

Strengthening Community Resilience: Livelihood Support Through Group Cash Transfer Under SCOP R3

In addition to enhancing community capacities for disaster preparedness and promoting effective early warning systems, SCOP R3 initiative empowers vulnerable populations to reduce disaster risks and lead response and recovery efforts in close coordination with local authorities. As part of this comprehensive approach, SCOP R3 has introduced livelihood support through the **Group Cash Transfer (GCT)** scheme. This model is designed to assist the community members, especially those motivated to establish climate-resilient livelihoods enabling them to better withstand and recover from disasters while building sustainable economic security.

Turning a Challenge into a Solution – Stray Livestock Management and Vermicomposting in Tribeni Tol



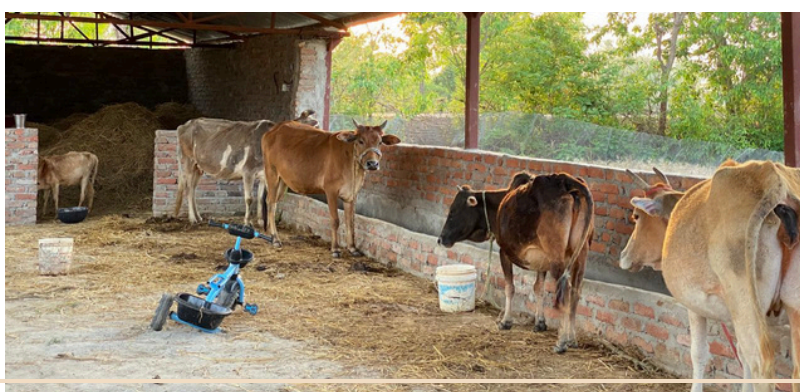
Tribeni Tol, located in Bheemdatta Municipality-19, faces recurring floods from the Chaudhar and Kankatti Rivers, along with a persistent issue of stray livestock damaging crops, polluting roads, and causing accidents. With 79 households from diverse backgrounds-Dalit, Janjati, Brahmin, Chhetri, and Thakuri, the community had long struggled with these challenges, which severely affected their safety and livelihoods.

Through the SCOP R3 project, implemented by NEEDS Nepal with support from Oxfam, a needs assessment identified stray cattle as a major concern. In response, two Group Cash Transfer (GCT) schemes, each worth NPR 390,000, were introduced: one to construct community cowsheds to manage 200-300 roaming cattle, and another to promote vermicompost production using livestock waste.

With support from the local CDMC, and co-financing from Bheemdatta Municipality — which provided steel, hooks, and used bricks worth an estimated NPR 1.5 to 1.8 million — the initiative came to life. Now, the community aims to produce 100-150 kg of vermicompost annually, turning waste into a resource while protecting their fields.

“We plan to sell the milk and compost produced here and create local jobs by hiring people to manage the cowshed,” says Mr. Milan Singh, who is currently overseeing the initiative. While results are yet to be seen, the initiative has sparked hope for long-term change, improved disaster preparedness, and stronger community collaboration through practical, locally driven solutions.

“If we try, why wouldn’t it be possible? Anything is achievable with determination
-Mr. Milan Singh, CDMC member





From Service to Soil – Laxman Pun’s Journey into Sustainable Vegetable Farming



After serving the nation for 19 years in the Nepal Army, Mr. Laxman Pun returned to his hometown in Sundarnagar seeking a peaceful life and financial stability. Like many returnees, he first turned to animal husbandry, hoping it would support his family. However, things didn't go as planned; his goats started dying just as they were ready for market, leading to significant losses and ultimately forcing him to abandon the venture.

Undeterred, Mr. Pun shifted to seasonal vegetable farming on his 2.5 kattha of land. Yet, with such limited space, meeting household expenses remained a challenge. As an active member of the Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC), he later received support through the Group Cash Transfer (GCT) model under SCOP R3. With this, he leased an additional 5 kattha of land and began cultivating brinjal, chili, potatoes, and coriander. The project also provided improved seeds, and his crops have shown encouraging results.

"We had plans to grow organic vegetables, but doing it 100% organically seems difficult," he admits, pointing to some chili plants affected by disease. Despite this, he remains hopeful. *"I've been able to sell potatoes worth NPR 30–40,000 and bananas for around NPR 70,000. That's a big relief."* Mr. Pun's journey from a disciplined soldier to a resilient farmer is a powerful example of adaptation and perseverance. He values the health benefits of farming, the satisfaction of eating homegrown food, and the importance of understanding market demand. *"Farming is good for health,"* he smiles. *"But to sustain it, we must grow what people want and what sells."*





Cultivating Dignity and Resilience – Anita Sunar’s Journey into Dragon Fruit Farming



"People don't buy or drink the milk we sell because we come from a Dalit background. So, we decided to try something different - something that would be valued for its quality, not judged by our identity," shares Anita Sunar.

Anita, along with two other community members, embarked on a new path through dragon fruit farming — a climate-resilient, high-value crop. With support from the Group Cash Transfer (GCT) model under SCOP R3, they planted 225 dragon fruit saplings on her 10 kattha land in Bhadra 2080.

Though the farm has been operational for just over a year, it has already shown promising results. Dragon fruit, which begins to ripen within 45 days, is harvested from Baishakh through Kartik. The fruit's resilience to changing weather conditions and growing market demand makes it a smart choice — but not one without challenges.

"Despite being known as climate-resilient, dragon fruit still demands a lot of care," Anita explains, pointing to a few plants that have shown signs of illness. "I spend most of my time in the field. It's hard work, but it's worth it."

Through this initiative, Anita is not only building a sustainable livelihood but also reclaiming her dignity and challenging the deeply rooted caste-based discrimination in her community.

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