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SUCCESS STORY

A New Approach Boosts Income and Brings Recognition



Photo: NEAT

USAID-funded NEAT Activity is training farmers in Salyan how to grow onions during monsoon season.

“NEAT has provided great support to farmers. [Rainy season onion] have been good to the farmers.

**Kul Bahadur Raule
Farmer, Salyan**

The USAID-funded Nepal Economic, Agriculture, and Trade (NEAT) Activity is helping farmers boost production and productivity in order to increase food security and income. With the introduction of new inputs and training in new farming techniques, farmers are finding it possible to grow crops that weren't possible in the past.

Kul Bahadur Raule was a small-scale ginger farmer in Salyan, one of NEAT's targeted districts. As the only earning member of his family of nine, Kul Bahadur was earning around 20,000 NRs annually with his ginger, which was less than his family's yearly expenses. NEAT field technicians suggested Kul try planting rainy season onion. Kul agreed to try, though with some concern over trying something new.

NEAT provided Kul the seeds, training on nursery management techniques, and technical assistance to help prepare the nursery bed and construct a plastic covering over the nursery to protect it against harsh weather. Kul planted monsoon onions in his 5,500 sq. ft. of land and followed the instructions from NEAT's technical training. In six months, he produced 2,000 kgs of onions, which he sold for 42,750 NRs, doubling his income in less than a year.

Kul also took some samples of his crop to the Salyan District Agriculture Development Office's annual agricultural exhibit, which gives farmers the opportunity to display their produce. Kul's onions won first prize, bringing him an additional 10,000 NRs. and a certificate of honor.

During a farmers' field day event organized by NEAT, Kul shared his experience with his fellow farmers from neighboring VDCs. Hearing of his success, more farmers are willing to try an off-season crop.

Through improved inputs and technical training, USAID's NEAT program is introducing farmers to new possibilities to increase productivity and build a better future.