



SAHAS NEWSLETTER

9th Issue, November, 2012



Bajura Storm Disaster Relief Project

Landslide was occurred in 1st of June in Badhun VDC ward no. 1 Pipaltari with 180 households. A heavy rain with a wild storm persisted for one and half hour which ultimately resulted in unexpected and heavy landslide causing physical, economical and social losses. Out of these, 44 household were directly affected by losing their properties. 11 household were completely displaced due to the entire loss of property and were totally deprived of food, clothing and shelter. 4 persons (2 dalit and 2 Others) were dead on the spot and one died on the way to Nepalgunj for treatment. 3 were seriously injured and were treated in regional hospital, Nepalgunj. More than 200 cattle were dead in this natural calamity. Hectares of fertile land with standing crops were swept away. Similarly, primary health care centre was also destroyed in this disaster. Because of this, the victims did not get an emergency treatment. Considering responsibility, SAHAS Nepal helped the victims with emergency relief package which contains rice, pulses, vegetables, oil and cloth. It also supported the victims during emergency to save lives as well as rehabilitation to them. The victims were in need of support to manage their recovery, empowerment and advocate for their basic requirements. Therefore SAHAS developed a project to support these victims in long term basis. The project was supported financially by FELM Nepal. Coordinating with CDO, LDO, SAPPROS Nepal (national NGO), HRC (local NGO), District Red Cross Society, and District Development Relief Committee, post rehabilitation project has been started for six month duration. Working areas of project are relief package distribution which contains food and clothing, speedy shelter management, drinking water support programme, health and sanitation support programme, smokeless stove and toilet support programme and income generation programme through goat support. Till now, some works such as situation analysis of the disaster area, household survey, population census, wellbeing ranking, drinking water and sanitation committee formation, shelter reconstruction management and advisory committee formation, drinking water survey and designing are completed. Decision of land purchasing is also finalized and soon will be purchased.

District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting organised in Dhading

DPAC meeting was organized on 11th June by FELM in Dhading Besi, headquarter of Dhading district. District level line agencies, SWC and MoWCSC monitoring team, farmer's representatives and VDC secretary from each project VDC, FELM team including SANTI Nepal and SAHAS Nepal were participated in the meeting. Local development officer (LDO) was president of the meeting. Main purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of FELM Nepal's supported projects. SAHAS Nepal presented 2011 project progress and plan for 2012. DPAC evaluated all the reports presented by SAHAS staff in the meeting. Farmers from different VDCs were impressed by the working methodology of SAHAS Nepal and had suggested to add some other remote VDCs also. District line agencies appreciated SAHAS Nepal for its kind of resource sharing approach. SWC and ministry monitoring team gave feedback for enhanced coordination at local and district level. Most of the participants were satisfied with developmental support of SAHAS Nepal in the whole Dhading district.



SAHAS Nepal as finalist in international EQUATOR Prize initiative:

The Equator Prize 2012 recognized local initiatives that demonstrate leadership in advancing innovative solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. SAHAS Nepal was a finalist from 103 out of 812 nominated organisations. www.equatorinitiative.org

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Geographic Information System (GIS) Research Team in Okhaldhunga

Research activities have been carried out jointly by PEEDA and SAHAS. The goal was to collect data, which are necessary to develop a *Criteria Catalogue and Satellite Atlas for the Determination of Optimized Locations for Jatropha Cultivation in Nepal's Hilly Regions*.

The data was used to design a multi-layered GIS map, which shows the optimal geographic locations for Jatropha cultivation. Therefore, each layer of the map is associated with criteria like soil conditions, climate data, altitude, topographic data, land-use systems, local infra-structure, and existing Jatropha plantations also.

The map, called *Jatropha Cultivation Geo Atlas (JCGA)*, is designed in Google-Earth friendly version, which can be displayed easily using a laptop computer. Therefore the map can be shown to local farmers as well as it can be presented at seminars or conferences.

It is aimed that the Atlas will lead to a better utilization of the degraded land, which is abundantly available in this district. It displays the best locations for Jatropha cultivation, but also where it might be in conflict with food security or environmental aspects. This project can be easily replicated in other hilly regions of Nepal and could even serve as a baseline for a National Biofuel Program planned by the Government of Nepal.

