



The Inclusive Development of the Economy Programme



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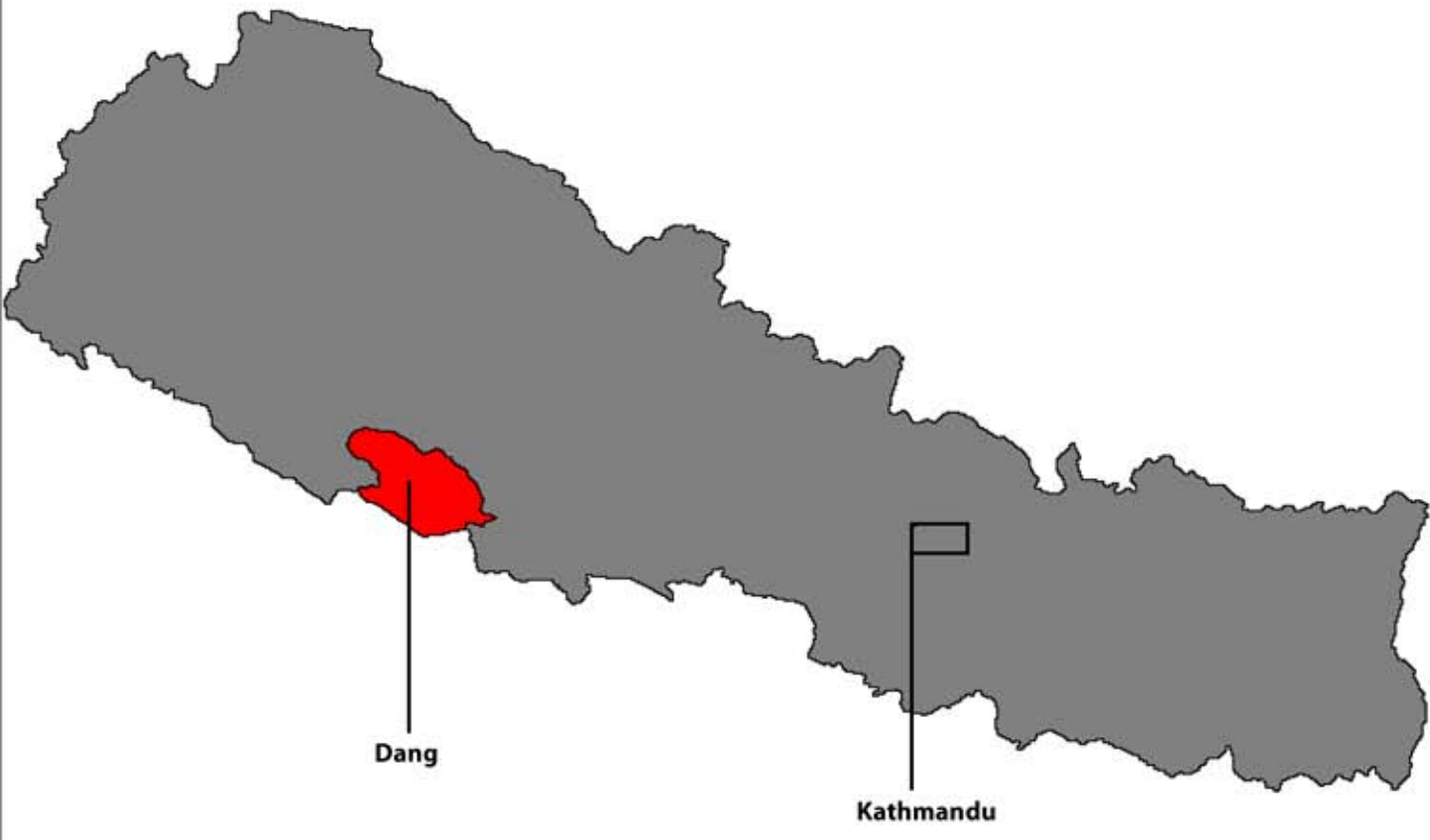
(INCLUDE)

