

Summary of NDM Projects and Replicating Them

By Zachery Sherman

There are a number of promising projects that have been implemented as a part of the NDM program. Although some projects have run into problems or have not been as successful as the original planners had hoped, there are also a number of projects whose positive results and ease of implementation make them appealing for replication elsewhere in Nepal.

Currently, 14 of the 24 projects are listed as being completed in the MIS system, with the other 10 projects being listed as middle staged. One issue that I have noticed is that a number of the projects listed as “Completed” in the system are still listed as “Middle-Staged” on the PAF website, which should be addressed at some point.

One completed project with positive results is the “Rehabilitation of Displaced Single Women (Widows)” and it was implemented by the Women for Human Rights (WHR) Nepal partner organization. The project provided training and support services to 185 widows who had been displaced to Kathmandu due to conflict. A large percentage of them have been able to find new jobs using the training they received, or have used the training to begin their own businesses. This project has improved the standard of living and livelihoods of its beneficiaries and could be replicated if more displaced women in need of support are found.

Another successful project was the “Waste Banana Stump Based Micro Enterprises” NDM implemented by the Sana Kishan Sahakari Sanstha Limited partner organization. This project used the waste products of banana cultivation to provide the beneficiaries with a source of strong fiber for handicrafts, a source of bio-gas and bio-fertilizer, as well as a source of employment for 10 people. This project gives the community an extra source of income and reduces the amount of money they have to spend on banana farming materials in the future. It appears that this project could be easily replicated in other areas of the country where banana farming is prevalent.

The project “Allo Women's Enterprises” was implemented by the PO Research and Development Nepal. It provided 54 women in the Sankhuwasabha district who were involved in producing *Allo* based clothing with information and training about how to make their products better and more marketable in outside markets. They were also assisted in creating a cooperative and building a souvenir shop in which tourists could purchase their wares.

The “Economic Promotion and Community Pond-Protection” project, implemented by

FOCUS-NEPAL is still listed as middle staged, however it appears as though most of the project's activities have been completed by this point. This project aimed to restore depleted ponds in the mountainous area of Dhading by digging new ponds and educating local residents about sustainable usage of the local natural resources. The project also educated local residents about using “Drip Irrigation”, a method of irrigation that uses substantially less water, to produce high-value crops, reducing their need for water while increasing their potential income. There was a great deal of local support for the project due to the direct impact it had on local residents' lives. This suggests that beneficiaries would be highly supportive of similar projects were they to be implemented elsewhere in the middle hill and dry regions.

The “Integrated Low-Cost Organic Farming Together with Regenerative Energy (ILOFTRE)” project implemented by the Converge Design Consultancy has been quite successful in educating beneficiaries in the Lalitpur area about organic farming techniques. A number of greenhouses have been constructed as well as areas for keeping livestock. The produce from the project is being sold to a local hotel, with the income covering the costs for construction of the greenhouses. This project appears to have been very successful in providing the beneficiaries with useful knowledge and income generating activities. Similar projects aimed at educating and training farmers about organic farming practices could be implemented elsewhere.

The project “Income Generating Agriculture for Livelihood Support,” implemented by the SUPPORT Foundation has aimed to uplift *ex-kamaiya Tharu* families, due to the dire situations they often find themselves in regarding lack of food and job prospects. The project selected a number of families in the Kanchanpur district and provided them with training in beekeeping, riverbank farming, goat and pig rearing as well as group saving and credit. These skills were utilized to improve the livelihoods of these families and will ultimately provide them with a source of income once the livestock rearing and riverbank cultivation activities begin producing on a greater scale. Although the project appears to have promising results, the PO recommended that the project be extended in order to further assist the beneficiaries and further gauge the project's effectiveness.

The “Drinking Water Hydropower Project” implemented by Tanka Nath Sewa Samaj has twofold objectives. First, it aimed to use hydropower to generate electricity for its beneficiaries in the Panchthar district and then it collected this water in a pond, which the local community could use. This runoff pond is being used for a number of purposes, such as household use, fish farming and for irrigation purposes. This project appears to be successful and easily implementable, raising the possibility for its replication in other areas where there is not easy access to the electrical grid.

The project “Using Common Salt to Treat Water for Drinking” implemented by ECCA has been very successful. The project has installed devices in schools in Kathmandu

which convert salt into a chlorine solution, which can then be used to purify water. The students are able to buy bottles of this solution from the schools at very low prices and then take them home, educating their parents about the process and disseminating the information throughout their communities. The schools are also able to recoup the costs of the technology through selling the chlorine solution to the students. Due to the large amount of positive interest the beneficiaries and their communities have expressed in the project's activities and outcomes, this project should be replicated elsewhere, as clean water is very important to maintaining health in these communities.

One project which I would not recommend replicating is the “Electric Rickshaw” project, implemented by the Engineering department of Kathmandu University. This project aimed to transform man powered rickshaws into electric rickshaws by installing battery powered motors on them, in order to increase speed and efficiency. Although this sounds like an interesting idea in theory, in practice it does not seem to work well. The new rickshaws cost a large amount of money, which many rickshaw drivers would not be able to afford, raising questions about its sustainability.

The Report is prepared by Zachery Sherman, an undergraduate student from the United States who did a 3-month internship related to NDM projects, implemented and supervised by PAF