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New food security advisor arrived

SAHAS Nepal is supported by food security adviser Heikki Takko from FELM Nepal (Finland). He graduated in 2005 with Master of Agriculture in Finland. Since then he had been working in the biggest finish agriculture company, responsible for oil, diary and agrochemical product. In February 2012, he arrived to Kathmandu and joined SAHAS Nepal.

Finland, in the north of Europe is a democratic county. The highest point is 1,316 m (4,318 ft), 187,888 lakes (larger than 500 m²/0.12 acre) and 179,584 islands. Forest covers 77% of the land and is one of the largest in Europe. The forest consists of pine, spruce, birch and other species. Finland is the largest producer of wood in Europe and among them the largest in the world. Crop fields cover only 9% of the land. In total there are 61,500 farms, 27,000 produce cereals, 10,000 oil and special crops production, 1,800 horticulture, 10,600 milk production, 3,800 beef husbandry, 2000 pig, 700 poultry, 700 sheep and goats. 11 % of farms are owned by women. Farms are highly mechanized and one man can handle easily 100 ha field. Finland has severe winters and relatively short growing seasons. In response to the climate, farmers have relied on quick-ripening and frost-resistant varieties of crops like barley, oat, ray, wheat and oilseed.

Formation of networking organization with SAHAS Nepal facilitation

One network organisation named Progressive Realistic Society (PRS) located in Okhaldhunga district and another network organisation named Self reliant society for development (BISWAS) Nepal in Udayapur district were registered as network organization legally in their respective CDO offices in 23rd of August 2012. Ammata Rai is president of PRS and there are 9 members including president. Rudra prasad Ghimire is president of BISWAS and there are also 9 members including president.

VDC Level main committee formation in Mugu and Kalikot district

In CEFALS, two days main committee concept training has been conducted in 10 VDC of 2 districts. Participants were the presidents, treasurers, joint secretaries and active general members from already formed CBOs. The participants discussed about concept of main committee, roles and responsibility of leader, procedure for main committee member selection, criteria to be a member of VDC level main committee, characteristics and responsibilities of group members. 2 members were selected from each group by the community group members themselves and VDC level main committee was formed in their active participation after the training. Under this process main committees were formed in 5 VDC, 4 from Mugu and 1 from Kalikot. In other VDC, MC formation will be started soon.

New Staff in SAHAS Nepal

Welcome and Congratulations!

CEFALS Bajura: Krishna Raj Dhakal, Project Officer

Disaster Project Bajura: Prawjol Sharma, Project Coordinator

CEFALS Mugu: Chuda Mani Pahadi, Field Team Leader,

ELLEP Tanahun, Dhading and Gorkha: Jib Nath Sharma, Project Coordinator.

Okhaldhunga:

PAF: Guna Raj Shrestha, Project Coordinator

Biofuel: Ajay Karki, Project Coordinator

LIFT: Susmita Paudel, Project Officer

Central office: Namooni Acharya, Documentation Officer.

Dr. Surendra Shrestha joined SAHAS Nepal as Executive Director after successful completion of Business and Management course.

From our donor organisations:

In FELM Nepal we welcomed Hannaleena Poekki as new country manager. We fare welled FELM Nepal's Markus Ilomaki as country manager and Kirsti Kirjavainen as the acting country representative and Micah Shristhi from MCC Nepal.

The Right on Seeds and intellectual property rights on seeds (IPRs)

Claudia Mahenke (Advisor) and Mabin Ghale participated in a workshop related to right to seed conducted by FIAN Nepal. Their learning from that workshop is given here.

A resilient agricultural sector requires a highly diverse range of plants and animals in order to keep breeding varieties that can cope with disease, changes in climate and other challenges that farmers, fishers and herders face. The 3 most common types of IP protection for plants or plant parts are plant breeders' rights, patents and farmer's rights. Farmer's rights are customary rights of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed; to be recognized, rewarded and supported for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources as well as to the development of commercial varieties of plants; and to participate in decision making on issues related to crop genetic resources. A FIAN study considered the right to seeds as the bottom line for right to food. For Nepal the study's conclusion is that the development and promotion of small and medium sized seed businesses at community level could be a potential solution. Approaches and national seed policies are needed to stimulate the sector and make way for genetic diversity, seed protection and development.

