

Women Creating Their Own Recognition through Small Enterprise Plan-



Name
Ms Ramila Rai



Location
Khotang, Nepal



Occupation
Agriculture



Plastic Tunnel
Eight



Family
Huaband + 3 Children



Monthly Income
USD 135-225

On March 8, 2019 on the special occasion of the International Women's Day, Ramila was honored with a title "Best Entrepreneur" by Halesi Municipality, Khotang, Nepal for her outstanding work as a vegetable farmer. As part of this honor, she further received an honor certificate from the Municipality.

"I highly feel encouraged when Municipality honored me. I am feeling more confident on what I'm doing and I will work harder in the coming days."

Due to lack of education, information, awareness and income source, women in Nepal, especially the rural women have limited mobility and control over household resources. Hence, women are confined within the house chore activities.

Journey of Ramila towards an Entrepreneur:

Earlier, Ramila's husband was a local contractor with the earning not sufficient to feed the family and educate the children. The family was under financial crises. Coincidentally, Scaling up Energy Access through Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE Nepal Project) of Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) supported by ENERGIA/Hivos was providing the entrepreneurship training to women, where she received the opportunity to connect with project.

“I can't explain how much support I get from Mr Likh Ram Chaudhary (Business Development Coordinator from WEE Nepal Project). He came into our life as a guiding star, I pray to God to provide him, success and happiness where ever he goes. Also, this would not have been possible without support from my husband. He equally gives time to me in the farm. Many women took the training but they could not do well because of lack of family support.”

It has been 2 years she is growing vegetables and fruits. Initially, she came across major challenges such as Insects killing the vegetables and fruits, low self confidence when the price of vegetables lowered down.

Later, through skill training and continuous mentoring, she was able to overcome those issues effectively. Now, she understood the business strategies and marketing where sometimes the price goes up and some time it declines, balancing the actual profit. At the moment, she has increased self-confidence with determination, dedication and desire to expand her business further with adding four extra plastic tunnels for more cultivation.

“I wake up early at 4 a.m. in order to make vegetables ready to sell. I carry them to Chapdada near market from Durchim around 7:30 a.m. Sometimes, I use taxi and other times, I carry on my back since taxi is very expensive. I buy the stuffs for home and books/copies for the children with the money I got from selling vegetables.”

Ramila further stated that we really do not have to move abroad in search of job leaving families behind, we can simply earn in our own village with little extra effort using water, forest, land and other available local resources.