



**ceci**

# CECI-Nepal's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Good Governance Program 10 new CSOs receive grants for piloting SAC tools 2
- Review & Sharing meeting held for 64 CSOs 3
- Volunteer Support Program in Nepal 6
- Canadian Volunteers in country 6
- Australian Volunteers in Country 10
- Supporting dairy sector in Makwanpur district 11
- Good bye to Volunteers 13
- Running Multi Stakeholders' Forestry Program 14
- News in Brief 15

## Message from the Country Representative

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to publish the second issue of the CECI Newsletter. This issue presents a glimpse into our project activities and major achievements.

CECI projects mainly support livelihoods development, governance, social inclusion and capacity building of partner organizations and CBOs.

The Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN), which promotes *demand-side engagement* for better governance, and improved transparency, and accountability in Nepal. This program raises awareness amongst local people about their rights and enhances the capacity of civil society and government actors to promote social accountability.

The Multi Stakeholder Forestry Project imple-

mented by a consortium of IDS (Lead agency), Ashmita, Himawanti and CECI promotes private sector involvement in forestry sector for increased economic development and livelihoods for rural communities through sustainable management of forest resources. The project promotes capacity building of local organizations working with District Forest Offices.

CECI mobilizes Canadian and Australian Volunteers to support the development initiatives in Nepal. These Volunteers are placed in NGOs, CBOs and Government agencies with an aim to support in their technical and managerial enhancement. The focus of Volunteer Programs is livelihoods, business promotion, environment, education,

health, gender equality and institutional development of partner organizations.

The pages that follow give details of our work in various sectors and showcase how contributions have been made to the development of rural populations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners in government, donors, civil society and other agencies for their continued support. We also look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for improving this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai who has worked hard to bring out this newsletter.

Keshava Koirala  
Country Representative  
CECI Nepal



**10 new CSOs receive grants for piloting SAc tools**



*Exchange of contract documents after signing*



*Team Leader Madhab Karkee briefing the GMC members on evaluation result of small grantees*



*Contract signing between CECI and DEC, Bajura*



*Finance Officer Sushma Shrestha briefing on financial reporting format*

In August 2013 ten new civil society organizations (CSOs) received small grants from CECI/PRAN. CECI manages the grants for Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN), a World Bank funded program that promotes good governance in Nepal. PRAN improves governance and institutional performance in Nepal through promoting and encouraging more accountable, honest, transparent and responsive government agencies to deliver quality services.

The grants awarded to CSOs are for pilot activities to promote the value of social accountability. The grants will expand PRAN programming to reach a larger number of beneficiaries with the aim to increase knowledge and raise awareness on efficient, transparent and inclusive Public Financial Management (PFM). It also aims to increase knowledge on local budget planning and processes, enhancing skills on public expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, and improving analytical skills on gender and pro-poor budgeting.

Under PRAN's Piloting Innovative, Social Accountability Initia-

tives and Developing Social Accountability Tools through Grant Making, CECI invited project proposals from 32 CSOs that participated in a training on PFM provided by PRAN's mentoring and coaching partner National Capacity Development Institute (NCDI) held in Nepalgunj in June. The consortium team of Grant Making Committee (GMC) selected ten CSOs. The maximum period of the projects is nine months with a maximum budget of USD 15,000.

The CSOs who were awarded the grants are: Dalit Empowerment Center (DEC) Bajura; Human Society for Poor Upheaval Sacrifice (PUSH) Bajura; Dalit Mahila Ekata Kendra (DMEK) Dang; Sustainable Community Development Centre (SCDC) Gorkha; Unification Nepal (UN-Nepal) Gorkha; Kamaiya Pratha Unmulan Samaj (KPUS) Kailali; Rural Self-Reliance Development Center (RSDC) Kapilvastu; Kapilvastu Institutional Development Committee (KIDC) Kapilvastu; Rural Welfare Council (RWC) Kalikot; and Human Rights Awareness Centre Rolpa.

## Review and Sharing Meetings Held for 64 CSOs



*Review and Sharing Meeting*



*PRAN Coordinator Keith Leslie from World Bank addressing at the Review and Sharing Meeting*

CECI/PRAN organized two review and sharing meetings in July and September for 64 subgrantees under PRAN programs for both Public Service Delivery (PSD) and Public Financial Management (PFM). The participants included principal social accountability practitioners, mentors, and PRAN component partners.

