



**Submitted By: Karnali Integrated
Rural Development and Research
Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal**

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Foundation**

Executive Summary

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal, with funding support from The Asia House Foundation, implemented the project 'Empowering Women and Advancing Green Jobs for Climate Resilience in Nepal' in Buddhabhumi Municipality, Kapilvastu District, Lumbini Province. The project was implemented between 1st April and 30 September 2025, covering Wards 1, 8, and 9. The initiative aimed to empower women through green jobs and promote eco-friendly livelihoods to enhance climate resilience.

Over the project period, KIRDARC successfully organized women into eight self-help groups (SHGs) consisting of 200 members. Through skill development, climate change awareness, and enterprise promotion, the project enabled women to strengthen their economic independence while contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The project also built strong collaborations among local government, private sector actors, and community-based groups to ensure long-term sustainability. Similarly, the exchange and regional workshops strengthened collaboration, knowledge sharing, and inclusive community climate initiatives.

Project Context and Objectives

Buddhabhumi Municipality in Kapilvastu District faces growing challenges due to climate change, including erratic rainfall, decreasing agricultural productivity, and limited livelihood diversification opportunities. Women, who play key roles in agriculture and household management, are disproportionately affected by these challenges.

The project was designed to address these vulnerabilities by promoting green jobs and women-led enterprises. Its specific objectives were to:

1. Enhance the capacity of women to understand and respond to climate change impacts.
2. Promote environmentally sustainable income-generating activities.
3. Facilitate market linkages for women's products and enterprises.
4. Strengthen collaboration among government, private sector, and community actors for inclusive climate resilience.

Major Activities and Achievements

The project began with an inception meeting held on 22nd June 2025 to introduce the project framework and objectives to local stakeholders. The meeting was attended by government officials and representatives from local bodies. It served as a platform for aligning expectations, introducing the project team, and ensuring stakeholder ownership for effective implementation.





Subsequently, meetings were organized with women's groups in Wards 1, 8, and 9. A total of 166 women from eight SHGs participated, discussing green job opportunities, skills training, and enterprise development. These sessions enhanced the understanding of sustainable economic activities and created enthusiasm among participants to engage in eco-friendly livelihoods.

A capacity-building training on 'Climate Change and Its Impact on Women' was conducted for 112 women. Participants learned about local environmental challenges, climate change causes and effects, and adaptation measures. The training highlighted how climate change disproportionately affects women and provided targeted interventions to build resilience.

The women's group was equipped with knowledge on climate change causes, effects, and adaptation strategies, empowering them to actively participate in climate resilience efforts. This holistic approach moved from training delivery to practice, empowering the women with directly applicable skills to safeguard their livelihoods and enhance local food security, along with capacitating their peers about their learning in a changing climate scenario.



Green Jobs and Enterprise Development

Two major capacity-building events were conducted to strengthen green job creation and enterprise development among women. The first was a ten-day training on handicraft production using sustainable local materials like Moonj and Kaasa grass. Twenty-four women from Tingharwa and Laligurash SHGs participated, learning to produce marketable items such as baskets, mats, pen holders, and trays. This training revitalized traditional crafts while fostering environmental stewardship.

The second was a one-day specialized training on coriander seed production for 23 participants. It focused on seed selection, plantation, harvesting, and post-harvest techniques. By introducing climate-resilient crops, the project supported food security and promoted income diversification.