Promoting balanced and socially fair economic growth



Value Chain Development: Honey

Dang



HONEY

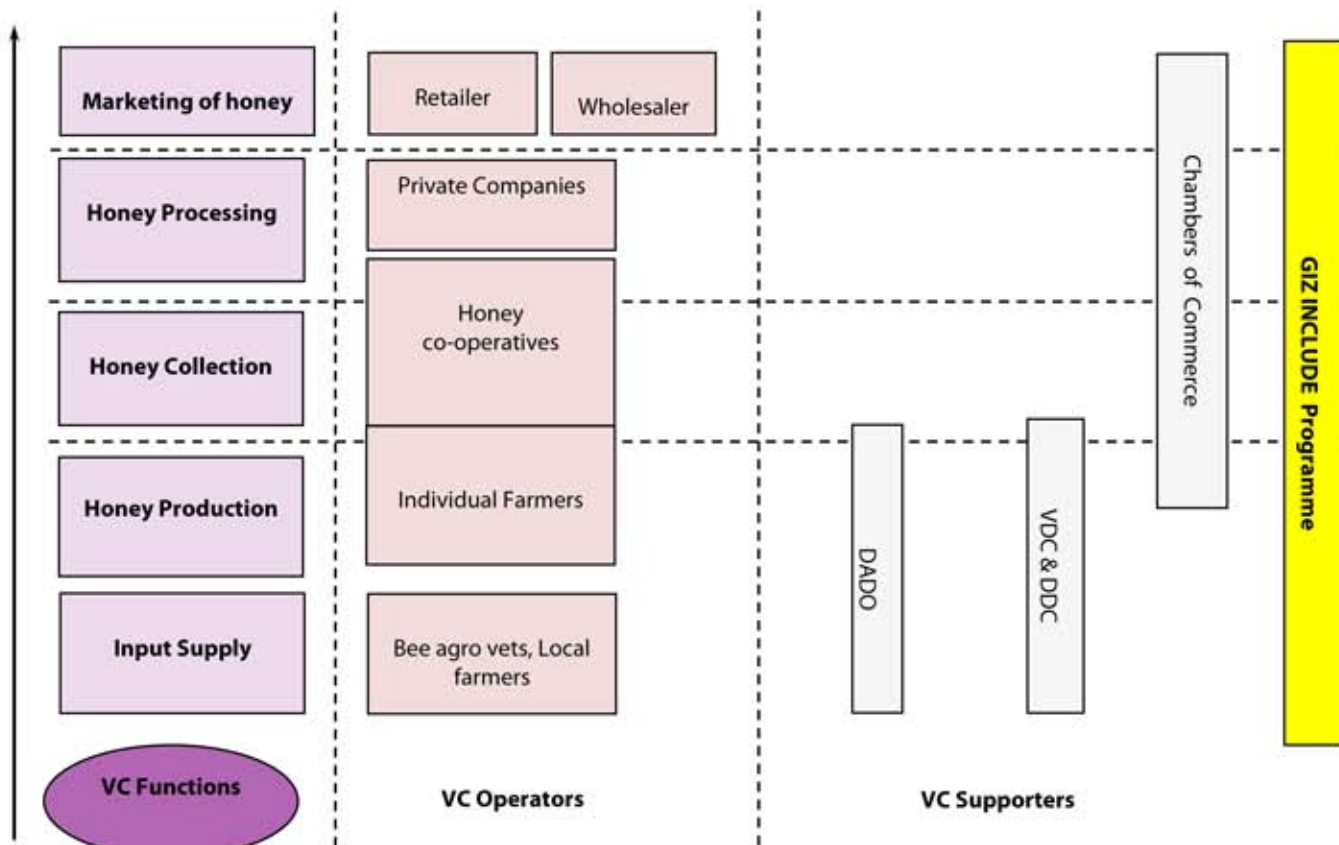


Dang is a district with a high potential for honey production and could become one of the major producers if the potential were fully exploited one day. Looking at the potential of inclusive employment creation and income generation through the promotion of honey, this sub-sector has been chosen for the assistance through the Value Chain (VC) approach. According to the Federation of Nepal Bee Keepers (FNBK) district chapter and the Beekeepers Cooperative Union Dang only about 6 percent of the people who live in the district are active in the sector and they are mostly women, Janjati and members of disadvantaged groups. Thus, there is a significant potential for inclusive growth.

