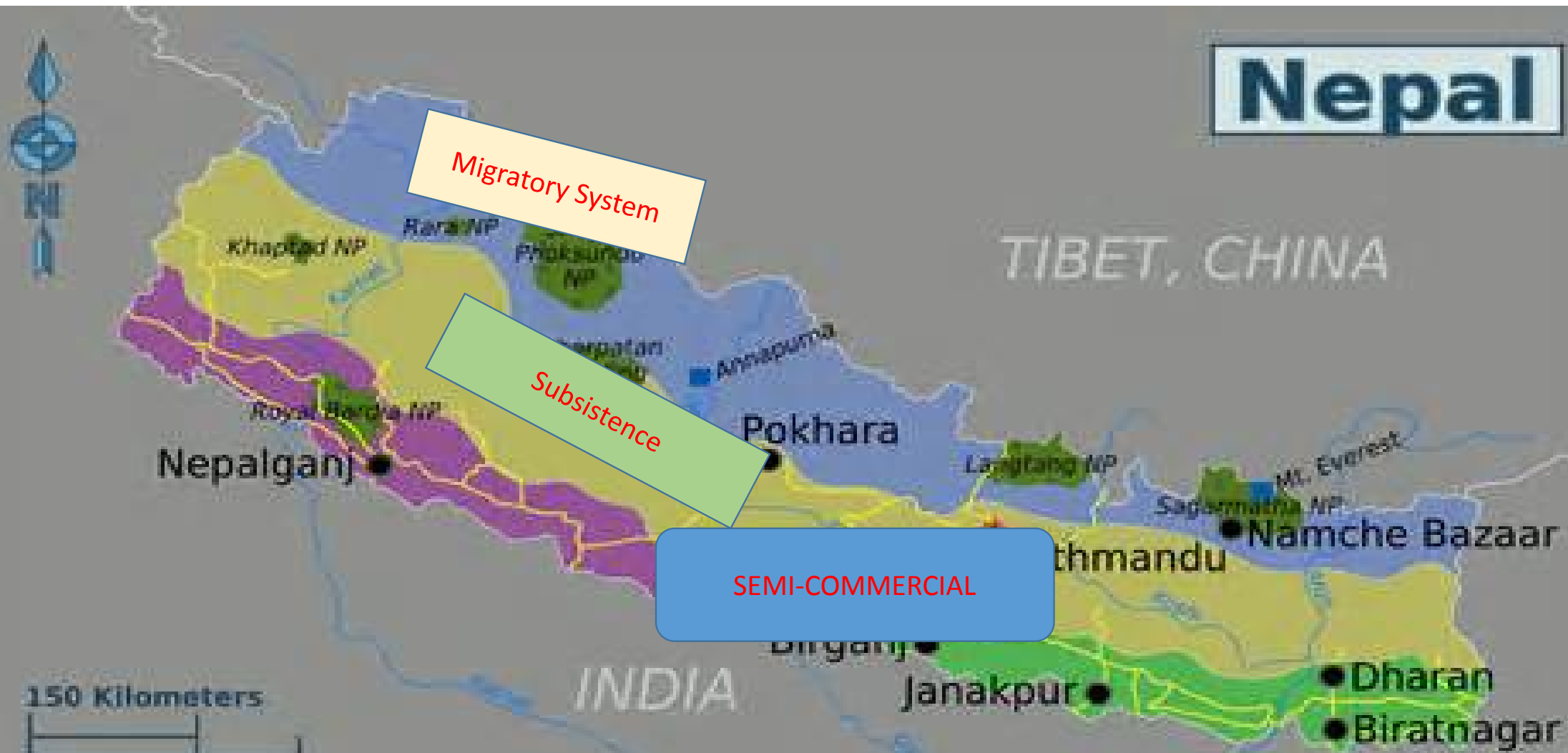




Community Based Animal  
Health Workers (CAHWs)  
Sharing Experience of  
Nepal

**Dr. Dhan Raj Ratala**  
**Chairperson**  
**Nepal Veterinary Council**

# Production system and Agro-ecological Geography



# BIO DIVERSITY



150 Kilometers  
150 Miles

Nepal

Royal Bardia NP

Shey Phoksun NP

Dhaulagiri Rese

Pokhara

TIBET CHINA

Sagarmatha NP

Mt. Everest

Namche Bazaar

Kath

Dharan

Biratnagar



# National veterinary Service Delivery system

- Government of Nepal provides Veterinary services through its network
- of 75 District Livestock Service Offices (DLSOs)
- 999 Livestock Service Centers
- Service coverage is about 23% farm households.
- Fiscal policy of GON, 2015 have announced "**one village Development Committee one Veterinary Junior Technician.**
- **This policy add** 3157 more VPP in the National Veterinary Service.

