

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ENERGY SERVICES IS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROVERTY REDUCTION

ADDITION OF ONE MORE MICRO HYDRO IN MYAGDI DISTRICT

With the hardwork, commitment, social and financial contirbution of the community people, one more scheme supported by REDP has been successfully completed in Ruma VDC of Myagdi district on 21 February, 2009. The 51 kW scheme has directly benefited 575 household of the Ruma VDC. The scheme was built at the total cost of Rs. 8,191,298 of which Rs. 4,335,000 was supported by AEPC/REDP, Rs. 820,661 by DDCs, Rs. 1,260,620 by VDCs, Rs. 1,500,000 by ADB/N as a loan to community and Rs. 1133860 by community as the cash contribution. After the completion of scheme, communities are found willing and encouraged to establish various end-uses such as agro processing mill, cable TV network and so on.

REDP IN REMOTE VDCS of RUKUM

The District Energy and Environment Section (DEES) of DDC Rukum has completed the detailed survey of 30 MH sites. Works are underway for the completion of the detail feasibility studies of these potential schemes. Under the Government priority programme Rukum Ujyalo, the DEES aims to provide electricity access to each and every household of the district through the promotion of different technologies such as rural electrification through grid extension, micro hydro systems development and solar systems promotion. Other rural energy technologies that will be promoted include biogas and improved cook stoves.



GENDER MAINSTREAMING : Involvement of women in project processes



The formation of separate COs for women at the grassroots guarantees their participation in project activities. Women attend weekly meeting regularly and like their male counterparts, discuss various socio-economic issues. Through weekly saving, they generate resources used for undertaking different income generating activities like off-season vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, goat farming and petty trading.

Representation of both male COs and female COs in all FGs provide them with equal opportunity to participate in community affairs and be involved in the decision making process. Experienced representatives of women in the FGs proved to be confident and capable, and ensured attention to gender issues and needs. Many women have come forward in to train as micro-hydro managers once considered a male's territory.

In far western region, one of the most backward in Nepal, women rarely come out of their houses and participate in any activities in public function, due to strong cultural and traditional barriers. After the formation of their own COs and initiation of various social and economic activities under REDP, there has been a perceptible change in their confidence levels, both inside and outside the household. In general, members of women COs have been found to be more motivated, to be involved in social and environmental activities such as trail road construction, water taps maintenance, latrines construction, expansion of the village road and plantation of trees. *(Source: REDP Evaluation Study 2007)*

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION TRAINING

The second community mobilization training of 2009 was held for the second batch of newly recruited Community Mobilizers (CMs) and Community Mobilizer Coordinators (CMCs) at Dhulikhel from 22 – 27 February, 2009. The main objective of the training was to impart theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on various aspects of community mobilization process and project implementation at local level. Another important objective was to ensure common understanding on REDP and its modality among all staffs working at all levels – local, district and center..