

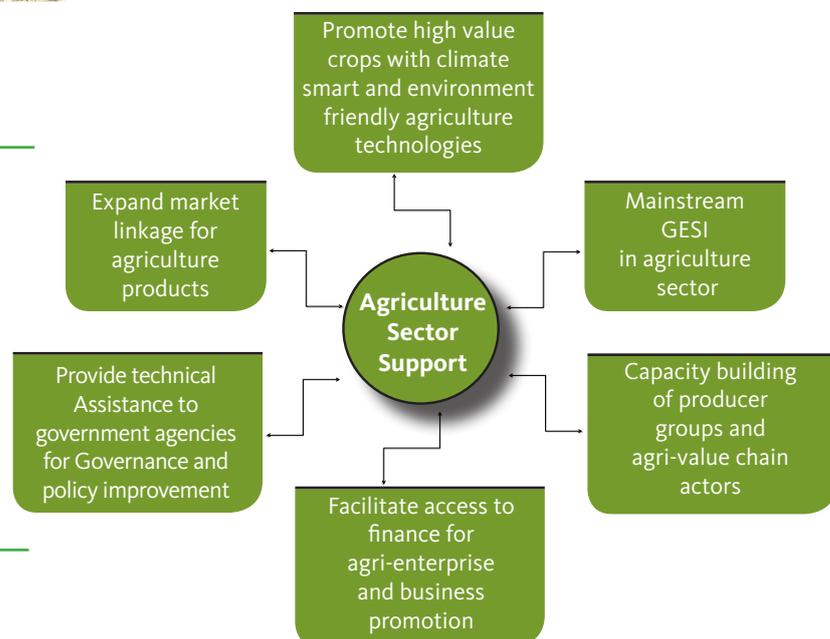
The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a not-for-profit organization with headquarters in Montreal, Canada. Since its foundation in 1958, CECI has been implementing poverty alleviation projects/programs in developing countries. CECI's mission is to combat poverty and exclusion, by strengthening the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; supporting initiatives for peace, human rights and equity; mobilizing resources and promoting knowledge exchange. CECI manages dozens of contracts annually for services related to social and economic development, agriculture sector development, sustainable natural resource management, humanitarian assistance including disaster preparedness and mitigation and governance in Asia, Africa, South America and the Caribbean. These projects are financed by the Government of Canada / GAC, ADB, USAID, DIFD, World Bank, EC and UN agencies.



CECI has been working in Nepal for over 30 years; and has gained extensive knowledge of the socio-economic, political, cultural, institutional, and governance contexts of the country, as well as vast networks including government connections. It has been working in the field of Economic growth, Agriculture, Livelihood, Governance, Democracy, Inclusion, Human rights and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal and has been carrying out several programs in collaboration with civil society partners, government institutions at all levels, international organizations and the private sector.



Agriculture is the major sector of Nepalese economy and main source of (self) employment in the country. CECI has been actively engaged in promoting and strengthening this sector and has gained diverse expertise with significant potentials to scale up in the future:



Sahakarya - Working together to build self-reliant communities:

Sahakarya Project (2003-2012) was funded by the Government of Canada and implemented in five remote hill districts of Mid and Far Western Regions of Nepal (Dailekh, Jumla, Surkhet, Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts). It contributed to reducing poverty by improving the socio-economic conditions of 30,000 households working through 1,000 community-based organisations in 500 hill communities. The project had major outcomes in economic development through agriculture, community health development and institutional development. The project worked with a total of 19 local NGOs, 21 CBOs and their district and national level federations (FECOFUN, NEFSCUN, CDCAN) to achieve the set objectives.

Community Groundwater Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP):

With a total budget of US\$ 42.8 million, CGISP (1998 – 2007) was implemented in 12 Eastern and Central Terai districts (Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa and Chitwan) of Nepal with the objectives of improving livelihoods and incomes of 120,000 small farmers on a sustainable basis through participatory, demand-driven and integrated group Shallow Tube Well (STW) development. The project contributed towards the government's goal of reducing poverty and enhancing the living standard of the rural population. Funded by ADB and CIDA/GAC, it was a multi-stakeholder project involving government, Central Bank, Private Banks, Cooperatives, NGOs and private sector service providers.

