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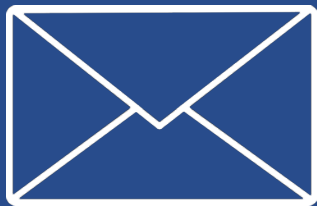
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# CECI Nepal's Newsletter

**May-August  
2016**

# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

It is our great pleasure to bring forth this new edition of the CECI Nepal newsletter 'REFLECT'. This issue provides a glimpse of our major events between May and August 2016.

In this issue, you will find highlights on our on-going projects - Program for accountability in Nepal (PRAN), Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) and TA to the Skills Development Project (SDP) and the two volunteer programs UNITERRA and AVID. Besides implementing the regular projects, we conducted trainings, seminars, meetings as well as welcomed new volunteers and bid farewell to those who completed their mandates. Our commitment towards economic development, agriculture and livelihoods, DRR, capacity building, governance and gender equality and social inclusion continues forward.

I would like to thank all of our partners including government agencies, donors, civil society, CECI Nepal staff and volunteers for their continued support in our development efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communication Officer, for her initiatives and hard work in bringing out this newsletter.

Please enjoy reading newsletter and forward your comments and suggestions, if any, for improvements in future.

Keshava Koirala  
Country Representative  
CECI Nepal

# SURVEY KICKS OFF IN MARKET RESEARCH

Uniterra's core priority is to promote youth and women participation in the economic development process for dignified livelihoods of the marginalized and poor people of Nepal. To achieve this priority CECI hired four Nepali interns to form a research team to conduct youth and women focused market research in 10 districts (Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Rasuwa, Rupandehi and Sarlahi). The main purpose of the research was to gain a wider understanding of Uniterra's sub-sectors such as dairy, high value crops, handicrafts and non-timber forest products (NTFP) in Nepal. The research was undertaken for four months from June to September, 2016. The research team did direct observation on production processing, focus group discussions, key informant interviews with entrepreneurs, workers, stakeholders, and concerned officials. They collected primary and secondary data from various sources. The findings of the research will be utilized in devising an intervention program for inclusive market growth. The research team included 3 women and one man who were assisted by two Canadian Leave for Change (L4C) volunteers and were provided advisory supports from Research Advisor Ms. Veronica Ward.



Survey in Sarlahi



Survey in Kavrepalanchowk

# BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION CAN BE BROKEN



Security guard training



Plumbing training

**E**nsuring women' participation in training is challenging. Several barriers prevent women from participating in the vocational trainings. Some of these barriers are societal and some are geographical. Women are often less mobile than men, finding it challenging to work in places away from the local community and home. Women are also found stereotyped and relegated to traditional and poorly paid employment in agriculture, garment production, teaching, secretarial services, or health services. Women work hard, both in their homes and at their workplaces. Men and communities, sometimes resist

the participation of women in construction and manufacturing. When women are employed in these occupations, they often earn less money than men doing the same job.

**B**arriers to women's participation can be overcome. Skills Development Project (SDP) has been successful to overcome these barriers. Since its inception in March 2014; 19,823 youth made up of 6,551 women and 13,272 members of excluded group (Dalit, indigenous, Madheshi, Muslims, people with disabilities, geographically remote areas, landless dwellers and widows) are enrolled in short-term trainings for work in construction, manufacturing and service sectors.

**S**DP is providing trainings and employment services close to where women live. The provision of training is decentralized. Each training provider contracted by the project has a dual role- training women and helping them find employment. With the support from the consulting services

provided by CECI and WUSC, the training providers are actively engaging with local community groups and women's organizations to advance women's employment in construction, manufacturing and hospitality. Social Marketing is used to ensure that women voices are heard and understood and they recognize the opportunities provided through trainings and non-traditional employment. Women with limited income are paid stipends to assist them with transportation, accommodation, and child care while in training.

**S**DP is at the mid-point in its mandate of building an employable workforce of women and men. Many more youth and women will be trained and employed in the coming days.



