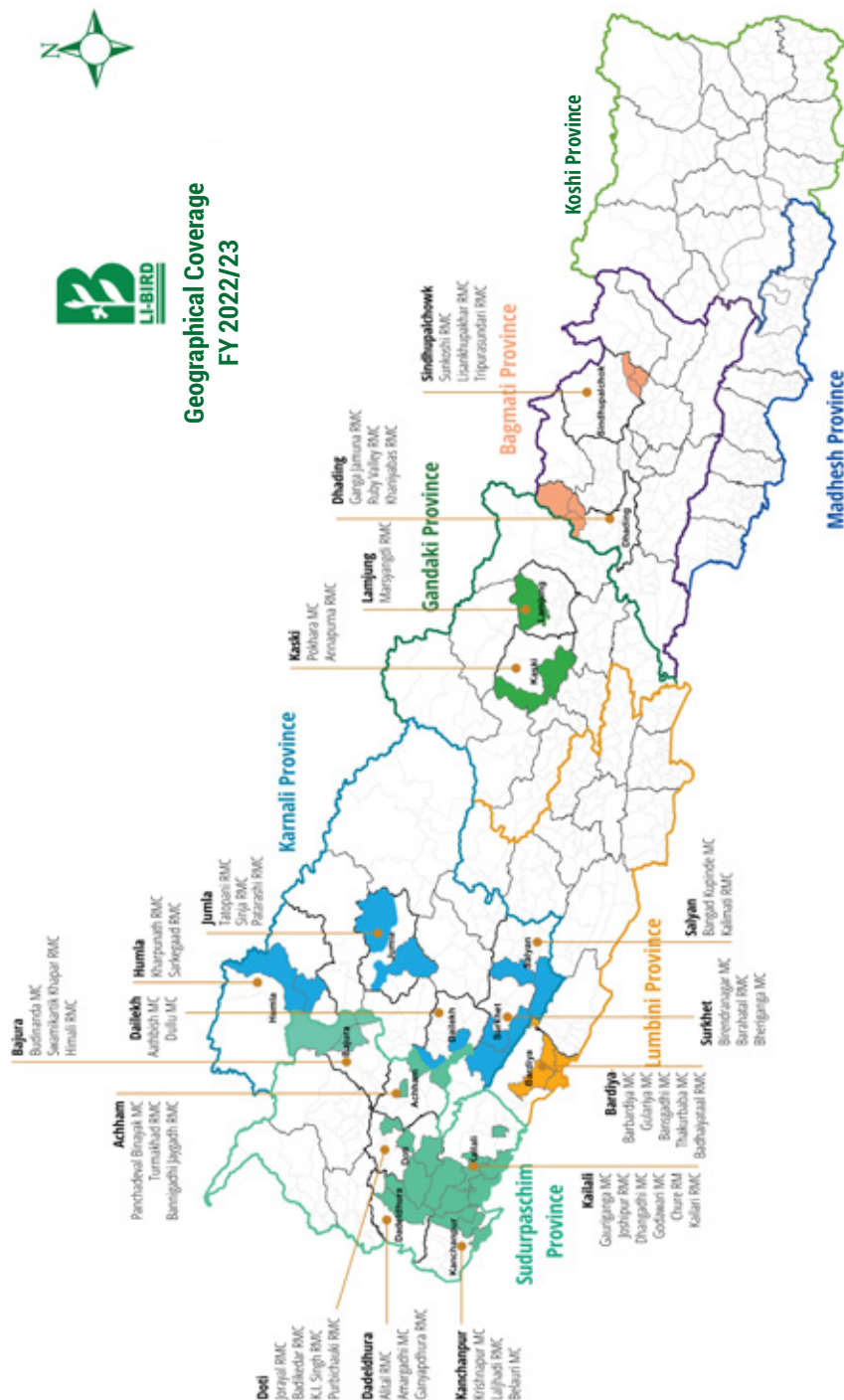
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AADHAR	Everyone has the right to a worthy life
BfW	Bread for the World
CCDABC	Center for Crop Development and Agrobiodiversity Conservation
CFUG	Community Forestry Users Group
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture
CSB	Community Seed Bank
CSV	Climate Smart Village
DCA	DanChurchAid
DOREX	Directorate of Research and Extension
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguarding
FELM	Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
FFS	Farmer's Field School
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GRAPE	Green Resilience Agricultural Productive Ecosystems
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
kfb	Katholische Frauenbewegung
LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security
LREP	Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Project
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoLMAC	Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NFGF	National Farmer's Group Federation
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
REALiZe	Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones
SAKSHAM	Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods
SAVC	Strengthening Agriculture Value Chain
SD=HS	Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security
SQCC	Seed Quality Control Center
UTHAN	Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth
WEP	Wild Edible Plant

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



Geographical Coverage FY 2022/23





LI-BIRD at a GLANCE



Landscape of rice terraces. 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 2022/23



Community Seed Bank, Maramche, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

OVERALL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

The year 2022/23 has been remarkable for LI-BIRD in terms of leadership transition, strengthening governance, and expanding partnership with development partners and government institutions. LI-BIRD continued its efforts to support vulnerable farming communities to strengthen their capacity, minimize climate change related impacts, and enhance their livelihoods through its projects and programmes.

This year, we continued strengthening our existing policies and rolled-out implementation of LI-BIRD's Conflict of Interest Policy, Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures, Environmental and Social Safeguarding

Policy and Procedures, Sub-Grant Partnership Policy, and Operational Guidelines for Projects and Programmes. We also formulated the Organizational Risk Management Framework 2023 to minimize and/or deal with possible risks that may occur in the organization while implementing projects and programmes.

We strengthened collaboration with provincial governments and expanded partnership with academic institutions. LI-BIRD renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC), Karnali Province which has been a foundation for formalizing current and future

partnerships in the province. Adhering to the MoU signed between LI-BIRD and the MoLMAC, Sudurpashchim Province, the ministry allocated NPR 8.2 million to collaborate with LI-BIRD to establish climate-smart village (CSV) and promote farmers field school across the province. Similarly, LI-BIRD supported MoLMAC, Gandaki Province for the formulation of Agrobiodiversity and Organic Farming Promotion Strategy 2080 and Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum district for formulating Organic strategy of the municipality. LI-BIRD also signed a MoU with the Directorate of Research and Extension (DOREX) of Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan and the Far Western University which foster the opportunity to strengthen our research portfolio and provide recognition of LI-BIRD's works in scientific communities.

We continued to build new partnerships with a number of development partners. We have established partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for the implementation of the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystem (GRAPE) project. Similarly, we also established a partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to carry out a value chain study on forest products in the Gandaki Province. Additionally, we have also progressed towards the accreditation process to the Adaptation Fund (AF) where we are providing our response to the Adaptation Fund accreditation panel's query.

This year has been successful in terms of delivering our key interventions for the benefits of our target beneficiaries and concerned stakeholders. The LANN+ project conducted district-level dialogue in Dhading Besi which helped for the integration of wild edible plants (WEPs) in the operation plan of 50 community forestry user groups (CFUGs) of Dhading. This year, LI-BIRD established 13 climate-smart villages (CSVs) as demonstration and learning sites through its projects in the Sudurpashchim Province covering 355 households (316 women and 39 men). Similarly, 14 model agroecological villages have been established through the Green Karnali and Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) projects benefiting 401 households (341 women and 60 men). Likewise, LI-BIRD established six one-stop shops in Sindhupalchowk and Salyan through the Strengthening Agriculture Value Chain

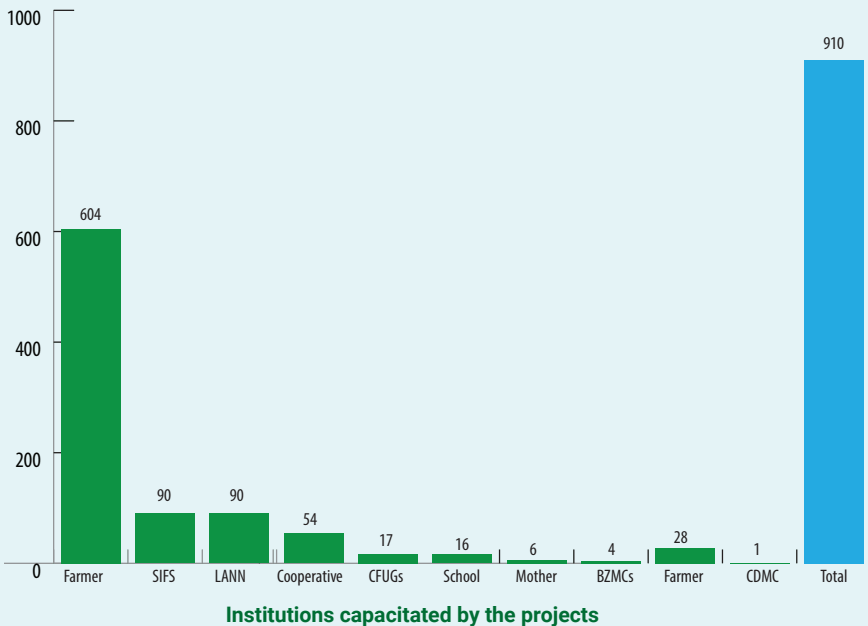
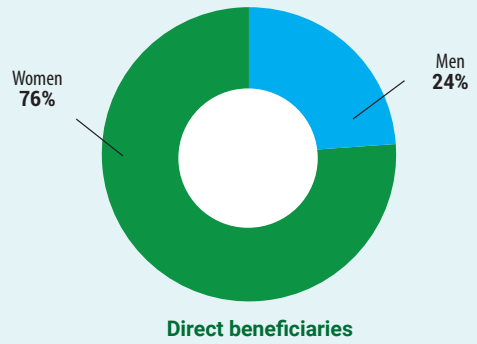
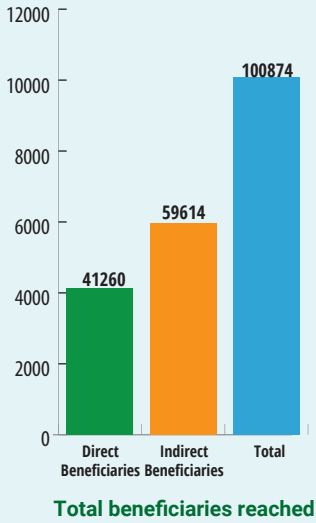
(SAVC) project to facilitate inputs and outputs marketing of agriculture value chain commodities project where 1,535 households (951 women and 584 men) produced over 41.59 MT of vegetables worth NPR 1,005,345. This year, LI-BIRD facilitated 14 nutrition field schools on nutrition, healthcare practices, and home gardens under the LREP project to build the capacity of 450 women of reproductive age. Similarly, LI-BIRD supported the development of the local course curriculum including local norms, culture, tourism, biodiversity, ecosystem etc. of the Kalimati Rural Municipality in Salyan, currently being implemented across 56 schools benefiting 5,100 students. We continued to provide support for the registration of local varieties by community institutions. For example, the Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project facilitated the varietal registration proposal submission of three rice landraces including 'Joroyal Basmati' from Doti, 'Lal Anadi' from Kanchanpur, and 'Jhumka' from Kailali to the Seed Quality Control Center (SQCC) for the registration process to provide recognition and inclusion of local varieties in the formal system.

In 2022/23, LI-BIRD contributed to the celebration of agrobiodiversity year 2079 declared by the government of Nepal (GoN). In collaboration with Agriculture Knowledge Centers (AKCs), local governments, local cooperatives, and Community Seed Banks (CSBs), LI-BIRD jointly organized eight agrobiodiversity fairs in its project sites where more than 2,500 participants from different governmental agencies, local leaders, farming communities, and students participated which helped sensitize a large number of people on the importance of local crops and its conservation. LI-BIRD has been a part of the Raithane Bali Programme implemented by the Center for Crop Development and Agrobiodiversity Conservation (CCDABC). Eleven CSBs were supported for design and implementation of the programme focusing on local crop diversity blocks, seed multiplication of local crops, and organizing agrobiodiversity fairs. Similarly, LI-BIRD contributed to the food system transformation dialogue and the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) organized by the Nepal Planning Commission (NPC). LI-BIRD participated in the 9th Governing Body Meeting

of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) held in New Delhi where farmers' variety registration was highlighted in the side events.

