

Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development

The Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED), established in April 1990, is considered one of the pioneer non-government organisations in the area of rural poverty alleviation in Nepal.

The Center's activities are mostly in the areas of community development, off-season vegetable production, forest resource management, and other income generating activities for the socioeconomic empowerment of poor and rural households. Over the last 15 years, CEAPRED has implemented 53 different programmes and projects in 33 districts covering 307 VDCs and 10 municipalities. The Center has worked with over 70,000 households through 2,230 groups. Cash income earned by participating households through production and marketing of vegetables is Rs.2.1 billion. Income from the production and marketing of vegetable seeds is estimated at Rs.14.6 million. Similarly, income earned by participating households through livestock products is approximately Rs.1.4 million. CEAPRED has also facilitated the construction of 41 cooperative buildings and collection centres, 238 irrigation schemes, 142 drinking water schemes, 4738

improved toilets, 2405 improved cook stoves, 30 grinding mills or ghatta, and one school. In the area of institution building, the Center has facilitated the formation, formal registration, and operation of 20 multi-purpose cooperatives, 51 marketing cooperatives, and 18 savings and credit cooperatives, 2 district unions. CEAPRED also carries out occasional policy studies.

At present, CEAPRED is implementing 12 programmes and projects in 18 districts, mostly in the mid and far-western development region of the country. It has a total of 248 full-time staff of whom 24 are senior professionals. About 25% of the staff are women.

CEAPRED's head office building is located at Shanti Basti, Lalitpur. In addition to essential facilities, the Center also has a seed laboratory and a seed processing unit.

Income realised from vegetable cultivation has contributed to improving the living standards of villagers. The overall impact on food security after meeting domestic consumption needs has been uplifting.