On October 9 and 10, the ILO, supported by its partnership with the USAID and the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access I4 Initiative at UC Davis [1], organized a workshop promoting agriculture insurance in Nepal.

Developed as a regional event, representatives of implementing organizations from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka worked closely with Nepalese organizations to discuss factors that impact agriculture insurance and mechanisms to overcome them. The participants represented a diverse set of stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the cooperative federation, microfinance institutions, researchers working in agriculture insurance, technical service providers, public and private sector insurers and reinsurers, brokers as well as development sector organizations.

The primary objective of the workshop was to stimulate multi-stakeholder involvement to achieve greater scale and impact with agriculture insurance. Through an exchange of peer and partner experiences, it sought to enhance learning around the quality and impact of agriculture insurance.

The topics included determining the relevance of index insurance in the local context, as well as the various roles that government, reinsurers, cooperative organizations and technical services providers can play to make agriculture insurance products more accessible and responsible.

Using interactive formats to facilitate open exchange of experiences and ideas, including simulated ‘games’, the participants shared new methodologies and technologies that can assist to maximize the impact and potential for scale of agriculture insurance. The resources shared helped in highlighting the importance of client value in product design, distribution and delivery.

Participants were very enthusiastic and satisfied with the discussions at the workshop with a rating of 4.69 on a 5-point scale. They enjoyed the various country experiences and case studies that were shared, as well as the highly interactive discussions. In particular the participants appreciated the interesting mix of topics and found it a great opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing.