

1. Visits**31 October, 2007; Visit of Sindhuwa Multipurpose Cooperative, Dhankuta by GM**

The GM as per the request of the Cooperative Management Committee visited the Cooperative and held a discussion on different aspects of the Cooperative with its members and officials. The Cooperative was established 16 years ago. Among the 6 Cooperatives of Sindhuwa, it is a leading cooperative and is involved in the marketing and export of vegetable products of the area. The Cooperative was exporting vegetables equivalent to Rs 120 million annually of which vegetables equivalent to Rs 25 million was produced by the members of Sindhuwa Cooperative alone. The Cooperative was mobilizing Rs 4.7 million to support farmers. 287 members of the Cooperative directly and 1500 farmer families indirectly were benefited by the Cooperative. The Marketing Manger of the Cooperative is also one of the founder members of the CAA from the private sector.

3 November, 2007; Visit of PLAN Nepal Field Site by GM

As per the request of Regional Agriculture Director, the GM together with Regional Agriculture Director of the Eastern Region and PLAN Officials visited different VDCs of Morang district where PLAN with the assistance of national NGO such as FORWARD had tried to bring the marginalized group of people in the commercialization process. 52 groups were formed in the 31 VDCs of Morang (out of 65 VDCs) who are involved in community vegetable farming leasing private and public land. Most of these groups are from disadvantaged community that were involved in wage labour in India and Nepal before. Interaction with them revealed that they have experienced drastic change in their social and economic life after involvement in vegetable farming. These groups of farmers are realized to be the potential stakeholder of CAA for grant investment provided that they are developed from semi-commercialized farmers to commercial farmers by CADP.

24 January, 2008; Urlabari Festival Urlabari Morang by CAA Main Office Staff

The festival was organized by Chamber of Commerce and Industry Morang to disseminate the information and technology related to development sector including agriculture development. The CADP/ CAA also established a stall in the festival area to disseminate its information. More than 500 people visited the stall and gathered the information. During the visit of the GM a formal meeting was also organized with the officials of Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

27 January, 2008; CAA Office Visit by Dr. Narayan Khadka, former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission

Dr Khadka visited the Main Office acquired detailed information about CAA implementation procedure. He also explained about the potentiality of commercialization of Udayapur district, his area of origin.

29 January, 2008; CAA Office Visit by Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative

The Secretary visited Main Office, enquired about the working progress of CAA discussed about the issues and constraints and also gave instruction for future activities.

11 February 2008; CAA Visit by Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Officials

Mr Ram Kumar Acharya , Joint Secretary and Mr Khem Niraula section Officer of CIAA visited CAA Office and enquired about its working modalities and organizational structure and role and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and Management Team.

8 March 2008; CAA Office Visit by Mr. Nagendra Chaudhary, State Minister Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative



The State Minister visited CAA Main office, enquired its activities and gave policy level instructions. He emphasized on developing the agriculture economic zone in the Eastern Region, strong monitoring of the grant investment and construction of community infrastructure by forming User's Committee

Photo 1: CAA Staff Receiving the Hon State Minister at CAA Main Office Complex

19 March 2008, CAA Visit by Chairperson, National Cooperative Union and Former State Minister Ministry of Home Affair Mr. Dipak Prakash Banskota

Mr Banskota visited CAA Main Office and discussed with its staff its working modalities. He also discussed on the potential infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects for investment in Panchthar and Ilam districts.

25 March 2008, CAA Visit by Mr. Govinda Gewali, Senior Project Implementation Officer, ADB, NRM

Mr .Gewali inspected the CAA Main Office and inspired for future activities.

10 May 2008, CAA Visit by ADB Inception Mission Leader Mr Jiang Feng Zhang, Mr. Govinda Gewali, Senior Project Implementation Officer, ADB, NRM and Ms Victoria Fe Mariano, Project Implementation Officer, ADB, Manila

The mission members inspected the office and discussed with the CAA staff on the various aspects of CAA activities including its progress status, issues and constraints and future strategy. The CAA Chairperson, Mr Ashok Murarka and Board of Directors Mr. Bhala Kaji Rai were also participated in the discussion.