In summary, in the FY 2022/23, LI-BIRD implemented 25 projects in total, of which, 13 projects including 7

short-term studies and technical assistance support were completed. While implementing its projects, a total of NPR 46.60 million was leveraged from local governments and other organizations as cash (63%) and from communities as cash and in-kind (37%) contributions. Beneficiaries reached out and institutions capacitated by the projects are presented in the graph below.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

► STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

Agricultural Innovations for Food and Nutrition Security

This programme aims to improve the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers by investing in knowledge, innovations, and providing appropriate solutions. Five projects were under implementation within this programme in 2022/23, including the Evolutionary Plant Breeding project that was successfully completed this year.

Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM) project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland through FELM Nepal, is an ongoing project in Kanchanpur and Doti districts of Sudurpashchim Province. The project aims to improve food and nutrition security and well-being of the marginalized communities living in climate vulnerable

areas with limited resources, particularly *Muktakamaiya* and *Haliya*, women-headed households, and people with disabilities. The key interventions adopted are targeted towards increasing productivity and diversifying diets and building climate resilience through climate-resilient agriculture promotion, creating income opportunities, and capacity building of community-based organizations such as, farmer groups, cooperatives, and community seed banks. In this year, 12 different additional climate-resilient cereal crop varieties, 6 new vegetable varieties, and 10 fruit varieties were introduced that improved crop diversity and productivity of the households. Production of wheat, maize, and vegetable in the project areas increased by 20%, 15%, and 20% respectively. In addition, 3 irrigation infrastructure schemes were constructed in partnership with



A farmer harvesting tomato in her farm, supported by SAKSHAM project through Climate Smart Village approach. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD



A woman joyfully carrying a bundle of rice seedlings in front of the solar irrigation pump supported by the LREP project. Photo: Samikshya Pandit, LI-BIRD

local governments which have provided year-round irrigation facilities to 105 hectares of land, benefiting 350 households. Similarly, three climate-smart villages (CSVs) have been established and 1,000 households have adopted at least 2 climate resilient technologies and practices.

Advocacy and strengthening resilience through Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security (LANN+) project, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ) via Welthungerhilfe (WHH), has been implemented in three northern municipalities of Dhading district that aims to promote a multi-sectoral LANN+ approach to food and nutrition security. The approach is centered on family nutrition and has an explicit focus on integrating nutrition-sensitive sectorial elements that address the underlying and basic causes of malnutrition. Through coordinated multi-sectoral interventions, the project contributed to the reduction of malnutrition (Global Acute Malnutrition, also known as GAM %) from 4.13% to 3.9% in the project area. The Nutrition

Education Rehabilitation Program (NERP camp) and LANN+ Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) were found to be helpful in adopting nutrition-sensitive behavior of caretakers/mothers on feeding and hygiene practices while Sustainable Integrated Farming System (SIFS) sessions on training nature-friendly farming solutions. The approach is focused on raising awareness for the utilization of locally available resources hence strengthening the local food system. Evidence-based advocacy is a key approach adopted by the project to mainstream the nutrition-sensitive component in government plans and programs. For instance, the WEP (inventory and use value, and collection as per local practice) has been incorporated into the operation plan of 50 CFUGs in Dhading district by Division Forest Office, Dhading.

The second phase of the Livelihood and Resilience Enhancement Project (LREP II), funded by NORAD via the Development Fund Norway, is being implemented in Bardiya, Kailali, and Humla districts that aims to improve the livelihoods of freed bonded labor, landless, and marginal households. The project is working with

7,006 households, of which, 85% are women-headed households and 3% are households with persons with disability (PwD). More than 900 households earned an average income of NPR 29,979 through vegetable cultivation, mushroom cultivation, seed production, livestock rearing, and non-agricultural income-generating activities. The increased income has improved the purchasing power of families ensuring access to nutritious food and safe livelihood services. A total of 18 nutrition field schools were conducted this year that improved the capacity of 450 women of reproductive age on nutrition, healthcare practices, and home garden management to enhance nutrition security. The project contributed to building resilient mechanisms by promoting agrobiodiversity, community seed banks (CSBs), and the Climate Adaptive Village (CAV) approach. The project built the capacity of 13 cooperatives, of which, 9 of them including 5 CSBs are engaged in the seed business producing more than 150 tons of rice and wheat seed this year. The project also supported enhancing the internal control system of cooperatives through the use of finance management software and contributed to service diversification eg. milling and

grinding, turmeric processing, and establishment of a one-stop shop. The cooperatives that were initially engaged only in saving and credit services have now transformed into multifaceted cooperatives providing multiple services to sustain the project interventions and ensure food and nutrition security.

In the FY 2022/23, we initiated a short-term project titled [AADHAR: Everyone has the right to a worthy life](#), funded by Danmarks Indsamling via DanChurchAid (DCA) Nepal in Barbadiya Municipality of Bardiya district. The project aims to support poor, marginalized, and displaced people through improved access to food, clean drinking water, and social services applying innovative agriculture and livestock solutions like promotion of climate smart technologies, introduction of blight resistant varieties of potato, promotion of green mushroom and goat as enterprises, business plan preparation and market linkage etc. The project has targeted to reach out to 400 households.

The research focused [Evolutionary Plant Breeding](#) project, funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through Bioversity International,



Farmers observing vermi-compost supported by the Aadhar project. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

was successfully completed this year. The project aimed to improve the resilience of low-input resource-poor farmers in the project area by developing evolutionary crop populations with higher and stable yields under the local farm agronomic and stress conditions, including drought, pests, and diseases. It was a multi-country project implemented in Jumla and Lamjung districts in partnership with NARC/Genebank. The project was able to develop evolutionary crop populations of rice and beans, now maintained by the CSB of respective sites and the national gene bank. The project initiated a national-level dialogue on registration, varietal maintenance, and marketing of EPB varieties and products in the participation of the ITPGRFA focal person, joint secretary, and VARCC members. The project was instrumental in raising awareness and generating scientific evidence on evolutionary crop populations for food and nutrition security along with good practices for its out scaling. In 2023, the project published two scientific articles which are: i) Farmers' Preferences and Agronomic Evaluation of Dynamic Mixtures of Rice and Bean in Nepal, and ii) Approaches and advantages of increased crop genetic diversity in the fields, in the Journal Diversity, an open access Journal from Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI). Additionally, the project also contributed in generating knowledge products including policy analysis on adoption of crop evolutionary populations and cultivar mixture, training guide, protocols, posters etc. on evolutionary plant breeding in Nepal.

Inclusive Economic Growth for Income and Employment

This programme aims to transform subsistence agriculture into business opportunities to generate income and local employment for women and youth through a value chain approach.

In the FY 2022/23, we successfully completed the **Strengthening the Agriculture Value Chain (SAVC)** project, funded by the Happel Foundation and WHH. The project was implemented in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk districts and aimed to increase the income of smallholder farmers through the promotion of agriculture value chains. The project

successfully established and operationalized six one-stop shops through cooperatives to facilitate access to inputs and marketing of the commodities produced. The project reached 1,535 households (women 951 and men 584) who produced over 41.59 MT of vegetables worth NPR 1,005,345. The annual average income of households was increased by NPR 17,115 and employment was created for 108 individuals. The Kalimati Rural Municipality allocated NPR 20 million to support one cooperative in technical training (nursery management, agronomic practices, disease management, IPM technology, protected house cultivation, and post-harvest technology) and inputs support (vegetable seeds, micro-nutrients, small agri-tools, etc.) to enhance vegetable production.

Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones (REALiZe) project, funded by the Jersey Overseas Aid via Renewable World, is being implemented in the buffer zone areas of the Bardiya National Park (Surkhet) and the Banke National Park (Salyan) to generate sustainable, renewable-energy enhanced income, to conserve fragile forest landscapes. The project works with 16 Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs), four Buffer Zone Management Committees (BZMCs), and one women-led cooperative (Pragati Women Agriculture Cooperative) which received NPR 7,20,000 from Palikas and National Park. The project supported local curriculum development (Grade 1-8) of Kalimati RM, Salyan, implemented across 56 schools benefitting 5,100 students. 55 households were engaged in commercial vegetable farming, producing 4,640 kg of vegetables and earned NPR 168,180 by selling 2,803 kg of vegetables. The project also promoted alternative crops such as ginger, turmeric, onion, kidney beans, lime for livelihood improvement and human-wildlife conflicts reduction. The project also promoted honey bee integrating Chiuri forests for livelihood and conservation under the branding of the MULYAWAN logo developed by MoLMAC, Karnali Province. In this year, members of Duetibajai CFUG, Bheriganga Municipality, Surkhet produced and sold 620 kg of honey worth over NPR 7,00,000 under the logo of MULYAWAN.

Community Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risk

This programme aims to build the adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone communities for resilient livelihoods through the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices. In 2022/23, LI-BIRD successfully implemented six projects, of which three projects were completed (UTHAN, RMS and EKO energy).

This year, a three-year project, *Enhanced action of inclusive CSOs for participation in climate resilient economic growth (UTHAN)*, funded by the European Union via DanChurchAid (DCA Nepal) and implemented in Kanchanpur (Laljhadi Rural Municipality and Belauri Municipality) and Dailekh (Dullu and Aathbis Municipalities) districts was successfully completed. LI-BIRD provided technical support to two local partners: the National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) in Kanchanpur and the Social Service Centre (SOSEC) in Dailekh. The

project worked with 87 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) comprising 5,399 members; 18 private sector entities; 8 district and national level networks and CSO federations; and 228 elected local representatives of the local and provincial government. Through the project, the capacity of CSOs and their networks and federations were strengthened on climate resilient agriculture and practices. Four municipalities were supported for the preparation of the Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan (LDCRP). The project conducted 12 evidence-based action research studies focusing on climate resilient agriculture practices and green farming technologies through the third-party financing. These interventions include solar based irrigation, compressed stabilized earth block (CSEB), riverbed farming, vegetable farming under plastic tunnel, drought-resistant seed, multi-purpose nurseries, compost pits, bioengineering, bio-floc fish farming, processing of spices, rice-cum-fish farming, and rice-cum-duck farming. The project helped establish 14 green enterprises within the implementation period.



Solar drying of turmeric supported by the REALiZe Project. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank



Establishment of solar-based lift irrigation system in Pali village of Dullu Municipality in Dailekh. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities through the Establishment of Solar-based Lift Irrigation Scheme project, funded by the EKO energy ecolabel, Finland, was implemented in the Pali village of Dullu Municipality-3, Dailekh. The project in collaboration with Dullu Municipality supported in establishing solar-lifting irrigation schemes with the discharge capacity of 50,000 liters per day that provide year-round irrigation to over 30 ha of land farmed by 245 households. The project was also co-financed by the Green Karnali project for promoting climate resilient agriculture technologies and practices that helped the community build resilience to climate change impacts.

The Resilient Mountain Solutions (RMS) project, funded by the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) under the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) and managed by ICIMOD, was a short-term project that aimed to support and facilitate Joroyal Rural Municipality and Purvi Chowki Rural Municipality of Doti in the implementation of climate-smart model village programme. This project supported the design and roll out of climate-smart model villages (CSVs) and built the capacity of staff and representatives of both rural municipalities through Training of Trainers (ToT) on climate change and climate resilient agriculture. One community in each project palika was selected

and supported for establishing the model CSV that comprises different climate resilient agriculture (CRA) technologies and practices that include vermicomposting, cattle shed improvement, plastic tunnel, irrigation canal, soil cement tank, traps and lures, Jholmal 1, Jholmal 2, and Jholmal 3, etc.

Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE): Action Research project, funded by GIZ through ICIMOD, is implemented in 10 municipalities of Bajura, Dadeldhura, Doti and Kailali districts of the Sudurpaschim Province. The project aims to build community's resilience on climate change impact through adoption of CRA technologies and practices. The project focuses on testing and demonstrating different climate resilient agricultural technologies and practices through action research. The project has reached out to 1,250 households through action research and promotion of CRA technologies and practices. The project has established 10 climate-smart villages (CSVs) and community learning centres that act as a platform to demonstrate and learn about different low-cost, locally available, and easy to adopt technologies where the adjoining communities and the farmers visiting the centres benefit the most. The project also successfully collaborated with the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) in Bajura and local government to leverage resources (NPR 1.5 million) to jointly establish CSV in



Climate-smart model village in Bajura supported by the GRAPE project. Photo: Kailash Bhatta, LI-BIRD

Budinanda, Bajura. The project successfully carried out action research on varietal trial of potatoes, diversity block of millets, effect of plastic mulching over straw/bio mulch, and third generation (3G) cutting effect in cucumber. The project is conducting action research studies on citrus fruit fly control, effect of biochar on ginger yield and soil properties, and rhizome root rot control in ginger.