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Partnership and Activities

Partnership extension between LIBIRD & SAHAS Nepal and PAF & SAHAS Nepal

The Home garden project, Okhaldhunga has been extended for one year after a meeting was held in Pokhara between LIBIRD and SAHAS Nepal. Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) extended its project in Okhaldhunga with SAHAS Nepal for 1 year.

Partnership extension for suspension bridge in Okhaldhunga for 3 years

Tripartite partnership between SAHAS Nepal, DDC and DOCIDAL has been extended for 3 years in Okhaldhunga district. 23 suspension bridges are constructed via this partnership in past. This partnership is supposed to construct more suspension bridges in needy place.

Cooperation meeting

SAHAS Nepal conducted cooperative meetings with HDC, INGOs, partner organizations like PEEDA and FIAN Nepal, MCC in order to develop future plans and programmes.

Midterm Evaluation

SAHAS-Nepal has been implementing various programmes and projects related to community development, research and advocacy. Of its several projects, two projects, namely, Community Empowerment for Food Security through Local Efforts (CEFALS) and Livelihood through Local Efforts Project (ELLEP) are currently in 3rd year of implementation. At this stage, these projects undertook mid-term evaluation to study these two projects by hiring a consultant Dr. Neeraj Narayan Joshi.

3 days participatory midterm evaluation workshop of CEFALS was conducted in 7, 8 and 9th of June in Nepalgunj. Similarly, two days participatory midterm evaluation programme of ELLEP was conducted in 31st July to 1st August 2012 in Jawalakhel Lalitpur.

The mid-term evaluations, in particular, were focused on the following:

- Where is the project now (present status/situation)
- How the project was implemented (implementation process)
- What needs to be done to complete the rest of the activities (to achieve the set objectives)
- Propose a 'Way forward' for the Phase II

Mustard Diversity Block – A SAHAS Nepal research

In Dakchoki and Sankhu VDC of South Lalitpur, mustard research was done via diversity block in farmers' field. Altogether 4 plots were designed in 2 VDC with equal numbers. 10 different varieties like Baltori, Thultori, Preeti, Unnati, Isthaniya Morong, Pragati, Bikas, Baritori, Goltori, and Kalotori were distributed in each block of 4m by 2m size. During the crop standing period, farmers organised exchange visits. Demo plots were labelled with flex board. In Dalchoki, Bikas production was highest (1350 gram/block) and Pragati was the second highest (1200 gm). In Sankhu the Preeti and Isthaniya Morong production were equal (1000gm/block). After these results farmer were demanding "foundation seed" of these four varieties used in their VDC.

Seeds Development: There are 4 stages (1) breeder's seed (2) foundation seed (3) certified seed and (4) improved seed. Foundation and certified seeds are grown by custodian farmers under supervision of scientists. After cultivation of foundation seed, farmers will produce certified seed.

Dalchoki Rayo: A possible new variety of Broadleaf Mustard

Dalchoki VDC lies in South Lalitpur where diversified agricultural crops can be easily grown. Among the crops grown here, a special kind of local variety of broad leaf mustard, i.e., *rayo* is famous crop. This local variety has very large leafs, boat shaped primary vein, mosaic leaf body and margin and a huge plant size. The taste is slightly sweet and preferred by local people. Additionally this local variety uses less cooking time and has higher vitamin status. Because of these good qualities SAHAS Nepal and his partner organisations have planned to develop the variety for wider markets. At present custodian farmers growing the vegetable for seed production in their own effort. In the near future with the collaboration of other research centre like National Agriculture Research Centre and organizations, SAHAS Nepal will develop the broad leaf mustard variety with the identification of the place in his name, *The Dalchoki Rayo*.

Bangladesh exposure visit

A team of 16 staff and board members from SAHAS-Nepal visited Bangladesh to observe and learn about community development work and climate change programmes with EED affiliated partner organisations in Bangladesh. During the 10-day-period (18-28 March, 2012), SAHAS team visited 3 EED partner organisations, namely, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Coastal Development Partnership (CDP) and Nijera Kori. Field visits were also made to communities in Pabna (ALRD group) and Khulna (Nijera Kori and CDP groups). The team also visited Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Bangladesh where they got an opportunity to learn about the food security situation of Bangladesh along with MCC's role and development efforts in the country. These visits and interactions provided valuable information about Bangladesh to the participants.

