



# Nirdhan Newsletter

August/September 2022

*Newsletter of Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited*

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## Message from the CEO



Dear Readers,

Greetings!

We are delighted to present you progress highlights for August/September 2022 including brief coverage of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Memorial Day, our partnership development effort and capacity building initiative.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day of late Dr. Harihar Dev Pant - the pioneer of microcredit in Nepal and the founder of Nirdhan - was observed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022. In this issue, we present you highlights of the event observed in Kathmandu, which was graced by the Acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina as the Chief Guest. Likewise, the distribution of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards - 2079 under different categories are covered briefly.

We continue to serve as a conduit between the development partners and their target beneficiaries in the remote rural areas through special projects and tailored service packages. A couple of projects, ongoing and under development, are outlined in this issue.

Nirdhan continued to participate in national and international events, also for its capability enhancement. In July, six members of the Board took part in a regional policy forum in Vietnam. In August, four managers participated in a global forum in United Arab Emirates and in later part of September, 16 officers will be on Bangladesh study tour. Notably, we completed one-day training events on our branch office performance that covered all of our branch managers.

The new Nepali fiscal year 2079/80 started with remarkable disbursements under CSR and Client Protection activities during Shrawan 2079. A total of 183 member/clients received maternity allowance, 16 received critical illness relief and 25 received disaster relief.

Our coverage and outreach in terms of numbers of Centre/Self-Reliant Groups as well as active and loan clients suggested business consolidation during the reporting month. While loan disbursement amount has increased, the number of loan clients have decreased slightly.

## Janardan Dev Pant

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*Dr. Harihar Dev Pant 7<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day observed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022*

# DR. HARIHAR DEV PANT 7<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY ~ 1

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation, in association with Nirdhan NGO and Nirdhan Utthan MFI observed 7<sup>th</sup> Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Memorial Day on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in all provinces of the country. The day was observed launching the book — *Samriddhiko Margama 2079* and distributing various awards.

## *Distinguished Guests*

In Kathmandu, the program was chaired by Mr. Sharad Nidhi Tiwari, Chairperson of Nirdhan Utthan MFI Board. Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, Acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) graced the program as Chief Guest. The Distinguished Guests in the program were Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Ex-Governor of NRB; Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC, Director of Nirdhan NGO; Mr. Janardan Baral, Chairperson of Society of Economic Journalists—Nepal; Mr. Jagat Bahadur Pokharel, Chairperson of Microfinance Association of Nepal; and Mr. Prakash Raj Sharma, Chairperson of Nepal Microfinance Bankers' Association (NMBA). Mr. Dharma Raj Pandey, Ex-Chairperson of NMBA conducted the program.

## *Welcome Speech*

Welcoming the guests, Mr. Janardan Dev Pant, Chairperson of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation, outlined that the tasks of Nirdhan are to prospect the good virtues inherent within the target groups and support their fruition and dissemination assisting actualization of those virtues. Nirdhan has continued replication of action research programs throughout the county, e. g., Ultra Poor Program, Self-Reliant Group Methodology, and Micro-Health Insurance Program etc.



NRB Acting Governor, Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, NRB Ex-Governor, Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa and Nirdhan Utthan Chairperson, Mr. Sharad Nidhi Tiwari launching *Samriddhiko Margama*

## *Book Launch - Samriddhiko Margama 2079*

Chief Guest, Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina together with distinguished guests launched the book on compilation of 181 success stories of Nirdhan Utthan member/entrepreneurs — *Samriddhiko Margama 2079* — on the path of prosperity.

## *Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards Distribution*

Distinguished guests handed over three awards: Entrepreneurship Award to Mrs. Sanu Maiya Sarki from among entrepreneurs in Bagmati Province; Academic Excellence Awards to Mr. Jeevan Pokhrel (MA, Monetary Economics) and Ms. Dikshya Rana (MA, Rural Development); and Economic Journalism Award to Mr. Bijaya Raj Khanal, Sr. Correspondent, Setopati.com. Each of these awards carry NPR 50,000 and Appreciation Letter.



