

Nepal is blessed with rich agro-climatic conditions and it produces a diverse set of agricultural produce. It has the potential to be the world's top producers in most of the major crops, herbs, fruits and vegetables. However, the present agriculture data represents to be the lowest in the world in terms of production and productivity. The potential of Nepalese agribusiness is simply huge if the bottlenecks are addressed.

Thus, R&D; Innovative Solution has been in operation since 2012, aiming to address the challenges faced by farming communities of Nepal. The company has been working in a soil to sale model, addressing the problems in every components of agriculture value chain.

VISION

To create economic opportunity among the farming communities of Nepal by converting low profitable traditional agriculture occupation into sustainable inter-connected entrepreneurial venture.

MISSION

To strengthen the capacity of existing farmers or new entrants in the farming industry in order to turn their venture into a successful entrepreneurship.

ACTIVITIES

AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The company has been publishing the largest circulated agriculture magazine (Krishak ra Prabidhi) in Nepal. The magazine covers the wider range of agriculture information regarding government policies, farming techniques, market, latest technologies and other related information. The magazine is subscription based and is circulated around the nation with a readership base of more than 100K. It acts as a bridge between the farming community and the agriculture policy makers. The company has rolled out website, android based mobile based application, and even connecting with farmers through various social media platforms.

For reference

Agrinepal.com

MARKET LINKAGE & E-COMMERCE

The company has been working in the ecommerce platform for the agriculture inputs supply as well as market linkage for the agriculture commodities. The e-commerce platform serves the entire value chain from input supply to product aggregation. Prior experience of running agriculture products retails outlets, agri centers and farmers market has helped to build the platform as per the need of the farmers as well as consumers. We are the first and only one e-commerce platform dedicated for the agriculture sector. The primary domain of this venture is to digitize the agricultural system in Nepal to create big data incorporating agriculture, livestock and poultry sector to increase productivity and market access. It functions in close cooperation with AgriCenter established in rural areas of Nepal. The company has a plan to roll out the android as well as IOS version of the platform very soon.

For reference

Agrinepal.com

ACCESS TO FINANCE (FARMERS CREDIT CARD)

Despite of subsidized interest agriculture financing program brought by government of Nepal in its financial policy in 2014, its still limited to a handful of people only. As per central bank data, by mid Oct 2019, only 18,805 borrowers has access to the subsidized agriculture loan. In a country with the population of 28 million, and with more than 60% of people engaged in agriculture for their livelihoods it's a miserable situation. Regarding this scenario, this initiative has designed and implemented a very innovative model to provide access to finance, business development services and extension services harnessing the digital potential in partnership with various stakeholders. The initiative will access the capital needed for the individual farming families in co-operation with local government agencies, and needed credit will be disbursed through a QR code card which can be accessed only with the merchants/vendors which supplies agriculture inputs. This controlled flow of credit restricts farmers using the loan amount except for the agriculture purpose. It ensures, inflow of credit for the stated purpose and further generates a huge chunk of data which helps to deliver other value added services to small holding farming farmers. We are the first organization in Nepal to rollout the Farmers Credit Card system in cooperation with financial institutions of Nepal.

For reference

Agrinepal.com

POST HARVEST LOSS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Post Harvest Loss in fresh produce accounts for a 40% loss in Nepal. Fungus contamination of dry products due to improper storage is also at an alarming stage. In order to address these challenges R & D has been working in Cold Chain Management as well as Dry Chain Management services in Nepal. It has introduced the revolutionary CoolBot Technology developed by Store It Cold, USA.(

www.storeitcold.com

)and low-cost dry chain management services in Nepal, which can be developed by farmers themselves. The Post Harvest Department of the company is working in close cooperation with Horticulture Innovation Lab, UC DAVIS, for developing low-cost chimney solar dryers and Dry cards. So, far the organization has constructed more than 100 cold storage systems ranging from a storage capacity of 3 MT to 100 MT. We are the pioneer in introducing the latest technologies to address the challenges in Post Harvest Loss of horticulture crops. The company provides its services in the effective management of commodities in cold storage as well as training to the cold storage operators.

www.coldstorenepal.com

Our Leadership

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Dambar Khanal

Founder, dk@agrinepal.com, 9840072717

Damber Khanal is the Co-founder & Associate Director of R & D Innovative Solution Pvt. Ltd. Nepal, passionate about agriculture entrepreneurship. He started his agriculture venture through a Dairy Farm in Damak, Jhapa ten years back. Being from a tech background his passion has driven to innovate various products and services for agriculture sector. He is a trained personnel, from Post Harvest Centre, UC Davis. He leads the Post Harvest Division of the company, focusing on research, development and extension of Post Harvest related technology and services in Nepal. He was the pioneer person in Nepal, to introduce cold storage technology in farm level through CoolBot technology.

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Sunita Nhemaphuki

Founder, sunita@agrinepal.com, 9851140610

Sunita Nhemaphuki is a dynamic individual based in Kathmandu, Nepal, with a strong passion for entrepreneurship, agriculture, and development communication. With extensive experience in the field, she has made significant contributions to the agricultural sector in Nepal through her various roles and initiatives.

Sunita's dedication to the agricultural sector extends beyond her own ventures. She serves as the Chairperson of Agro Organic Co-operative Ltd. and holds directorial positions in organizations like Wealth Planner Investment Company. She is also a board member of the Women Leadership Forum, the Nepal Agriculture Machinery Entrepreneur's Association (NAMEA), and the Local Economy Development Committee under the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI). Moreover, Sunita is a National Council Member of the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council and a General Member of the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN). Currently she is Board member of Agriculture Enterprise Center/ FNCCI.

Her expertise and commitment to sustainable agriculture have led her to be an advisor to the District Agriculture Cooperative Federation in Bhaktapur. Sunita's contributions have garnered recognition at an international level as well, as she holds the position of Founder Executive Member in the Asia Pacific Agriculture Mechanization Journalist Association based in Beijing, China.

Sunita holds an ongoing PhD from the Central Department of Journalism at Tribhuvan University, where she is conducting research in the field of journalism and media studies. She also completed a Regional Masters in Media Studies with a specialization in journalism, media, and communication, supported by a NORAD Scholarship at the University of Dhaka.

Her academic journey began with a Bachelor's degree in Arts, specializing in Journalism and Mass Communication, from the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at Purbanchal University. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Studies from Khowopa College.

As the Co-Founder, Chairperson, and CEO of R & D Innovative Solution Pvt. Ltd., an agribusiness entity established in 2012, Sunita has played a pivotal role in driving innovation and growth in the agricultural

sector. She has been actively involved in the development and implementation of various agricultural solutions, aimed at enhancing productivity and improving the livelihoods of farmers. Additionally, Sunita serves as the Editor in Chief of "Krishak ra Prabidhi," the largest circulated agriculture magazine in Nepal, which provides valuable insights and information to farmers and agricultural enthusiasts.

With a rich portfolio of experiences, Sunita has actively participated in various workshops, seminars, and conferences related to agriculture, communication, and entrepreneurship. She has been involved in programs aimed at enhancing access to agriculture financing for marginalized farmers and has served as a mentor in numerous entrepreneurship development programs.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Sunita maintains a keen interest in leadership development, communication, and social advocacy. She enjoys traveling and is a strong advocate for women entrepreneurship, food security, and nutrition.

Sunita's professional and academic achievements, combined with her dedication to the agricultural sector and her entrepreneurial spirit, make her a valuable asset to any organization or initiative focused on sustainable development and agricultural innovation