

Suman Shekhar Manandhar holds a Bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, and a Master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Sydney, Australia. He has nearly 30 years of experience in small-scale agricultural development with farming communities across Nepal. Suman is no stranger to Prolinnova, having coordinated the Nepal country platform (CP) for several years as a staff member of Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), the first host organisation of the CP. During his time as CP coordinator, he led the FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) and LINEX-CCA (Local Innovation & Experimentation for Climate Change Adaptation) projects and was the key organiser of the first-ever national farmer innovation fair (FIF) in Nepal, which was done back-to-back with three other major events, the Innovation Asia Pacific Symposium, the International Partners Workshop, the Prolinnova Oversight Group meeting and the annual FAIR partners meeting. It was a major achievement and Suman proved himself as an excellent networker, event organiser and public-relations manager.

In addition to his responsibilities in Prolinnova–Nepal, Suman also led the Swiss Development Cooperation-funded home garden development project that was implemented across 20 districts in Nepal, focusing on empowering women and marginalized community in agriculture. In October 2015, he joined the UNDP's Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme for post-earthquake and post-flood recovery in 15 districts of Nepal. Since June 2018 he has been working as National Project Manager in the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation's **Cooperative Market Development Programme (CMDP)** to establish a cooperative marketing network for fruit and vegetable small-scale producers in 18 municipalities of 6 districts in Bagmati province of Nepal.

Suman has been a committed member of the Prolinnova network and still supports it as a PID trainer on a *pro-bono* basis and as an advisor to other CPs on organising FIFs.