Nirdhan team members with academic excellence award winners - Mr. Jeevan Pokhrel and Ms. Dikshya Rana

## *Remarks from the Guests*

Microfinance has supported micro-enterprises, employment generation and in making many women self-reliant ... role of Dr. Pant in microfinance sector unparalleled ... Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina

Following the path shown by Dr. Pant would be the true tribute to him ... Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa

Economic condition of those improved who followed the path of Dr. Pant ... Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC

We remember contribution of Dr. Pant and are ready to follow the path he has shown ... Mr. Jagat Bahadur Pokharel

Many are now participating in microfinance pioneered by Dr. Pant and benefiting ... Mr. Prakash Raj Sharma

MFIs seemed drifted from mission in recent times ... should perform truly as aimed by Dr. Pant ... Mr. Janardan Baral



# DR. HARIHAR DEV PANT 7<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL DAY ~ 2

## Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards ~ 2079 Distribution

10 personalities were handed over with Entrepreneurship Award (7), Academic Excellence Award (2) and Economic Journalism Award (1). Each of these awards carry NPR 50,000 and Appreciation Letter.

### Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Entrepreneurship Award

#### Province 1



Honorable Om Prakash Sarawagi, Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation in Province -1 handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Gita Devi Shahi from among the entrepreneurs in the Province

#### Madhesh Province



Ms. Laxmi Kumari Chaudhary, Deputy-Mayor of Kolhabi Municipality handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Shanti Devi Chaudhary from among the entrepreneurs in Madhesh Province

#### Bagmati Province



Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, NRB Acting Governor handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Sanu Maiya Sarki from among the entrepreneurs in Bagmati Province

#### Gandaki Province



Mr. Suresh Ranabhat, Chairperson of Devchuli Municipality, Ward No. 15 handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Sharada Poudel from among the entrepreneurs in Gandaki Province

#### Lumbini Province



Honorable Indra Jit Tharu, Minister for Health in Lumbini Province handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Karamkasi Chaudhary from among the entrepreneurs in the Province

#### Karnali Province



Honorable Krishna Shah, Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning in Karnali Province handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Gita Nepali from among the entrepreneurs in the Province

#### Sudurpashchim Province



Ms. Rekha Kathariya, Deputy-Mayor of Joshipur Rural Municipality handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Ayodhya Devi Dagaura from among the entrepreneurs in the Sudurpashchim Province

### Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Academic Excellence Award

#### MA in Monetary Economics



Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Ex-NRB Governor handing over Academic Excellence Award to Mr. Jeevan Pokhrel securing top score in MA Monetary Economics, 2017-19 batch

#### MA in Rural Development



Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC, Nirdhan Director handing over Academic Excellence Award to Ms. Dikshya Rana securing top score in MA Rural Development, 2017-19 batch

### Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Economic Journalism Award



Mr. Janardan Dev Pant, Chairperson of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation handing over Economic Journalism Award to Mr. Bijaya Raj Khanal, Senior Correspondent of Setopati.com

## PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Nirdhan has also been serving as a conduit between the development partners active in the country and their target beneficiaries in the remote rural areas through special projects and tailored service packages. Joining hands with national and international partners ensure leverage of Nirdhan platform in bringing newer technologies and products to the benefit of the microfinance member/clients.

### Clean cooking solutions — AEPC/CREF

With support from Alternative Energy Promotion Centre/Central Renewable Energy Fund, Nirdhan is implementing clean cooking solutions project in Lumbini Province. Initiated in March 2022, the project has a target of installing e-cooking solutions in 10,000 households. The initiative has advanced with orientation to branch staff, identification of e-cooking solutions vendors, development/publication of promotional materials, e-cooking demonstration events for potential member/clients, product package development, and electric training for household wiring improvement.