11 May 2008, General Assembly of CAA

CAA General Assembly was held in Hotel Namaskar, Biratnagar in a grand manner. All the 97 members attended the assembly. Distinguished guests from the Ministry, Department, Company Registrar Office, Regional Offices and District Administration and Police Officers also attended the inauguration ceremony and gave their remarks. The ADB Inception Mission Team members attended the assembly as observers. The assembly was inaugurated by Honorable NPC Member for Agriculture, Forestry and Environment Mr. Bhim Neupane. The Assembly ended at mid night with the election of 6 Board of Directors of CAA by electoral system.

12-13 May 2008, Site Visits by Mission

The Inception Mission visited different sites of Morang, Sunsari and Dhankuta and observed the commercial activities performed by the CAA general members and other potential members. Several queries were made by the mission members with the farmers in all the sites and vice versa. The mission members also visited Morang and Dhankuta Branch Offices of CAA and held discussions with the CAA staff. CAA chairperson Mr. Asok Murarka and GM also joined the Mission .

13 May 2008, CAA Office Visit by Honorable NPC Member Agriculture Forestry and Environment Mr. Bhim Neupane

The Honorable member inspected the CAA Main Office.

29 June 2008, CAA Visit by Dr Badri Pokharel, Joint secretary Prime Minister's Office Singh Durbar

The Joint Secretary appeared in CAA office with a view to acquire information about the CAA activities.

9-19 July, 2008 Observation Tour of Thailand

Mr. Bhalakaji Rai, Chairperson and Mr Ram Kumar Sharma, General Manager of CAA took part in a ten days observation tour of Thailand on Agriculture Commercialization System. They were



nominated by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative to participate in the tour. Altogether 20 officials from various government Departments and Ministries including Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Secretariat, Finance Controller's Office, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative were participated in the tour. The team visited various commercial markets of vegetables, fruits, cloths and valuable stones

Photo 3: CAA Chairperson and GM visiting Talak Thai Commercial Market of Flowers at Bagkok

The team also visited the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a leading academic and research organization of the region. Associate Professor, Dr. SL Ranamukhaarachchi, Agricultural Systems and Engineering of AIT, gave a brief presentation to the team on Research and Development of agricultural marketing system and technology in Thailand. The participants had a very fruitful discussion with Dr. Ranamukhaarachchi. The Professor expressed his commitment to provide support in organizing a capacity building programme on agricultural marketing system and commercialization to the CADP stakeholders at the subsidized cost if requested by CADP/CAA.

The team was also welcomed by His Excellency Ambassador of Nepal to Thailand Mr. Nabin Jung Prakash Shah with excellent dinner party. He held an hour long discussion with CAA Chairperson and General Manager on the CAA concept and advised to request him timely for the organization of such programmes in Thailand in future. The CAA team realized that the tour was a good opportunity in gaining a general concept on commercialization and building a rapport with different government stakeholders



Photo 4: The Nepalese delegation including CAA Chairperson and GM with the Nepalese Ambassador to Thailand

2. Meetings /Seminar/Workshops/Training

August 25-27 2007, Regional Review Workshop

All the district and regional level agriculture related line agencies were gathered in the workshop to review the progress status of last quarter and annual of FY 2006/07. The GM, Chairperson, Mr Asok Murarka and Board member Mr Bhalakaji Rai attended the regional workshop and presented their view on the commercialization and CAA activities.. Similarly, Ministry and Department level representatives were presented in the review meeting.

4 September, 2007; Meeting with Mr. Govinda Gewali, Senior Programme Implementation Officer, ADB, NRM

The CAA Chairperson Mr. Ashok Murarka and GM, Mr .Ram Kumar Sharma attended the meeting. Mr Gewali briefed about the key ADB procedures of operating ADB funded projects and instructed to open the imprest account immediately. He also suggested reporting the major events of CAA through email. Mr Madhusudan Shresta, Assistant Disbursement Analyst of the NRM also advised about the basic account keeping procedures of the ADB grant fund.

