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Bhimtar village is well-known as the 'Terai' of Sindhupalchowk district due to its lowland and arable farm landscape. This farmland is suitable for harvesting varieties of agricultural products like legumes, vegetables, and grains. Krishna Bahadur Danawar, Ward Member-12, Indrawati Rural Municipality shares, "In 1963, villagers diverted the water of Sisney River to build a 3Km long canal for irrigation of 1,000 Ha Land of Bhimtar Village, benefitting 250 households until the Nepal Mega-Earthquake, 2015."

The earthquake and its aftershock triggered many landslides in the village, because of which, the canal was filled with debris. As a result, numerous lands were left barren. Villagers made several attempts to clean the canal. However, repair and maintenance of the canal was not taking shape due to lack of guidance and other priorities. This issue was raised in the ReFLECT session, where they discussed the impact of decreasing harvest and low earnings. Since then, ReFLECT members decided to rebuild the canal. For this purpose, they coordinated with the Ward Disaster Climate Resilience Committee (WDCRC) and Local Irrigation Committee to proceed reconstruction of the canal. With the help of 125 villagers, ReFLECT members completed cleaning the canal working continuously from 30 Dec 2018 to 13 Jan 2019.

"Though villagers have cleaned the canal, this canal needs to be reconstructed for its regular use. Some of the villagers have reconstructed their houses in the middle of the canal. I think the pipe should be installed underground to irrigate the entire village of Bhimtar." said Kamal Ratna Danwar, Ward Chairperson-12, Indrawati Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk.

Villagers sowed mustard seeds in the barren land which led to the harvest of 25-ton mustard. Villagers have extracted oil from the mustard and used it for household consumption. They have sold the surplus to neighbors and in the nearest markets. According to villagers, previously they used to purchase edible oil of around Rs. 2,000 from the market every month, but now they are selling mustard oil in the local market. This has not only saved their money, but they are having extra income in their hands. "It might be a simple matter for others, but for poor people like us, it has saved us Rs. 24,000 a year and we use this saved amount in other productive areas." says local of Bhimtar. They have planned to grow seasonal vegetables and do commercial farming in the upcoming days.

## BARREN LAND IRRIGATED FOR PRODUCTION