PRAN awarded the subgrants under PRAN's Action Learning Grants. 31 sub-grant CSOs began their project activities in May 2013 and 30 CSOs (large & small) started in June 2013. The meetings reviewed progress to date, assessed emerging results, lessons and experiences, and planned for the remaining project period, with the goal to ensure that all project deliverables are achieved by the end of the project.

The review meeting for 31 CSOs under PSD was held from 21-26 July 2013 and the review meeting for

33 CSOs under PFM was held from 3-9 September 2013 at the Yala Maya Kendra in Patan.

Each meeting session was chaired by a principal social accountability practitioner, and at the end of each day, a "person of the day" title was awarded to a social accountability practitioner who demonstrated strong analytical skills in the discussions.

### Highlights/Outcomes of Review and Sharing Meetings:

- Identified gaps and weaknesses and brainstormed for possible actions to overcome those weaknesses
- Developed a plan and strategy for incomplete and remaining activities
- Identified challenges for completing the activities in the remaining period and developed strategies to overcome the challenges



*Rohit Dhakal from ED-Jus, Kailali presenting project activities*



*Social Accountability Practitioners discussing on reporting format during the workshop*

Now we know : It is our right to know

After a two-day sensitization and training workshop on "Right to Information" in Godawari, Kailali, by Madia Advocacy Group (MAG), one of the PRAN sub grantees in Kailali District, local people are now empowered to demand for transparency in budget allocation. Godawari is a poverty stricken village inhabited by people belonging to the Dalit community. The village faces a number of development challenges including a high rate of HIV/AIDS, poor health and drinking water facilities, and extensive male out-migration. Each year a budget is allocated for development activities and programs to all Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Nepal. However, there are problems of irregular and insufficient funding, and embezzlement.



Training in right to information for effective

In July 2013, MAG organized a two-day workshop in order to address such challenges. The workshop focused on people's right to know and analyzed issues related to budget allocations, misallocations and irregular funding. Participants were encouraged and motivated to proactively question the authorities about what has been allocated for them. After the workshop, Mr. Vaan Singh BK submitted a referendum to the Deputy District Officer. The seven-point referendum included demands for improved infrastructure and building a tourist place in the VDC.



Media Coverage of Godawari VDC submitting referendum to District Development Officer

Residents of Bara obtain better access to public services and information

Mr. Ramnath Yadav, a resident of Kalaiya, Bara said "Due to provision of Communication Officers in government offices, it has become easier to get the required information".

In Bara district, there is a lack of proper service delivery from government agencies. The residents of these areas have become so accustomed to the unaccountable services that they have rarely voiced their opinions against what has become the norm. A key project "Improving the quality of delivery of public services in Bara district" implemented by Jana Jagaran Youth Club under CECI's PRAN Project was able to bridge the gaps between government service providers and service users through appointment of communication officers. Now the general public has easy access to proper information regarding services provided by government agencies.

The project had conducted a consultation meeting with 8 government agencies and was extensively discussed on the rights of general public to access government information and need of effective service delivery.

After the consultation meeting, Chief District Officer, Mr. Durga Prasad Pokharel, showed keen interest to establish information desks and ordered all district level government agencies to appoint communication officers. As a result, 20 government agencies in Bara have appointed communication officers, and their presence has allowed the public to become more aware of their services and rights. Now the process to obtain information from the government offices has become simpler.

## Women are now able to raise their voice

Local women of Thumi VDC in Gorkha district were unaware of the budget allocated to them. The local residents generally do not have information about development budgets, which end up spent according to decisions of government officials and elites. In some cases, the budget is distributed amongst local political leaders and their acquaintances. The residents of Thumi were completely unaware about the budget planning process, the tax system and government provisions. They were misled into believing that the local leaders were spending

money from their own pockets for infrastructure development.

After the intensive budget literacy orientation programs and budget analysis trainings in the VDC, by System Development Service Center (SCDC), a PRAN sub grantee, Gorkha, people are more aware of the budget and their rights to participate in making decision on budget allocation. After the budget literacy training, women participants asked local leaders to disclose the expenditure of previous and the current year's budget for women's development.



