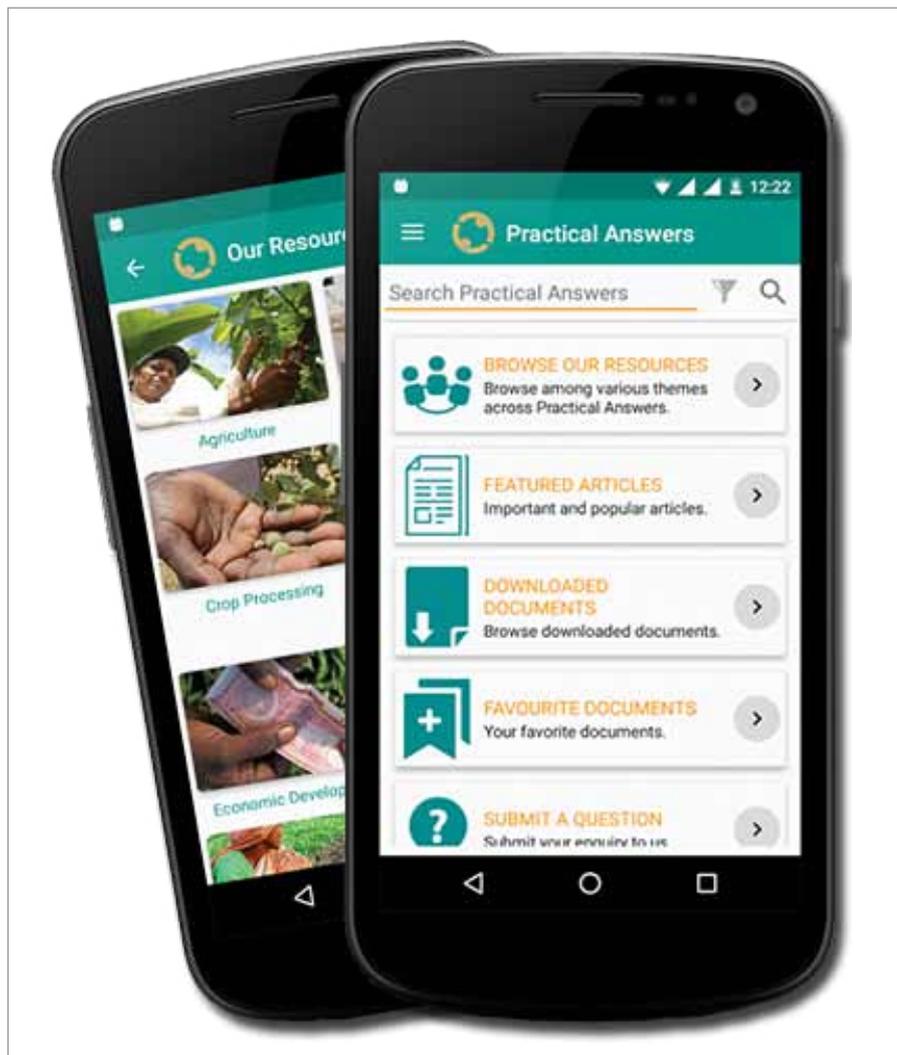


# Mobile App: The Gift of Knowledge

Practical Answers mobile app offers over 2000 knowledge materials on a wide range of subjects like climate change, flooding, sanitation and ensuring sustainable agriculture. Free of charge, we aim to take our knowledge to “the last mile”, to the people who really need it. It’s not just another ordinary app, but a unique app that has the potential to lift millions out of poverty.



Mobile Banner

The rapid evolution of mobile technology has made mobile phone ownership more popular than ever. It seems like nearly everyone has one, even if they’re not the latest model. According to the Cisco VNI Mobile, 2017, there is a significant growth of smartphones (including phablets) from 45% share of total devices and connections in 2016 to over 50-53% by 2021. By the end of 2021, Asia Pacific will have 81% of smart devices and connections (Cisco VNI Mobile, 2017).

The number of mobile subscriptions is growing across all regions and is expected to be 9 billion by 2021.

Therefore, Practical Answers mobile app is now available on smartphones, Android and IOS devices, which will help to share knowledge with everyone, across diverse geographical areas.

## How Practical Answers Mobile app came to existence?

Digital Manager of Practical Action Sachin Sapkota who came up with idea of mobile app shares, “*The app was built to provide our users with power of our knowledge in their hand held devices. It is often the case that people have mobile phones but don’t have a laptop or a PC, particularly farmers*

*and field workers, so we hope this app will help us reach the last mile. It really has the potential to change millions of lives for the better....*

*...The app is far more productive and consumes less internet bandwidth than the website and this was very important to us to ensure the app is useful for low bandwidth internet and mobile phone users”.*

The **main aim** of this app is to provide knowledge to everyone: medium and micro-enterprises, communities, developments workers, researchers and academics, students and the general public.

