



CRT/N Handover COVID-19 Response Medical Equipment to Health Institutions, Marin Rural Municipality, Sindhuli

To respond the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a coordinated effort across many sectors of society is necessary so as the local coordination at the community level is essential for effective management of ongoing pandemic where basic health care is lacking.

Local Government of Province Number 3 have made good efforts to minimize the spread of COVID pandemic infections and coordinating with health posts and hospitals to provide the necessary health services to the community people. Local Government urged the organizations working in the areas to support them to respond the crisis.

In response to the request made by the Local Government of Marin Rural Municipality (RM), the Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) along with the local partner organization CODEC Nepal handed over the packages of medical equipment support comprising of Thermal Gun 6 pcs,

Oximeter 6 pcs, PPE Set 12 set, Surgical Mask 20 boxes, Oxygen Mask 100 pcs, Thermometer 10 Pcs, Face Shield 100 Pcs, Antiseptic Soap 100 Pcs, Sanitizer in 5 Liter gallon 4 gallon, Isolation Kit 50 unit, Oxygen Concentrator 2 Unit, BP Meter 2 Pcs and Gloves 6 boxes to Marin Rural Municipality in the presence of Mr. Paniraj Bomjan Chairman of Rural Municipality, Mr. Madhu Lakhe Chief of Health Department, Mr. Bimarsa Moktan Ward Chairman of Ward Number 3, and Mr. Rampukar Shaha Health Post-Chief on July 6th, 2021.

The packages of medical equipment were provided under the project "Next Generation Low Carbon, Climate-resilient Eco-Village Development in South Asia" supported by Civil Society in Development (CISU) and DiB, Denmark.

CRT/N has been implementing the project in Bhalumara-3, Marin, Sindhuli District from July 2020.

IMPACT STORY

Local Government Initiatives Supporting Women Entrepreneurship

From Fruit to Processing for Making of Lapsi Candy



Purna Maya Pulami Magar lives in the Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur district, Central Nepal and runs a Lapsi (Hog Plum/Choerospondias axillaris) Candy Enterprise, together with Laxmi Syangtan and Sabina Ghorasaini, two entrepreneurs living in the same village. The enterprise is a subsidiary company of Sarangi Danda Women Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. which handles operation, management and marketing, while Purna Maya and the team are mainly responsible for collection and processing of Lapsi.

Lapsi is a typical fruit from Nepal and few other Asian countries, used for making candies and pickles. The three entrepreneurs received a Lapsi processing training as part of a rehabilitation program after the earthquake back in 2015. Before the training, they had not realized that they could earn additional money by processing this cheap and easily available fruit.

When they started their enterprise in 2017, the Lapsi pickle did not meet the market quality standards. The following year Purna Maya and the team attended a new training for quality production, after which the pickle was accepted

by the local market and were able to make some profits. In the third year, they were able to make a profit of NPR 250,000 (approximately USD 2,000) and now they have even diversified their production, adding six items, all based on Lapsi.

Challenges and Mitigation Measures

While progress has been made, they are still facing challenges in quality production (for example taste, shelf life and color), packaging and marketing. So when they heard about the project 'Strengthening the Capacity of Nepal's Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results', they eagerly joined. The project entails business management training, facilitation for market linkages, technical skills training and assistance (such as quality improvement) and mentoring support. The project mentors are supporting the group during each phase of their journey.

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Another challenge was registering their business as a subsidiary company of the cooperative. Thanks to the close collaboration with the local government, the Godawari Municipality assisted the team with the registration process, purchase of the machinery equipment and creating conducive business environment in the area.

Future plans

Purna Maya and the team are planning to utilize the financial support received from their Municipality to build a collection and processing unit. They are also working towards expanding the domestic market. Additionally they are planting 5,000 Lapsi trees with the support of the Divisional Forest Office, to whom they have presented another funding proposal for purchasing electricity based equipment.

Finance should never be a barrier for Women Entrepreneurship

Mr. Giri Prasad Timilsina, Chairperson of the Ward no.7, is enthusiastically supporting women's entrepreneurs. "Finance should never be a barrier for women entrepreneurship", he says. The Ward has allocated NPR 1 million (USD 8,420) to support Lapsi Candy Enterprise. He has further committed to an additional NPR 700,000 (USD 5,900) for the current fiscal year and additional NPR 2 million (USD 16,840) next fiscal year, if they can demonstrate positive changes. Mr. Timilsina wants to promote the area as a 'Lapsi Pocket Zone', as it was done for the Ilam area, Eastern Nepal, known for tea plantations. He argues that "this can be a good opportunity for women's entrepreneurship. It could create income and employment opportunities and ultimately boost our local economic development".



