



# TCP-PIAT NEWSLETTER



TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR  
PROMOTION OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN TERAJ PLAIN  
MAXIMUM USE OF WATER, GROW FOR SALE



No. 1

June 2022



Ms. Netra Kumari Karki, Ms. Bhawana Ghimire, Ms. Santa Katuwal (SC 17), bundling cow pea for sale  
Mr. Indra Bahadur Basnet (SC 15), harvesting spring maize

## Brief Explanation of TCP-PIAT

Initiated on 6 February 2019 as per the record of discussions between the Government of Nepal and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the goal of the TCP-PIAT is to form “the Model of Irrigated Agriculture” (for the detail, refer to page 3) by the collaboration among the Federal, Provincial, Local Governments and Water Users Associations (WUAs). The TCP-PIAT is currently in the second phase from March 2021. The project’s activities are divided into 1) equitable water distribution and appropriate facility maintenance, which covers the whole Kankai irrigation scheme, and 2) on-farm development and market-oriented agriculture, which is undergoing in the selected model site: SC1/TC6 (Ward 7 of Shivasatakshi), SC10/TC10&11 (Ward 1 of Gaurigunj), SC15/TC10&11 (Ward 1 of Kamal), and SC17/TC2 (Ward 9 of Gauradaha).

### Topic 1: Agricultural Activity

An interview with the farmers at SC 10 / TC10&11 (Gaurigunj) focuses on their awareness raise and behavior change after joined in the spring vegetable cultivation.

### Topic 2: Irrigation Activity

To evaluate the current condition of irrigation facilities, walk through survey along several canals was conducted with the coordination of WUA, KIMO, and TCP-PIAT.

### Topic 3: Mini Backhoe has arrived at Kankai

TCP-PIAT delivered a mini backhoe to WUA in June 2022 for the operation and maintenance of the Kankai Irrigation Scheme.



## JICA VISITED KANKAI IRRIGATION SCHEME ON 6 JUNE 2022

A five-person team from JICA headquarter (Tokyo) and JICA Nepal office (Kathmandu) visited Kankai Irrigation Scheme on 6 June 2022 to understand 1) rehabilitation progress of Kankai headworks conducted by Kankai Irrigation Management Office (KIMO), 2) construction site of Parshall flume at SC 0 and 3) on-farm development and agricultural activities at the model site of SC 17/TC 2. The project task team comprised of KIMO, WUA, local governments and TCP-PIAT welcomed them.

### Topic 1: Agricultural Activity (interview with the farmers at Secondary Canal 10)

Mr. Bhim Bahadur Budhathoki joined TCP-PIAT activity in March 2021. Like other members, he was one of the farmers, who had never produced vegetables for sale. After TCP-PIAT's assistance and motivation to adopt the market oriented commercial agriculture promotion (CAP) approach, he planted cucumber, pumpkin, okra, and bitter gourd for sale as a test in 1.5 *kattha* (508 m<sup>2</sup>) of land.

When he started to carry cucumber for sale in nearby local Baigunghura market through motorbike which, according to him, was the first time in his life, many local traders started to visit his farm to purchase vegetables produced by him, and wanted to know about the quantity available for sale, and quality of the produce.

He understood that good quality, sufficient quantity, and reasonable product price would automatically generate the market. Though it was his first venture and produced in a small area, he says that he earned more than NPR 8,000/- by selling the vegetables in a short time. Happily, he says to his fellow farmers, "We have decided to continue to grow the vegetables and expand the area further in the coming season to grow for sale."



### Topic 2: Irrigation Activity (walk through survey along several canals)



Mr. Jhanindra Bhattarai, Chairman of SCC 01 is a dedicated person who is actively participating in the various activities of the irrigation system. He joined in many walk-through surveys with TCP-PIAT. The walk-through survey is an essential activity in canal monitoring, which makes WUA understand the current situation of irrigation facilities, and take action to improve the facilities. Mr. Jhanindra shares that a walk-through survey should be a regular process to keep irrigation facilities fit and fine.

When he participated in the survey with TCP-PIAT, he noticed that the water was not flowing smoothly in a field outlet in tertiary canal TC6 which was solved immediately after the survey. Likewise, Mr. Jhanindra observed many head regulators and cross regulators, rubber seals were torn out, and greasing was not done regularly, causing water

leakage, and making it difficult to operate the gate.

Now he is determined to solve problems of SC 01, such as silt sedimentation and vegetation along the canal, and the practices of a few local people to use the canal as a dumping site. These activities had not only obstructed smooth water flow, but polluted the environment as well. He is now fully convinced and determined to solve the problem at the earliest and to maintain their canal more effectively by raising awareness of local people and involving them in market-oriented agriculture by using canal water.