# Livestock population

- More livestock per hectare of cultivated land than any other country of the world.
- 87% of the population keep some form of livestock at home with 5.8 of livestock and poultry per house holds.
- Livestock contribute 15% of the GDP
- Slaughter of cow is banned in Nepal

# Human resource development

From 1957 to 1987, Department of Livestock Services in collaboration with Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science trained more than 10 thousand Junior Technical Assistants (JTAs) for veterinary and Agriculture





Conti,,

Since 1989, Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) provides Veterinary Junior Technical Assistant training and train more than 700 VPPs per 15 months time.

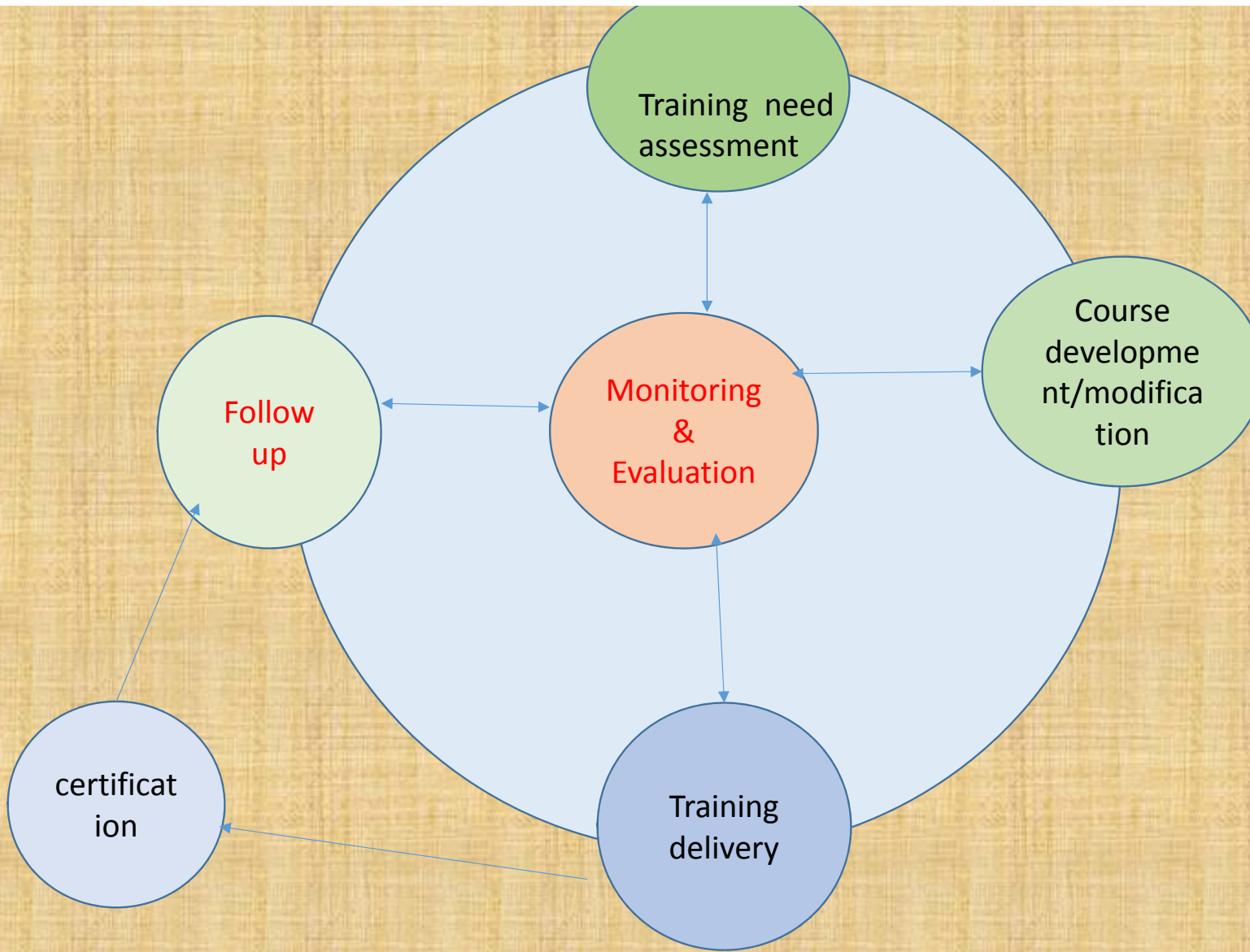


# Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW)

In 1980, GON started Village Animal Health Workers (VAHW) also known as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW), training with the objectives

- To expand animal health services to the village level "One Village one VAHW"
- to built self reliant healthy sustainable farming communities
- to improve the quality of life / poverty reduction of livestock dependent poor, marginalized and needy communities.
- Training duration of 35 days with approved curricula .





# Training cycle

## Role and Responsibility

CAHWs play a critical (preventive and curative) role in the national animal health program and extend the reach of veterinary services to the poor, marginalized and needy communities of the rural and remote areas who would otherwise have no access/ no alternative.

## Role and responsibility

- Directly or indirectly GON has provided them the responsibility of primary animal health care.
- Services provided by the CAHWs has significantly reduced the morbidity and mortality of major animal diseases
- Has increased production.
- Farmers are satisfied getting services at the farm gate



## Animal Health Service

A CAHW has her own  
Agro-Vet Center

**Performing Fecal Test**



## Disaster management

The role of CAHWs were found more valuable as a skilled volunteer/ front line service provider during insurgency and recent earthquake disaster in Nepal.



## Demand for CAHWs

- High demand for CAHWs by Public and private sectors
- Considering the high demand GON delegated the training to NGOs under the supervision of the government.
- NGOs Trained CAHWs were confined to the project command areas without official recognition until 1997.