Prithvi Raj Lugal speaking at the workshop



Prithvi Raj Lugal speaking at the workshop



Prithvi Raj Lugal speaking at the workshop

# MDTF/PRAN2 SUCCESS STORIES

## Finally Budget Allocated for Women

The Badkifulbariya VDC once recognized as the future model VDC has now become the worst VDC in the absence of local elected representatives since 1997. The VDC activities were being conducted without the participation of citizens and the local development budget was invested on vested interests influenced by the elite. Most members of the VDC and the elite were men, who did not even consider the participation of women in the VDC Council, a key decision making forum of the VDC. As a result, women were completely unaware about the VDC budget and local development activities.

Under MDTF/PRAN2, women of this VDC were provided counseling and mentoring support to exercise their rights and responsibility through existing structures like the Ward Citizen Forums (WCFs) and the Citizen Awareness Center (CAC). The training helped them learn about the importance of their participation in planning, budgeting and implementation of activities.

*As a result, women's participation at the VDC level, including VDC Council, increased which also increased confidence levels and knowledge on the local development budgeting and processing. .*



## Dalit Students Got Their Lost Scholarship

According to the records of the Narasingha Primary School of Jijhaul VDC Ward-6, the Dalit scholarships have been distributed regularly. However, the targeted Dalit students reported that they have not received the Scholarship for the last two years. This issue was explored via scholarship tracking and was verified from the joint meeting of teachers, parents, students and local leaders. Indeed, the scholarship amount was misused by the school because of the passiveness of the school management committee and parents. The solution of this issue was a warning at the joint meeting to the school headmaster not to repeat this sort of mistake in future and distribute all due scholarship amounts to the targeted students within 15 days. Based on this, Rs. 99,200.00 was distributed to 124 students (48 Dalit students and 76 girl students) at the rate of Rs. 800 per student (Rs. 400 per year/student). This was possible because of the MDTF/PRAN2 intervention which was implemented by Dalit Samaj Sewa Sangh (DSSO) in Siraha.

*Parents of Mr. Maghain Mahara, student in Jijhaul-6 remarked "Nobody was coming to our house seeking information about our children before. We are very happy that our children got the lost scholarship amount due to the project efforts. Thank you!"*



## Increased Women Participation in Decision Making

The Badkifulbariya VDC once recognized as the future model VDC has now become the worst VDC in the absence of local elected representatives since 1997. The VDC activities were being conducted without the participation of citizens and the local development budget was invested on vested interests influenced by the elite. Most members of the VDC and the elite were men, who did not even consider the participation of women in the VDC Council, a key decision making forum of the VDC. As a result, women were completely unaware about the VDC budget and local development activities.

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*WCF Coordinator-Ms. Sarada Devi Paswan: "This year the VDC has considered the activities that were proposed by women through WCF. Also, the women targeted budget is allocated as per the rules".*

## First Time Grievance Redress Mechanism Established

The VDC office building of Bijuwa in Kapilvastu was partially used by the police so the citizens were not getting smooth services from the VDC. During the Terai movement, the VDC building also became a victim and was destroyed because of its use by the police. The citizens had a lot of grievances with VDC's services but they didn't have any idea of how and where they could express their grievances. Although, the VDC authority was aware that it was mandatory to use the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) there was no initiatives taken. Even the basic

tools of the GRM, like the Citizen Charter and Grievance and suggestion box were not placed in the VDC premises. Citizens were completely unaware of these tools. After Kalika Self-reliance Social Centre (KSSC)'s regular facilitation and interaction on the GRM with VDC officials and the general citizens under MDTF/PRAN2 program, the VDC initiated to form a 3 member structure for the GRM and installed the grievance box, the Citizen Charter and notice board. Also the VDC started documenting and addressing these grievances.

*General citizen Ms. Shuvawati Pasi, Bijuwa-5: "First time I saw the Citizen Charter and grievance box in the VDC office".*



# PETS NATIONAL WORKSHOP

**C**ECI in coordination collaboration with Policy Research and Development (PRAD) organized a One Day National Workshop on dissemination of key findings of Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) on July 2016. The study was carried out on DDC/VDC block grant and CA fund in the six districts (Kanchanpur, Kailali, Banke, Bardia, Dang, and Surkhet) of Nepal with the support from USAID/Sajhedari Bikaas Project.

