

**WHEN YOU MAKE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE EVER, SOMETHING GOOD COMES FROM IT**

With the objective of invigorating the long-term sustainability of micro hydro plants through the promotion of end-use facilities and multi-sectoral linkages with other income generating sectors the REDP has designed and implemented three innovative "Livelihoods Packages" in three different communities in 2009. Brief notes on each site specific package are summarized below.

- **Package A** at Mangpang Khola MHS, Budathum VDC, Dhading: The MHS has been commissioned recently and the end use promotion activities are just initiated. The main focus of this package is to promote energy based enterprises by encouraging women, dalits, ethnic and poorer households to access the end use support fund being provided to the MH Functional Group. A village level enterprises assessment report is being finalized soon.
- **Package B** at Girindi Khola MHS, Dagatundada VDC, Baglung: The Micro Hydro Functional Group is mature enough to facilitate for its legalization. The main focus will be to promote local resources based enterprises such as the stone crushing factory and the CHUIRI processing unit through strengthening of the proposed cooperative. A cooperative management training is being conducted soon to educate the FG members for accelerating the process.
- **Package C** at Chauri Khola Micro Hydro Cooperative, Pokharichari VDC, Kavre: The MH Functional Group has already been converted into cooperative. The main focus thus will be to facilitate the cooperative to diversify its activities and services leading towards the growth and sustainability of both MH and Cooperative. A business plan of the cooperative is being prepared in consultation with community people taking into consideration of potentials, market, resources and capability.



Based on the lesson learned from these models, REDP envisions to develop a comprehensive Livelihood Package which will be carried out in all micro hydro scheme by modifying slightly to suit the specific site situations. This will be a key component of REDP Plus Model that will ensure optimum enduse promotion, diversified businesses development and long-term organizational sustainability.

**MEETING ON MINI-GRID CONNECTION**

Mr. Rejeev Babbar and Mr. Ajay Kumar Verma of the YTEK Control, Dehradun, India have visited Baglung to observe and assess all six micro hydro plants being developed as a pilot Mini Grid project in the Urja Upatyaka (Energy Valley) of the district from 16 to 20 April, 2009. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009, the REDP organized a meeting in the AEPC Meeting Hall for a presentation by them on the key technical equipments and their functions in a Mini-Grid project. After presentation, free and frank interactions were held among the participants and consultants for further clarifications and understandings.

Officiating Executive Director of AEPC Mr. Mangal Das Maharjan and National Programme Manager of REDP Mr. Kiran Man Singh, highlighted the important of this Mini-Grid project, appreciated the consultants for their works and expressed that the collaboration between REDP/AEPC and YTEK Control would produce a successful result. It was also mentioned that all stakeholders that include government agencies, donors, academicians and community people are looking forward for the success of the project which is tagged with a long term implication in the growth of micro hydro systems for the nation building.

**MICROFRANCIS TURBINE – An Innovative Idea**

On 21 April, 2009, the REDP has organized a brief presentation on "MicroFrancis" by Mr. Ramesh Chaudhary MSREE, IOE and Mr. Suraj Karki, MD, ABE. Attended by staffs from AEPC, ESAP and REDP, the main purpose of the meeting was to disseminate about the "Microfrancis Turbine" designed, developed and tested by the students as part of their academic assignments. Among others, it was revealed that while the crossflow turbine manufactured in Nepal, has a maximum efficiency of 60%, the prototype MicroFrancis has achieved the maximum efficiency of 77.6%. Similarly, the weight of Microfrancis will be almost as 1/3 of the weight of crossflow of same design power output. The participants were impressed with its design, weight, performance and likely ease of transporting in remote locations. The facilitation of the presentation was done by Mr. Bhisma Pandit, Rural Energy Advisor, REDP.

The REDP has been providing both technical and financial supports for undertaking R&D through testing of prototypes at the field levels with the direct participation of community people with impressive results. **(Information provided by Ms. Aruna Pant, MCO)**