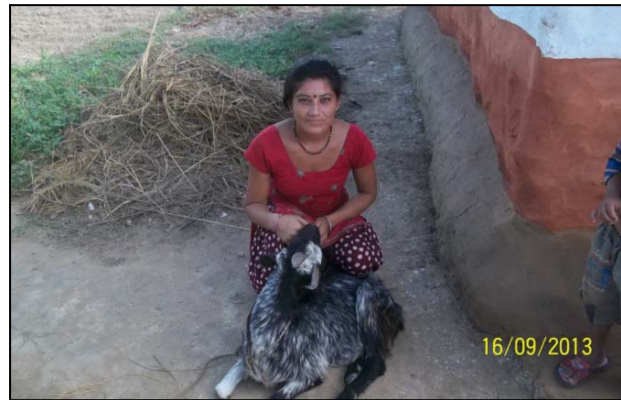
**VDC Secretary and other local leaders listening to the Women voice**

The leaders remained speechless as they could not produce a legitimate document. The local leaders have made commitments to be transparent and to involve local people in decision making processes.

## Women secure allocated budget for goat farming



**Sangita Bishwakarma with the goat she received**



**Rekha Bishwakarma holds the goat she received**

Although budget for target group development had been allocated for Barkalpur VDC, Kapilvastu with the amount of NRs. 60,200 and NRs. 34,500 in the previous and current fiscal years respectively, the target beneficiaries had not received any financial support from the concerned government agencies. Instead, the amount had been disbursed as an ad-

vance to a single person. This discrepancy was flashed during the Participatory Budget Analysis workshop conducted by Adharbhut Gramin Bikas Sewa (AGBS), a CECI/PRAN sub grantee, as a part of its Improving Public Financial Management project.

As a result of a series of budget literacy orientations and budget analysis work-

shops, the residents of VDCs in Kapilvastu are empowered to demand answers from government agencies on budget allocations and expenditures.

They have been successful in receiving a grant of NRs. 94,600 allocated for goat farming for Dalit women. A total of 27 Dalit families have each received a goat that will help increase their household income.

## Volunteer Support Program in Nepal

CECI manages Canadian and Australian volunteers in Nepal. Over the past 26 years, around 400 volunteers have served in Nepal. The main focus of the volunteer program is to build the capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of skills and knowledge.

### CECI/Uniterra Welcomes 17 New Canadian Volunteers

From July to September 2013, 17 new Canadian volunteers came to Nepal to share their time and expertise with non-government organizations, cooperatives and private sectors. They volunteer through following Uniterra programs:

#### Leave for Change (L4C)

L4C is a corporate volunteering initiative that enables employees from participating organizations to transform part of

their annual vacation into a three to four week volunteer assignment in a developing country,

#### Long term

Long term volunteers come to Nepal from six months to two years and support development initiatives of local organizations.

#### Interns

Interns who come to Nepal for three to eight months and work with different partner organizations.



*Volunteers during Welcome Ceremony*

***Volunteers provide technical and management support to local organizations benefitting general public***

### Canadian Volunteers in Country



Darrelle Moffat, Documentation Intern (8 months)

Darrelle is working with Integrated Development Society

Nepal (IDS) to support in documentation, communications related activities and updating website for the Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program.



Chelsea Gray, Environment Assessment Intern (8 months)

Chelsea is working with Fair Trade Group (FTG) Ne-

pal. She conducts the environmental assessment for the member organization and develops a database system. She also helps in developing detailed report of the events and supports for knowledge sharing with the FTG team.



Dr. Abdoulaye Gonde, Animal Health Advisor (1 Year)

Dr. Gonde, has been working with

Makawanpur Dairy Milk Production Cooperative Union (MDMPCU) in Makwanpur district since 19 January 2013.

His mandate involves increasing local awareness about hygienic milk production and proper cattle management. Through the MDMPCU, he conducts workshops and provides trainings to local farmers, cooperative members and support in institutional development to the MDMPCU.



Sumbal Gillani, Documentation Intern (8 months)

Sumbal is working with Centre for Mi-

crofinance Nepal supporting the team in documentation, proposal writing, supporting member organizations outside Kathmandu valley and assisting in organizing training and event management.