# National Skill Test

- DLS, CTEVT started National Skill Test for the CAHW.
- Results of the skill test so far indicate that more than 50% working CAHWs pass the National Skill Test.
- DLSO organize one day orientation workshop annually to discuss the problems of CAHWs
- On the availability of revolving fund, selected CAHWs are provided financial support without any interest to promote the clinical practice.
- CAHWs eligible for policy based subsidized inputs and loans from government and financial institutions.

# Monitoring and Supervision

- DLSO chief is responsible for monitoring and supervision of CAHWs.
- Independent report of the evaluation indicates that considering the situation CAHWs are working and the service provide by them is satisfactory and both farmers and CAHWs have benefited.
- The rate of self employment and sustainability of CAHWs has been used as primary indicator for the success of the training.
- This rate has been estimated more than 50% in the major livestock producing areas.

# challenges

Service provided by CAHWs is the subject of debate:

- Misuse of drugs leading to drug resistance,
- No reporting or Late reporting of disease outbreak
- No/few referral
- Demand for specialized services
- Weak monitoring and supervision due to insufficient number of veterinarians
- Absence of performance assessment of individual CAHW
- Quite the job if found better job.



## Retention issues of CAHWs

- Many trained CAHWs after refresher training or some specific training, have diverted from service oriented (primary animal care and treatment) to business oriented activities as Agro-vet shop, dealer or supplier of vaccines.
- Policy makers have to think how to retain them as a CAHW to improve quality of animal health services, minimize risk and reduce the cost of service delivery.

# Registration

- Until now no registration of CAHWs
- Nepal veterinary council Act is in the process of amendment and VPP and CAHW will be regulated (registration /licensing as per the academic qualification) up on the fulfillment of the council standards.

## Way forward

- Review of VPP and CAHW Training policy to identify the strength and weakness of training.
- To update the training curricula covering the concept of zoonosis, food safety, disease surveillance and animal welfare .
- Mainstreaming VPP and CAHW within the chain of command in the National Veterinary Service system based on the legal, technical and veterinary governance system is also needed.



THANK YOU