## Unique app with Great Features

 **Works offline** - You can view downloaded documents offline and can browse through the system without any internet connection.

 **Favourite List** - Clicking on the star icon for any knowledge product will create a shortcut for it under Favourite Document.

 **Multi Lingual** - Select your language preference *English, Spanish, Nepali and Bangla*. Navigate the app through your preferred language.

 **Easy to Use** - You will find our app to be very simple and easy to navigate. You will get a hang of it.

 **Light Weight** - Our app consumes minimal bandwidth and uses very little space on your devices which is ideal for remote usage.

 **Custom Setting** - There are many useful settings that you can use to adjust the app to fit your needs. Just go to Settings and explore the options.

 **Notification** - We will notify you about latest documents, videos, blogs and will keep you posted about current happenings around International Development.

 **Share with everyone** - You can share an interesting technical brief with other through email, social media and social messaging like Whatsapp/viber/skype.

 **Featured** - Get access to the latest and most popular items from our Feature section.

 **Submit a Question** - You can submit your queries to our expert.

The app was developed and tested by Practical Action Nepal team and is already being used by social mobilisers working in the field.

#### Some feedback on mobile app from the field:

**Sarita Timilsina** working as a focal person for Practical Answers Programme at Gardi Community Library and Resource Centre (CLRC) in Nepal, shares, *“Offline functionality is the best because once we download the document, we don't need internet connection. It saves our money and time while going to the field.”* Mrs. Timilsina has also transferred her knowledge to the farmers who are capable of reading. Here's one of the examples from her community:



Sarita Timilsina

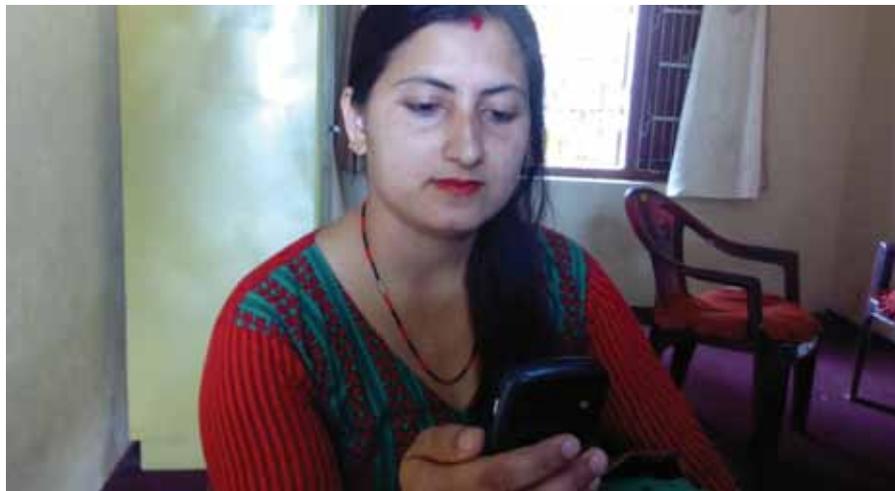
#### Sita Bhattarai (26) who is using mobile app has become more independent in farming.

Farming is one of the main occupations in Nepal. With the commercialisation and diversification of farming, change in climate and increase in use of pesticides has made it difficult for farmers to find right solutions for their farm. Sita is one of them facing such problems. To solve the problem, before, she used to visit Gardi Community Library and Resource Centre (CLCR) supported by Practical Answers, the knowledge sharing service of Practical Action, located in the area. CLRC is a centre developed for the community to solve their own problems related to losses of crop and animal production. This centre organises regular training, interaction programmes (two way communication between the community people and experts to solve the problem) and practical sessions based on community demand. In this way, she used to engage in this programme to solve her problem.

With the app, sharing knowledge has been easier. Today, she uses the mobile app; it has been handier and she does not need to travel for the information.

She shares, *“From this app, I cured the disease in banana and also learnt to grow onion and garlic on my land.”*

#### This is how the gift of knowledge makes you independent.



Sita Bhattarai

#### Benefits of the mobile app

This free service is available to individuals, researchers, students, self-help groups, small producers, small entrepreneurs and development workers and their organisations.

- **Development practitioners:** The available information will help to deliver your work more efficiently. It helps to save your time and money.
- **Partners and peers:** Practical Answers realises the value of your work. We work to extend the reach and scale beyond your operational boundaries by ensuring that your clients receive required information.
- **Communities:** The available information will support you to change your life as well as increase opportunities to improve your livelihoods. Enquirers have been able to build appropriate technologies and start up business from the service.

*“The gift of material goods makes people dependent, but the gift of knowledge makes them free- provided it is the right kind of knowledge of course. The gift of knowledge also has far more lasting effects and is far more closely relevant to the concept of development.”*

E.F.Schumacher

This free app is available for both IOS and Android. For IOS devices download from the Apple store or for Android devices use the Google Play Store.

*The mobile app can be downloaded from: <https://answers.practicalaction.org/mobile-application>*