## PRESS RELEASE

Bilateral Agreement for Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme -Phase II Signed

Swiss Government set to provide Swiss Francs 9.54 Million for the implementation of programme

**Kathmandu, 29th November, 2020–** The Government of Nepal and Government of Switzerland have signed a bilateral agreement to implement Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP) – Phase II, which is to be executed by Ministry of Land Reform, Agriculture and Cooperative of Province-1 under conditional grant. Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Ms. Elisabeth von Capeller, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

As per the agreement, the Government of Switzerland will contribute CHF 9.54 million (equivalent to NRs. 1.25 billion) for the said NAMDP-Phase II programme. NAMDP-Phase II is the continuation of the first phase of same programme which ends on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. The programme shall provide opportunity to the Agribusiness, particularly Small and Medium Level Enterprises (SNEs) to improve their product quality and expand their network. It will strengthen their capacity to deliver innovative products and services.

Addressing the brief signing function, Mr. Nepal thanked the Swiss Government for their continuous support in this tough time of pandemic and vow to implement the project effectively. On her following remarks, the Ambassador expressed the willingness of Swiss Government to extend support to the priority sector of the Government of Nepal.

The programme will start from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and be completed on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.

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