

A PROBLEM IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO DO YOUR BEST

FIELD VISIT OF DEPUTY COUNTRY DIRECTOR TO URJA UPATYAKA

Mr. Jorn Sorensen, Deputy Country Director (Programme) of UNDP CO Nepal made a field visit to the Urja Upatyaka in Baglung district from 24 to 25 June 2009. Mr. Dharma Swarnakar, Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst and Mr. Suneel Lama, Risk Management Officer of UNDP Nepal have accompanied DCD during the visit. Ms. Tara Shrestha, REA and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, REA cum Mini-Grid Focal Point together with Mr. Sanjib Kumar Lal, EDO of DDC:DEES, Baglung and Mr. Basanta Raj Raut, Mini Grid Engineer were involved in facilitating the visit.

Before visiting the sites, a briefing of DDC: DEES activities in Baglung focusing to Mini Grid Development in Urja Upatyaka was held in DEES office. Three micro hydro schemes visited by the team were 25 kW Urja Khola III MHDS in Paiyunthanthap VDC, 26 kW Urja Khola I MHDS and 9 kW Urja Khola II MHDS in Rangkhani VDC. The team had detailed discussion with MHFG members in all the three schemes. Further, the thorough interaction were made with users (household members) of Urja I and Urja II MHDSs giving special focus to the maintenance aspect of MHDSs in addition to the financial sustainability, weekly saving and credit operation and livelihood aspects. Specific meeting were also held with the women household members of Urja Khola I and Urja Khola II MHDSs.

During the visit, Mr. Tek Bahadur Shirish, Chairman of Kalung Khola Urja Upatyaka Mini Grid Development Working Committee made a brief presentation to the team on the status of Mini Grid implementation at Deurali Village. A focused meeting was also held with the functional group members of Urja Khola I MHDS.

ONE MORE MICRO HYDRO SCHEME COMPLETED IN TEHRATHUM

With the hard work done by community people and strong community mobilization of SO and DEES with the technical assistance of REDP, the remote Khamlalung VDC of Tehrathum district has been electrified by 22 kW capacity Koya Khola II Micro Hydro Village Electrification Project (MHVEP) on 22 June, 2009. The scheme has directly benefited 220 households of ward no. 1 (one) and 9 (nine) of Khamlalung VDC. The Electro Mechanical equipment supply and installation works were carried by the Gautam Engineering, Butwal. Upon the electrification of the community, the villagers are found very happy to use electricity for households lighting and running electricity based end-uses.

After completion of this scheme, total electricity generated by the micro hydro systems supported by REDP in Tehrathum district have totaled to 233 kW benefiting 2,077 households.

BUDATHUM: ENERGY FOR POULTRY FARMING

The innovative Livelihoods Package implemented in Budathum VDC of Dhading district has started to show positive indications. Villagers are found very encouraging to start the poultry farming as a long term staple business. Accordingly, eight (8) local farmers have already started poultry farming in the community. Similarly, five (5) households are in the process of establishing the business. It has been envisaged that as the number of households undertaking the poultry farming gets enlarged, the local entrepreneurs will be encouraged and supported to establish a feed industry at local level in order to meet the increasing feed demand for poultry farming. The power (electricity) and raw materials (barn, rice, wheat, corn, etc.) required for running the feed mill will be available mostly from the MHVEP and only essential nutrients such as fishmeal and minerals will be purchased. Based on the progress, the Package will explore and open the doors for community people to undertake various activities pertaining to the backward and forward linkages. After the establishment of poultry farm, local entrepreneurs are very happy to utilize their time for income generating activities. In the beginning, the poultry products are being sold at local market but entrepreneurs are hopeful that they can sell their products in nearest market such as Dhading Besi, Prithive Highway and Kathmandu in coming days.

DDC:DEES has been collaborating with local District Veterinary Office for providing services of local animal health worker. Training will also be provided to local people to develop as veterinary technicians for providing basic health services and medicines to animals and birds. Special emphasis will be given to the poultry farming.

