

Adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture technologies is making a difference in Kala's vegetable farm

Kageshwori Manohara Municipality (KMM) is one of the pocket areas for vegetable farming from where most of the daily vegetable demands of Kathmandu are fulfilled. But, there is decrease in productivity for the last 5-6 years with rising temperature leading to increased incidence of pests and diseases, which have become more frequent and intense in the recent years, and have negative impacts on vegetable farming.



Kala Kumari Rai, 45, a single mother of four daughters, is now a lead farmer of Mulpani, KMM-6. She came to Mulpani from her native place, Udaypur (East Nepal) fifteen years back. She has taken land on lease and started vegetable farming and rearing livestock to support her family. She became a part of the CFLI project through which she has been trained in vegetable farming based on climate-smart agriculture technologies and received the drip-irrigation kit and biochar formation machine. She took keen interest during the training and applied the learnings in her own field. Her harvest of green leafy vegetables has improved and hence has her income. Her daughters are getting a balanced diet and she can now pay for her daughter's education. "After the installation of the drip irrigation system, I could spend more time in other work rather than irrigating my farm. Besides that, it requires less water hence has increased water efficiency", said Kala. She has also taken the lead in helping many other smallholder female farmers of Mulpani install their own drip irrigation kit. It is this initiative that made her one of the leader farmers of her locality. In addition to that, she has been selected as the Coordinator of the sub-committee of the resource center by other female farmers.

Women are more vulnerable to climate change, as they have limited livelihood assets to allow them to adapt, however, this project has created new opportunities to maximize women's potential as agents of change and resilience building through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.