7 September, 2007; Meeting with Chief District Officer (CDO), Morang

THE GM and CDO discussed on the CAA concept security status of the district. The CDO assured all types of administrative support to make the project a success.

14 September, 2007; Meeting with Mr. Madhusudan Shrestha, Assistant Disbursement Analyst of the ADB, NRM

An interaction meeting was fixed by the CAA GM with Mr Shrestha in Kathmandu to understand the ADB Grant Withdrawal Process and the types of formats to be filled in for that purpose.

29 September, 2007 CADP Launching Seminar

The seminar was organized by CADP PMU at the Seminar Hall of Regional Agriculture Directorate Office. Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Cooperative Mr Chhabilal Biswakarma chaired the Seminar. GM presented paper on the CAA working modalities. The seminar was participated by ministry, department, regional and district level representatives of agriculture, livestock, irrigation and forestry sector.

30 October, 2007; Meeting with Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Cooperative, Mr. Chhabilal Biswakarma

On the invitation of the Secretariat of Honorable Minister, the GM visited Minister's Office at Kathmandu where the Minister gave instruction regarding the governments' policy and priority on the commercialization. He emphasized on the alliance and social inclusion concept and instructed to follow the concept from the initial stage of the CAA activities including recruitment.

31October-7 November, 2007; District Level Orientation Workshop



CADP PMU organised district level orientation workshop in the district headquarters of Sunasri, Saptari, Jhapa, Illam, Panchthar, Terathum and Dhankuta. In 11 districts the GM attended the workshop and presented paper on CAA working modalities. Besides the GM, four Board Members representing the private sector and one government representative from the MOAC also attended the workshop in different districts. Chief of the District Line Agencies, NGOs, cooperatives, Farmers, Traders, FNCCI representatives also attended the workshop.

Photo 5: CAA GM responding queries of participants in Illam Workshop

14 November, 2007; Meeting of Regional Agriculture Development Committee

CAA GM was invited to attend the First Quarterly meeting of Regional Agriculture Development Committee held under the Chairperson of Agriculture Regional Directorate. The Committee was established to strengthen coordination between the regional level line agencies working in agriculture, forestry and irrigation sector and operate smoothly the agriculture related development programmes in the region. The regional chiefs of agriculture, forestry, dairy, Agriculture Input Corporation, Dairy Development, and Livestock Development were participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the progress status, issues and constraints of

different sector programmes were discussed. Different aspects of CAA activities were also communicated in the meeting.

18 November, 2007; Meeting with Decentralized Local Government Support Programme (DLGSP)/ DDC

The GM was invited to participate a meeting organized by DDC with the DLGSP group working in Morang district as a Chief Guest. During the meeting, DLGSP representatives working in 18 VDCS briefed about the activities performed by them. Under the DLGSP support 616 groups were formed of which 538 were registered in DDC that were involved in saving mobilization and income generation activities. In each of the group 35-135 members were involved. Similarly, in each VDC one Social Mobilizer was recruited with DLGSP support while each of the 538 groups has appointed Chairpersons and Managers. It was reported that some of the groups were also engaged in cash crop production and sale such as honey, banana, vegetables, sugarcane, herbs and 40 groups were reported to be engaged in vegetable farming leasing the land. More than Rs 30 million saving was mobilized by the groups. The GM presented paper on the CAA concept and its working modalities. The participants expressed that the group developed under DLGSP and Local Development Fund has greater potential to become the CAA member.

19 November, 2007; Meeting with District Cooperative Union representatives of Eastern Region

On the request of Regional Representative and Board Member of National Cooperative Development Board Mr. Ramesh Pokharel , the GM attended a workshop of District cooperative Union at Biratnagar. The half day interaction workshop was concentrated on the cooperative development issues and their potential and constraints in becoming member of CAA. The GM presented paper on the CAA concept and its working modalities and cautioned that unless the cooperatives are involved in the commercial agricultural production and sale they cannot be considered for the membership and grant by just mobilizing saving and credit.

