

## **Weather-Agro Advisories: Empowering Trans Boundary Communities in India and Nepal**

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To strengthen the cooperation amongst the people on two sides of the boundary and facilitate timely flow of quality information sourced at micro level, a weather advisory service has been established as a pilot at India-Nepal border for farmers of both sides of national boundary, dependent on river Gandak ecosystem and its resources. The specific purpose of this advisory service is to inform and guide the small-marginal land holding farmers in undertaking various farming activities based on the expected weather conditions in the intervention areas helping them to reduce losses and reduce input costs in agriculture. The impact of these improved decisions were described by the communities with an emphasis on cost savings, as a result of either more efficient use of inputs or mitigation of damage to crops, as the most significant reason for use of the forecast. The accuracy of the

forecasts was considered good with a value of 82.5%, with no transmission reliability problems that seriously undermine access and use. Most of the groups said that, importance of weather information is 76% for their agricultural practices. Operations where farmers used this information are sowing, scheduling of irrigation, harvesting, application of fertilizers and bio pesticides. Farmers explain that the advisory is most useful in scheduling of irrigation (80 percent). The common information across border also links the communities of the two sides and needed action provide new opportunities of interaction and collaboration considerable enthusiasm for use of weather services.

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