In the FY 2022/23, we initiated the **Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE): Roll Out** project, funded by GIZ, in the same sites of the GRAPE action research project with the aim to roll out the proven climate resilient technologies and practices that were tested under the GRAPE action research project. Such technologies and practices include; cattle shed improvement, plastic tunnel for off-season vegetable cultivation, soil cement tank, vermicompost, vermi wash, biochar, plastic/bio mulching, vermicompost, vermi-wash etc. The project has reached out to 1,550 households through training, exposure visits, and tools and climate resilient materials support. The project has selected 5 schools to establish CRA demonstration sites and to integrate climate change and climate resilient agriculture in local level course curriculum. From the demonstration sites, the students learn at school and promote the technology at their homes. The project also conducted municipal

level dialogues in all 10 working municipalities to discuss climate change related problems and other issues at local level.

Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in the Karnali River Basin (Green Karnali) project, funded by DANIDA via DanChurchAid (DCA) Nepal, is being implemented in Surkhet and Dailekh districts of the Karnali Province and Achham district of the Sudurpaschim Province with the aim to support in building resilient livelihoods of farming communities of aforementioned districts through the promotion of gender friendly agroecology-based farming practices and green enterprises. LI-BIRD is leading the project and implementing the field activities in Surkhet, whereas SOSEC is an implementing partner for Dailekh and Achham. The project has reached out to 2,500 smallholder farmers, especially women and youth. The project has established eight agroecological model villages in two municipalities of Surkhet with the promotion of agroecological and women friendly technologies and practices. The project also conducted participatory varietal selection (PVS) on rice and potatoes to examine the disease resistance and yield related parameters. The project in collaboration with the Integrated Agriculture Lab of the Karnali Province conducted a soil test camp, testing 225 soil samples. The result of the soil test was used to advise

farming communities with the possible soil health and quality management practices. The project also promoted mushroom and spice grinding machines as green enterprises on a cost sharing basis. Besides beneficiary households, the project also supported the provincial government, especially MoLMAC for their organic mission. For example, the project supported three officials of the MoLMAC to visit Sikkim, India to learn about organic farming being promoted there.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Livelihoods

This programme 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.

The second phase of the [Climate Resilient Agriculture \(CRA-II\)](#) project, funded by BMZ via Bread for the World (BfdW), is being implemented in Sindhupalchowk and Kaski districts to promote agroecological farming tools and practices among 3,300 beneficiary 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 products. The project has established six agroecological model villages in two districts in order to demonstrate agroecological practices. The project also supported 10 youths for the establishment of agri-enterprises (goat farming, vegetable farming, pig farming, and poultry farming) that are making profits ranging from NPR 50,000 to 150,000 per annum. In 2022/23, the project supported the MoLMAC of the Gandaki Province to formulate Agrobiodiversity and Organic Farming Promotion Strategy 2080, which has been endorsed by the cabinet of the province. Likewise, the project also supported the Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum district to integrate agroecological farming by formulating the Organic strategy of Laligurans Municipality.

Since 2019, the [Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security \(SD=HS\)](#) project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) via OXFAM Nepal, has been implemented in Dadeldhura, Doti,



A member of a farmer group harvesting beans supported by the CRA-II project. Photo: Sanu Jirel, LI-BIRD

Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of the Sudurpaschim Province aiming to strengthen the local seed system. In the FY 2022/23, the project organized 67 farmer's field school (FFS) on participatory plant breeding (PPB) benefitting 1,328 (97% women) farmers. The project promoted a total of 18 different farmer preferred pipeline/advanced lines of rice and nine varieties of wheat in the community reaching 4,082 households. The project facilitated the process of varietal registration proposal submission of three rice landraces namely 'Jorayal Basmati' from Doti, 'Lal Anadi' from Kanchanpur and 'Jhumka' from Kailali. The project supported three farmer seed enterprises to produce and sell over 223 metric tons of quality certified improved seeds mobilizing 334 seed producer farmers worth NPR 8.5 million. These seed enterprises were able to leverage over NPR 8.5 million from different government line agencies. The FFS approach on PPB is formally mainstreamed into the Sudurpaschim Province's annual agriculture development plans. A policy consultation work on the draft Seed Regulation 2023 was organized jointly with the Seed Quality Control Center (SQCC) making the policy formulation process more participatory.

The Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agriculture System project is being implemented in the Karnali Province with the financial support from the Darwin Initiative, led by the University of Bristol, UK and jointly implemented by LI-BIRD and HERD International, with technical support from the Agriculture and Forestry University and the Tribhuvan University. In the FY 2022/23, the project focused on strengthening the capacities of agriculture extension workers from government and non-government institutions by organizing capacity building training on pollination management in Surkhet and Dailekh districts, benefitting a total of 61 individuals. The project initiated three farmer field schools on apples to orient the communities about the importance of pollination in apples. Institutional MoU with the Agriculture and Forestry University has been signed to generate pollination related knowledge. In this year, the project generated a handbook for Pollination management that is being used by the project and training centre and relevant professionals in the Karnali Province. The project formed a Technical Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, with a mandate to facilitate and guide in preparing the Karnali Pollinator Strategy.



Participatory varietal selection (PVS) demonstration plot on rice supported by the SD=HS project. Photo: Nirajan Pudasaini, LI-BIRD



Practical session in a farmers field school on apple supported by the Darwin Initiative's Pollination project. Photo: Shamis Basnet, LI-BIRD

A two-year project entitled Empowering women farmers in climate resilient agro-ecological farming practices and approaches in Karnali Province, Nepal (ECRA), funded by kfb Austria, was started in Surkhet and Dailekh this fiscal year to promote agroecological villages with a focus on women-responsive farming solutions to enhance the production and marketing of safe and healthy agricultural produce. The project supported communities, especially women, through capacity building training and translating knowledge and skills into practical, sustainable farming practices. The project has established four model agroecological villages, two each in Barahatal Rural Municipality and Birendranagar Municipality, reaching out to 156 households. Additionally, the project also worked with the community seed bank at Tatopani, Jumla comprising 27 women farmers for strengthening the local seed system and for conservation and use of local plant genetic resources. The project also worked with technical schools to orient students on climate-resilient ecological agriculture practices.

►► CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Social and Policy Research

Social and policy research, a cross-cutting theme, aims to provide effective policy feedback for a wider and inclusive impact. Evidence generation from action research and dissemination for mainstreaming approaches, models, and solutions in governmental policies, plans, and programs at different levels is one of the key impact areas of LI-BIRD.

LI-BIRD has been concentrating its efforts on recognizing and incentivizing the contribution of farming communities towards food and nutrition security by managing rich agricultural biodiversity on farms. Our effort is towards making policies farmer-friendly and participatory so that it addresses farmers' needs and recognizes their contributions as well by bridging the gap between farming communities and policymakers. After many years of effort, the Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) recognized the importance and potential of farmer varieties by developing a schedule D for registration. However, some of the farmer's

varieties still do not meet the criteria for being registered under schedule D. Hence, discussion and consultation on revising the seed regulation has been initiated. This has been instrumental to resolve ambiguities in the notification process of farmer varieties and making the formal seed system suitable to the farming context. To consolidate feedback and inputs from key stakeholders on revised seed regulation, LI-BIRD (SD=HS and CRA II projects) and SQCC jointly organized the consultation workshop on 15 July 2023. Apart from this, a plan to introduce schedule E to register the exotic varieties has been initiated. The revised regulation has recognized individual farmers, communities, and their organizations as a breeder, who can legally register, maintain, and sell their crop varieties. This is a milestone in recognizing the contribution of farming communities to crop genetic diversity maintenance and incentives to conserve and promote valuable resources for food and nutrition security for future generations.

LI-BIRD's rich experience in agrobiodiversity management and agroecology is recognized by the Gandaki Province by offering collaboration in their strategy development on Agrobiodiversity and Organic Farming Promotion Strategy and Action Plan 2080. The consultation workshop was organized from 28 to 30 May 2023. It has prioritized *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, promoting biodiversity linking with agrotourism and developing a value chain of local crops for economic diversification, and raising awareness of nutritional and medicinal value for demand creation. The strategy proposes agroecology-based farming and agroforestry promotion and mainstreaming of underutilized vegetables and fruits as key pathways for change. Most importantly, the strategy has prioritized investment in research, especially for developing a package of practices with resource conservation technologies. The strategy has been endorsed by the province cabinet with plans to roll it out immediately.

Policy research and dialogues are one of the key activities of LI-BIRD. In 2022/23, three projects namely, GRAPE FA 3, SAKSHAM and LANN+ organized 13 policy dialogues. The key agenda advocated is smooth implementation of governmental plans and

programs to ensure access to adequate, nutritious and healthy food, a fundamental right as outlined by the constitution of Nepal. We adopted a right-based approach and encouraged the communities to be engaged in the government's seven-step planning process starting from the village-level settlement planning. Key interventions were the capacity building of vulnerable communities (freed bonded labor, women, and Dalit), to participate in the planning process and submit their plans.

Land is one of the key constraints in vulnerable communities. To address this, LI-BIRD is promoting leasehold farming system. The SAKSHAM project is supporting MoLMAC, Sudurpaschim Province to develop a guideline on promotion of leasehold farming system. Similarly, leasehold-based farming is included in the current fiscal year plan in Jorajal Rural Municipality of Doti and Krishnapur Municipality of Kanchanpur.

In addition, policy dialogue platforms are utilized for policy advocacy by disseminating research and field-based evidence with policymakers and key actors at different levels. For instance, the study findings on the contribution of wild edible plants to food and nutrition security are disseminated widely through various platforms such as local governments, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission (PPPC), the division forest office of Dhading, and other relevant networks. As a result, wild edible plants have been included as a section in the operation plans of 50 community forest user groups' (CFUGs) during their renewal last year. This case will be further utilized to mainstream the less prioritized resources which instead have huge potential for food and nutrition security, income generation, and more importantly, moving towards a sustainable local food system. In addition, LI-BIRD is one of the key contributors in Karnali province's ambitious transition towards organic agriculture. A research-based project in Karnali is promoting pollinators as undervalued and unrecognized inputs in agriculture. A policy brief has been published and the team is in the process of formulating a strategy for pollinator management in the province to promote a nature-friendly production system.



Participants of a policy dialogue organized by the LANN+ project in Dhading. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

LI-BIRD had the opportunity to contribute to national-level agendas such as the food system transformation dialogue and the multi-sector nutrition plan's phase III planning. At the international level, LI-BIRD represented Nepal in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPRFA) 9th Governing Body meeting in New Delhi. The side event on farmers' variety registration was well received. LI-BIRD supported Ms. Parbati Bhandari, Chairperson of the CSB Association of Nepal (CSBAN)'s participation in the event representing farmer communities of Nepal.

The study conducted in the community forest user group of Parbat, Syangja, and Tanahun showed the diminishing enthusiasm of community participation in CFUG management highlighting the fact that there is an urgent need to design interventions/policies/programs focusing on sustainable management of forest, balancing conservation and economic development. The study was conducted in a project entitled Climate adaptation through sustainable forest management as a technical partnership. Together with the World Bank, LI-BIRD organized a workshop on 'Landscape Governance Assessment and Decision Support Tool (LGAT)' at Rupa Lake Landscape to share and test a tool as well as approach for measuring and promoting landscape governance including a landscape governance index and a decision-support system.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

LI-BIRD is committed to mainstream GESI in programmes, workforce, and workplace to improve quality and to strengthen institutional governance. LI-BIRD revised its GESI Policy in 2021 with an aim to create an inclusive environment to assure greater and more equitable participation of women and men from different socio-cultural, economic, geographic backgrounds, as well as different abilities. LI-BIRD mainstreams GESI right from the programme development stage and conducts overall GESI analysis while designing new projects by identifying target groups (including women and disadvantaged groups). LI-BIRD considers GESI in programme implementation, monitors, and tracks the disaggregated data accordingly (gender and other relevant indicators). In 2022/23, out of the total beneficiaries reached, 76% were women. Furthermore, 68% of the beneficiaries were Janajati, and 11% were Dalits. LI-BIRD has also given priority to persons with disability (PwD) and families having PwD and included them as one of the target groups. Out of the total beneficiaries, a total of 469 are PwDs. GESI issues and approaches are taken into account during impact evaluation of the projects/ programmes.



