

SoLAR Innovation Fund Grantee Gham Power's Ambitious Move To Promote Solar Power

Through the SoLAR Innovation Fund, Gham Power Nepal is working with IWMI to improve crops and water yields for smallholder farmers in Nepal. The project includes twelve activities under four work packages, namely,

WP1: Social Mobilization

WP2: Enhancing Agri Advisory,

WP3: Impact Validation, and

WP4: Market Activation and Development to be implemented over 20 months.

Over the first two quarters, the project made meaningful progress towards meeting the initial objectives, despite the ongoing global pandemic, socio-economic challenges and restrictions on mobility. For social mobilization, 45 field agents have been trained across three microfinance locations. In addition, several virtual training and engagement activities are being conducted to provide agri advisory services. Training events have been planned for over fifty agents across more than ten locations and would be implemented once movement restrictions are eased. To enhance agri advisory services, Gham Power is testing 25 agri-sensors and expanding the advisory database. For impact validation, Gham Power is developing digital solutions for AEPC and its beneficiary farmers at ten locations across the Terai region. Gham Power is also conducting field demonstrations of the technology and services for market activation and development. Five on-site demonstrations have been completed, while over twelve events are being planned to be implemented as the restrictions ease.

Besides project-specific milestones, Gham Power also worked with its partners to analyze and review the existing sales channels to revamp the operational processes. As a result, an improved Standard Operating Procedure has been developed, which will allow Gham and partners to reach more farmers and reduce the operational expenses (more details, visit: <https://rb.gy/vk3wts>). Further, the company is in conversation with several institutions like government agencies, microfinance institutions, and academia to improve and expand upon the solutions. Support of IWMI and the SoLAR Innovation Fund has been instrumental in these developments.



Picture 1: Virtual training program for MFI staff



Picture 2: On-field SWP promotion

