## Press Release

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway has agreed to provide a grant assistance of 184 million Norwegian Kroner (about Rs. 252.1 million) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of Fish Farming Development Project.

This project aims to improve fish production technologies in environment-friendly manner through scaling up pond fish production, providing trainings to farmers groups in carp production, enhance NARC fisheries research competence, conduct research on new modern technology for whole-year healthy fish fries production and fish pellet production. This project also will help in protecting local indigenous fish population into the hydropower regulated rivers.

Ultimately this project helps to improve food security, livelihood and inclusiveness of poor farmers and women groups in Nepal. About 1000 households will directly be benefitted. This project has also considered sustainability aspect through the provision of micro saving schemes and marketing-arrangements for the groups involved. This project will cover 10 districts of Terai and mid-hills of Nepal. This program will be implemented through Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal Agriculture Research Council with the involvement of Universities of Norway, India and Nepal.

The grant agreement to this effect was signed and exchanged between the two governments at the Ministry of Finance today.

The Grant Agreement was signed by Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and HE Alf Arne Ramslien, Ambassador of Embassy of Norway in Nepal on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Norway for this assistance and for its keen interest and continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu 17 April 2012 (वैशाख ५ गते २०६९)