

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Government of Switzerland has agreed to provide total of CHF 28.14 million (about Rs 3 billion) as grant assistance from the Swiss Agency for International Cooperation (SDC) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of three separate projects in Education and Agriculture sectors. The first is Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment (ENSSURE) in education sector. The second and the third are in Agriculture sector, namely, Agriculture sector namely Agricultural Services Development Program (NASDP) and Agricultural Market Development Program (NAMDP).

The first project envisages improved employability and working environment of Nepali workers, particularly from disadvantaged group. This is expected to help further improve their living standard. The project will provide access of young workers to career guidance services; skills trainings, apprenticeships; complementary and specialized trainings; improved occupational health and safety and encourage effective collaboration among training providers, partner companies, industrial associations to synergies in the field of technical trainings and vocational education. The ENSSURE will focus on selected sectors like construction, mechanic, electric, electronics, hospitality and automotive in the larger cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Biratnagar, Itahari, Hetauda and Chitwan encompassing about 20 to 25 Districts. Workforces to be consumed in mega projects, such as hydropower, airports, highways will also be trained.

The second project envisages increased farm income, food security, resilience and social inclusiveness, especially of female-headed households and farmers from disadvantaged groups. The project will cover nine districts: Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Achham, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Sindhuli and Udaypur.

The third project aims at improving livelihood of rural smallholders, especially disadvantaged group and women-headed households through participation in commercial agriculture and interconnected markets. The project will be executed in seven districts: Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Achham, Kalikot, Jajarkot and Dailekh.

Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and H.E. Urs Herren Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal signed the grant agreements today in the Ministry of Finance on behalf of their respective government.

Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to Government of Switzerland and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance  
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu  
20 January 2016  
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