Community-led Drinking Water and Irrigation Scheme Construction in Ruby Valley, Dhading, with support from the LANN+ Project. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

LI-BIRD has implemented various projects with a focus on GESI related aspects. For instance, SD=HS project strategically utilized the farmer field school approach, integrating the Gender Journey Module to empower women farmers by sensitizing them to GESI issues, enabling them to identify, analyze, and proactively address challenges through targeted action plans. The LANN+ project through agricultural and mother-focused groups raised awareness on GESI, health, and nutrition. Similarly, this project also promoted a small irrigation and drinking water scheme targeted for a Dalit village in Ruby Valley, Dhading. In the GRAPE project, a gender-responsive community plan was formulated that helps enhance the capacity of women beneficiaries by introducing various problem-solving tools and processes. The LREP project has promoted initiatives like small livestock support focusing on single women and marginalized households by providing them with small livestock and training in livestock management for effective intervention.

Projects like SD=HS, LREP, and SAKSHAM have worked intensively with the Tharu community and the Mukta Kamaia households. The SAKSHAM project has supported cooperatives for loan mobilization

to households with PwD without 25% co-financing and promoted disabled-friendly interventions, such as, home gardening, seed production, vegetable production, goat farming, mushroom farming, poultry farming, and pig farming, and thus contributed to family nutrition and income. Due to the migration of men to abroad for better job opportunities, women are the *de facto* household managers with full responsibilities to oversee the agriculture sector. In this context, LI-BIRD's projects have introduced and promoted various GESI-friendly tools and technologies.

LI-BIRD projects also contributed to policy and advocacy in relevant areas with a focus on GESI. The SAKSHAM project has contributed to institutionalizing leasehold farming, and climate change and DRR matters in local policy and programme addressing the GESI concern and revision on provision of subsidy policy. The CRA II project is lobbying and advocating to local and provincial governments for the formation and revision of gender-friendly agroecology-related policies. The LANN+ project has conducted advocacy dialogue and debate programmes with local government representatives and local leaders emphasizing women's health and nutrition.

Environmental and Social Safeguarding

LI-BIRD is committed to avoiding or mitigating the environmental and social risks of its interventions. To this end, it has developed and implemented the Environmental and Social Safeguarding (ESS) Policy and Procedure, which guides the systematic identification, assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of the potential adverse impacts and mitigation measures. The ESS policy and procedures have been revised to adopt a risk-based approach that protects the environment and society from the inherent risks of any interventions. The revised ESS emphasizes our commitment to 14 principles, such as legal compliance, biodiversity conservation, gender equality, indigenous people, pollution prevention, public health and safety, cultural heritage, and climate change and disaster risk. Moreover, LI-BIRD has developed safeguarding standard measures on these and other topics to ensure that its programmes, projects, and operations adhere to its principles. LI-BIRD will mainstream the ESS policy across its mission in 2024 by screening and categorizing each project based on the level of risk and developing informed mitigation strategies. The ESS focal person will train and support the project leaders to implement the process throughout the institution. The ESS policy and procedure also applies to LI-BIRD's sub-grantees and partners.

Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

LI-BIRD works with different CSOs at the ground level. Beside programmatic support, LI-BIRD emphasizes on capacity building of CSOs. In FY 2022/23, LI-BIRD strengthened the capacity of 910 different groups, including farmer groups, cooperatives, natural resources management groups, mother groups, climate and disaster management groups, and community schools.



49 Publications

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

Communications & Network



8,100 followers



1,301 followers



1,086 followers



2,900 subscribers



573 followers

A total of eight government staff from the Karnali Province visited Sikkim, India to observe and learn about the organic practices and approaches and LI-BIRD supported the visit for three staff. 50 government staff from different government organizations from Dailekh and Surkhet were capacitated on pollination management and climate resilient agriculture.

The Programme Development Director and the Executive Board Chair of LI-BIRD visited Egypt to participate in the COP 27. A total of eight staff from LI-BIRD were trained on Safe Programming and Safeguarding and three staff were trained through Partner Capacity Development on Financial, Procurement and Logistics Management' by Oxfam, Nepal. Two staff were capacitated on Disabilities inclusion in project cycle and low carbon emission, and gender focal person of LI-BIRD was capacitated on Gender Justice by FELM, Nepal. LI-BIRD staff also participated to share Nepal's progress and advances in Farmers Variety Registration through a side event jointly organized by the SD=HS project and Bioversity International in India. In addition, LI-BIRD also shared different mechanisms on seed production and marketing initiatives of youths and women farmers from Nepal in 'Global SD=HS pillar 2 learning event' held in Zambia. The Programme Development Director participated in Leadership, Accountability, and Risk Management Framework training organized by Financial Management Service Foundation/Bread for the World (FMSE/BftW). The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Manager was

capacitated through the System Thinking Training organized by WHH, Nepal. An event on advocacy workshop was organized at the Dhading Besi for incorporation of wild edible plants into government plans and policies collaborating with the Community Forestry Supporter Network, Nepal (COFSUN). The workshop contributed to the incorporation of Wild Edible Plants (WFPs) into the operational plans of 50 CFUGs of Dhading district by Division Forest Office, Dhading.

The learning, challenges, and good practices of LI-BIRD have been documented and disseminated through various forms of knowledge products. In 2022/23, a total of 49 publications (peer reviewed articles, books, proceedings, book chapters, and flyers) were published and disseminated. In 2022/23, LI-BIRD website was visited 29,640 times with an average monthly visitor of 2,470. In addition to the website, LI-BIRD disseminated information to a total of 13,960 followers on various social media platforms (8,100 on Facebook, 1,086 on LinkedIn, 573 on Instagram, 1,301 on Twitter, and 2,900 on YouTube).

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Effective emergency preparedness and response are crucial for safeguarding communities from unforeseen risks. Recent initiatives by LI-BIRD in various working areas have demonstrated commendable efforts to enhance resilience.

Under the RFSS program, NPR 170,000 was provided for substantial emergency materials including folding stretchers, first aid kits, tarpaulins, helmets, vests, boots, and gloves. Joroyal Rural Municipality from Doti district, Krishnapur Municipality from Kanchanpur district, and Kailari Rural Municipality from Kailali district each received NPR 156,000 for materials, equipping them to respond swiftly to natural disasters and accidents. The SAKSHAM project actively raised Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) awareness in Laljhadi Rural Municipality, Krishnapur Municipality, and Joroyal Rural Municipality. LI-BIRD supported Krishnapur municipality in the

development of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) <https://krishnapurmun.gov.np/en/LDCRPdocs>, reinforcing preparedness. As a part of anticipatory action, the SAKSHAM project prepared a monsoon contingency plan in collaboration with local governments and other concerned stakeholders in Doti and Kanchanpur in order to address monsoon related challenges. Similarly, LANN+ project addressed specific challenges, such as landslides in Ganga Jamuna Rural Municipality, Dhading by focusing on critical infrastructure, including irrigation and drinking water schemes for 184 households. In agriculture, the CRA II project regularly supported the MoLMAC, Gandaki Province to generate Agromet Advisory Bulletins. Agromet advisory services via Geo-Krishi application have been promoted under SAVC and GRAPE projects to empower farming communities with crucial information, promoting well-informed decisions.

LIBIRD also supported communities with insurance services for crops particularly for seeds and livestock through its ongoing projects to minimize economic losses. The SD=HS project supported seed producers to insure 44 hectares of maize seed production whereas 144 pigs and 2,745 goats were insured through LREP, SAKSHAM, CRA II, and REALiZe projects.

Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL) has been further strengthened in this year. Different standard templates for data and information collection have been developed, including an annual common data tracking sheet across the project for maintaining consistency in data collection. Similarly, a standard format has been used for the preparation of Detail Implementation Plan (DIP) consisting procedures, targets and respective indicators. The DIP has been aligned with the project inception workshop while providing programme orientation to newly hired project staff. All project staff are fully engaged in this process to develop common understanding on each activity implementation process, targets and indicators of the project.

In the year 2022/23, eight review and reflection meetings were conducted with participation of project staff and management committee members for the review, reflection and preparation of action plans and ways forward. A traveling seminar was organized at Dhorpipal Small Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative in Bangad Kupinde Municipality of Salyan District where 28 participants including representatives from the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Agriculture Development Directorate, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Mid-West University, National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF), ward chair and project beneficiaries participated and appraised the project interventions and provided valuable suggestions.

LI-BIRD has been regularly capacitating its staff on MEAL. In 2022/23, a capacity building training on MEAL was organized by the SAKSHAM project to capacitate project

staff where 15 officers from LI-BIRD and 7 MEAL staff from FELM Nepal's partners participated in the training. Similarly, CRA project delivered an outcome harvesting training to 20 staff of 8 projects to capacitate them in using outcome harvesting methods across the project.

In 2022/23, LI-BIRD emphasized on strengthening its complaint handling mechanism. LI-BIRD's Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures has been revised and implemented by setting up complaint boxes at Headquarter and PCO office premises and field offices at different locations. Additionally, LI-BIRD has included a complaint mechanism in its website. As guided by the Policy, a complaint handling committee comprising MEAL Manager, Compliance Manager, Admin and HR Manager has been formed to handle the complaints received.



Development partner representative taking picture of complaint box. Photo: Santosh Shrestha, LI-BIRD

Key

IMPACTS STORIES

ONE-STOP-SHOPS TAKING AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES ONE STEP AHEAD IN SALYAN



Women farmers of Kalimati Rural Municipality in Salyan, at a haat bazaar started by the Samudayik Multipurpose Coeoperative via one-stop shop. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

There are several agriculture cooperatives in every municipality and rural municipality in Nepal. However, they rarely conduct activities that help increase agricultural production, income, and employment apart from some exceptions. They normally collect savings from members and provide loans, but agriculture is not prioritized despite being a major source of livelihood for the members. The case of the Dhorpical Small Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative (DSFAC) and the Daunne Devi Agriculture Cooperative (DDAC) in Salyan district also was not different until a few years ago. But after their participation in the SAVC Project implemented by LI-BIRD and WHH, they have moved a step ahead of others in terms of achieving agriculture-related objectives.

The SAVC Project conducted an initial capacity gap assessment of both cooperatives and prepared a plan based on the assessment focusing on improving governance and management, and developing business plans to sell agri-inputs to farmers, and collecting and marketing of agriculture produce from them. The project has called this a "one-stop-shop" function of the cooperative, which means farmers can buy agri-inputs, get technical support, and sell their agricultural produce to the cooperative, especially fresh vegetables and high value crops. With the support from the project, both cooperatives have completed legal compliances for operating as a one-stop-shop and initiated operations. The project is in the process of phasing out, but the one-

stop-shop model is functioning well, even though the volume of transactions and annual turnover are still at a nascent level. According to the chairperson of the DDAC, Mr. Min Bahadur Khatri, the cooperative had never thought of operating as a one-stop-shop but now the cooperative has moved ahead as a result of the SAVC's support and facilitation.

From year two of the SAVC Project, both DDAC and DSFAC have started selling chemical fertilizers, less harmful pesticides, and small agri-tools, as well as provided loans for vegetable cultivation. The sphere of collaboration of cooperatives with municipalities, the Agriculture Development Office (ADO), and other stakeholders has increased. The DSFAC received a million Nepalese Rupees (EUR 7693) as a wholesale lending from the Small Farmers Development Bank and has already provided loans to 40 farmers for vegetable cultivation. The manager of DSFAC, Mr. Jyoti Lal Roka Magar, is expecting a significant increase in vegetable cultivation in the area. He also expects to increase the transaction of the one-stop-shop operated by the cooperative as a result of the loan provided for vegetable cultivation.