**T**he Study team made brief presentation and organized a systematic dialogue based on the key findings of the study on budgetary process, planning, utilizing, oversight and accountability of the public fund. General key findings of the study included greater political/elite influence in project selection and implementation, high deviation of target group development budget, ineffective supervision and monitoring and poor and scanty documentation.

**T**he study also found some issues related to process of funds transfer, leakage and anomalies in budget allocation and spending in all three types of funds and recommended measures to overcome the existing gaps, bottlenecks and anomalies.

**A**ll together 30 participants from 13 different organizations including Government Agencies, development partners and professionals participated the workshop.



Prithvi Raj Ligal speaking at the workshop





# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (CPP) WORKSHOP

The Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) Program is an Australian Government Initiative managed by Scope Global by sub-contracting to CECL. Scope Global organized a one day Child Protection Policy (CPP) workshop for the Host Organizations (HOs) on May 10, 2016 in Kathmandu. The purpose of the workshop was to assist HOs with the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and prepare them for monitoring and compliance. 21 representatives from 11 HOs participated in the workshop which was facilitated by Ms. Coby Charters, Child Protection Compliance Officer from Scope Global, Adelaide, Australia.

The morning session covered the definition of a child, an overview of child protection, a global snapshot of child protection issues, the impact of child exploitation and abuse, child protection issues within International Aid programs and the Australian Government's Child Protection Policy for the Australian Aid Program.

The afternoon presentation and discussion focused on the 9 Standards for Child Protection Policy Compliance, the evidence required for achieving child protection compliance

and the compliance monitoring tools. At the end of the workshop the participating host organizations prepared action plans for implementing CPP effectively.



Ms. Coby Charters delivering the session



Workshop participants

# SUPPORTS FOR MILK PROCESSING

The Group of International Collaboration in Engineering from the University of Sherbrooke (GCIUS) in Quebec, Canada is currently in the field in Lalitpur completing the construction of a pipeline transportation system to transport milk from a dairy cooperative run entirely by women to the cooling center and construct a dairy processing center and office building.



Uniterra supported the Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU) to develop a project proposal and to connect with the GCIUS team which resulted in the LDMPCU receiving partial financial and technical support from the GCIUS to construct a dairy processing center and office building. Further the LDMPCU was awarded funding from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) under one district one product (ODOP) program through National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN) to complete the building. MoA is now the main funder of this project who will contribute 50% of the project cost. The remaining 50% of the project cost will come from the LDMPCU with a partial contribution from the GCIUS. However the GCIUS team will provide full technical support for the construction.

The building has been designed according to the basic principles of seismic construction which will be used in the 52 cooperatives of the union for the reconstruction of the barns that were damaged during the earthquake. Also the construction of

the dairy processing center will save an hour of daily walking required to deliver milk in the chilling center



# CECI WELCOMES VOLUNTEER

It is always a great pleasure for CECI to welcome new Canadian and Australian volunteers to Nepal. Volunteers support the Nepal Government's priority areas. They are placed in Government offices and partner organizations to help in enhancing their capacity.





# 6 things Unitererra Long-term VOLUNTEERS LEARNED IN NEPAL

“ There’s no such thing as “not enough room” on public transportation. (What do you mean there’s only twelve goats on the roof? Plenty of space for me up there!) ”

Paige Mueller, Communications Advisor  
Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd.

“ RIDING A SCOOTY IN KATHMANDU IS LIKE RUNNING AN OBSTACLE COURSE WHERE THE PARTICIPANTS DON’T APPEAR TO FOLLOW ANY RULES AND JUST ABOUT ANYTHING CAN COME AT YOU. COWS ARE THE MOST STUBBORN. ”

Cheryl Chin, IT Advisor  
Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd.