Anne Marie Burnside, Marketing Advisor (2 years)

Anne Marie is working with

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB). Her major role is to promote the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified products in national and international market. She performed various market researches which helped to identify and promote the Non

Timber Forest Products (NTFP) which encourage the local community to wisely use local resources for economic sustainability along with environment conservation.

Rasha Abu Meizer, Documentation Intern (8 months)



Rasha is working with Dalit Welfare Organization supporting in documentation, proposal writing, case studies, developing organizational profile, brochures and other communication tools.

Anne Drew, Animal Health Advisor (7 months)



Anne is a veterinarian practicing with small and large animals, and a lifestyle farmer, raising dairy goats, and growing fruit and vegetables for home consumption.

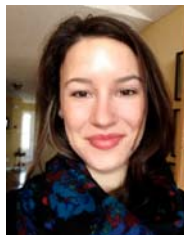
She is currently volunteering with the Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union (LDMPCU) as an Animal Health Advisor. Her major role is to provide support services for improvement of livestock health, farmer training, and increasing knowledge of fodder management and livestock housing. She also addresses other health management issues including animal breeding and is constantly promoting the equal participation of women and men.

Thom Drew, Quality Milk Production Advisor (7 months)



Thom has been a dairy goat farmer and cheese maker for over 25-years. He is volunteering with the LDMPCU as a Milk Quality Advisor. His mandate is to train member farmers in producing and maintaining clean, good quality milk, improving production and decreasing cost of production. He'll also be training collection staff in milk testing for quality control.

Vanessa is volunteering with the Uniterra Program as a Document Advisor.



During her mandate, Vanessa is documenting the Uniterra II program by capturing lessons learned and success stories over the past five years. She will also be recording case studies of project beneficiaries and preparing communications materials for Uniterra and its partners.

Peter Gleason, Communication and Documentation Intern (8 months)



Peter is working with PRERANA supporting the team in preparing best practices, case studies, success stories etc of their projects. He assists with writing annual reports, proposals, organizational profile, brochure and editing of other documents.

Manna Sainju, Documentation Advisor



Manna has been volunteering in Nepal

since October 2011. During her mandate, she has compiled a best practices report and translated success stories for CECI/Sahakarya's Agriculture Production and Marketing project, which was implemented in 5 districts of mid-western region. For this assignment, Manna was based in Surkhet working with Environmental Development Society (EDS) and conducted field studies to collect information from project beneficiaries and stakeholders. Her mandate also includes providing support to CECI's PRAN project through monitoring and evaluation of more than 70 local partners engaged in social accountability practices. She has contributed in documentation of information and has assisted in analyzing reports from local partners and preparing summary reports.

Blair Henry, Organizational Development Advisor (1 Year)



Blair is working with Professional Development and Research Centre (PDRC) since 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013. He supports in the development of the organization through strategic planning, capacity building of staff through training and support in documentation and program development. He assists PDRC in ensuring quality, value based and employable education for Dalit and marginalized community.

Luzianne Reid,  
Documentation Advisor  
(9 Month) ,



Luzianne has been volunteering with the Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN) Dolakha, as a Documentation Intern. She is supporting FECOFUN by making vital information more accessible to the public, including community members. An English language expert, she helped to develop a website and editing several reports.

She is preparing to submit a final report which she hopes will provide worthy suggestions to governments, NGOs and the general public on how to render community forest management in Dolakha more effective.



*Luzianne planting trees*

My experience volunteering with FECOFUN Dolakha, Charikot has so far been a blast! Over the past four months, I have been exposed to not only the hardships that community forest members constantly deal with but also the generally impressive collaboration that exists between community forest members and other institutions. I have learned about community forestry and other development initiatives that exist to enhance community forest productivity including forest certification and carbon trading. I had the opportunity of planting trees in a nearby forest which was a great excitement. More intimately I have had the opportunity to connect with colleagues, further

exposing me to a culture vastly different from the one I was brought up in. As a bonus I'm confident to say that my Nepali reading, writing and conversational skills have significantly improved since I last attended Nepali language classes in Thamel. Looking forward to the upcoming adventures!