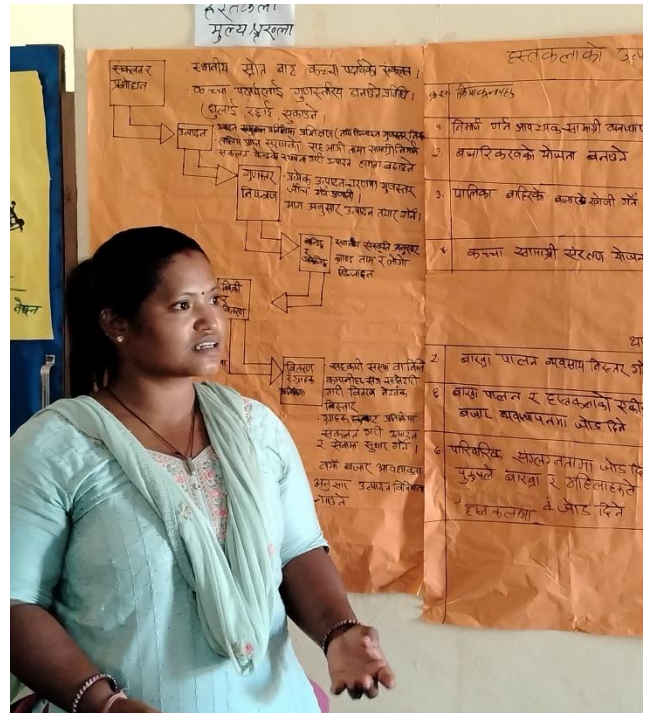
These green job initiatives empowered women with technical and entrepreneurial skills while establishing a foundation for sustainable, community-led enterprises that align with climate adaptation goals.



Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, Challenges, and Way Forward

To promote collaboration and market access, a multi-stakeholder dialogue was held involving representatives from the private sector and local government. This event created linkages between women's enterprises and local markets, cooperatives, and retailers. Discussions focused on understanding market demand, enhancing value chains, and aligning local policies to support women-led green enterprises.

As a result, a value chain mapping for handicrafts was developed, and women's groups prepared an action plan to ensure a consistent supply to the private sector. A marketing task force was also established to strengthen producer-customer connections. Additionally, community forests allocated space for cultivating raw materials needed for handicraft production—ensuring resource sustainability.



Despite these achievements, the project faced challenges, including limited market access, financial constraints, and the need for continuous mentoring and technical support. To ensure long-term sustainability, it is recommended to strengthen partnerships with cooperatives and private enterprises, expand capacity-building programs, and advocate for local government support in promoting women-led climate-resilient enterprises.

Overall, the project demonstrated that empowering women through green jobs is a viable and sustainable pathway for enhancing climate resilience, economic empowerment, and environmental protection in rural Nepal.

Study Visit to Chongqing, China – China-EU-Nepal Exchange on Climate Resilience and Technology Cooperation

As part of regional learning and exchange, KIRDARC Nepal representatives participated in a study visit to Chongqing, China, aimed at fostering cross-country learning on sustainable development practices and strengthening collaboration among civil society organizations from China, Nepal, and Europe. During the visit, participants observed local initiatives demonstrating innovative climate-resilient practices, including solar-powered systems and renewable energy solutions.

The exchange provided opportunities to share Nepal-based project experiences, gain insights from Chinese counterparts, and explore partnerships for future collaboration. The lessons learned have been integrated into KIRDARC's ongoing programs, particularly in promoting climate-smart agriculture, women-led green enterprises in rural municipalities. The visit also reinforced regional networking, policy, and knowledge exchange, linking local community experiences with different actors.



Capacity Building and Regional Learning and Collaboration

As part of the project's knowledge-sharing and regional capacity development component, KIRDARC Nepal engaged in a series of international and regional activities aimed at enhancing institutional learning, collaboration, and advocacy on climate resilience and green employment. Interactive open-space workshop: Lessons learned, best practices, collaboration opportunities between all project participants and cooperation partners of the project.

Geeta Pandey, Director of Policy Advocacy and Research at KIRDARC Nepal, represented the organization during the Bangkok Climate Action Week, the Workshop organized by The Asia House Foundation, and as a panelist at the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Conference from 27th September to 1st of October 2025. These engagements were part of a wider consortium initiative jointly hosted by the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), LAYA, Germanwatch, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Greenovation Hub (GHUB), the Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization (IRID), and the Asienhaus Foundation.



During the Deep Dive session, Ms. Pandey shared insights on addressing barriers that limit access to funding for community-based green-skills programs. She illustrated practical fixes that improved local participation and highlighted outcomes showing measurable adaptation benefits. Her discussion focused on how community-level skills pathways. She also emphasized the importance of designing inclusive funding features stipends, childcare, travel support, exposure visits, local intermediaries, and capacity-building programs, that allow women, low-income groups, and remote communities to participate meaningfully.