### Agricultural advisory services — GeoKRISHI

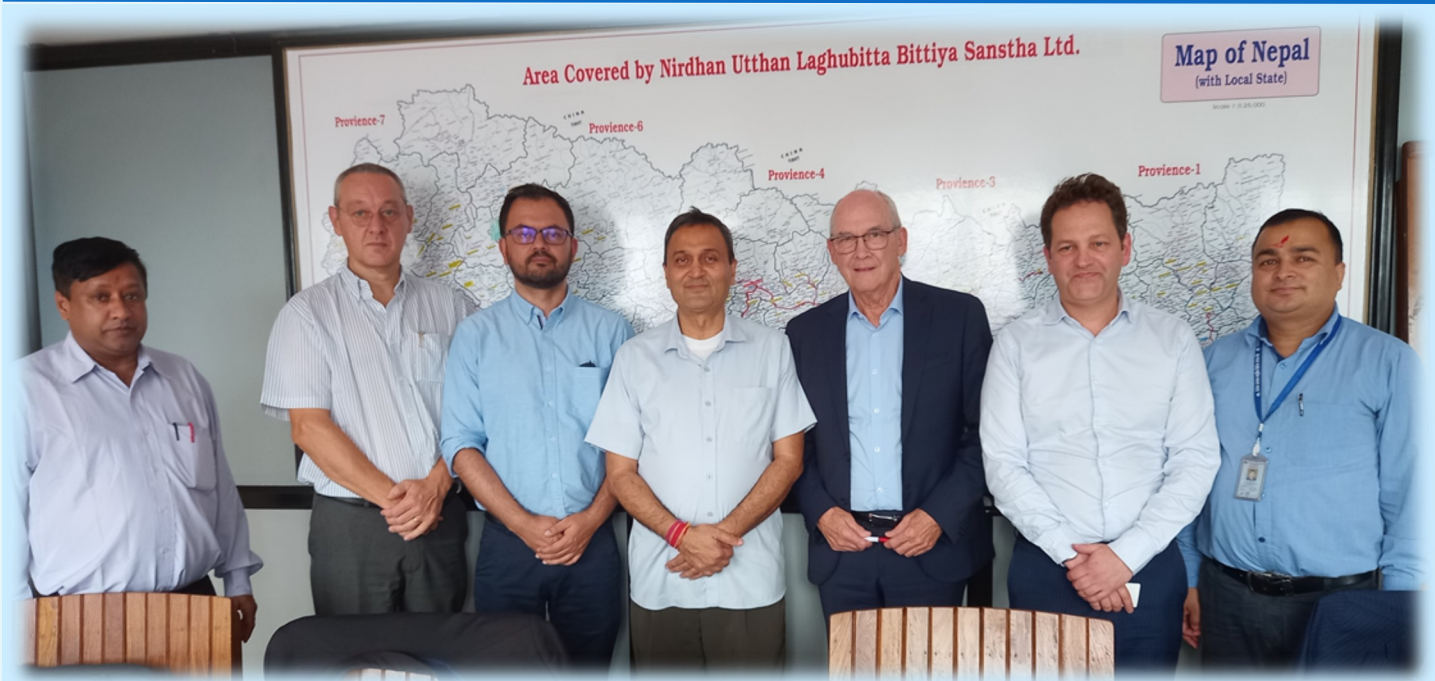
In collaboration with Pathway Technologies and Services, Nirdhan is piloting digital agricultural advisory services for its member/clients under Okhaldhunga and Udayapur (Beltar) branches. Initiated in April 2022, the project has advanced with online orientation program and training on use of GeoKRISHI mobile app for concerned branch staff and centre mobilizers.

### Projects under development ...

Modernization of Branch Offices: Nirdhan has plans for upgrading its branch offices installing modern audio-visual equipment including close-circuit cameras in all branches and television sets in selected branch offices.

Inclusive Climate Finance in Asia-Pacific: Nirdhan has submitted an expression of interest for the preparatory phase of the project. The project aims for promoting inclusive green finance and preparatory phase will validate choice of countries and partners, assess needs of target communities and design the implementation phase of the project.

Community Health Leaders in Nepal: Nirdhan has submitted a concept paper towards building a critical mass of community health leaders through rigorous training of women micro-entrepreneurs. The major objective of the project is to improve reproductive, newborn, child and adolescent health outcomes among the poor in the rural and remote areas.



*Senior management team with one of the visiting project scoping missions at Nirdhan — August 2022*



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Nirdhan continued to participate in national and international events, also for its capability enhancement. While Nirdhan Board and Managers took part in regional and global forums, the Officers will be on a foreign study tour soon. Likewise, all Branch Managers were covered through one-day training events.



*Nirdhan Directors in a policy forum on Digital Financial Services organized by APRACA in Vietnam ~ July 2022*

### Exposure Visit to Bangladesh

16 Nirdhan Officers will be visiting Bangladesh for 5-days exposure visit in later part of September 2022 where they will learn on economic development in general and microfinance sector in particular.

