

## Media release

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### **Pukekohe growing expertise will help children in Nepal**

Potatoes and carrots and children living in poor farming communities in Nepal don't seem to have much in common but a study tour looking at vegetable production best practice in Pukekohe and Gisborne links the two.

Save the Children International (SCI) staff from Nepal are currently part of a group on a study tour looking at agricultural practices in New Zealand, focusing on vegetable production techniques, integrated pest management, post-harvest handling and marketing.

Durga Prasad Acharya, Senior Technical Co-ordinator – Child Poverty and Deepak Budhatoki, Project Co-ordinator Child Livelihoods and Social Protection (CLSP) today visited A.S. Wilcox and Sons vegetable farm, Sutherland Produce, Permakai and Plant and Food Research.

Save the Children New Zealand International Programmes Director Andrew Johnson said, “Save the Children’s programme in the remote communities of Udayapur, Nepal started in June 2014. The impact of the project is far-reaching. When we started most families were only able to feed their children for six months a year. To date 2,352 farmers have been trained in vegetable farming, increasing their household incomes, their ability to withstand weather events, and to provide nutritious food for their children.

“A major benefit of improving the farmers’ income and vegetable production skills is that the children can attend school because they are no longer needed to help with the family’s work or mind younger siblings while the parents work.

“The increased family income also means that girls are less likely to be sent away to work where they may be exposed to exploitation and abuse.”

Mr Acharya said, “The opportunity to learn from New Zealand growers will be invaluable to continuing to improve the livelihoods of the communities living in Udayapur. New Zealand techniques will be adapted to improve vegetable growing, providing increased food security for our communities. The boost in income will also ensure more children are able to go to school, giving them greater opportunities for the future.”

## **ENDS**

**Captions:** Nepal 1: Save the Children staff from Nepal Durga Acharya and Deepak Budhatoki discuss packing options with Akash Verma, Operation Manager, Wilcox vegetable farm.

Nepal 2: Kylie Faulkner of Sutherland Produce briefs Durga and Deepak about silverbeet packaging.

## **About Save the Children NZ**

Save the Children works in 120 countries across the world. The organisation responds to emergencies and works with children and their communities to ensure they survive, learn and are protected.

Save the Children NZ currently supports international programmes in Fiji, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, and Mozambique. Areas of work include education and literacy, disaster risk reduction, and alleviating child poverty.

To learn more about our project in Nepal please go to <https://www.savethechildren.org.nz/what-we-do/the-solutions/projects/asmita/>