### Topic 3: Heavy Equipment Delivered to Kankai Water User Association



The mini backhoe provided by the TCP-PIAT to WUA is to be used for O&M activity (cleaning, repair, and maintenance of secondary and tertiary canals) in the whole area of the Kankai Irrigation Scheme. The machine is already mobilized to clean the canal, as shown in the picture (right). Before handing over the machine to the WUA, the roles and responsibilities of WUA and KIMO were clarified and agreed through an MOU between JICA and TCP-PIAT to keep the equipment in good and usable condition. The mechanical machinery operation sub-committee of WUA will prepare effective machinery operation guidelines and monitor all activities of machinery for proper use.

## Introduction of TCP-PIAT Member



Mr. KAWAI Akira  
*Chief Advisor*



Mr. MAKINO Ryosuke  
*Deputy Chief Advisor*



Mr. NATSUDA Shohei  
*Market-Oriented Agriculture*



Mr. SHIBUTA Kenichi  
*Facility O&M / WUAs Strengthening*



Ms. IWASAKI Satoko  
*Training / WUAs Strengthening*



Dr. Birendra Bir Basnyat  
*Agriculture Expert*



Mr. Ram Narayan Kshetri  
*WUA Expert*



Mr. Bhumi Kafle  
*Agriculture Expert*



Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Jha  
*Irrigation Expert*



Mr. Puskar Raj Rijal  
*Irrigation Expert*



Mr. Ayush Poudel  
*GIS Expert*



Ms. Srijana Sapkota  
*Office Secretary*

# The Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Irrigated Agriculture in Terai Plain

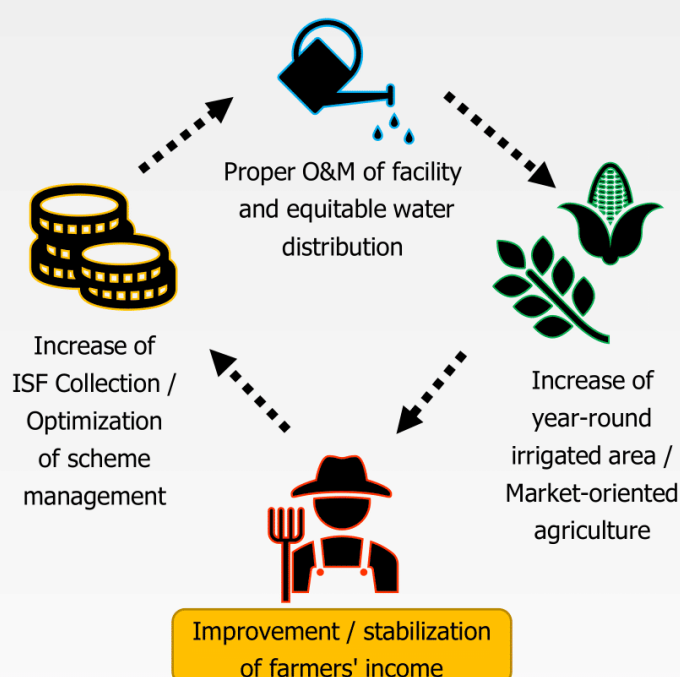


### Project Goal

**The Model of Irrigated Agriculture** is formed by the collaboration among the Federal, Provincial, Local Governments and Water Users Associations.

### What is “Model of Irrigated Agriculture” ?

This model is a **four-step problem solving cycle** for irrigation scheme, which aims to increase farmers income **by raising awareness and motivation to operate and maintain the irrigation scheme by themselves.**



Kankai Irrigation Scheme-The Project



**Both irrigation and agricultural activities are necessary to increase farmers' income.**

- Improvement in the water distribution contributes to the increase of irrigable area and its productivity.
- In irrigable areas, farmers profit from market-oriented agriculture, which encourages to build farmers' capacity to undertake farming as a business.
- Through this activity, farmers get more income and feel self-reliance and motivated.
- **These activities enable farmers to pay ISF, which, in turn, provides necessary funds to the Water Users Association for the daily operation of water distribution and rehabilitation of the irrigation facility.**

### Major Objectives to establish Model of Irrigated Agriculture

- The issues regarding the Irrigated Agriculture in Kankai Irrigation Scheme are analysed and shared by the stakeholders themselves. **In February 2020, the four-year action plan (2021 to 2024) was formulated by all stakeholders of Kankai Irrigation Scheme.**
- Equitable and efficient water distribution system is established by the improvement of water distribution planning and its implementation up to tertiary level, appropriate operation & maintenance of facilities and constructions of field channels, etc.
- The income and technical capacity of farmers in target scheme are increased through the practice of market-oriented agriculture.
- The Activity Execution Cooperation System for improvement of irrigated agriculture among stakeholders of Kankai Irrigation Scheme is established, and **the results of the cooperation activities are disseminated to other irrigation schemes in Terai area through the training and other related activities.**



Project Information: Kankai Irrigation Management Office ( <http://www.kis.gov.np/> )

Kankai Canal Water Users Association ( <https://www.facebook.com/kankaiwua> )