Both cooperatives have moved ahead and have plans to continue operating one-stop-shops. Local farmers, cooperative members, and local government have appreciated the services provided by the one-stop-shops in the area. Both cooperatives have seed funds over NPR 300,000 (EUR 2,308) each to continue operations. They are further exploring ways to increase the seed funds. The Kalimati Rural Municipality has provided a subsidy of NPR 200,000 (EUR 1,538) to the two cooperatives of this municipality, including DDAC for transporting vegetables to the bigger market in the neighbouring districts. Mr. Min Bahadur Khatri said, "the SAVC Project has given knowledge and skills to the cooperative members to produce and market vegetables, so there is no doubt on its further progress on vegetable production in the leadership of DDAC in coming days." Mr. Jyoti Lal Roka Magar shared, the DSFAC has a plan to prepare a three-year business plan and the one-stop-shop is going to be a major component in it. He thinks that the cooperative is now capable of working as per its name, i.e., promoting agriculture production activities and contributing to productivity, income, and employment in the locality.



Collection center of Dhorpipal Small Farmer Cooperative in Salyan for collection and marketing of members' produce via one-stop shop.
Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

WILD EDIBLE PLANTS INCORPORATED INTO THE OPERATIONAL PLANS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY USER GROUPS



Wild edible plants found in Dhading. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

LI-BIRD conducted a study to estimate and assess the current role and future potential of wild edible plants (WEPs) in addressing food and nutrition insecurity in Nepal through the Linking Agriculture and Natural Resources Management towards Nutrition Security (LANN+) project. The study focused on developing a good understanding on the status of uncultivated WEPs, their importance in household food and nutrition security, and identify priority WEPs as perceived by local communities. The study was carried out in three northern mountainous municipalities of Dhading that include Ruby Valley, Khaniyabas, and Ganga Jamuna rural municipalities.

The study was conducted in three separate but interlinked activities: three focus group discussions for

rapid participatory appraisal of locally available WEPs; a detailed survey of 249 randomly picked households to collect household-level data on food consumption that include WEPs, and a follow-up focus group discussion for listing WEPs and collecting detailed information such as their primary and secondary uses, prioritization as well as availability, harvesting season, nutritional value and conservation efforts of priority WEPs.

The study revealed that over 88% households in these three municipalities have insufficient food production as indicated by food sufficiency data. No household in Ruby Valley is food sufficient (self-produced food for 12 months or more). On the other hand, 29% of households in Ganga Jamuna produce sufficient food. More than

half of the households (52%) in three municipalities have food production which is sufficient for three to six months only. The poverty range was highest in Ganga Jamuna and lowest in Ruby Valley.

WEPs contribute to rural people's food and nutrition in a significant manner. All 249 households interviewed consumed WEP in one form or another. An estimated 257 WEPs were regularly consumed. Wild edible plant leaves, roots, tubers, shoots, flowers, fruits, and nuts are collected from a range of land use systems that include cultivated and non-cultivated land, farm borders, terraces, forests, grassland, wetland and riverbanks. Around 98% of the households were found to have consumed wild vegetables whereas over 90% ate wild fruits. WEPs contributed 17% of vegetables, 19% of fruits, and 8% of total food consumed. WEPs are important especially for poor households. Due to their diversity, relative abundance, high nutritional value, and no or low monetary cost, WEPs are and should be recognized as an important and affordable local resource to address food and nutrition insecurity. WEPs also have a potential role in mitigating micronutrient deficiency especially

when other fruits and vegetables are unavailable or expensive. WEPs can also contribute to local income generation.

The study recommended recognition and appreciation of the current and future potential of WEPs to address malnutrition in nutrition policies, programs and projects. An in-depth study on nutritional value of priority WEPs, articulation of local knowledge, domestication and ways to enhance their profile and public perception are also recommended.

Based on the findings of the study, LI-BIRD conducted different awareness campaigns on proper utilization and nutritious value of WEPs. The findings of the study were disseminated to local governments and concerned stakeholders in Dhading Besi in July 2023. Local government representatives and division forest office representatives committed to work on policy reformation to legalize the use of WEP. As a result, the Division Forest Office, Dhading incorporated provisions related to use of WEPs in 50 CFUG's forest operational plans.



A focus group discussion conducted on wild edible plants in Dhading. Photo: Shambhu Basnet, LI-BIRD

VEGETABLE FARMING BECAME A LIFE-CHANGING MIRACLE FOR LAXMI AND HER FAMILY



Ms. Laxmi Chaudhary on her vegetable farm. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

Ms. Laxmi Chaudhary, aged 40 years, from Laljhadi Rural Municipality-6, Chandev of Kanchanpur district has had hardships throughout her life. She could not get a formal education due to her engagement in households' chores since her childhood. She was married at the age of 20, however, her marriage could not change her fate. Their struggle got worse after they had 5 children and the whole family had to survive with just 5 kathas (0.16 ha) of land which was not sufficient to fulfill the minimal household requirements of foods and vegetables. To manage expenses for family's health and children's education,

Laxmi worked as seasonal wage labour which still was very nominal. Opting for opportunities to make some income, Laxmi joined the Radha Mahila Krishak Samuha in Laljhadi Rural Municipality, Kanchanpur. This farmer group was selected as one of the working institutions by LI-BIRD through its SAKSHAM project funded by FELM Nepal. A window of opportunity opened up for Laxmi when she was selected as one of the members by the group to participate in the climate-smart village programme of the project. She received technical training on commercial vegetable farming and some input support for vegetable seeds, home

garden materials, drums for organic manure, soil improvement, soil cement tank, shed improvement, and permanent ventilated tunnel for off-season vegetable cultivation along with drip irrigation and mulching practice. With her enthusiasm, she quickly learned about commercial vegetable production. The project established a demonstration where she received technical knowledge and practical skills on vegetable cultivation and marketing of vegetables. She learned how to select suitable crops according to season and market demand. She also learned about the use of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers which helped her stop using chemical pesticides and fertilizers and saved money in the process. She is now recognized as one of the experts in the village to produce off-season vegetables with the use of climate-smart technologies and practices. She now sells the surplus production in the market and makes some income to support the education and health of her children.

“The improvement in the cattle shed has made it easier to manage the dung and urine separately. I have successfully made improved farmyard manure and use them in the farm to produce organic vegetables. A plastic tunnel made with bamboo by myself has now been used to produce cucumbers and bitter gourds. I planted beetroot, chamsur, cumin greens, latte, cucumber, bitter gourd, okra, etc. on the farm outside the tunnel”, said Laxmi with delight.

In the beginning, she used to take vegetables to the local market to sell them, but today, customers come to buy vegetables at her farm. As a result, it has become easy to sell vegetables. She has already earned NPR. 60,000 in cash by selling vegetables this year. Now it has become easier for her to run the household expenses like education, healthcare, and clothes for her children. She used to be shy and could not even introduce herself in group meetings. But now, she is comfortable and confident introducing herself, participating in events, and sharing her knowledge.

She has a bank account and started saving. She has become a member of the cooperative and is able to save NPR 5,000 in a cooperative near her house. “I now can even save money with the income from the sale of vegetables and have received respect from the community,” said Laxmi with a smile. She added that she plans to earn one lakh per year through vegetable production in her 5 katha of land.

Laxmi adds, “SAKSHAM project is not only empowering women, but also helps for creating self-employment and managing household expenses. I have learned to serve nutritious food to my family members which has improved our health. Moreover, I can eat organic vegetables from my own garden, I have avoided eating vegetables containing pesticides. Now, I am acquainted with full information about the calendar of different vegetable production. The SAKSHAM project includes other farmers like me and expands new technologies and conducts programs that are beneficial for us. I will be able to learn more in the future with the support of LI-BIRD and I will always be grateful to LI-BIRD for bringing hopes and miracles in my life”..



PROTECTING FARMERS THROUGH LIVESTOCK INSURANCE

Ms. Pabitra Dahit has been raising a herd of goats in Gauriganga-10, Kailali for the past five years. Like many others in her community, she had reservations about livestock insurance. She was apprehensive about the whole insurance process, with the rumours of its complexity heard around the village to claim compensation. So, she never considered getting insurance for her goats. Her mindset changed after getting an orientation on livestock insurance organized by LI-BIRD under the LREP II project.

In November 2022, she insured four of her goats. It turned out to be a wise decision as she lost two of her goats to a disease with a symptom of diarrhea in December 2022 and the insurance policy was there for her. She received a compensation of NPR 26,625 after a month without any hassle. Pabitra says, “after facilitation from LI-BIRD’s staff, I was able to proceed ahead to receive compensation. This experience not only eased my financial burden but also instilled confidence in me. I feel more secure and empowered to invest in an additional three goats in my farm.” Indeed, her successful insurance claim served as a source of inspiration for fellow farmers in the community. As soon as she received the cheque, 35 of her neighbours wasted no time in contacting the local insurance agent to get their goat and pig insured.

LI-BIRD’s support in sensitization of insurance of small livestock has proven a valuable tool for reducing risk and increasing resilience of farmers like Pabitra by providing them with financial protection against unexpected losses related to their livestock. LI-BIRD’s approach on emphasizing insurance of small livestock through cooperatives and farmer’s groups has simplified access to the entire insurance process, from policy-making and loss registration to claim compensation. The safety net against natural disasters, disease outbreaks or accidents has made farmers secure about their investment and encouraged the whole community to invest with confidence.



Ms. Pabitra Dahit with her insured goats. Photo: Samikkshya Pandit, LI-BIRD



Ms. Pabitra Dahit received compensation from the insurance company for the loss of her goat. Photo: Khima Rana Magar, LI-BIRD

Major ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023



Women from Humla during International Year of Millets celebration. Photo: Sujan Bhandari, LI-BIRD

The United Nations General Assembly at its 75th session in March 2021 declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023). The FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the year in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. LI-BIRD in collaboration with various governmental agencies and local governments celebrated the IYM 2023 by organizing different events. One of them was in Humla with the slogan "Millet crop for food nutrition security, environment and rural transformation". Farmers, cooperatives and community seed banks from seven local municipalities of the district were present. In the event, there was a demonstration competition for recipes made from four crops (finger millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, and buckwheat). Rodikot Community Seed Bank established by LI-BIRD/SHIP Nepal secured second place in finger millet and third in proso millet, while Chhipra Community Seed

Bank came second in foxtail millet recipe and third in finger millet recipe. In total, nine different dishes of four crops were displayed in the program.

Mr. Bhim Prakash Sharma, Minister of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Karnali Province, who reached Humla to celebrate the International Year of Millets 2023, said that the millet planted yesterday has become a matter of respect today. He said that the plan of the state government and the cooperation of the Agriculture Development Office under the local level was successful in celebrating millet day in Humla for the first time.

LI-BIRD was honoured with a letter of appreciation by the Agricultural Development Office for cooperation and coordination in the programme.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGROBIODIVERSITY YEAR 2079 (2022/23)



Tuber Crops diversity at National Agrobiodiversity Fair in Annapurna Rural Municipality. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Nepal government affirmed the year 2079 BS as the National Agrobiodiversity Year and the first day of Magh month (*Maghesankranti*) as the National Agrobiodiversity Day. To mark the very first National Agrobiodiversity Day, the first week of Magh 2079 (15-21 January 2023) was celebrated as the week of Agrobiodiversity nationwide. In solidarity with the government's declaration, LI-BIRD collaborated with various governmental agencies and local governments to celebrate the first National Agrobiodiversity Year by organizing agrobiodiversity and local food fairs at local and national levels. Similarly, various special events and interaction workshops were organized with participation from different governmental agencies including Centre for Crop development and

Agrobiodiversity Conservation (CCDABC) and NARC. Within this year, various knowledge products such as local crop catalogues, flyers, and booklets have been developed along with considerable progress on landrace registration.

In collaboration with Agriculture Knowledge Centres (AKCs), municipal offices, local cooperatives and community seed banks (CSB) of Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Surkhet, Kaski and Sindhupalchowk, LI-BIRD jointly organized eight agrobiodiversity and local food fairs. More than 2,500 participants from different governmental agencies, local leaders, local farmers, students, and media personnel attended those events. Local crop diversity, local food recipes and knowledge

products were demonstrated and served to the attendees. Those events helped to sensitize a large number of people on the importance of local crop conservation and its sustainable use. Similarly, LI-BIRD participated in an event organized by the CCDABC at Hariharbhawan with knowledge product's stall and supported Purkot CSB, Tanahun to participate in the event.