## Uniterra National Volunteers



Chandra Prasad Chaulagain  
Book Keeping and Financial  
Management Advisor (14  
Months)

Chaulagain has been working with five partner organizations. His major roles included the improvement of existing conditions and practices of book

keeping and financial management of its partners and primary level cooperatives. During this period he has provided numbers of trainings to these partners and primary level cooperatives on book keeping and financial management as well as project budget preparation and financial reporting. He has developed tools and formats required for district milk producers' cooperative union and primary level cooperatives, applied

accounting software in six cooperatives and provided a series of software operating trainings which has brought significant change in account management system of milk producers' cooperatives.



*Chandra conducting training in Gotikhel*





*Dr. Bajracharya facilitating Women Leadership Development training*



*Dr. Bajracharya facilitating workshop organized by FECOFUN for women participation in natural resources*

Dr. Surya Laxmi Bajracharya has been working in CECI/ Uniterra as a National volunteer/Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advisor since September 2012.

Her work with different partners of Uniterra has concentrated on enhancing the capacity of the partner staff on the aspects of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. She had conducted various trainings and workshops on Gender and Social Inclusion, supported the development of gender action plans, and strategic plans of the partner organizations. She has also been actively participating in women's movement.

Dr. Bajracharya has obtained a master's degree in Sociology as well as Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine. She has more than 12 years of work experience. Her qualification in veterinary degree added value to her GESI fieldwork. She had supported the development of training materials and training contents on animal health and management and quality milk production.



Santosh Pandey has been working as a cooperative and institutional development advisor since September 2012. He is actively engaged in supporting agricultural and dairy cooperatives unions plus the Dalit welfare organization in terms of their capacity enhancement and entrepreneurship development.

During his tenure he has designed and delivered different tools and training on strategic planning, business plan template, proposal writing, leadership development and agriculture collection centre operational guidelines to the partner staff. on the one hand these tools and trainings like proposal writing for DWO, their district chapters are able to grab the resources from different donor and government agencies on the other hand leadership development, strategic planning plus business plan related tools and trainings enable to enhance skills and knowledge on institutional as well as entrepreneurship development of primary cooperatives and their members .



*Shantosh facilitating the Capacity development training*



*Leadership development training participants*

## Australian Volunteers for International Development in Nepal

The Australian Government is working in partnership to send Australian volunteers overseas through the *Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID)* program. Austraining International is one of these core partners and in Nepal; CEI is sub-contracted by Austraining International to help manage the program.



Sarah has been working as a Systems and Quality Assurance Officer at the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology (TIO) in Kathmandu. TIO is an acclaimed eye care service centre established in 1994 under the Fred Hollows Foundation umbrella. The FHF will support Sarah in her assignment as an Australian Partner Organization.



Samantha Buckley is working as a health administrator in Public Health Concern Trust, Nepal (Phect-NEPAL) a NGO committed to health development.



Bowden Percival is working as an Entrepreneurial Development Officer for the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO). ENPHO is a service-oriented national NGO established to contribute to sustainable community development by combining research and actions through the integrated programs in the environment and public health areas.



Louisa Zhang is working as a Research and Documentation Support Officer in Kathmandu with Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH). NEWAH is a national NGO that provides safe water, sanitation, hygiene education and livelihood opportunities to communities and local NGOs and supports community initiatives.



Imogen Elsum is working as a Cancer Research and Evaluation Officer with the Nepal Network of Cancer Treatment and Research (NNCTR) in Banepa. The objectives of NNCTR as a not-for-profit organization, are to reduce the incidence of cancer in Nepal through prevention, control, research and treatment. NNCTR provides training, seminars and workshops with an emphasis on cancer education.



Julia Ferragamo is working as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). She is providing support to FPAN by helping to develop and implement methodologies, tools and frameworks which will enable the organization to effectively monitor and evaluate the success of its public health and intervention programs.



Tim Kaldor is working as an Information and Communications Technology Development Officer for the Electoral Education and Information Centre (EEIC) within the Election Commission of Nepal. The volunteer assignment will also be supported by Australian Partner Organization, the Australian Electoral Commission. EEIC aims to strengthen governance in Nepal by improving skills and knowledge and promoting values that encourage democratic participation and awareness.

Nina Klug is working as an Organizational Development Offi-



cer with the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO). FEDO is a national non-government organization which aims to establish the rights of Dalit women by organizing them and empowering their participation in national development.