CECI has gained expertise in strengthening agriculture sector through the experience of successful implementation of relevant projects:



Women's Economic Empowerment Project (WEE):

WEE was implemented in three hill districts (Nuwakot, Surkhet and Dailekh) from 1997 to 1999 with a total budget of US \$ 600,000. Funded by USAID, the project contributed to increase involvement of rural women in agribusiness and micro-enterprise development. Literacy component of the project supported women to identify business promotion and skill development opportunities. The project ensured access to finance to women for enterprise development based on identified opportunities, their skills and capacities.

Market Access for Rural Development (MARD):

MARD (1997-2002) was implemented in eight hill districts of Mid-Western Region of Nepal with a total funding of US\$ 9.0 million from USAID. CECI managed part of the project in three districts of Bheri Zone with a total budget of US\$ 3.16 million (CECI/MARD). The project supported improving the livelihoods of 100,000 farm families through market expansion of high value crops and commodities. The project enhanced institutional capacity of CBOs/ NGOs, cooperatives including production and marketing cooperatives, dairy cooperatives and savings and credit cooperatives to provide services to the members in a sustainable manner. Over 200 CBOs with a membership of over 20,000 were formed and strengthened by MARD.



Micro-credit Project for Women (MCPW):

The project was funded jointly by ADB and the Government of Norway and implemented from 1994 to 2000 in 12 districts: Pyuthan, Dang, Salyan, Chitwan, Kaski, Siraha, Saptari, Dhankuta, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Baglung and Parbat. CECI managed - TA funds helped establish and/or strengthen gender sensitive and self sustaining Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). The project established and developed financial intermediaries at the local level to promote access of women groups to credit for income generation activities.



Micro Impact of Macro and Micro Adjustment Policies (MIMAP):

MIMAP (1997-2000) was a policy research project on poverty, undertaken with the support of IDRC where four districts i.e. Kavre, Dhanusha, Bardiya and Jumla were involved. CECI designed research and prepared 62 poverty indicators to be used by VDCs and DDCs (currently Gaupalikas and District Coordination Committee respectively). The local level government agencies were supported to develop poverty indicators, and use them for all development planning process at the local level.

Support to Self-Help Organizations in Productive Sectors (SHOPS):

Supported by the USAID, SHOPS (1993 to 1997) promoted Agriculture, Livestock & Micro-finance sectors for rural farmers in Dailekh and Nuwakot districts.



Dairy Sector Support:

Dairy production is one of the important income sources of the rural family in Nepal. CECI has been supporting dairy sector with the objective of increasing production, productivity and market of dairy products in the country. Dairy sector promotion was integrated in various projects of CECI including in the MARD, WEE and SHOPS. Dairy Pilot Project (funded by the Canadian Cooperative Associations-CCA) supported milk producing cooperatives and small farmers in Dadeldhura district that increased income of small farmers and promoted the sector at the district. Canadian Government funded UNITERRA program has a focus on dairy. It works with national and district dairy associations and milk producing cooperatives to improve institutional management, membership and governance, to enhance their commercial opportunities in Nepal.



Technical Assistance to Government Agencies in Agriculture Sector

CECI has provided Technical Assistance (TA) to various GON agencies to mainstream governance and improve policies for agriculture sector results. Some examples:

- **MCPW:** TA to Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD) supported in developing strategies to establish & strengthen financial intermediary to support women entrepreneurs at the local level.
- **MIMAP:** TA to District Development Committee and Village Development Committees (currently District Coordination Committee and Gaun Palika respectively) supported to develop poverty indicators, that were used for all development planning process at the district level.
- **CGISP:** CECI provided TA to Ministry of Irrigation that fostered public-private partnership for shallow tube well irrigation among small farmers to increase cropping intensity, yields, productivity and family income. CECI supported to develop a Capacity Development Strategy for the Department of Irrigation, Department of Agriculture, Nepal Rastra Bank and Groundwater Field Offices and participating financial institutions. Additionally, CGISP helped mainstreaming GESI in irrigation / agriculture sector with capacity building of government and non-government sectors.



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