

Farmer Field School Game

Use a different coloured marker for each person in your group and one dice. Place your markers at the start. Take turns throwing the dice to see how far to move. See who will graduate from the farmer field school first.

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA
The Catholic agency for international aid and development

START

You are a farmer in Nepal

You don't have enough money to buy seeds. Go back 2 spaces.

You learn how to make your own pesticides to protect your crops from insect pests. Move forward 3 spaces.

It hasn't rained so your crops don't grow. Move back 3 spaces.

You use chemicals to protect your crops from insects but this makes you sick. Go back 2 spaces.

You learn new farming methods. You grow more food than ever before. Move forward 3 spaces.

You don't have enough money to send your children to school. Go back 3 spaces.

Your daughter gets sick. You must borrow money to buy her medicine. Go back 2 spaces.

You receive a foot-operated water pump to water your crops during the dry season. You now have extra food. Move forward 2 spaces.

The river floods and covers your field with sand destroying your crops. Move back 5 spaces.

You get sick from working in the heat. You have to stop farming. Move back 3 spaces.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have graduated from the Farmer Field School

You join with other farmers to replant trees in the forest. Move forward 2 spaces.

You have to cut down the trees in the forest for firewood. Move back 3 spaces.

You have enough money to start a savings account for the future. Move forward 3 spaces.

SITA, NEPAL

Photo Credit: Stephen Kadlec

Have you ever heard of Mt Everest, it is the highest mountain in the world. It's in Nepal where Sita and her family live.

Sita is a farmer who dreams of a better future for her children. Like many young mothers in Nepal, Sita has only a limited high school education and cannot afford to send her children to a better school.

Sita grows crops to earn money for her family. Her husband has traveled overseas looking for work, leaving her to look after their two children. Every day her time is spent taking care of the children, cooking, cleaning, preparing them for school as well as working the long hours required to manage the farm. Sita is up everyday at the crack of dawn and not in bed until late at night.

Working in a farming Cooperative called the Suryodaya Savings & Credit Cooperative, Sita was able to earn enough to save a little bit of money each month. She learned new business skills and better farming methods to protect the growth of her crops. Yet she dreamt of a farm of her own, where she could plant many different kinds of crop.

By accessing a Caritas Australia supported low-interest loan, Sita can now farm 1690 square metres of land which is in her name. She has started growing cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, chilli and potato on her field. She leased another field so she can grow cereals like rice, maize and wheat.

Sita now makes enough money to provide for her family. She also has dreams of becoming a good leader of a large farming cooperative. She is working hard to provide a good education for her children.

Her children are already on the right track: Sita's daughter, who is in year six, wants to study nursing, and her son, in year two, technical engineering.

The health and variety of her family's diet has also improved. Sita sells the produce from leased land to pay for daily household expenses and her children's education.

Your support of Caritas Australia ensures that hope survives for women like Sita, through training and development programs targeted to her needs.