22 November, 2007; Interaction Programme at District Agriculture Development Office, Morang

A paper on the Potentialities of Commercialization of agriculture in Morang district was presented by the former Member of Parliament and an Action Plan on the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme in the northern Morang. The GM and the government officials were requested to provide their comments on the paper and provide commitments to support the programme. The GM was also proposed as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Plan Implementation Committee.

24 November, 2007; Meeting of the Representatives of Federation of Commerce and Industry Eastern Region

The GM was invited to present a paper about CAA in the meeting of the representatives of FNCCI gathered from different districts of the Eastern Region. The members requested to include their representatives in the District Review Committee of CAA.

29 November, 2007; JFPR Inception Mission Workshop

CAA GM was invited to attend the Mission workshop held in Kathmandu by DEPROSC Nepal and present his experience of CAA establishment phase. The Mission was led by Ms Sussane

Nehel, Rural Development Specialist, and ADB Manila while the workshop was chaired by Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, Secretary MOAC.

8 Dec 2007; Workshop on Women's Participation in Cooperative Movement

The workshop was arranged by District Cooperative Union Morang, where the CAA GM attended as a guest lecturer and delivered class on CAA working modalities. More than 200 women representatives from different cooperatives of Morang were gathered to attend the workshop.

13 Dec 2007; Regional Agriculture Media Unit Meeting

CAA GM was nominated as invitee member in the meeting of Regional Agriculture Media Unit headed by Regional Agriculture Director, Eastern Region. Local FM, National Newspaper Publishers such as Kantipur Daily, Regional Level Agriculture related offices are the members of the Unit. The meeting decided that all the news related to agricultural development to be gathered and supplied through the Unit. The meeting also formed a Communication Coordination Committee for this purpose.

1 January, 2008; Small Farmers Cooperative Workshop

The newly established Small Farmers Cooperative Union organized one day workshop in Madan Asrit Pratistan Uralbari, Morang and invited CAA GM for paper presentation and requested to chair the workshop as special invitee. The Representative, Small Farmer Cooperative Support Programme GTZ; General Manager, Small Farmer Development Bank, Kathmmandu; Chief District Agriculture Development Officer, Morang were the other guests. More than 125 participants were gathered from 51 Cooperatives from Koshi, Mechi and Sagarmatha zones. The Union declared its one village one Small farmer Cooperative Mission. During the workshop the participants raised different questions regarding the CAA membership criteria and requested to be some flexible in case of Small Farmer Development Cooperative. The workshop also categorized the Small farmer cooperatives into three groups namely active, moderate and weak based on their performance, capital structure and organizational capacity to execute entrepreneurship development programme.

24 January, 2008; Farmers' Foor (Krisak Thalo)

CAA GM was invited as a Chief Guest in the interaction programme of Farmers Forum in the DADO, Morang. Leading farmers of different sectors such as tea, fish, milk, cardamom, vegetables, fruits etc were gathered in the forum's meeting from different districts of the region. The main objective of the forum was to identify policy level issue of different products and do the lobbying for its resolution.

24 January, 2008; Interaction Programme on Eastern Region Cooperative Training Programme

The programme was organized to enhance the managerial capacity of the cooperatives of the region. The GM was said to give brief introduction of CAA and its activities. The participants noted that in Morang of the 65 VDCs only 24 VDCs were having cooperatives so CAA should help to develop cooperatives in the other VDCs and provide membership to established cooperatives.

29 January, 2008; Regional Level Workshop on Bird flu

CAA GM was invited to attend one day seminar on bird flu chaired by the Secretary of MOAC, Kathmandu. Representatives from national and international agencies attended the seminar.

1 February, 2008; 1st CADP Steering Committee Meeting

The CAA GM as an officiating member of the CADP Steering Committee attended its 1st Steering Committee Meeting held in MOAC, Kathmandu. The meeting was attended by line ministry representatives and chaired by Secretary, MOAC. The progress status of CADP PMU and CAA and issues and constraints were reviewed in the meeting. The meeting suggested speeding up the works to satisfy the incoming ADB Inception Mission.

