

A. How horticulture should be positioned in the next phase of FtF

- Fundamental goal of Food Security strategy is “Reduce Hunger and Poverty and Improve Nutrition in Nepal”.
- ***Mission will continue:***
 - To coordinate with mission’s Integrated Nutrition Program (SUAHARA II) to contribute to its overall objective of food security.
 - With vegetable as its focused value chain along with cereals and legume in the existing farming system. Other sub-sectors of horticulture such as, fruits cannot be considered due to its requirement of long term investment
- ***Mission’s experience with current KISAN project (FTF flagship project) indicates that:***
 - A parallel nutrition program is must along with horticulture intervention in order to contribute the food security goal.
 - Vegetable sales offer a pathway out of poverty. This is regardless of caste, sex or membership in disadvantaged group – farmers achieved significant increases in vegetable production, productivity, and sales.
 - KISAN’s market system approach for its four focused value chains including vegetable has the potential to sustain production and marketing mechanism and also potentially to replace imports.
 - Post-harvest handling and quality control of vegetable is a key to be addressed.
 - Investment by the large private sectors in vegetable system still to be realized.
 - Off-season vegetable production technology has tremendous impact in rural income generation.
 - Water management in vegetable should be a key area of consideration and has a significant contribution in doubling the farm income.
 - Upgrading and value-addition opportunities exist for enterprises currently looking to offer aggregation, storage, transport, and mechanization services to farmers.
 - ICT tools for agriculture extension

B. Key researchable issues in context of Nepal, and how relationships between horticultural research projects and Mission projects might be improved

Researchable Issues

- Best practices on post-harvest handling and quality control is one of the biggest challenges.
- Engagement of large private sectors in vegetable value chain.
- Improved practices/technologies are the means to increase resiliency of farmers to address the threat from disease, pests and other adverse climatic conditions.
- Varietal improvement for season and off-season vegetables to address climate change.
- Supply chain management of vegetables, apple, citrus, mango, and other high-value horticulture, and floriculture.
- Strengthen seed system and access to and development of technology for improved variety of seed

Relationship to improve horticulture research project and Mission project

- Horticulture research activities need to be strongly aligned with mission's priorities and areas of interventions.
- Mission's interventions are largely in technology dissemination with the engagement of private sectors and thereby contributing towards the sustainability and systemic change. Mission does not focus in the research. Therefore, a strong coordination mechanism between mission and the activities of Horticulture innovation Lab is imperative.