

The Glacier Trust

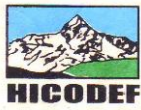
Enhancing Community Capacities for Learning and Adaptation to Climate Change (ECCLA)

1st Quarterly Report



Date: August to October 2017

***Submitted by :* Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF)
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Enhancing Community Capacities for Learning and Adaptation to Climate Change (August – October, 2017)

Background

HICODEF has been partnering with The Glacier Trust (TGT) since 2009 for the climate change and water management issues with rural farmers of Nawalparasi district of Nepal as 100% of rural community of Nepal depend on agriculture for their survival. Likewise the climate change mostly affect the water system and the farmers couldn't imagine cultivation without it. Considering this fact the partners extended the project in Satakun and Durlunga Baseni of Hupsekot rural municipality 5 and also from this fiscal year the old project site Dhabaha has also been included in this project considering that there are still people, who need the support for capacity development and marketing of agriculture products.

The proposed project will impart climate change knowledge to communities both formally and informally, and will begin the process of translating understanding into livelihood practices. It will enhance local Traditional Ecological Knowledge (known as TEK) through teaching and demonstration of modern, sustainable agricultural and conservation techniques, and climate change/environmental awareness. Special focus will be given to the implications of outdated practices and climate change for rural livelihoods through education and improvement of skills in adaptive natural resource management, such as water storage and management, agricultural practice, and market mechanisms.

This report accounts for the activities implemented between August to October 2017 in the community of Dhabaha, Satakun and Durlunga villages of Hupsekot Rural Municipality.

Here are the components of the project in this period

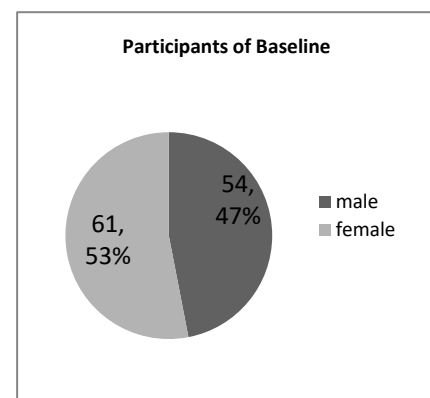
1. Baseline survey
2. Boom grass plantation
3. Farmer's field school
4. Marketing coordination workshop
5. Irrigation system monitoring and management
6. Volunteers (OJT) Mobilization
7. Monitoring

Activities implementation and achievements

1. Baseline Survey

a. Process

The baseline survey has been conducted in 3 sites Dhabaha, Satakun and Durlunga/Baseni of Hupsekot rural municipality. 115 HHs out of 196 were involved in the process. The survey has been conducted



applying participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods like focus group discussion, wealth ranking and household survey to obtain the information regarding agriculture production and productivity, tools and techniques for cultivation, climate change impacts and adaptation measures, coping strategy and food sufficiency of the farmers. At the same time, inception workshop has been conducted to inform them about the goal, objective, expected results of the project including plan activities, budget and their roles and responsibilities.

Achievements

- The baseline has been set as the authentic data recorded through the survey.
- As per the data, 10% of HHs produce sufficient food for only 3 months of the year, 10% of HHs for 6 months, 32% of HHs has enough food for 9 months and the remaining HHs has sufficient food for round the year.
- Seasonal migration to commercial centres (mainly Kathmandu) and also abroad for labour is very high because of the aforementioned lack of annual crop yield.
- There is a significant amount of fallow land on which crops may be grown.
- The productivity of land is still low as per the data of the land per m² the production of Maize: 320 gm, Paddy: 570 gm, green leaf : 1 kg, beans: 4.5 kg, potato: 5 kg, tomato: 17.5kg, Cabbage: 8 kg, Cauliflower: 5.5kg, Curcubete groups: 4kg and Chilly: 5 kg. So the target has been set for next year.

2. Broom grass plantation

a. Process

- 126 HHs of Dhabaha, Satakun and Baseni have been involved in boom grass plantation out of 196 HHs in the target area. The farmers collect the seedlings from the near jungle and planted in sloping fallow land. They also make a plan for weeding and protection. A frame technology has applied for plantation. The community has worked in a group so the benefits have been shared to all the communities.

b. Achievements

- 19610 boom grass seedlings have been planted in 3 sites covering 6.35 hector of sloping land.
- The community of Dhabaha is able to sell the boom grass of Rs 10000. Likewise the community of Baseni also sold boom grass of Rs 5500.
- The boom grass has well cultivated so it looks healthy and starts booming.

Future plan

- Scaling up the initiatives by the community
- Timely wedding and protection.



Boom grass harvesting

- Marketing

3. Farmer field school (FFS)

a. Process

Farmer's Field School (FFS) is the core activities of the project. It is an informal learning process where groups of farmers stay together monthly and discuss and practice on agriculture works in the farmer's field. In this phase 2 there are 3 sites Dhabaha (old site), Satakun and Durlunga where we have started from last year. All together 93 farmers (M 44, F 49) involved in FFs in all three sites.