LI-BIRD published a finger millet catalogue covering details of 12 landraces from Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk. Seven introductory flyers of traditional crop landraces namely 'Amilarcha', 'Poi Saag', 'Samdhini Saag', 'Kundru', 'Chameli Saag', 'Seto Dabdi' wheat and 'Joroyal Basmati' rice have been drafted. A total of 11 CSBs were supported for conservation and promotion of local crops through four on-going projects, namely, SD=HS, LREP II, SAKSHAM, and CRA II in Kailai, Kanchanpur, Doti, Bardiya, Kaski and Sindhupalchowk districts. Two new CSBs have been initiated in Kaski and Kanchanpur districts. Three varietal registration proposals of 'Joroyal Basmati' from Doti rice, 'Lal Anadi' rice from Kanchanpur and 'Jhumka' rice from Kailali have been submitted to the SQCC under the Schedule D provision. Similarly, five

more varietal registration proposals of 'Hariyo Kauchin' rice from Sindhupalchowk, 'Kalo Patle' rice and 'Madale Kankro' from Kaski were drafted.

LI-BIRD technically facilitated the Raithane Baali Program of CCDABC in close coordination with the municipal government and respective area's CSBs. Under the program, CCDABC allocated a budget for 29 municipalities targeting CSBs and raithane baali promotion activities. LI-BIRD coordinated with multiple municipal offices and respective area's CSBs to tap in the resources from the program. With this, 11 CSBs were able to leverage resources from the program ranging from NPR 1 to 15 lakh. Through the budget received, CSBs invested in maintaining local crop's diversity blocks, seed multiplication of local crops, adding physical resources to CSBs, and organizing agrobiodiversity fairs in their communities.

Overall, the national agrobiodiversity year 2079 and LI-BIRD's regular program complemented each other and brought synergetic results on creating mass awareness, conservation, and promotion of agrobiodiversity in Nepal.



A stall showing diversity of rice at the National Agrobiodiversity Fair in Annapurna Rural Municipality, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

SIGNING OF MoUS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND THE KARNALI PROVINCE



Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Shrestha (AFU) and Dr. Baram Thpa (LI-BIRD) exchanging the signed MoU in Pokhara, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

LI-BIRD emphasizes the execution of its programs and projects through formal agreements with the provincial governments and the universities in the areas of its operation. In the FY 2022/23, LI-BIRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) to explore new research areas and explore the quality of research, extension, and education in the field of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management. Dr. Baram Thapa, the then Executive Director of LI-BIRD and Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Shrestha, Dean from DOREX, AFU signed the MoU on 9 April 2023. Similarly, there was a renewal of MoU with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Karnali Province on 18 August 2023 for the period of five years (2023-2028). Earlier, there was only a one-year agreement with

the MoLMAC, where both parties worked jointly and significant achievements were made in terms of strengthening the efforts towards agroecology-based farming and the capacities for managing pollination services in the province. The MoU was signed by Mr. Bharat Bhandari (Executive Director, LI-BIRD) and Dr. Narahari Prasad Ghimire (Secretary, MoLMAC), graced by the presence of Honourable Minister, Mr. Bhim Prakash Sharma, including a number of distinguished personnel from Agriculture and Planning Divisions, Agriculture Development Directorate, Agriculture and Livestock Business Promotion Training Center, Agriculture Research Station, Mid-West University, LI-BIRD's management team and Karnali cluster staff. It set the tone for collaboration in the priority areas of MoLMAC, specifically in the field of agroecological approaches and organic mission led

by the Karnali Province along with agriculture-based research and development. It envisions coordinated efforts and collaboration for harnessing the synergy of resources and leveraging the expertise of technical professionals, leading towards sustainable progress in agrobiodiversity conservation, and enhancing the livelihoods and holistic well-being of the Karnali people.

The MoU between LI-BIRD and the Faculty of Agriculture at the Far Western University signifies a joint commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management in Nepal which took place on 23 January 2023. The Faculty of Agriculture, established in 2018, aims to create a scholarly environment for emerging experts in agriculture. While currently offering a Bachelor's in Agricultural Science, FoA recognizes the need to enhance faculty and student exposure to the evolving landscape of Nepalese farming. The MoU formalizes a strategic collaboration, aiming to synergize strengths, foster cross-learning, and engage students in participatory research. Both organizations aspire to

contribute significantly to sustainable development in agriculture and natural resource management, symbolizing a shared vision for advancing knowledge and conservation in Nepal.

Adhering to the MoU between LI-BIRD and Far Western University, LI-BIRD enrolled seven agriculture undergraduates in an internship program in February 2023. The interns successfully completed their thesis research between February to July 2023 at different LI-BIRD's projects that include SD=HS, SAKSHAM and LREP II. Their research was conducted in regions including Bardiya, Doti, Kailali, and Kanchanpur, under the direct guidance of the project staff. The interns focused on critical organizational objectives such as farmer field school on participatory varietal selection, assessing the effectiveness of different botanicals and biocontrol agents against pests, and nutritious and underutilized species like Kangkong. These diverse student research projects had a significant importance for the respective communities and provided the basis for future work in the area.



Mr. Bharat Bhandari, Executive Director of LI-BIRD and Secretary MoLMAC Dr. Narhari Prasad Ghimire sharing MoU after signing in presence of the Honourable Minister Mr. Bhim Prakash Sharma (left). Photo: Shamis Basnet, LI-BIRD

STRATEGIC PERIOD HIGHLIGHTS (2017-2022)

REGISTRATION OF LOCAL CROP LANDRACES INTO THE NATIONAL SEED INVENTORY SYSTEM



'Bariyo Kaguno', a local variety of foxtail millet. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Release or registration of a variety is an important step to bring promising local landraces from the informal seed system into the formal system. Seed Regulation 2023 has provisioned registration of local crop landraces in order to recognize them legally, bring them into the formal seed system and to promote conservation through use. This strategic period has been a remarkable journey to bring local crop landraces into the national seed system through varietal registration. LI-BIRD technically facilitated the registration of total 18 landraces of seven different crops (16 landraces under schedule D and two

landraces under schedule B) within the strategic period of 2017-2022 (Table 1). Among 18 landraces, 16 were registered with farmer organizations like cooperatives and Community Seed Banks (CSBs) as the lead, whereas two were registered with LI-BIRD as the lead. The National Gene Bank in Khumaltar played a key role to facilitate the process with active engagement. Similarly, the Center for Crop Development and Agrobiodiversity Conservation (CCDABC) also supported in the registration process as the key governmental stakeholder mandated to work in the sector of agrobiodiversity.

Despite the provision of registering landraces under schedule D in Seed Regulation 2013, there were lots of misunderstandings on technical requirements of proposal and procedure. LI-BIRD in close coordination with the National Gene Bank and the Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) worked to elaborate the existing Schedule D provision to make it clearer and farmer-friendly. A new elaborated proposal template was developed jointly and endorsed by the SQCC in 2019-20 providing momentum to the landrace registration process.

Amaranth, proso millet, and foxtail millet entered the national listing for the first time with the registration of 'Ramechhap Hariyo Latte', 'Dudhe Chino' and 'Bariyo Kagunu' from Ramechhap, Humla and Lamjung

districts, respectively. Similarly, very unique rice landraces from Kaski, Tanahun, Nawalparasi, Dang and Bardiya, two beans from Dolakha and one soybean from Sankhuwasbhaba were also registered in the lead of respective site's CSBs (Table 1). In the meantime, respective local governments have taken ownership of the process and have supplied resources for varietal maintenance and promotion of the registered landraces. Though there are still some technical and administrative ambiguities on seed certification and source seed maintenance of Schedule D varieties, registration of such farmer varieties has been a stepping stone towards utilization and conservation of our rich local crop diversity. The legalization of such unique landraces has laid the foundation of farmer's rights and access benefit sharing mechanisms.

Table 1: Inventory of registered local crop landraces within 2017-2022 period in LI-BIRD's technical facilitation

SN	Crop (no.)	Local variety name	District	Redg. Year
1	Rice (10)	Kalonuniya*	Jhapa	2019
		Bayarni	Kaski	2021
		Ekle	Kaski	2021
		Kalo Jhinuwa	Kaski	2021
		Pahenle	Kaski	2021
		Rato Anadi	Kaski	2021
		Ghuipuri	Bardiya	2022
		Dalle Masino	Tanahun	2022
		Kanak Jira	Nawalparasi	2022
		Tilki	Dang	2022
2	Amaranths (2)	Ramechhap Hariyo Latte*	Ramechhap	2018
		Rato Latte	Jumla	2021
3	Beans (2)	Dolakha Pahenlo Simi	Dolakha	2021
		Dolakha Khairo Simi	Dolakha	2021
4	Foxtail Millet (1)	Bariyo Kaguno	Lamjung	2021
5	Proso Millet (1)	Dudhe Chino	Humla	2021
6	Finger Millet (1)	Rato Kodo	Jumla	2021
7	Soybean (1)	Nepale Bhatmas	Sankhuwasabha	2022

*Landrace registered under Schedule B in LI-BIRD's lead

INVESTING IN HUMAN RESOURCES

STATUS OF WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN LI-BIRD



LI-BIRD Staff and Executive Board participating in LI-BIRD's Research and Development Strategy 2030 finalization workshop in Naudanda, Kaski. Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

In 2022/23, LI-BIRD had 103 full-time staff including 63 men and 40 women. Our staff was composed of 56 Brahmins, Chhetris and Thakuris; 34 Janajatis; 7 Newars; 5 Dalits; and 1 Madhesi. Our additional human resources include 29 part-time motivators (locally recruited to support project field activities).

We have devised different approaches to attract and retain a diverse workforce at different levels. While we recognize that diversifying the workforce at the senior and executive level will be critical to realize our vision of becoming an equitable and inclusive organization, we have not been able to attract women candidates at these levels. Hence, to close the gender gap, LI-BIRD is focusing on recruitment at Mid-Level Manager positions followed by intensive coaching and grooming for leadership roles. We have been utilizing forums like Team Leaders Meeting and Extended Management Committee Meetings, Strategy Formulation Process as in-house leadership development platform by providing support to enhance decision-making ability and preparing them for higher responsibility.

LI-BIRD has been prioritizing candidates from discriminated groups (women and candidates from Dalit, Janajati, Madhesi/Terai and other minority communities) in its internship programmes. LI-BIRD provides opportunities to fresh graduates to learn, grow, and enhance their competitiveness in the

professional world. Through involvement in LI-BIRD's projects and programmes, they gain practical work experience fostering their professional growth. Adhering to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LI-BIRD and FWU in January 2023, LI-BIRD enrolled seven agriculture fresh undergraduates in an internship program in February 2023. The interns successfully completed their thesis research between February to July 2023 at different LI-BIRD projects namely SD=HS, SAKSHAM and LREP. Their research was conducted in regions including Bardiya, Doti, Kailali, and Kanchanpur, under the direct guidance of project staff.

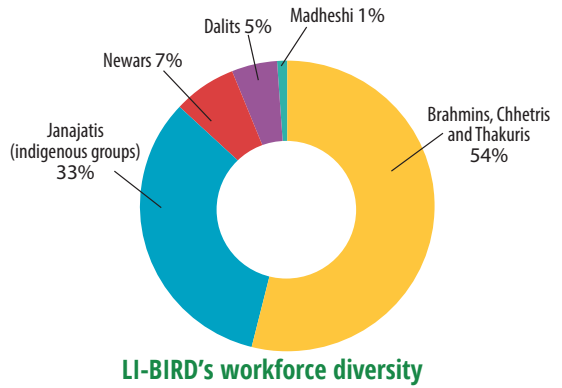
In addition, LI-BIRD has a strategic focus on empowering local women by engaging them as part-time workers in roles like Social Mobilizers, Motivators, Field Facilitators, and Local Resource Persons so that more women advance to the Programme Assistant Level. Over the period of three years, we have successfully transitioned three part-time Social Mobilizers into full-time staff roles. Similarly, two part time Facilitator and one Social Mobilizer have been upgraded as Programme Assistants.