Being Interviewed by a Radio Journalist for Radio Program under GEWNet

Women Entrepreneurs are supported by the TA- 9334-NEP project "Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Results" project. This project is led by ENERGIA/Hivos and implemented by Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N), Practical Action Consulting (PAC) and the National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN). It is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and co-funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

SUCCESS STORY: Access to Affordable Loan Encouraged to Promote Women Entrepreneurship

Durga Rai Majhi, age 46 residing in Roshi Rural Municipality, Nayakiran, Kavre was living in joint family as like other normal housewives of rural Nepal. She had a cow and four goats, which she was raising with her pre-existing skills and traditional practices. Turning point in her life was, when she was introduced with "TA-9334 NEP: Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results" project. With the support of the project, she was provided business orientation and management training. Durga said "the training provided me is a kind of courage and confidence for further growth of my farm". However, she was in need of a huge investment but she had lack of money to invest. She was not confident getting credit from other sources which involves high interest.

At the mean time the project introduced the way and linkage to get affordable credit from the Agricultural Development Bank Limited (ADBL) in less interest rate. Also helped her farm to get registered. This boosted her investment capacity and made possible to invest NPR 1.4 million (11,755 USD) to her new goat farm. Out of 1.4 million, NPR 0.6 million (5005 USD) was her own and rest NPR 0.8 million (6674 USD) was loan she got from the ADBL with interest rate of 2.5 percent. With these changes now she has more than 60 goats and has average income of NPR. 60,000 (500 USD) per month.

In addition with above, she has bought an electric chaff cutter. Chaff cutter is used to cut the hay/grass into small pieces which made her job to feed the cattle easy.



Durga said that hard work with patience, courage and confidence is key to her success. Durga happily expresses that the project's intervention to manage access to affordable loan from ADBL sharpened her confidence to invest in her business which is made possible to live their today's happy life. "I would not have improved my business to this level if I had not been encouraged to get affordable loan with the support of the project team, Thanks to project team and ADBL".

In conclusion, providing access to affordable loan can encourage WEs to invest in their enterprise which has significant potential for the growth of business and it also improves the way in which women run their enterprises. There are not only increases in the economic benefit but also boosts entrepreneurial mindsets in the women entrepreneurs.



Participation in Various Events:

11th Social Business Day 2021, Country Forum of Nepal

On June 30, 2021, 11th Social Business Day 2021, Country Forum of Nepal was organized by Center for Self-help Development (CSD) in association with Yunus Centre, Bangladesh. This year's Social Business Day Theme is "No Going Back".

The Social Business Day is an annual international event of the gathering of all social business practitioners, academics, promoters, corporate and social leaders, NGOs, students, young entrepreneurs, and the friends organized with a view to exchange ideas, share experiences, and gain energy from one another by inspiring each other. The programme was organized mainly with three themes zero poverty, zero unemployment

and Zero carbon emission.

In this event Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N was invited as the panelist and delivered a presentation on "Mechanism to Carbon Emission in Rural Context of Nepal". In his presentation he highlighted among others, the Eco-village Development Programme -one of the appropriate rural development model for reducing the carbon emission in rural Nepal and two-year action plan by adopting sustainable and affordable energy solutions and thereby saving the lives of larger segments of people across the country basically women, children and senior citizens

Learning cum Review Workshop

Mr. Santosh Mandal from CRT/N participated in the Learning cum Review Workshop at Sauraha, Chitwan organized by Integrated Rural Development Centre (IRDC) Nepal with support from Global Environment Facility, Small Grant Programme, United Nations Development Programme (GEF/SGP/UNDP).

The main objective of the workshop was to share and exchange the ideas of ongoing project among the grantees along with to monitor the ongoing project activities. Representing CRT/N, Mr. Mandal, Project Coordinator presented achievement and learning of ongoing GEF/SGP supported project "Eco-village Development through Integration of Renewable Energy Solutions and Climate Friendly Activities for Enhancing Livelihood of Rural Communities" in Kavre. This project is focused on piloting and demonstration on the theme of Climate Change where basket of Eco- Village Development (EDV) solutions/renewable energy/climate smart technologies. Practices like making bio pesticides,



Participants of the Learning cum Review Workshop

fertilizers, high value fruit plantations etc. are being promoted in the Bhangala village of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality Ward no. 5. The project will also develop Eco Village Development Plan for that model village as well as for the Bethanchowk Rural Municipality.