Julia Price is working as the Marketing and Business Development Manager at the National Micro Entrepreneurs Federation Nepal. Her role will be to assist build sustainable economic development in rural Nepal through enterprise development.



Boris Stanislav is working as Outreach Training Officer with the EEIC.

EEIC was opened in May 2012 as an initiative of AusAID and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of building institutional capacity of the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN), electoral administration skills and knowledge within EEIC.



Judith Taylor has been working as the Partnership Development Officer within the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in the Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division (PPICD), which aims to strengthen partnerships amongst development partners, line ministries, national and international NGOs and the private sector.



*A Village in Makawanpur District*

Makawanpur is a high milk production district in Nepal. More than 90% of dairy farmers in the district are members of local-level milk cooperatives that run under the Makawanpur Dairy Milk Production Cooperative Union (MDMPCU). The MDMPCU is one of the Uniterra partners that CECI/Uniterra supports in providing national and international volunteers and financial support in conducting awareness raising programs, workshops and trainings. It has been working in improving technical and management support to dairy production, processing, and marketing. More than 60 primary dairy cooperatives including more than 10,000 farmers are its member.

Dr. Gonde is volunteering in the district. He provides technical support to hygienic milk production, animal health check-up, dairy production management; develops training strategy to minimize the impact of disease in milk production and improve dairy animals genetics; and conducts trainings to animal health technician and members of dairy cooperatives.

“As an animal health advisor,” explains Dr. Gonde, “my duty is to find a way to reduce the impacts of disease on animal well-being, milk production, public health and milk quality. During my assessment period I found the main problems in dairy production is housing and milking hygiene and milking technique. Other problem areas include the lack of options and technical knowledge in purchasing the right cow/buffalo for milk production. Taking into account these parameters, I developed training

modules and I am now conducting trainings through both classroom and animal demonstrative field settings. With

an emphasis on a practical approach to training, I aim to increase understanding on the negative consequences of improper management of cattle. I have also started a record keeping system to record dairy animals' performance, documenting the differences in profit making of cow and buffalo. After the trainings, farmers know how to manage their cattle for hygienic milk production. The ongoing trainings are well received and appreciated by the farmers; they are changing their traditional mindset and applying the knowledge learned. They are also passing their knowledge to others, which makes me feel proud”.

Dr. Gonde has found his mandate very rewarding. He explains, “I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the MDMPCU through CECI/Uniterra. When I am working in the cheerful community involved in dairy production, I forget all of my troubles, and even stand better the absence my family, while I am with among them.”



*Dr. Gonde teaching better technique of milking*



*Facilitating the training to local farmers*



*Conducting training*



*Conducting practical training*

**Prem Prasad Dahal wins the Best Farmer Award from MDMPCU**



Prem Prasad Dahal was awarded by Best Farmer Award in 2069 B.S. by MDMPCU. He is now producing daily 80-90 litter milk from 10 cows and he earns more than Rs. 80000 per month. With a happy expression he says "I started animal farming three years back and now I am very satisfied with this profession. I am able to

spend money on my children's education. My daughter is completing a Bachelor's of nursing in Bangalore, India and my son is completing a Bachelors' in Engineering in Nepal. I am taking trainings time to time provided by Uniterra through MDMPCU on animal health care, selecting cattle while buying, milking process, hygienic food and place for cattle, personal hygienic, and linking with the market etc. Without trainings and moral and technical support form MDMPCU, I wouldn't have this success in this profession"



*Mr. Dahal cutting grass for cows*



*Mr Dahal's cows*



**I am now aware.....**

With support from Uniterra, MDMPCU and the Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), Dalit women in the Makwanpur district have successfully established a Dalit women's only cooperative. Uniterra volunteers have provided support and training to the cooperative members on areas of organizational and business development, leadership development, quality milk production, livestock shed management and animal health.

Rammaya Surkheta, Chairperson of the Dalit Women Cooperative, received training from Dr. Gonde she explains her story, "During a visit to the Kapilbastu dairy cooperative, I saw a single household with 25 cattle earning a large amount of money from selling milk. After returning home, I immediately bought six cows without having knowledge of cattle selection or consulting to experts. My dream to become rich overnight went on in vein. My cows gave milk properly just for the first couple of months and then they slowly stopped giving milk. However, having technical knowledge and support of Dr. Gonde and the MDMPCU, now I am much more aware about the selection of cows/buffalos. In my community I am now raising awareness about cow selection, shed management and hygienic food practices."