LI-BIRD has been a workplace where there is assimilation between the diverse workforce representing diverse culture and backgrounds. LI-BIRD promotes workforce diversity and creates opportunities for enhancing capacities of staff from diverse communities and creating an enabling environment.

The appointment of staff from most marginalized communities has contributed to create a nexus with disadvantaged groups and people from different backgrounds and to understand real issues and the overall context of marginalized communities. The diversity and inclusion have helped to generate new and innovative working approaches as the inputs from diverse workforce play a role to enrich programme planning, designing and implementation thereby enhancing organizational credibility. The workforce diversity and inclusion has helped LI-BIRD to set an example amongst stakeholders and partners.

We have utilized both physical and virtual platforms for the capacity building of staff. Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and Environment and Social Safeguarding has been an organizational priority for LI-BIRD. Thus, at the organizational level, a

professional with expertise in gender and environmental safeguarding has been seconded from Bread for the World. The capacity development initiatives have been started at Team Leaders level which shall be passed on to successions gradually.



Testimony

I am Indira Majhi from Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Ward No. 7, Majhigaun (*fishermen's village*), Sindhupalchowk. I belong to the Majhi community, our primary livelihood depends on fishing and collection of sand, pebbles, and gravel along the riverbanks of the Sunkoshi River. Growing up, I spent my childhood in the riverbanks, nurturing a dream of working in an office and supporting my family and community to overcome the challenges associated with the livelihoods tied to the riverbanks. I am thrilled to share that my dream has come true. I now work as a Social Mobilizer in the CRA II project.



Ms. Indira Majhi interacting with local farmers. Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

My journey with LI-BIRD began as a part time office helper. I was always motivated in agriculture and farming. Seeing my interest in agriculture, LI-BIRD staff motivated me for higher study with specialization in agriculture. I pursued a Technical School Leaving Certificate (SLC) with specialization in Agriculture at Bansanghu Secondary School, Balephi, Sindhupalchowk. Subsequently, there was a vacancy in LI-BIRD for the position of Social Mobilizer. I went through the recruitment process, and was selected for the position. This opportunity has allowed me to work directly within my community, offering support to enhance their livelihoods. My community listens to me and places their trust in my effort. I regularly convey the community's needs, opinions, observations to our team, facilitating adaptations in our working approach and interventions. This experience has empowered me and boosted my confidence to work independently. I have enjoyed working with LI-BIRD and my colleagues always support and respect me. I am confident in my abilities and believe that once my tenure here concludes, I can apply my skills in other institutions or establish my own agricultural farm.

Financial HIGHLIGHTS

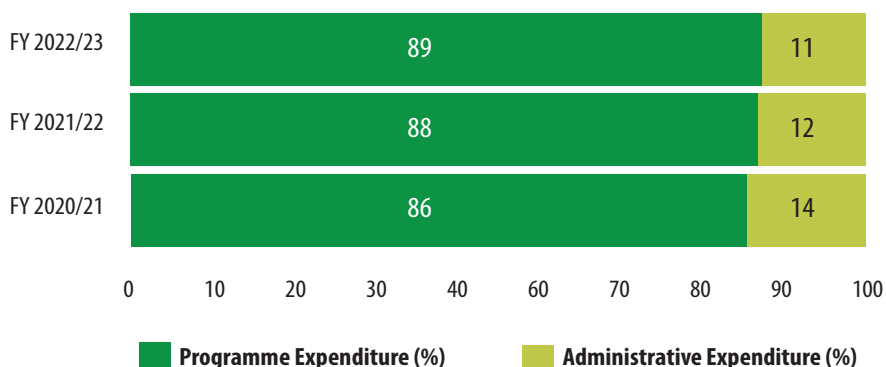
The total budget of LI-BIRD in the FY 2022/23 amounted to NPR 299,458,502, of which, the actual expenditure amounted to NPR 283,811,622, with the overall burn rate of 94.77%. Of the total expenditure, 88.89% was spent in programme activity, while 11.11% was utilized to cover the administrative expenses.

LI-BIRD received financial support for its research and development work from a range of donors. In the FY 2022/23, 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.

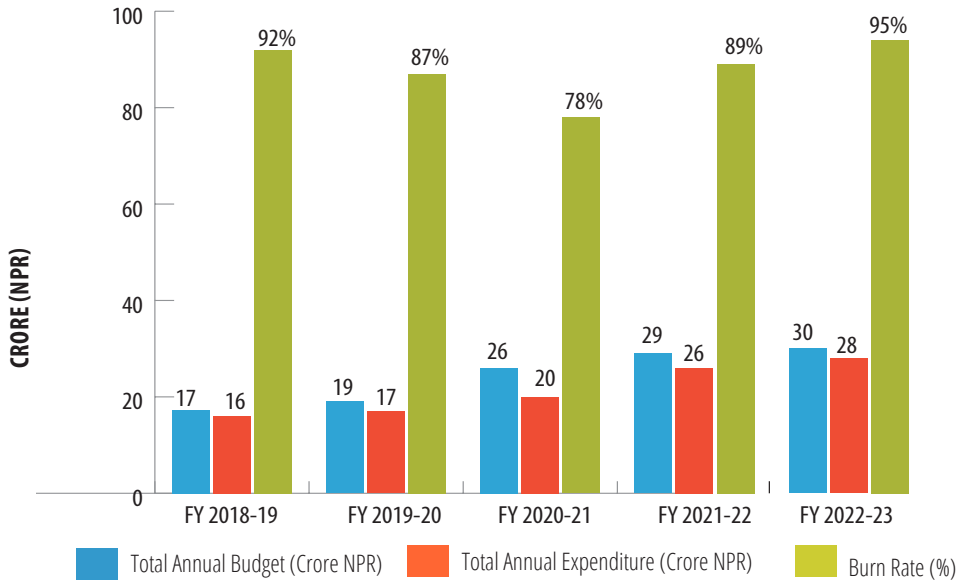
Project	Funding Agency	District
Completed		
Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities Through The Establishment of Solar-Based Lift Irrigation Scheme In Dullu Municipality, Dailekh District. Karnali Province, Nepal	EKOenergy ecolabel - Finnish Association for Nature Conservation	Dailekh
Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation In Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN)	European Union via DanChurchAid	Dailekh and Kanchanpur
Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains In Salyan And Sindhupalchowk Districts Of Nepal (SAVC)	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
Technical Support for Planning, Demonstration and Local Capacity Building to Promote Organic Farming in Laliguransh Municipality of Terathum District	ActionAid Nepal	Terathum
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
Piloting Landscape Governance Assessment: Rupa Lake Landscape/ Watershed	World Bank	Kaski
Resilient Mountain Solution in Nepal	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Doti
Implementation of the Value Chain Survey on Forest Products for the Project for Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) via Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd.	Parbat, Syangja and Tanahu
Implementation of the Baseline Survey with Social and Gender Analysis for the Project for Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) via Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd.	Parbat, Syangja and Tanahu
Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Food Security	Biodiversity International	Bara, Dang, Humla Jhapa, Jumla, Kaski, Kanchanpur, Kailali, Nawaparasi, and Tanahun

Project	Funding Agency	District
Recuperating Farmers' Seed System and Increasing Community Resilience in Sudurpaschim Province in Nepal	Oxfam Nepal	Dadeldhura, Kailali and Kanchanpur
People's Landscape Approach	Oxfam Nepal	Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur
New		
Building Capacity of Women Farmers in Climate Resilient Agroecological Farming Practices	Kfb (Katholische Frauenbewegung)	Jumla and Surkhet
Rolling out Proven Climate Smart Measures for Enhanced Production of Selected Agriculture Value Chains in Sudurpaschim Province	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Bajura, Dadeldhura, Doti and Kailali
AADHAR Everyone has the right to a worthy life	DanChurchAid	Bardiya
Ongoing		
Livelihoods and Resilience Enhancement Project (LREP) II	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Development Fund, Norway (DF)	Bardiya, Humla and Kailali
Scaling up Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Sindhupalchowk and Kaski Districts (CRA) II	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
Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems	University of Bristol	Jumla
Advocacy and Strengthening Resilience Through LANN+: Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security	Welthungerhilfe	Dhading and Salyan
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
Green Karnali - Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in Karnali River Basin	DanChurchAid	Achham, Dailekh and Surkhet

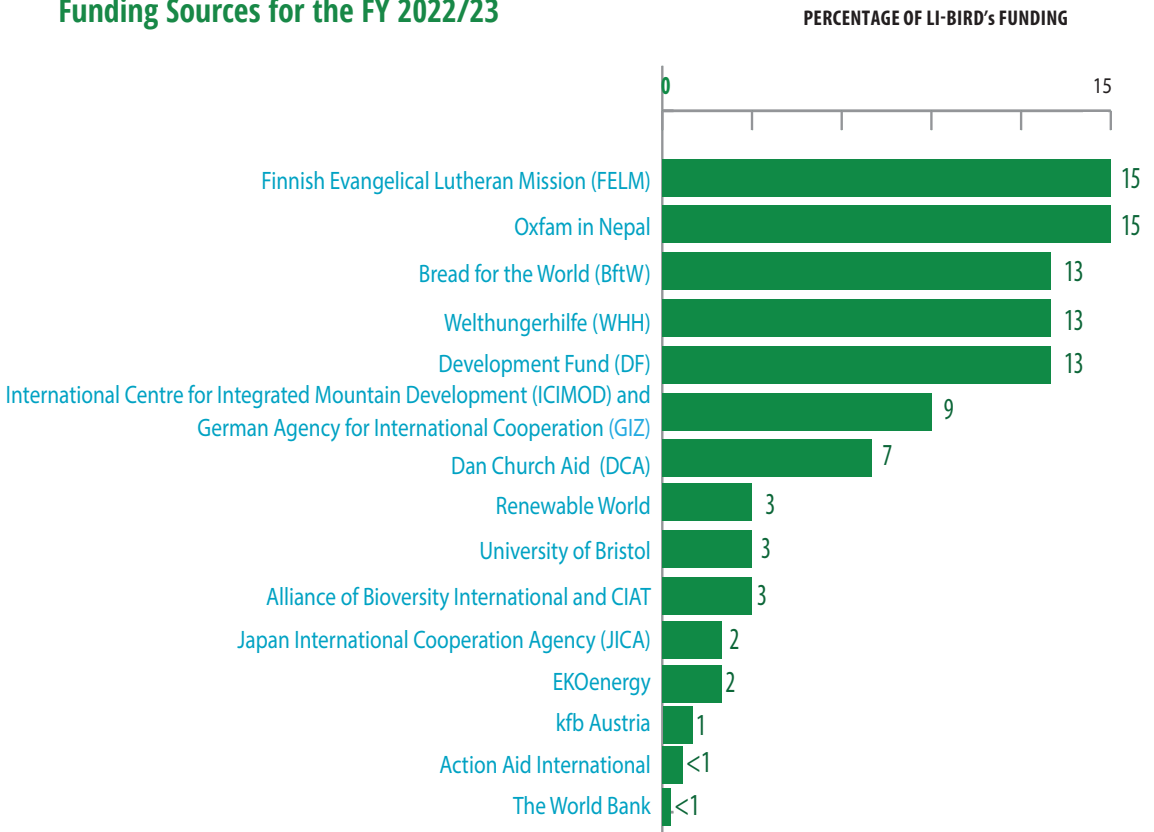
Programme vs Administrative Expenditure



Resource Mobilization Trends



Funding Sources for the FY 2022/23

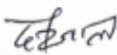



Financial Statement of FY 2022/23


Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
Pokhara
Statement of Financial Position as at 16 July 2023


