



## Nepal Economic Corridor Mapping

**Time frame:** July, 2008-December 2008

**Grant amount:** \$25,000

**Donor:** The Google.org fund of Tides Foundation

**Partners:** University of Washington as a co-designer and contractor Genesis Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., a Nepalese geo-information and mapping firm, to help create GIS layers.

**Intended Audience:** NGO's, Government Bodies, Inter-Governmental Bodies, Private Investors, Businesses

### Background

Mercy Corps mapped the market chains of 15 high value commodities<sup>1</sup> within the 10 primary economic corridors of Nepal. Along with being an analytical tool for use within Mercy Corps Nepal, this map was shared with donors, development agencies and business groups as a preliminary analytical tool to inform value chain investments. The maps depict production areas, processing areas, market hubs, financial services, and, in some cases, existing commodity interventions and trade flows for these commodities.



**Project Goal:** To be able to identify areas with high investment potential by mapping the value chains of 15 high value commodities within the 10 primary economic corridors of Nepal

**Objective:** To map the value chains of high value products in Nepal's economic corridors. By creating a visual representation of the value chain, it is hoped that investors and development partners can identify gaps in the existing value chains and areas with high potential for investment.

### Activities:

- Start up Documentation and Administration
- Planning and Designing
- Data Collection

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<sup>1</sup> Cardamom, Ginger, Tea, Pulses, Coffee, Pashmina and Silk, Gems and Jewelry, Leather, Medicinal Plants and Essential Oils, Handmade Paper, Cut Flowers, Jute, Woolen Carpets, Readymade Garments (excluding silk and pashmina), Vegetable Ghee (The first 11 of these have been identified by the International Trade Center as products with high export potential, the last 4 have high current export value according to statistics from the Government of Nepal's Trade and Export Promotion Center)



- Map Creation
- Gather feedbacks and Reporting

#### **Achievements:**

- The project created 120 map layers covering all of Nepal. These layers are organized into KMZ files for twelve commodities<sup>2</sup> and three cross-cutting layers<sup>3</sup>. Each commodity KMZ contains several layers showing cultivation (area under production (hectares), production (metric tons), yield (kg/ha)), processing (sub layers vary by commodity); organizations working on developing the commodity's markets or production; market locations; location of processors; and, data permitting, trade flows.
- The layers were created in ArcGIS and imported into Google Earth as image overlays. Users then use the interactive features of Google Earth to zoom, pan and turn layers on or off.
- Layers have been downloaded on a website that was created by the University of Washington: [nepalmapping.mercycorps.org](http://nepalmapping.mercycorps.org).

#### **Impacts**

- These maps have been used by Mercy Corps while creating proposals for new potato and ginger market development interventions. Most recently, the combination of financial services, socio-economic data and market potential were compared by Mercy Corps to determine the best place to pilot a new program methodology that combines agricultural lending with embedded extension services.

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<sup>2</sup> Cardamom, Chili, Coffee, Garlic, Ginger, Handmade Paper, Maize, Oilseed, Paddy (Rice), Potato, Tea and Wheat

<sup>3</sup> Financial services, Socio-economic data and Nepal's economic corridors