

## **A Female Agro-vet as Power of Change**

Women living in developing countries like Nepal have to struggle a lot to prove their competency. It is also true for Karishma, a well-known livestock activist in Ratu Village Development Committee (VDC) of Surkhet district situated in mid-western part of Nepal.

She received capacity building exposure conducted to develop herself as rural veterinary volunteer as part of Community Peace Building Program through Women Group Empowerment implemented jointly by South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP Nepal) and Samaj Jagaran Kendra (SAC) Nepal in support of European Union. She exclaimed “At this moment, I feel that if I was not exposed to these modern means then our livestock practice would be same. Even my life would be of no difference than ordinary rural women in Nepal.” She has received tremendous support from her family as her family members also received awareness and sensitization.

She also started agro-vet based social enterprise. She was able to gain economic benefit of Rs 3500 (33.6 EUR) in a monthly basis. She proudly shared “My economic and social transformation has been possible only because of the program supported by European Union”. Her professional attitude of dealing with these services together with additional motivation of women in her society helped her prosper a lot in this profession.

The change was not limited on the livestock promotion. She expressed “Social harmony in our village has also increased due to periodic interactions and mutual trust in the society”. She exclaimed “It is really a great change in my village.”

Community Peace Building Program through Women Group Empowerment supported by European Union had focused on promoting women’s confidence in changing power relation through increased access to resources and community level discourses that affected their lives. Karisma is just an example that showcased potentiality of women and their inner strength in bringing impactful changes in society.

Empowered and confident women can also do miracles in strengthening peace process by bringing community member of diverse background together in a common platform through livestock management. These role models like Karishma had also contributed in changing mind set of the people on looking at women as “power of change agents in promoting peace”.