11 February 2008, Traveling Seminar

The GM joined the traveling seminar organized by Regional Agriculture Directorate in different parts of Morang and Sunsari districts. Zero Tillage Practices, Model Agriculture Sub-Centre and Mehata Commercial farms and Agriculture Training Centre were visited during the traveling seminar. Mehata Farm located in Narsing VDC-1, Sunsari was noted to be a typical model of commercial crop production. Operated by the former DDC president, the farm was selling vegetables and fruits products such as *kimo* (a type of orange), banana, guava, lemon, vegetables equivalent to Rs 100 million annually.

14 February 2008; Technology Extension and Project Formulation Training

The training was organized by Regional Agriculture Directorate and JT/JTAs from all the 16 eastern districts were attended. The GM inaugurated the training session as a Chief Guest and also delivered lecture on the CAA working modalities and role of local technicians under CADP.

29-31 February, 2008; Agricultural Exhibition, Katakari, Morang

On the invitation of the District Agriculture Development Office, Morang, the CAA team including the GM observed the exhibition where interaction was also made with different producers. The producers approached for the infrastructure where large numbers of farmers were engaged in the commercial farming.

5 March 2008, Meeting with Community Support Programme/ DFID

The DFID Team led by Mr. Pustak Ojha, Coordinator, Community support Programme visited the CAA Main Office and held discussion and expressed their interest in running collaborative programmes with CAA in Dhankuta, Udyapur, Terathum, Taplejung and Panchthar where they were running small infrastructure programme such as micro-hydro, foot trail, agro-shed, agro-processing plants to support the community involved in income generation .

9-12 March 2008, First Quarterly Review and Budget Preparation Workshop

The GM was invited to attend the review workshop and budget preparation workshop organized by Regional Agriculture Office and present paper about CAA. All the district, regional and

department level representatives of the agriculture sector were participated in the review workshop.

13 March 2008, Agriculture Policy Interaction Workshop, Biratnagar

Altogether 10 CAA staff including the GM attended the workshop organized by Planning Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative. In the workshop 10 agriculture and irrigation related policy papers were briefed by the Ministry level staff and comments of the participants were gathered to refine the policies and prepare a confined policy paper for the Three Year Interim Plan. The same day the GM was also attended Onion Mission Programme organized by Vegetable Development Directorate Khumaltar.

24 March 2008; CAA Staff Orientation Training

CADP PMU organized a week long orientation to CAA staff from branch and main offices through Consultancy Company. Besides introductory topics of CADP and CAA, other topics such as value Chain Approach, potential and constraints of commercialization, market information, financial and administration management etc were also included in the training session . The Chairperson Mr Asok Murarka and GM also deliberated the lectures and attended the classes as observers.

April 9-10, Annual Budget Discussion at Department /CADP PMU Level

CAA GM attended the annual budget discussion session for the Fiscal Year 2008/09 at Department /CADP PMU level at Kathmandu. During the session annual budget of CAA operation and programme was discussed and decided to present at the Ministry level meeting.

April 23-24, Annual Budget Discussion at Ministry Level

CAA GM attended the annual budget discussion session for the Fiscal Year 2008/09 at Ministry level where the Department /CADP PMU level at Kathmandu where he presented estimated budget of Rs 146 million. Of the total budget Rs 61.28 million is proposed for Community- based Infrastructure Grant, Rs 58.05 million for Non-Infrastructure Grant and Rs 26.68 million for CAA Operation and management.

11 May 2008, General Assembly of CAA

CAA General Assembly was held in Hotel Namaskar, Biratnagar in a grand manner. All the 97 members attended the assembly. Distinguished guests from the Ministry, Department, Company Registrar Office, Regional Offices and District Administration and Police Officers also attended the inauguration ceremony and gave their remarks. The ADB Inception Mission Team members attended the assembly as an observer. The assembly was inaugurated by Honorable NPC Member Mr. Bhim Neupane. The Assembly was ended at mid night with the election of 6 Board of Directors of CAA by electoral system.