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Field visit from SAHAS Nepal central office

Teams from central office and EC member visited project sites to monitor ongoing field activities. A team of Dr. Surendra Shrestha (ED), Saban Shrestha, Jibnath Sharma and Mabin Ghale (all 3 PCs) visited Okhaldhuga, South Lalitpur, Bajura and Mugu districts. Their main objective was to evaluate different ongoing projects and impact of past projects via network organisation. They also conducted some training from which field staffs were motivated towards work. Furthermore, 4 members of the Executive committee viz. Brahma Dhoj Gurung (Chairman), Sati Shrestha (Vice-Chairman), Sunil Shakya (Treasurer), Devika Shrestha (member) and Claudia Mahneke (Advisor), Surendra Shrestha, Saban Shrestha, Mabin Ghale, Bharat Bhandari (USC Asia) Namoon Acharya (Documentation Officer) visited the Dalchoki site office from LIFT Project over a period of time. Some training regarding biodiversity conservation and civic education were conducted there in different visit. Brahma Dhoj Gurung and Namoon Acharya visited ELLEP's site in Dhadhing, Tanahu and Gorkha district to monitor ongoing activities. They both participated in VDC level main committee formation workshop in Dhading. Participants in that workshop were totally motivated because of their visit. They made visit to different groups in Dhading, Tanahun and Gorkha to motivate SAHAS Nepal's beneficiary. Similarly, Jibnath Sharma made a visit tour to Dolpa district (once) and Mabin Ghale went to Rasuwa district (twice) in order to study feasibility of new project and to collect different data.

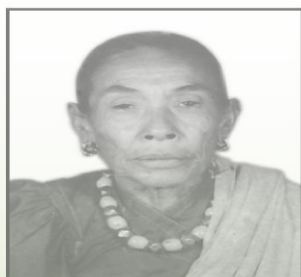
Heartfelt Condolence



We express our heartfelt condolence to the untimely death of Mrs. Padam Kumari Gurung, mother of Brahma Dhoj Gurung, Chairperson of SAHAS Nepal. May her soul always rest in heaven. We wish to god to give strength to the family for overcoming this woeful time.

SAHAS Nepal Family

Heartfelt Condolence



We would like to express our sincere condolences on the recent passing of Mrs. Sil Kumari Shrestha, mother of Dr. Surendra Shrestha, Executive Director of SAHAS Nepal. May her soul always rest in peace in heaven. We have prayers to you and your family at this sorrowful time.

SAHAS Nepal Family

Case study - John Tamang saves lifes

Mr. John Tamang of Chaughare-3 received 35 days Village Animal Health Worker Training in Pokhara from SAHAS Nepal. As one of the active member of Gupteshwor Community group, Tamang initiated his service not only for his own group of Chaughre he also extended his service to farmers of Nallu, Dalchoki and Bukhel VDC, after he returned from the training in January, 2012. He also settled a small agro-vet shop where the farmers can buy the required medicines nearby. This saves time because they don't have to travel to Kathmandu. Till today John is responsible for more than 350 livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig and he has supported around 157 farmers. John has transformed his gained knowledge into practice. Recently he saved a buffalo worth Rs. 40,000 from Mr Suku Bahadur Ghyaba. The buffalo had a fetal death with dystopia and John had to remove it manually. For a small farmer like Suku, a buffalo is highly needed for his family's earning and diet and he is very thankful to John and SAHAS-Nepal.

Similarly, the buffalo from Mrs Mona Ghyaba was suffering from Retention of Placenta (ROP). John says when he arrived, the buffalo was in critical condition and the family of Mona were in tears. But he was successful with his treatment and the buffalo could be saved. This gave back the smile and happiness to Mona's family.

During rainy season, Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS) and Black Quarter (BQ) creates havoc among the livestock. To create an early alarm and prevention system, John has started a vaccination campaign in Chaughare VDC from his own money.

With all his efforts, John has really established himself as a life saver among the farmers of his community. He takes fair prices for his service and during the first 3 months he earned Rs 9,000/- (90 EURO). With his income he can feed his 11 member family. Very much motivated from his achievements, John wants to extend his services, agro-vet shop and arrange other necessary equipments for animal health.



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