*Members of Dalit Women Association*



*Women collecting milk to dairy cooperative*

In the past four months, six Leave for Change (L4C) volunteers completed their mandates and returned to Canada. Among them, two volunteers worked with Agro-Food partners, two contributed to Sustainable Forest Management and two supported Private Sector Development partners. Five interns who were working in Aadharbhat Prasuti Sewa Midwife Birthing Centre, Fair Trade Group, Bhaktapur Craft Paper Limited and the Private Sector Development sector also completed their mandate.



*Farewell dinner for L4C and Canadian Interns*

Three *Australian Volunteers for International Development* completed their assignments in Nepal and left for Australia on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



Pramesh Raj Ghimire worked as a Public Health and Nutrition Project Officer at Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG) for one year. Pramesh, who is Nepali by origin, thought that he was very lucky to

have had a chance to work as an Australian volunteer in Nepal.

Anjali Sood worked as the Network Management Support Officer at the National Entrepreneurship Development Center

(NEDC) for one year. Although her assignment did not go as well as expected, Anjali says that the assignment has been valuable to make her decisions for the future.



Sarah Nam worked as a Communications and Social Networking Officer at the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) for one year. Sarah provided a lot of communication support in the recently

held South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation workshop on sanitation and is hoping to be back in Nepal to work for a UN agency.

## Canadians who contributed as long term volunteers



Astrid Dier, Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor

Astrid worked with Uniterra partner organizations in the agro-food, forestry and advocacy sectors to support the integration of gender equity and social inclusion and promoted equitable social and economic empowerment and improved livelihoods.

Astrid arrived in Nepal in 2010. Her initial Uniterra mandate was for two-years but she completed a second mandate which ended in 2013. "Working in Nepal was such a rewarding experience" says Astrid. She describes her time as a Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Advisor as "fascinating, complex and sometimes heartbreaking." She continues, "In addition to gender based discrimination there are complicated social dynamics based on caste and ethnicity. At the beginning I tried to learn as much as I could about the local context in order to ef-



*Astrid interacting with local women in Shankhu*

fectively support mainstreaming a GESI perspective into all of CECI and Uniterra's work. Luckily, I didn't need to start from scratch as CECI had already successfully implemented several GESI strategies and approaches. My task was to continue to support and scale up this process with a focus on capacity building and our work with local partner organizations."

Aayesha Amin worked with the Fair Trade Group (FTG) as a Communications Advisor.

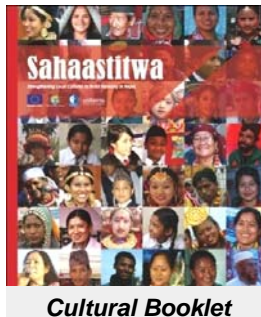


She transferred her communications knowledge to staff at FTG. During product promoting events, Aayasha developed a joint catalogue for all FTG members' products. Through the promotion of member products sales for FTG members are now increasing.



Jennifer Lee Cleary worked as a Documentation Advisor for the Sahaastitwa project in Worldview Nepal from August 2011 to September 2012, and then worked as a Knowledge Management Advisor for the Natural Resource Development Centre (NRDC) from October 2012

to July 2013. Jennifer collected and compiled case studies, collected stories for the Sahaastitwa project from the field, including visiting project districts. After her dedicated and tireless work, she developed a cultural booklet that dis-



*Cultural Booklet*

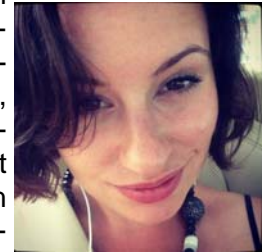
plays different aspects of Nepalese culture and showcases and promotes indigenous and traditional cultural products from different regions.



Catherine Beach worked with the FTG as and Marketing Advisor. She empowered and advised FTG member organizations in marketing, communications and business development strategies. She developed and implemented a range of communication tools and has conducted research

on market trends. She also developed business development strategy to increase their capacity.