### Training on Enhancing Branch Performance

During the reporting month, five one-day events were organized for the Branch Managers under various regional offices, which were attended by a total of 95 Managers [Birgunj 18, Birtamod 23, Pokhara 15, Bardibas 31 and Bharatpur 8].

### 4<sup>th</sup> Global Takaful (Insurance) Forum — UAE

Four Nirdhan Managers took part in 4<sup>th</sup> Global Takaful and Re-Takaful Forum and post-event workshop on operational aspects of Takaful, Re-Takaful, and Micro-Takaful organized in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 24-26 August 2022.

The Forum and post-event workshops were organized for development of insurance industry and operations complying with the sharia laws, drawing upon lessons from conventional insurance system.



*Nirdhan delegates with fellows in UAE Forum - August 2022*

### Training on Enhancing Branch Office Performance — Bharatpur RO, 07 August 2022

Nirdhan Bharatpur Regional Office organized a Training on Enhancing Branch Office Performance on 07 August 2022 for the eight Managers under its various branch offices. The CEO, Mr. Janardan Dev Pant welcomed the participants in the event also witnessed by the Officers from the central and regional offices.

Acting Assistant General Manager, Mr. Ram Bahadur Chaudhary reviewed the progress of Bharatpur RO as of Asar 2079. The review touched upon the status of member/clients, portfolio at risk and non-performing loan as well as Bharatpur RO contribution on total institutional loan investment and saving mobilization. Mr. Chaudhary also made a presentation on Techniques of Documentation and Practice.



Acting Chief Manager, Mr. Narayan Prasad Neupane presented on the branch-wise staffing and strategy. Mr. Neupane also presented on changes in non-financial services as well as on proper use of form, format and register.

The eight Branch Managers presented on their branch-level plans and targets for FY 2079/80.

# PROGRESS INDICATORS

## Coverage/Outreach

The coverage and outreach in terms of numbers of Centres/SRGs as well as active and loan clients suggested business consolidation during Shrawan 2079 (corresponding mid-July to mid-August 2022). Though number of Centres and active clients registered an increase, slight decrease was noted in the number of loan clients.

Coverage/Outreach (No.)	Progress as of 16 Jul 022	Progress during 17 Jul-16 Aug 022	Progress as of 16 Aug 022
Districts Covered	77 of 77	—	77 of 77
Local Bodies Reached	549 of 753	—	549 of 753
Branch Offices	185	—	185
Centers/SRGs	22,179	55	22,234
Staff Strength	1,190	(7)	1,183
Active Clients	397,596	342	397,938
Loan Clients	242,070	(2,017)	240,053

The number of Centres/SRGs increased by **55** reaching to a total of **22,234**. While the number of active clients increased by **342** reaching to a total of **397,938**; the number of loan clients decreased by **2,017** reaching to a total of **240,053**.

## Financial Services

Financial Progress (in Billion NPR)	Progress as of 16 Jul 022	Progress during 17 Jul-16 Aug 022	Progress as of 16 Aug 022
Loan Disbursed	193.99	2.12	196.11
Loan Outstanding	27.69	0.07	27.76
Savings & Deposits	18.18	—	18.18

The loan disbursement reached a volume of **NPR 196.11 Billion** with an increase of **NPR 2.12 Billion** during the month. The savings and deposits remained at **NPR 18.18 Billion**.

The selected financial indicators suggested no major movement. Though loan disbursement increased slightly, no movement was recorded in savings & deposits mobilization during Shrawan 2079 (corresponding mid-July to mid-August 2022).

## Non-Financial Services

CSR/CP Activities	Progress during 17 Jul—16 Aug 022	
	No.	NPR
Maternity Allowance	183	336,000
Critical Illness Relief	16	130,000
Disaster Relief	25	135,000
Insurance Claim	157	12,889,835

During Shrawan 2079 (corresponding mid-July to mid-August 2022), Nirdhan provided maternity allowance to **183** members (total **NPR 336,000**), Critical Illness Relief to **16** members (total **NPR 130,000**) and disaster relief to **25** members (total **NPR 135,000**). Likewise, it facilitated settlement of **157** insurance claims during the month amounting to a total of **NPR 12,889,835**.