The workshop was participated by several dignitaries; Mr. Vijaya Prasad Singh, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP, Mr. Gopal Sherchan, National Coordinator and Mr. Vivek Dhar Shama, National Program Assistant of SGP/GEF/UNDP, Mr. Narendra K Rasaily and Mr. Ram Hari Pantha as National Steering Committee Members of SGP/GEF/UNDP and about 40 grantee organizations from all over Nepal.

Participatory Approach to Develop Eco-Village Plan

With an objective to orientate the beneficiary community of Bhalumara-3, Sindhuli on Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept, eco-solutions and eco-village planning process, Centre for Rural Technology Nepal (CRT/N) in collaboration with local partner organization, Collective Development Expedition Center (CODEC) Nepal organized and facilitated a participatory training cum workshop "Participatory Training Workshop for Formulation of Eco Village Development Plan". The training cum workshop was organized from 26-28 April 2021 in Bhalumara-3, Marin Municipality, Sindhuli. Altogether, 22 participants (13 male and 9 female) representing ward-3, Marin Municipality, Sindhuli, project beneficiary committee (of Bhalumara Namuna Krishi Samuha) and the inhabitants of Bhalumara village had actively participated in the training. The training cum workshop was organized under the project "Next generation low carbon, climate resilient Eco-Village Development in South Asia" supported by Civil Society in development (CISU), Denmark.

The opening session of training cum workshop was chaired by Mr. Bimarsha Muktan, Chairman of Ward no. 3, Bhalumara, Sindhuli. Addressing the training workshop Mr. Moktan appreciated the bottom-up planning process that the EVD project has adopted to develop eco-village plan for the community residing in Bhalumara. Furthermore, Mr. Moktan also expressed that the ward will provide necessary support to complete the project successfully and achieve desirable outputs.

During the training, the participants were given orientation on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation along Eco-village Development concept and rationale of the concept in rural context. Following the orientation, Participatory

Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach with slight modification to the eco-village context was used to facilitate the training cum workshop. The PRA approach were used to identify the existing demographic scenario, problems relevant to energy, environment and energy sector, potential solutions, opportunities and challenges within the village. The finding obtained from this training along with the baseline survey will be used to develop eco-village plan for the community inhabiting Bhalumara-3, Marin Municipality, Sindhuli. Besides this, the participants were also familiarized about the climate change and its related problems through videos presentation. In addition to this renewable energy technologies and its benefits were also discuss and presented.



Participants along with the Facilitators

Presentation on “Gender Equality and Masculinity in Energy and Water Sector”

On June 15, 2021, Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet) managed by Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) organized webinar on “Gender Equality and Masculinity in Energy and Water Sector” by Ms. Urmila Simkhada, GESI Expert. Ms. Simkhada delivered a presentation with an objective to enhance knowledge of participants. She made the presentation starting with the basics of gender equality and masculinity concept and stressed out that the full engagement of men and women is essential to achieve the ideal situation of gender equality. Gender inequality affects both men and women socially, economically and politically. Her presentation focused on the gender equality in energy and water sector of Nepal where government has started to include gender equality and women empowerment from Ninth Five-year Plan (1997-2000) but the plan was ineffective for mainstreaming gender. Despite

slow progress and deep-rooted masculinity behavior and culture, the progress is taking place slowly and gradually and she appreciated the changes in the local level institutions where women participation is now visible. Ms. Simkhada also shared examples and data of gender gap in water and energy sector of Nepal where a big gap can be seen and to fill those gaps, we need to promote gender equality in local and federal levels. Nepal is in 65 ranks in regional level Global Gender Gap Report 2021.

Experts from different fields, academicians, GEWNet members and consortium partners with the number of 30 participants (12 female and 18 male) participated in the webinar. The webinar provided a platform for the participants to discuss and share their knowledge regarding the above mentioned theme. The webinar has been observed to be very productive and fruitful as expressed by all the distinguished participants.

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Publications

1. EVD Technology Book_Nepali
2. Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) Information & Guide Book_English



Both the publication is also available in our website www.crtnepal.org