Tara Scanlan worked with the FTG as a Product Development Advisor. She analyzed the national market, while building her own research on the apparel market and design industry. Through her research she has developed new product lines and strategies for FTG member organizations.



## **Two Australian Volunteers for International Development have Arrived**

In October 2013, two volunteers arrived in Nepal for a year long assignment. Madeleine Beart is working as a Knowledge Management Officer at NSET and Gerard Ryan is working as Social Work Support Officer at the Nepal School of Social Work.

## **Running Multi Stakeholder Forestry Project in Five Districts**

The MSFP is being implemented in five districts of Mid and Far-Western Development Regions: Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Achham and Bajhang. The project began in March 2013 and has already completed initial preparatory works and selection of local partners for implementation.

The project has 81 focus VDCs and 1 Municipality where seven local partner NGOs will implement the programs. Selection of 46 social mobilisers to be placed in these NGOs is in a process. This was delayed due to the CA election process. These social mobilisers are considered crucial for the community mobilization at grassroots level.

### **Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) Developed:**

With the objective of minimizing impacts of

climate change, the project has already supported in preparation of LAPA. Five such plans in Dailekh and one in Jajarkot have already been completed. More action plans will be developed in other districts in coming days.

### **Commodity selection for business promotion:**

The project plans to promote Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) through processing and marketing of commodities that have high potential. Allo fiber has been identified as one potential commodity for promotion. Consultation is ongoing for identification and prioritization of other commodities in various districts. The user groups will be provided training in processing and value addition techniques and will be supported in establishing market linkages.

## Austraining Regional Director's Reception



*Volunteers and the guests at the reception*

On 5 September 2013 Pieter Bossink, Regional Director (South Asia) for Austraining International, hosted a reception at Hotel Shangri-La. The reception was an excellent networking event for the stakeholders and volunteers of the *Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID)* program in Nepal. The Australian Ambassador to Nepal, the Head of Australian Aid to Nepal, the Director of Social Welfare Council, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, the Head of Host Organizations were some of the distinguished guests in attendance at the reception.



*His Excellency the Australian Ambassador Glenn White talking to Peter Bossink and Hari Bastola*



*Director of SWC Madan Rimal at the reception*

## Mission Visit from Head Office

Dilip Chinnakonda, Regional Asia Coordinator visited Nepal during the first week of September. The purpose of his visit was to monitor and update on-going projects and explore further opportunities to implement future projects. During his time here he visited several partner and donor organizations including IDS, Prerana, IEDI, DEPROSC, and USAID and held important meetings with Keith Leslie from World Bank and Pieter Bossink from Austraining International. He also attended the Austraining Regional Director's reception during his stay in Nepal.

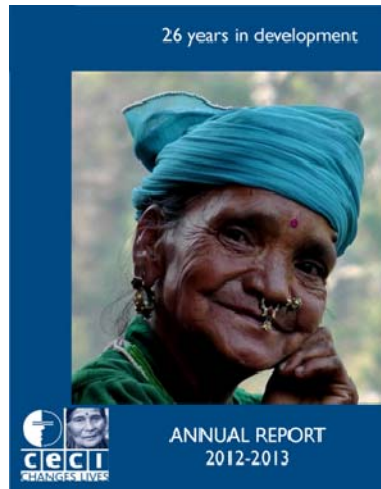
## CECI Handover two vehicles to Social Welfare Council

CECI had the pleasure of handing over two vehicles to the Social Welfare Council (SWC). These vehicles belonged to Sahakarya project funded by CIDA. Sahakarya project was implemented from 2003 to 2012 in five hilly districts of mid and far western regions. The vehicles were refurbished and are in good running condition. The vehicles were handed over amid a brief handing over ceremony held at SWC.



*Vice President of SWC, Mr. Pramod Mehata receiving handover letter from CECI Country Representative Keshava Koirala*

## CECI published 2012-2013 Annual Report



In October 2013, CECI published the Annual Report of the fiscal year 2069 – 2070 B.S (2012-2013) highlighting the major project activities and achievements of the year. The report was distributed electronically to various government ministries and departments, NGOs, INGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders.



Centre for International Studies and Cooperation  
(CECI) Nepal

135 Naya Basti Marg

G. P.O. Box 2959

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4414430/4426791

Fax:++911 1 4413256