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## Japanese Assistance for Livelihood Improvement through Agriculture in Sindhupalchowk District

(Kathmandu: March 9):

The Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Japan to Nepal, Mr. YOSHIOKA Yuzo, signed a grant contract for US\$ 453,368 (about NRs. 53 million) with Ms. NAKAJIMA Ayaka, Country Representative of the Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) to implement a project to support earthquake-affected communities in Sindhupalchowk District to enhance livelihoods through agriculture.

The support was made under Japan's Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme for FY 2020 and will be implemented by JAFS, an international NGO based in Osaka, Japan, in collaboration with its local partner NGO, AFS-Nepal.

The project focuses on building irrigation and life water systems, and training local farmers on using the systems. JAFS will also support the establishment of agricultural cooperatives to help farmers to collaborate with each other to add value to their products.

It will also provide opportunities farmers for learning how to grow varieties of fruits and vegetables, such as pineapples, lemons and mangos, etc.

The Embassy of Japan in Nepal hopes that the project will help towards improving the livelihoods of farmers in earthquake-affected areas, and believes that it will also enhance the friendly relations existing between the peoples of Japan and Nepal.

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