Based on economic potential studies and stakeholder discussions conducted in 2009, INCLUDE has selected the honey sub-sector in the Dang district as an entry point for value chain promotion. The honey sub-sector has been identified as a major provider of employment in the programme region with a significant potential for income growth.

Only 6 cooperatives are involved in this value chain and it is estimated that about 5,000 bee colonies owned by approximately 1,000 households exist in this district. Thanks to the technical support provided by DFNBK and the Narijagaran Multipurpose Cooperative Beekeeping is now spreading to the hilly and rural areas of the district.

Honey Value Chain



Focus of the intervention

An in-depth analysis of the honey value chain in Dang district has identified a number of bottlenecks, which hamper the full exploitation of the sub-sector's potential in the district. In particular it was found that :

- There were not enough grazing areas and the rapid deforestation has further worsened the situation ; There was lack of technical service and quality equipment providers in the district.
- Transportation of hives for grazing was difficult due to lack of proper infrastructure. Improved bee hives and colonies were not in practice and community depended on traditional bee keeping practice. Technical training for bee keepers was lacking
- Awareness among the agriculture farmers about benefits of beekeeping was lacking. Indiscriminate use of pesticide had been done by the farmers that could be harmful for bee keeping. There was lack of centers to provide technical advices to bee-keepers. Coordination among the stakeholders was lacking. The scientifically build honey processing unit/plant with necessary equipments was lacking. There was lack of technical knowledge on honey processing. Lack of collection, processing, labelling, packaging and marketing center for honey. Lack of proper marketing linkages. There was lack of quality testing facility
- Confidence was lacking among the farmers that bee keeping could be a sustainable livelihood . Government

was found apathetic about development of honey sector. Awareness among the consumers and producer about the quality of Nepalese honey was lacking. Bee-keepers were taxed unfairly and by multiple agencies while migrating bees to other district. There was unhealthy competition among the producers and traders. Lack of proper institutional set up of cooperative and its union to promote honey sub sector

A series of activities have been implemented by INCLUDE focused on addressing those bottlenecks and aiming at creating employment and income opportunities to include women and disadvantaged groups. INCLUDE has worked with FNBK and the partner bee keeping cooperative (all women cooperative) in the district for different skill development training/technical assistance and marketing of honey. In this regard, INCLUDE has supported with trainings such as basic and advance level bee-keeping, queen breeding, cooperative management and value chain development and advisory trainings. Furthermore, it has supported the bee hive exchange program within the cooperative and has also supported the cooperative to form new groups to expand beekeeping activities in the district. The vision is to develop these new groups as independent cooperatives or to bring them under the umbrella of the existing cooperative. Two all women's group have been formed in this respect. The partner cooperative who developed these groups were supported to provide the groups with basic beekeeping training and the required bee hives and equipments to start beekeeping.



IMPACTS and ACHIEVMENTS (as of May 2011)

- The average income of farmers active in the honey sub-sector has increased by 12.5 percent from annually NRs. 16,667 per household in 2009 to NRs. 18,750 per household in 2011.
- The number of people active in Dang's honey sector through the cooperative has increased by 18 percent in the period from 2009 to 2011. The number of people active in the honey sector was 675 (Male 435, female 240 and disadvantaged group 46) in 2009, which increased to 800 (Male 500, female 300 and disadvantaged group 64) in 2011.
- The production of honey grew from 15 MT in 2009 to 20 MT in 2011.
- Total 60 bee keepers (16 of which women and 15 Janjati) were trained on advanced bee keeping. 80 beekeepers (68 of which women and 11 Janjati) were trained on basic level beekeeping. 26 beekeepers (8 of which women and 2 Janjati) received queen breeding training.
- The cooperative has founded 2 new groups in Malwar and Halwar with the participation of 50 women and provided basic training, bee hives, technical assistance and equipment. As part of the beehive exchange programme 50 beehives and additional equipment were distributed to promote bee keeping in the district.