

IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION, YOU ARE PART OF THE PRECIPITATE

GENDER IN REDP

Perhaps the most positive influences of REDP are seen in gender analysis. From the project initiation phase, REDP sensitizes community members in recognizing the central role played by women in the household economy. The community mobilization process encourages women's participation in the public life, and provides them a voice in community affairs. These actions instill confidence, increase self-reliance and self-esteem, encourage leadership, demonstrate women's management capability, and enhance the credibility of women. The men realize and accept women as equal partners in family affairs, as well as development activities. REDP emphasizes on formation of separate community organizations (CO) for men and women. Segregation of women and men encourages discussions of specific problems faced by women. A formal forum to look into matters related to women has been created for the first time in many villages. Experience shows that in mixed groups, women tend to be quiet and participate only superficially rather than genuinely participate in discussions and decisions. Boosting of women's self-confidence and capability for independent action is stressed, and structured into the mobilization program. To give women a voice in community affairs, integrate them into the decision making process, and put them into the mainstream of the development initiatives. It is mandatory that all concerned CO have equal representation in the Functional Groups. Literacy classes and saving and credit schemes are taken as prime movers to mobilize and organize women. Realizing the potential of energy in reducing drudgery, and saving labor-intensive time for women, REDP has placed utmost importance upon participation of women in all program activities, stating reduction of drudgery of rural women, and enhancement of their livelihoods as a programme output. *(Source: Assessment of Rural Energy Development Programme, January 2008)*

TEST OPERATION OF GAUDA KHOLA MICRO HYDRO PLANT



Another exciting news came from Myagdi district. The Gauda Khola MHVEP has been tested and commissioned successfully on 9 September 2008 at Devasthan VDC of Myagdi district. The scheme electrifies 160 HHs from the settlements of Barahathan, Gaurangaun, Ghattahale, Nunle, Purja Gaun, Gadapani and Deurali. The Dhaulagiri Civil Electrical Mechanical Engineering of Baglung was the supplier and installer of the electro-mechanical works. With the gross head of 48 m and discharge of 68 lps, the scheme generates 16 kW. Upon the electrification, communities are willing and encouraged to establish an agro-processing mill as a primary end use of the community managed micro hydro plant. With the electrification and establishment of enduses, significant improvements in lifestyle of community people could be noticed in the coming days. *(Based on information provided by Ms. Tara Shrestha, REA, Western Region)*

BAIKALPIK URJA AAJA KO AAWASYAKTA (ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TODAY'S NEED)

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre organized an interaction workshop on Alternative/ Rural Energy entitled "Baikalpik Urja Aaja Ko Aawasyakta" (Alternative Energy Today's Need) at Kathmandu on Friday, 19 September 2008. The programme aimed to orient and obtain feedback from the new Constituent Assembly (CA) members about the government policy and programmes on alternative/ rural energy together with the implementation modalities of different donors funded programmes operating under AEPC.

Upon the completion of the Constituent Assembly election and declaration of the country as a Federal Republic, the political environment of the country has also changed. The CA has been taking the role of the legislature-parliament. The new government's policy and programme was presented at the Fourth Session of the Legislature-parliament on 10 September 2008 that has accorded the high priority for the rural electrification as an important infrastructure to attain the goals of the Economic Development. It was envisaged that the comments and suggestions received from the CA members would help AEPC in formulating/ improving the long term and annual plans and programmes to suit the present aspirations and needs of the people.

Attended by more than 100 participants, the workshop was chaired by the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology Mr. Ganesh Shah. The theme paper was delivered by AEPC Executive Director Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel followed by technology /subject specific papers by other AEPC professional staffs. The CA members appreciated and acknowledged the event as the timely and highly successful in making them familiar about the theme, different alternative/ rural energy technologies as well as the operational modalities of AEPC/ GoN. They also made valuable comments and suggestions to AEPC and MoEST for expanding the size and coverage of programme activities as well as revising the implementation modalities in tandem with the context of the New Nepal.