Particulars	Annex	Current year Rs	Previous year Rs
Capital and Liabilities			
Capital and Reserve Fund			
Unrestricted Fund	1	58,804,378.24	67,417,286.23
Restricted Fund	2	19,595,561.42	9,936,228.43
Fixed Assets Capital Fund	3	10,008,625.21	10,647,922.17
Long Term Liability			
Gratuity Fund		1,266,241.61	71,523.27
Grand Total		89,674,806.50	88,072,960.09
Assets			
Fixed Assets	4	38,507,673.18	40,197,298.20
Earmarked Fund	5	33,932,999.01	32,270,045.58
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank Balances	6	37,221,730.39	50,756,753.35
Account Receivables	7	4,952,056.67	5,941,264.89
Staff Loan, Advances and Deposit	8	523,482.15	736,531.21
Grants Receivable from Donor	10	5,768,574.64	5,269,513.94
Total Current Assets		48,465,843.85	62,704,063.39
Less : Current Liabilities and Provisions			
Sundry Creditors	9	6,159,135.79	8,276,359.00
Grants Received in Advance	10	25,072,573.75	38,822,088.08
Total Current Liabilities and Provisions		31,231,709.54	47,098,447.08
Net Current Assets		17,234,134.31	15,605,616.31
Grand Total		89,674,806.50	88,072,960.09

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Account 14

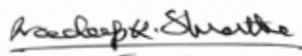
(Chairperson : Deepak Kumar Rijal, PhD) 


(Executive Director : Bharat Bhandari) 


(Member/Treasurer : Ramkali Khadka) 

(Head of Admin & Finance : Laxmi Gurung) 

As per our report of even date attached


CA Pradeep Kumar Shrestha
For Pradeep & Co.
Chartered Accountants





The external audit was performed by Pradeep & Company 'Class A' Chartered Accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Board endorsed by Annual General Assembly of LI-BIRD.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES, BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND PROCEEDINGS

- Bhusal A., Pudasaini, N., Neupane, S.P., Shrestha, R.K., Gauchan, D., & Pandey, S. (2023). *Training Manual on Agrobiodiversity and Farmers' Rights*. LI-BIRD. <https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Training-Manual-Agrobiodiversity-and-Farmers-rights.pdf>
- Joshi, B.K., Neupane, S.P., Gauchan, D., Ayer, D.K. & Mengistu, D.K. (2023). *Policy gaps, actions and recommendations for the adoption and benefit sharing of crop evolutionary population and cultivar mixture Policy briefing paper*. NAGRC, LI-BIRD, Alliance of Biodiversity International and IFAD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Policy-briefing-paper_EP-and-CM_EPB.pdf
- Joshi, B.K., Ghimire, K.H., Neupane, S.P., Gauchan, D. & Mengistu, D.K. (2023) Approaches and Advantages of Increased Crop Genetic Diversity in the Fields. *Diversity*. 15(5):603. <https://www.mdpi.com/1424-2818/15/5/603>
- Joshi, B.K., Neupane, S.P. & Gauchan, D. (2023). *An Evolutionary Plant Breeding (EPB) in Nepal*. NARC, LI-BIRD & Alliance of Biodiversity International. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Factsheet_epb.pdf
- Joshi, B.K., Neupane, S.P., Ayer, D.K. & Gauchan, D. (2023). *Evolutionary Plant Breeding in Nepal: Training Guides and Protocol*. NARC, LI-BIRD & Alliance of Biodiversity International. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Training_guides_protocol_EPB.pdf
- Khanal, S., GC, S., & Bhattarai, H.K. (2023). *Evaluation of Agroecological Performance in Karnali Province: A Case Study Of Aathbis, Dullu, Birendranagar and Barahatal Municipalities*. LI-BIRD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Evaluation_of_Agroecological_Performance_in_Karnali_Province-TAPE-Report.pdf
- Khatri, N.D., Paudel, D., Bhusal, P. et al. (2023). Determinants of farmers' decisions to adopt agroforestry practices: insights from the Mid-hills of Western Nepal. *Agroforest Systems* 97, 833–845. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-023-00830-6>
- LI-BIRD. (2022). *Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM): Baseline Study Report*. LI-BIRD. <https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/SAKSHAM-Baseline-report-design.pdf>
- LI-BIRD. (2022). *Baseline Study of Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in Karnali River Basin*. LI-BIRD. <https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Baseline-Study-of-Climate-and-Gender-Responsive-Resilient-Agriculture-and-Enterprises-in-Karnali-River-Basin.pdf>
- LI-BIRD. (2022). *Climate Adaptive Livelihoods and Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security Programme: Stories of change*. LI-BIRD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate_Adaptive_Livelihoods_sustainable_food_Nutrition_Security_Programme_stories.pdf
- LI-BIRD. (2022). *Climate Resilient and Agroecological Farming Practices: Compendium of Good Practices*. LI-BIRD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate_Resilient_and_Agroecological_Farming_Good_Practices.pdf
- Neupane, S.P., Joshi, BK., Ayer, D.K., Ghimire, K.H., Gauchan, D., Karkee, A., Jarvis, D.I., Mengistu, D.K., Grando, S., & Ceccarelli, S. (2023). Farmers' Preferences and Agronomic Evaluation of Dynamic Mixtures of Rice and Bean in Nepal. *Diversity*, 15(5), 660. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d15050660>
- Rana, R.B., BK, P., GC, S., Bhattarai, H.K., & Shiwakoti, T. (2022). *Greening of Value Chains in Karnali Province: Understanding Farmers' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on Climate Resilient Agriculture and Agro-ecological Farming*. LI-BIRD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/GK_KAP_Study_Report.pdf
- Ranabhat, S. Sipkhan, P.R., GC, S. & Bhattarai, H.K. (2022). *A report on Travelling Seminar to Kumara Village of Joroyal Rural Municipality, Doti District*. LI-BIRD. <https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/A-report-on-Travelling-Seminar-to-Kumara-Village-of-Joroyal-Rural-Municipality-Doti-District.pdf>
- Shrestha, P., Khatri, L. & Thapa, R. (2023). *Inspiring Stories: Strengthening Agriculture Value Chain*. LI-BIRD. https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/Inspiring_Stories_SAVC.pdf

PUBLICATIONS IN NEPALI LANGUAGE

अनिता गौतम, निरन्जन पुडासैनी, सागर जि.सी., इन्द्र प्रसाद पौडेल, आशिष कार्की, सम्वत रानाभाट र इन्देश्वर मण्डल (वि.सं.२०७९) । *पर्यावरणीय कृषिमा माटो व्यवस्थापनका विधिहरू* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल ।

अनिता गौतम, निरन्जन पुडासैनी, सागर जि.सी., इन्द्र प्रसाद पौडेल र आशिष कार्की (वि.सं.२०७९) । *पर्यावरणीय कृषिका लागि उपयोगी पानी व्यवस्थापनका विधिहरू* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल

निरन्जन पुडासैनी, बिष्णु ढकाल, बलराम रिजाल र सन्तोष श्रेष्ठ । (वि.सं. २०७९) । *सामुदायिक बीउ बैंक स्थापना, सञ्चालन तथा सुदुर्लभ विधि एवं प्रक्रिया* । जैविक विविधता, अनुसन्धान तथा विकासका लागि स्थानीय पहल (ली-बर्ड), पोखरा, बाली विकास तथा कृषि जैविक विविधता संरक्षण केन्द्र, श्रीमहल, ललितपुर ।

ली-बर्ड । (वि.सं. २०७९) । *समानुकूलन जीविकोपार्जन र दिगो खाद्य तथा पोषण सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम: परिवर्तनका कथाहरू* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल ।

ली-बर्ड । (वि.सं. २०७९) *जलवायु समानुकूलन र पर्यावरणीय कृषि-मैत्री प्रविधि तथा अभ्यासको सङ्ग्रह* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल, ।

डा. श्रीप्रसाद न्यौपाने, डा. टम टिम्बरलेक, डा. केदार देवकोटा, सुजन सापकोटा, डा. दयाराम भुसाल, चित्र बहादुर रोकाय, तिर्थ देवकोटा, आस्था भुसाल, निरन्जन पुडासैनी, सागर जि.सी., प्रा.डा. जेन मेमोट । *नेपालमा परागसेचन सेवाको अवधारणा तथा व्यवस्थापन: सहयोगी तालिम पुस्तिका* । जैविक विविधता, अनुसन्धान तथा विकासका लागि स्थानीय पहल (ली-बर्ड), पोखरा, ब्रिष्टोल विश्वविद्यालय, युके, कृषि तथा वन विश्वविद्यालय, रामपुर, हर्ड इन्टरनेशनल, त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय-केन्द्रीय जीवविज्ञान विभाग, कीर्तिपुर, कृषि विकास निर्देशनालय, कर्णाली प्रदेश, सुर्खेत, २०७९ ।

सरोज पन्त, बन्दना श्रेष्ठ, ललिता आले मगर र आस्था भुसाल । (वि.सं.२०७९) । *सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशका स्थानीय खाद्य परिकार* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल ।

सागर जि.सी., अनिता गौतम, इन्द्र प्रसाद पौडेल, तेजस्वी शिवाकोटी र सम्वत रानाभाट । (वि.सं. २०७९) । *सहभागितामूलक गुणस्तर निर्धारण प्रणाली प्रवर्धन कार्यविधिको नमूना* । ली-बर्ड, पोखरा, नेपाल ।

RADIO PROGRAMME

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

VIDEOS

LI-BIRD. 2022. उत्परिवर्तनशील बाली प्रजनन EVOLUTIONARY PLANT BREEDING (EPB).

Available at https://youtu.be/Oq2GCDhpmPA?si=U3ehrgwkwizk_yZm

LI-BIRD. 2023. Farmers-led Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB): Case of Nepal).

Available at <https://youtu.be/95on-UNePAI?si=xQOkYQa5YdPF-LoE>

LI-BIRD. 2023. Pollination Management: A Frontier to Revitalizing the Agricultural Systems.

Available at https://youtu.be/Ts3l0Kd7ttc?si=GPzd2GD3pKtTtgz_

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



Find more publications at: <https://libird.org/publications/>

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND FUNDING AGENCIES FY 2022/23



actionaid



Brot für die Welt



PROJECTS IN 2022/23

- AADHAR: Everyone has the right to a worthy life
- Advocacy and Strengthening Resilience through LANN+: Linking Agriculture and Natural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security
- Building Capacity of Women Farmers in Climate Resilient Agroecological Farming Practices
- Building Resilience of Agro-Ecosystem and Community Empowerment Implemented in Ten Municipalities of Sudurpaschim Province
- Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems
- Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN)
- Green Karnali: Climate and Gender Responsive Resilient Agriculture and Enterprises in Karnali River Basin
- Implementation of the Baseline Survey with Social and Gender Analysis for the Project for Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal
- Implementation of the Value Chain Survey on Forest Products for the Project for Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal
- Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities through the Establishment of Solar-based Lift Irrigation Scheme in Dullu Municipality, Dailekh District, Karnali Province, Nepal
- Improving Seed Systems for Smallholder Food Security
- Livelihood and Resilience Enhancement Project (LREP) Phase II
- People's Landscape Approach
- Piloting Landscape Governance Assessment: Rupa Lake Landscape/ Watershed
- Recuperating Farmers' Seed System and Increasing Community Resilience in Sudurpaschim Province in Nepal
- Renewable Energy Access for Livelihoods in Fragile Buffer Zones (Realize)
- Resilient Mountain Solution in Nepal
- Rolling out Proven Climate Smart Measures for Enhanced Production of Selected Agriculture Value Chains in Sudurpaschim Province
- Scaling Up Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Nepal (CRA) Phase II
- Sowing Diversity= Harvesting Security (SD=HS)
- Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains in Salyan and Sindhupalchowk Districts of Nepal
- Strengthening Capacity of Smallholder Farmers for Resilient Livelihoods (SAKSHAM)
- Strengthening Farmers-led Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) Initiative for Increasing Access to Seeds of Climate Resilient and Locally Adapted Crop Varieties Among Smallholder Farmers in Nepal
- Technical Support for Planning, Demonstration and Local Capacity Building to Promote Organic Farming in Laliguransh Municipality of Terathum District
- Use of Genetic Diversity and Evolutionary Plant Breeding for Enhanced Farmer Resilience to Climate Change, Sustainable Crop Productivity, and Nutrition Under Rainfed Conditions

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-2023

Deepak Kumar Rijal, PhD
Chairperson



Meeta Sainju Pradhan, PhD
Vice Chairperson

Ramkali Khadka
Treasurer



Beni Bahadur Basnet
Secretary

Binod Bhatta, PhD
Member



Rajya Shree Sthapit
Member

Lekhnath Dhakal
Member





INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
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2023

Rich in heritage, full of potential



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

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Sanepa, Lalitpur, Nepal
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