

Success Story: Agriculture brought success & Happiness.

Shanti Devi Gurung, grown up in a “Lahure” (belongs to Army men) family in Bhandardhik Village of Kaski district. Married to a waiter in a local restaurant without consent of her parent, she neither had any experience of working in the farms nor had a dream to be a successful agriculture business woman. After completing Bachelor’s Degree in Education, she ran a pre-primary school in her village for 12 years. She however was not happy with what she was doing because she could not improve her family’s economic conditions. One day, she got an opportunity to participate in a self-employment training program organized by the District Chamber of Commerce and Industry which made an impression on her and she came up with the idea of business diversification. She decided to do vegetable farming by taking a small piece of land in lease. But neither her family nor relatives supported the idea of doing vegetable farming. Her husband went for the employment in Middle East.

She gave away her school in rent and started mushroom farming by building a tunnel in the leased land. People laughed at her when they saw a graduated woman doing farming. As she did not get financing from banks, she borrowed money from local lenders in higher interest rate. She faced the financial difficulties due to high interest and undesired terms and conditions of repayment. She wanted to scale up her business by adding varieties of seasonal and off seasonal vegetables but no one came to finance her. In the meantime she came to know about Nirdhan Utthan Bank from her friends from neighbor village. She visited the branch office and got the detail information about microfinance services of the bank.



Ms. Gurung working in her mushroom tunnel

After getting a week long compulsory group training (CGT), a financial literacy about microfinance services offered by the Bank, roles and responsibility of group member during the training, she got Rs. 40,000 collateral free loan to scale up her vegetable farm. She added three more tunnels to produce tomato, cauliflower and chilly. She earned Rs. 125,000 net profit by investing Rs. 250,000 in a year. When she saw a ray of hope in vegetable farming within a year, she sold school and borrowed Rs. 500,000 microenterprise loan from the NUB. She added another 6 ropani (equals to 32,856 square feet) land for farming. She participated in the various training related to vegetable farming during the period. Now her husband has come back and supports her in the business. She has purchased small plot of land from the earning of vegetable farming within a couple of years. She is thankful to NUBL for helping her in making her dream come true.