“ Reduce your expectations about a place you have yet to experience. Trying to picture your life in a foreign environment is like creating a world with your mind alone. Life is in the small things, the details. Only a few creative minds are capable of creating a world with the kind of details that bring it alive, and even then those worlds are still in their minds. The real truth of a place is beyond your imagination, and that is part of what will captivate you when you arrive with an open heart and a blank canvas. ”

Samantha Joan, Organizational Development Advisor  
National Youth NGO Federation

“ “OKAY” CAN MEAN “ALRIGHT”, “YES”, “MAYBE”, “I UNDERSTAND”, “I DON’T UNDERSTAND” AND “I’LL GET BACK TO YOU.” ”

Karl Brown, Communications & Marketing Advisor  
MANUSHI

“ Dal Bhat / Veg Thakali set is very delicious. Now if only I can learn how to cook it myself. ”

Carlo Valle, Document & Database Development Advisor  
Centre for Microfinance (CMF) Nepal

“ Making a difference starts with oneself. ”

Nadia Roy, Organizational Development Advisor  
Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association



# CHALLENGES OF MILK PRODUCERS IN KAVREPALANCHOWK CAN BE SOLVED

*-Banshi Chaudhary, Uniterra National Volunteer*

I had an opportunity to visit Kavrepalanchowk district for dairy market survey on 10-12 July 2016 through CECI/Uniterra project. According to the District Livestock Service Office (DLSO), 300,000 liter milk is collected daily across the district. During the survey, our team was engaged in focus group discussions, household survey and meetings with concerned local authorities. The Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal (CDKN) has divided Kavrepalanchowk district in four areas (Bhakunde, Panauti, Banepa and Pachkhal-Mahadevsthan) to run its project smoothly. Despite having huge business opportunity in dairy sector, milk producers are facing problems. During the discussions, they raised some genuine problems such as lack of investment, fodders, water, etc.

In Kavrepalanchowk, generally livestock are fed green grasses, crops by products or fodder trees with little or no concentrated feed as in most parts

of Nepal. Major percentage of fodders comes from forest resources as crop by-products are limited. Due to community forest systems everywhere in Nepal, farmers do not have easy access to collect fodders. Also, farmers grow vegetables in their fields multiple times in a year and they don't grow fodder for livestock. Due to which they have to buy crops by-products from Terai and concentrated feed in high prices.

Shortage of water is also another major problem for livestock in the district, mostly in summer season. It was reported that about 200 water resources have dried after the earthquake across the district. Similarly, according to the Water Supply Division Office, Dhulikhel, the water volume has decreased in 417 sources while there is no alternative source in 181 places. These days many of households as an alternative option purchase water from water delivery service companies and store for many days.

Financial investment on dairy sector is another major problem, due to which dairy sector has not been fully commercialized. Most of the farmers reported that it was not easy to get loans for agriculture rather they get loans easily for foreign employments. Many youths and women are also discouraged in farming as they do not get investment loan for farming. Banks do not easily believe them and hardly sanction the small amount of loan to start and expand the dairy business.

Due to expensive fodder price, small scale investment and other reasons, the cost of milk production goes high resulting in lower profit. If there is a provision of easy loan, commercial production of fodder and forage, management of rainwater harvesting and promotion of entrepreneurship, many youth and women would be encouraged in dairy sector in this district.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## CECI RENEWED GENERAL AGREEMENT

On 29 June 2016, CECI Nepal renewed the General Agreement (GA) with the Social Welfare Council/ Nepal Government for the next five years. CECI first signed the general agreement in 1989 and has subsequently renewed it every five years.



## PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE

CECI Nepal staff Hem Bahadur Tembe, Mallika Bhattarai and Dibyashree Khadka participated at the South-Asian Community Radio Conference organized by the Association of Community Radio Broadcaster (ACORAB) Nepal on August 9-10, 2016 in Kathmandu. Mr. Hem Tembe, Team Leader of the PRAN project was one of the panelists of the discussion on Participatory Governance, Social Inclusion, Peace and Justice through Community Radio in Nepal.



## FIELD VISIT IN SANKHU

The Uniterra Asia Regional Coordinator, Ms. Stephanie Hoey and the GCIUS team undertook a two day field visit to the Sankhu (Lalitpur) village on May 4th. During this visit, they observed dairy farms, interacted with farmers, and observed cooperatives and chilling centers. They were very impressed with the farmers' hard work, dedication and enthusiasm towards their main livelihood (dairy).



# CECI NEPAL'S NEW PUBLICATIONS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI) Nepal

## NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, 2015

### Emergency and Early-recovery Support to the Survivors of Earthquake



Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)



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