14-16 May, Meeting with the Mission Team, Kathmandu

The GM went to Kathmandu to attend wrap up meeting with the ADB Mission. During this course he also attended meetings at the Department of Agriculture, Finance Controllers Office, MOAC and ADB, Nepal Residence Mission.

19-29 May, ADB Project Implementation and Administration Workshop, Kathmandu.

As per the decision of Ministry of Finance and ADB, the GM attended a 10 days workshop on the ADB funded project management and administration. All the Project Managers working under ADB fund in Nepal were participated in the workshop.

16 June 2008, 2nd CADP Project Steering Committee Meeting

The CAA GM as an officiating member of the CADP Steering Committee attended its 2nd Steering Committee Meeting held in MOAC, Kathmandu. The meeting was attended by line ministry representatives and chaired by Secretary, MOAC. The progress status of CADP PMU and CAA and issues and constraints were reviewed in the meeting. The meeting discussed primarily on the issues and covenants mentioned by the Inception Review Mission of ADB and suggested to fulfill the covenants on time.

25 June 2008, Market Information Exchange System Training to CAA Members

A week long training on Market Information Exchange System was organized by CADP PMU through consultancy companies for the CAA Members in Dhankuta and Ilam. The CAA Chairperson, Mr. Bhalakaji Rai and GM Mr. Ram Kumar Sharma presented their paper on the Introduction of CAA and Sub-Project Selection Criteria in the aforesaid districts and held discussion with the participants. The newly appointed Chairperson felt most benefited from the close interaction with the CAA members and stakeholders.

26 June 2008, Basic Marketing Development Training for Project Partners

A week long Basic Marketing Development Training was organized by CADP PMU through consultancy companies for Project Partners in Biratnagar, Dhankuta and Ilam. The CAA Chairperson, Mr. Bhalakaji Rai and GM Mr. Ram Kumar Sharma presented their paper on the Introduction of CAA and Sub-Project Selection Criteria in all the three districts and held discussion with the participants. The newly appointed Chairperson felt most benefited from the close interaction with the Project partners

24 June 2008, Training Programme to JT/JTA and Agriculture Development Officers

Both Chairperson and GM also took part in the training organized by CADP PMU through consultancy for government staff in Morang and Dhankuta and delivered their presentation.

8 August 2008, CAA Received PAN form Inland Revenue Office, GON

As per Government Rule CAA is registered in Inland Revenue Office and received
PAN : 302854112

11 August 2008, MOAC Joint Secretary at CAA

The newly posted Joint Secretary of Administration & Finance at MOAC, Mr. Sitaram Timilsina paid a official visit of CAA and discussed on its working modalities progresses so far and future programmes.

17 August 2008, AVRDC- The World Vegetable Center Scientist at CAA

Dr. Madhusudan Bhattraï, agriculture Economist visited CAA, Main Office and discussed with the GM regarding the possibilities of future collaboration between CAA and the center. The GM requested Dr. Bhattraï to present a paper on the Center activities in a larger forum of CAA stakeholder.

17 August 2008, ED of National Labor Academy at CAA

Dr. Shiva Sharma, National Labor Academy, Kathmandu appeared in CAA to discuss on the legal framework of allocating land to poor and marginal farmer for commercialization.

18 August 2008, Workshop

Workshop as AVRDC- The World Vegetable Center working modality and area of collaboration on the request of CAA, GM, Dr. Bhattraï presented a paper on the Center working modality and potential area of collaboration between the center and CADP/CAA. various stakeholders such as CAA Board Member, Regional Director, Branch Managers, District Offices and politicians etc took part in the discussion. The half day workshop concluded by identifying five major area of collaboration such as capacity development, knowledge sharing from the global pool and around the region, production technology and crop management, marketing and post harvesting management and seed (R&D) between the Center and CAA. Both the parties agreed to initiate the process of collaboration coordinating with Government and ADB.