

Building the capacity of plant protection officers to raise the productivity of farmers

Context

The aim of Samarth's **Crop Protection Inputs (CPI) sector** is to ensure that smallholder farmers have affordable access to information on crop protection inputs and are able to make informed decisions on their purchase and use, in order to enhance their productivity.

Farmers all over Nepal receive information regarding crop protection inputs from the Agro-Vets. Samarth, in its market study, recognized that the productivity of the smallholder farmers could be greatly enhanced by capacitating the Agro-vets with up-to-date information on the availability and use of CPIs. Samarth, therefore, developed a seven-day Training of Trainers (TOT) course for the plant protection officers who are stationed at the department of agriculture development offices (DADO) all over Nepal and are responsible for training the agro-vets.

The workshop

Samarth-NMDP organized a one-day workshop with the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) - a board formed under the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD), one of the major technical directorates under the Department of Agriculture (DoA) - with an objective to approve the training of trainers curriculum (TOT) developed by Samarth.

A total of 20 members from NPPO took part in the workshop held on 24th December 2015 at the PPD office. A number of valid feedbacks were received by the team from the NPPO members in order to make the training curriculum more practical and relevant.

Key takeaway from the workshop

The workshop led to the approval of the TOT course in presence of the NPPO head. Samarth will incorporate the feedback surfaced during the workshop in the revised training curriculum. Phase 1 involves training 16 PPO officers from 16 districts of Nepal by February 2016. Phase 2 is planned for the training of 16 other PPOs by April 2016. Samarth has targeted the PPOs of the hill and Terai regions for the initial two phases. Scale-up will be planned based on the experience of the initial trainings.

