

Many view the job of being a farmer as inferior. Maybe it is in some aspects when finance, security and health is taken into account, which are all the important factors. However, having thoughts as such is also an indication of ignorance. Spreading such misleading information has led most members born into an agriculture-integrated family to think of the occupation of farmers to be useless and a sign of being poor. Such stigmas are cause for concern in the agriculture community, and need to be reduced in order to protect the well being of farmers and their livelihoods. . A very good life can be born out of being just a “farmer” ; it is not a myth.

Birendra Kafle, a farmer of Nepali background shares that he loves playing with soil because that was what he was born into. Kafle, passionate about farming, had a vision not many farmers have. He wished to change the way of farming; in a modern method. Like most, Kafle was ready to leave agriculture behind for good and migrate abroad, despite having his aspirations pointed towards agriculture, he did not have the right resources to make his wish a reality. It all changed when he met a person from Project Sahaj. With the aid of this project he was able to manage resources, finances as well as new business ideas to partner with other farmers to get started with his export business. What differentiates him is his passion to dream. Becoming a farmer does not equate to being on a lower level than others. He as well as anyone in this entire world has the freedom to dream, he is an inspiration for many youths as well as older farmers that success does not come with a fixed recipe. Kafle along with Project Sahaj has managed to help out several other farmers through Birendra’s agrovet business New Bibek Krishi, where they aid many farmers in running a successful business. His drive and relentlessness has encouraged many and will continue to do so.

Birendra’s story is not the only one when it comes to success stories born from the soil. At different parts of the world there are individuals that break through the barrier to come up with new methodology and techniques that have been a helping hand in a better lifestyle. A farmer’s life is often too stigmatized. Moreover, everyone else sees farmers through the same lens where they imagine low pay, bad health and insignificance. What people fail to realize is that all those hours spent on the fields under the sun were done so in order to provide continuously towards the food supply that ends up on the plates of those with the backward mindset. The call for change is not only for the common people but also to the farmers or those involved in the sector themselves. Those in the agriculture business need to be encouraged in order to boost their confidence and increase participation in thinking outside of the box and taking new initiatives ; to not be stuck in the same cycle of waking up, working and sleeping for the rest of their lives. The society must alter their thoughts regarding those included in the farming lifestyle and instead work on uplifting their spirits. Even an appreciative comment makes a difference and results in a smile.