

Empowering Rural Women and Improving Livelihoods

Ms Kaldhari Saud 54, a wife and mother of 54, lives in Bajura in the Mid and Far West of Nepal. She rears 2 cows, 1 calf, 2 oxen and 2 goats and earns an income from producing ginger and turmeric on a small plot of land and selling it in the local village and markets. She is an active member of the Pragatisil vegetable producer group.

Before working with Rural Access Programme (RAP), Kaldhari together with her husband worked as local labourers.

Now, Kaldhari works in a RAP road building group (RBG). The UK funded Programme provides jobs in road maintenance and construction to individuals from the poorest households. Initially her husband was appointed as an RBG member but Kaldhari replaced him after he became ill. She has worked 650 days over five years contributing to the construction of the Maure-Toli-Chhatara road, linking remote communities in Bajura to essential services and earning a total of GBP 2,500.

Kaldhari has used her earnings to repay a loan, cover household expenses and invest in her children's education.

She has also been able to invest to secure future earnings, investing GBP 575 to procure land and GBP 220 to increase vegetable production. RAP has supported seed inputs, provided support to improve production techniques and construct an irrigation system.

Now Kaldhari has GBP 100 saved in Nawadurga Women Cooperative and Pragatisil Vegetable Producer Group accounts. She has taken as education loan GBP 38 from the RBG saving account and GBP 115 from the Nawadurga Women Cooperative.

Previously Kaldhari was cultivating one ropani of land but has increased the area under cultivation to 3 ropanis and anticipates doubling her income from sale of vegetables. She hopes to expand her vegetable business further in the years to come.



Kaldhari working in the Pragatisil Road Building Group



Kaldhari ready for work and with her children before school



Checking chilly crops ahead of harvest



Selling vegetables at Hat Bazar