Fruit and most vegetable crops are considered as high value crops in Nepal compared with the field crops. They are rich in vitamins and minerals and are very important from our nutrition point of view. A good progress has been achieved in terms of area coverage and total production of fruit and vegetables, and the progress in terms of productivity of these commodities is also satisfactory. However looking into the potentiality, marketed volumes of fruit and vegetables are still low despite the good possibility of increasing area and productivity of these crops. Careless handling of crops during loading and unloading and a lack of storage facilities are contributory to postharvest losses.

To address the challenges and improve agricultural productivity, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have entered into an agreement in June 2018. The Value Chain Development of Fruit and Vegetables (VCDFV) Project aims to increase incomes of smallholder farmers. A focus is placed on the enhanced access of agricultural technologies, minimized postharvest losses and improved the market linkages. KOICA will provide the financial support of US$ 5 million and UNDP will contribute US$ 0.5 million during the period of 2018-2022.

OUTCOMES

The project will increase incomes of 10,000 smallholder farmers. Following 3 outcomes are set to achieve the goal:

OUTCOME 1
Improve agricultural productivity through increased capacity of government agencies and better access to production technologies

OUTCOME 2
Reduce postharvest losses

OUTCOME 3
Better market linkages

In this way, it will contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (no poverty) and 2 (zero hunger).