

Launching Event of Global Network for Micro-Irrigation Tuesday, 2 July 2002

Demand for Micro-Irrigation to Support Livelihood Diversification in Nepal

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Map of Nepal



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Background

- Helvetas Nepal launched the Local Initiative Support Program (LISP) in Palpa District in January 1996 (in succession to earlier activities started in 1976)
- Linking Local Initiatives to New Know-how (LLINK) was started in Dailekh and Achham districts in 1997 and Doti district in 2001 with a focus on:
 - Increase of employment (income)
 - Empowerment of disadvantaged groups
 - Local government support
 - Promotion of economic activities



Micro-Irrigation in Helvetas

- Helle balleen supporting farmers in Nepal for many years
- Vegetable production is promoted to generate income
- This created a strong demand for an affordable irrigation system for small plots of land
- First trials in 1998 brought the best results for micro-irrigation
- Cooperation between Helvetas and IDE
- Development of appropriate micro-irrigation hardware (kits to irrigate plots of 125m², 250m² and 500m²)





Some Figures

• A total of 779 households use 1'397 micro-irrigation systems (sprinklers and drip)

Cost of and income from vegetable production in Palpa

One kit to irrigate 125m² costs: NRs 900

Exchange rate: 1 US\$ ≈ 72 NRs

Crop	Area	No.	Prod.	Selling	Gross	Net	Net
	[m ²]	of	cost	price/	return	return	return
		plants		kg			/
							100m ²
Cucumber	62	40	525	10	3'600	3'075	4'96(
Tomato	31	20	155	10	600	445	1'435
Sponge gourd	16	10	160	14	700	540	3'375
Bitter gourd	31	20	240	25	1'250	1'010	3'258
Cauliflower	125	80	967	12	1'440	473	378
(season)							
Cauliflower	125	80	1095	35	2'800	1'705	1'364
(off season)							
Total	390	250	3142	18	10'390	7'248	1'858

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Some Figures

• Conclusion:

Small vegetable producers can recover the investment cost for a micro-irrigation system during the very first season!





Impact of Micro-Irrigation (Veg.

- Inclard outrent intake
- Enhanced food security
- Substantial additional income (especially to women)
- Self employment \Rightarrow less seasonal migration to India
- Enhanced status of women
- Increased confidence (especially of women)
- More equal distribution of work load between men and women





Lessons Learnt

- Vegetable production is a reliable source of additional income and helps to reduce poverty
- Micro-irrigation is affordable and makes vegetable production possible for small producers
- Micro credit can facilitate the introduction of micro-irrigation amony the very poor
- Micro-irrigation is also very attractive for commercial vegetable producers
- Vegetable producer's demand can be met through a system of private dealers and sub-dealers at local level
- Selection of crop is very important in order to get maximum benefit from micro-irrigation