There are 3 demo plots in all FFS sites where farmers gain practical knowledge and skill after learning theory classes. All the theory class starts from short welcome and review, agenda collection and expectation of the class. The classes run using participatory techniques as much as possible. The facilitator organizes games, singing, dancing etc to make the class interesting and lively. After the class all the participants and facilitators visit demo plot to observe and carry out practical exercises such as nursery bed preparation, weeding, pest control etc. The LRP has prime responsibility for regular monitoring and support to farmers. There are 3 OJT volunteers, who also attend the FFS class and practice in the field. They have roles and responsibility to look after 10 farmers each to apply the knowledge and skill in the farm in practical manner. They have collected all the data of agricultural works and submitted to LRP. The most of the FFS has focus on organic vegetable farming as much as possible. The farmers have gained knowledge and skill on modern agriculture techniques like tunnel with mulching which is very adaptive method to the climate change as the vegetable grow in the tunnel which maintains the temperature.

b. Achievements

- 2 session of FFS have been conducted in all 3 sites. Altogether 93 farmers (M44, F49) attended in Oct class but 85 farmers (M38, F 47) attended in Sep class.
- 103 kattha of land has been covered by vegetable farming as community has bought 1860 kg of vegetable seeds including potato by their own.
- Enhanced knowledge and skill for vegetable farming as FFS focus on
 - tray nursery bed management, soil treatment, farming technologies of specific species like tomato, cabbage, cucumber, cauliflower, chilly, potato etc. ,discussion on irrigation and commercial farming, seeds selection as per seasonal calendar.



FFS theory class



Tunnel farming



- Distributed 15.65 kg seeds of vegetables, 90 creates, 93 sprinkles, 36 water canal, 9 spray tank. 15 tunnels, 1 roll garden pipe, 3 roll mulching plastic to the farmers which helped them to enhance the production and marketing of vegetables.
- All the farmers involved in the FFs able to prepare vegetable nursery on time so that this year the production must be high.

c. Challenges

- 13 tunnels have been destroyed by wind and 28 are little damaged, they can be reused out of 54.
- Some of the farmers are not covering the tunnel by the plastic.
- Nursery management was very difficult because of the heavy rain this time.
- The rough road was completely damaged this year which created difficulties for vegetable transportation to the market.

d. Future plan

- New 15 tunnel construction.
- Scaling up the vegetable farming.
- Establishment of 3 plastic ponds for demonstration instead of tunnel.
- Regularize FFS activities in all 3 sites
- Marketing.

4. Irrigation System monitoring and management

a. Process

The project has supported to construct the irrigation com drinking water scheme in Baseni. It has completed till RVT 1. The community participated massively including raise fund by themselves for construction as it was their high demand. There are still needs to construct RVT 2 to cover additional 16.25 hectors of land. This area of land is even more than the coverage of RVT 1. After the completion of the scheme, one day workshop has been organized for proper utilization and management of the scheme for sustainability and everlasting use. Likewise the discussion has also been made for RVT 2 construction.

b. Achievement

- 29 HHs access to clean drinking water, 0.66 hector of land irrigated and 0.23 hector of land has been extended for vegetable farming
- 7 (3 F and 4 M) members small irrigation management committee has been formed in Durlung/Baseni for overall management of the scheme.
- As the project is ready to share the matching fund Local government allocated 200000.00 for RVT 2 construction. It also appreciated the work.



Sprinkle irrigation

- Community has agreed to contribute remaining fund for construction.
- The rules and regulations have been established for the best use of water and also for regular monitoring and maintenance which is as follows:
 - The tariff has also been set for using water such as drinking water per HHs Rs 30/month, irrigating land equivalent to 1 tunnel area Rs 10/month.
 - Punishment - misusing of water 1st time 100, 2nd time 200, 3rd time 300 and then after out of the benefits from the scheme. Cutting the water pipe 1500 and the informer will be awarded Rs 500.

c. Future plan

- Construct RVT 2 to irrigate 16.25 hectares of land of 34 HHs and get 5 HHs safe drinking water.
- Regular maintenance of the scheme.

5. OJT volunteers mobilisation

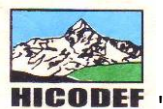
9 Plant JTA volunteers all females are appointed and mobilize in the project sites. 3 volunteers in all 3 project sites each have been placed and each of the volunteer looks after 10 farmer's farm. The technical institute name Kaligandaki of Kawasoti Nawalparasi and Amar Secondary School of Chitwan have requested HICODEF for on the job training for six months which is the part of the course. The total length of the course is 18 months including OJT. One day orientation has been conducted for all volunteers regarding the project goal, objective and expected results including their roles and responsibilities for smooth mobilization and placed them in the project sites. The volunteers will help for strong social mobilization and also technical support to the farmers in regular basis as well as capacity development of their own.



field monitoring at Baseni

6. Monitoring

- regular monitoring
 - The focal person from HICODEF visited the project sites 2 times in this period. He has visited all two project sites Satakun and Baseni. At that time he observed agriculture farms and the newly constructed drinking water and irrigation scheme in Baseni and also interacted with the community for proper utilization of water, maintenance of the scheme and also volunteer's placement and mobilization. The interaction has also been made for smooth execution of the project activities and construction of RVT 2 in Durlunga Baseni.



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- He also met the local government officials to maintain the linkage , coordination and also aware them about the projects activities and outcomes. Because of the visit the local body agreed to support the construction of RVT 2.
- The facilitator, LRP and volunteers have been monitoring the project activities regularly and provide comments and feedback on site. They also visited frequently at all the field of the farmers and observe their vegetable cultivation and provide feedbacks for betterment.

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