



Promotion of Yak\Chauri Through Tourism  
Awarded by NDM-2008

## Final Progress Report-2009

Submitted by

Integrated Community Development Movement  
Dolakha, Nepal

## 1. Background

The domestic Yak (*Poephagus grunniens* or *Bos grunniens*), which was domesticated from its ancestors from the wild by the ancient Qiang people of China during the Neolithic age (3000-1800 BC), must be regarded as one of the world's most remarkable domestic animals that survives in extreme harsh conditions of the world to provide a livelihood to the people living there. The estimated population of Yaks and their crossbreds in the world is around 14.2 million, of which 13.3 million are in Chinese territories, about 0.6 million in Mongolia and the rest in other countries (Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Tazakstan, Uzbekstan) adjoining the Himalayas. In Nepal, Yaks might have migrated through passes in the Himalayas to the mountainous grasslands of the southern slopes. These are found in 22 northern districts but the population is declining at alarming rate threatening to the existence of species in the country. The species are well adapted to the cold harsh climatic conditions of the high altitude ranges and well integrated with socio cultural life of the people living there. These areas are characterized by rugged mountain topography, remoteness; lack of road transport system and isolated from the main stream of development with poor public and private support services.

In these difficult climatic and physiographic regions, the only available means of livelihood for the communities living there is agriculture and livestock production, but because productivity of both of these components is low, the livelihoods of the people dependent upon these resources is poor.

Dolakha, one of the Himalayan districts of Nepal, is famous for Yak husbandry. Moreover, Tulnagi\Cherdung area which is the proposed site of project is on the route of Jiri-Lukla trek for thousands of foreign visitors. Jiri is also popularly known as 'Gateway of Everest'. Major inhabitants of Tulnagi\Cherdung area are Sharpa people who are rising yak crosses, but with low productivity. Now it is utmost important for improving livelihood of the people and for sustainable poverty reduction, full utilization of Yak and Chauri with product diversification for maximum benefit would be best alternatives to ensure conservation of this threatened species. Linking Yak husbandry with tourism industry with establishment of eco farm park for sustainable improvement of the livelihood of the people residing in these areas would be of great significance.

## 2. Purpose of Project

Nepal is a well-known country in the world for Yak and Chauri farming. A large section of the population dwelling on high altitude, mainly those belonging to Sherpa and Bhote communities have their livelihood on Yak husbandry. Besides, this species deserves an utmost concern for its local utilization for the genetic resources conservation.



However, Yak population is declining at frightful speed because of continued practices of crossbreeding and attraction of Sherpa people towards other enterprises such as: tourism, overseas job and other business. In 1982, Joshi made an estimation of pure Yak- Nak population to be about 8 thousand in Nepal. However, after thirteen years, when Kharel (1995) made a study under the sponsorship of Makalu Barun Conservation Program on Yak, he deduced the population to be of 3000 in all over the country. If this trend continues, it would not be surprising that the population would one day get totally extinct. In his report, Kharel (1995) cautioned that if the efficiency of economic return from this enterprise is not improved, this enterprise is sure to be abandoned by all. One of the best measures to be taken in this regard is to convert its different products into more fine finished products and fetch higher return from national and international market.

Tail hair (*chammer*), bones, skull and horns are important products of Yak and Chauri – which can be a potential source of income to the people. Presently these items are neither being utilized in an efficient way nor obtained significant return. Rather these items are either utilized as crude form or converted as waste; and whatever has been exported in Tibet is sold at minimal price. If they will be processed finely and brought in international market, it is sure to fetch much higher prices than what is being obtained. The example that Chinese are drawing 4 times higher price of 'fly-whisker' (*chammer*) than that of the crude state after processing is sufficient evidence of it.

If this gap of unavailability of necessary technology regarding converting them into fine products is fulfilled thereby meeting international standard, Nepal's Yak industry is sure to boom along with achieving the goal of conservation of this species. Therefore, the purpose of the project is to convert Yak and Chauri products into high value commodity by upgrading them into international standard to get higher return from those markets for increasing income of Yak farmers subsequently improving their livelihood to contribute towards conservation of the species. Beyond that linking traditional Yak and Chauri husbandry with trekking and tourism by establishing Yak\Chauri Gallery, View tower and yak breeding with introducing new product tourism for improving income and livelihood of farmers ensuring sustainability and conservation of biodiversity is the main purpose of the project

### **3. Target groups and beneficiaries**

All Yak and Chauri herders who are dwelling at highly cold zone ranging from temperate to sub-alpine zone of Jiri, Dolakha will be the direct beneficiaries. In number, 200 farmers will be directly benefited.

However, Yak population is declining at frightful speed because of continued practices of crossbreeding and attraction of Sherpa people towards other enterprises such as: tourism, overseas job and other business. In 1982, Joshi made an estimation of pure Yak- Nak population to be about 8 thousand in Nepal. However, after thirteen years, when Kharel (1995) made a study under the sponsorship of Makalu Barun Conservation Program on Yak, he deduced the population to be of 3000 in all over the country. If this trend continues, it would not be surprising that the population would one day get totally extinct. In his report, Kharel (1995) cautioned that if the efficiency of economic return from this enterprise is not improved, this enterprise is sure to be abandoned by all. One of the best measures to be taken in this regard is to convert its different products into more fine finished products and fetch higher return from national and international market.

Tail hair (*chammer*), bones, skull and horns are important products of Yak and Chauri – which can be a potential source of income to the people. Presently these items are neither being utilized in an efficient way nor obtained significant return. Rather these items are either utilized as crude form or converted as waste; and whatever has been exported in Tibet is sold at minimal price. If they will be processed finely and brought in international market, it is sure to fetch much higher prices than what is being obtained. The example that Chinese are drawing 4 times higher price of 'fly-whisker' (*chammer*) than that of the crude state after processing is sufficient evidence of it.

If this gap of unavailability of necessary technology regarding converting them into fine products is fulfilled thereby meeting international standard, Nepal's Yak industry is sure to boom along with achieving the goal of conservation of this species. Therefore, the purpose of the project is to convert Yak and Chauri products into high value commodity by upgrading them into international standard to get higher return from those markets for increasing income of Yak farmers subsequently improving their livelihood to contribute towards conservation of the species. Beyond that linking traditional Yak and Chauri husbandry with trekking and tourism by establishing Yak\Chauri Gallery, View tower and yak breeding with introducing new product tourism for improving income and livelihood of farmers ensuring sustainability and conservation of biodiversity is the main purpose of the project

### **3. Target groups and beneficiaries**

All Yak and Chauri herders who are dwelling at highly cold zone ranging from temperate to sub-alpine zone of Jiri, Dolakha will be the direct beneficiaries. In number, 200 farmers will be directly benefited.



This endeavor supports not only to the farmers of Dolakha but as whole Yak herders of the country and boost up their economy. As women have equal role and responsibility in Yak and Chauri husbandry, the women groups will also be equally benefited. Additionally, this effort supports to woolen industry and curio industry thereby involving a number of businessman in cycle of production to delivery. The tourist will have unique opportunity to observe this wonderful species in site. Besides, it will eventually help conservation of this endangered species of the world. The intervention would not have any negative impact on other groups/ individual or community on environment in the vicinity or other part of the country.

**4.Implemented Area:** Yak\Chauri Eco-Tourism Route (Batsa- Bull Dada - Sherpa Basti- Gumba Area- Forest Area- Tulnagi Range Land Area-Tulnagi Range Land peak Area- Cherdung-Cherdung Cheese Factory –Lincon), Jiri VDC, Dolakha District, Nepal

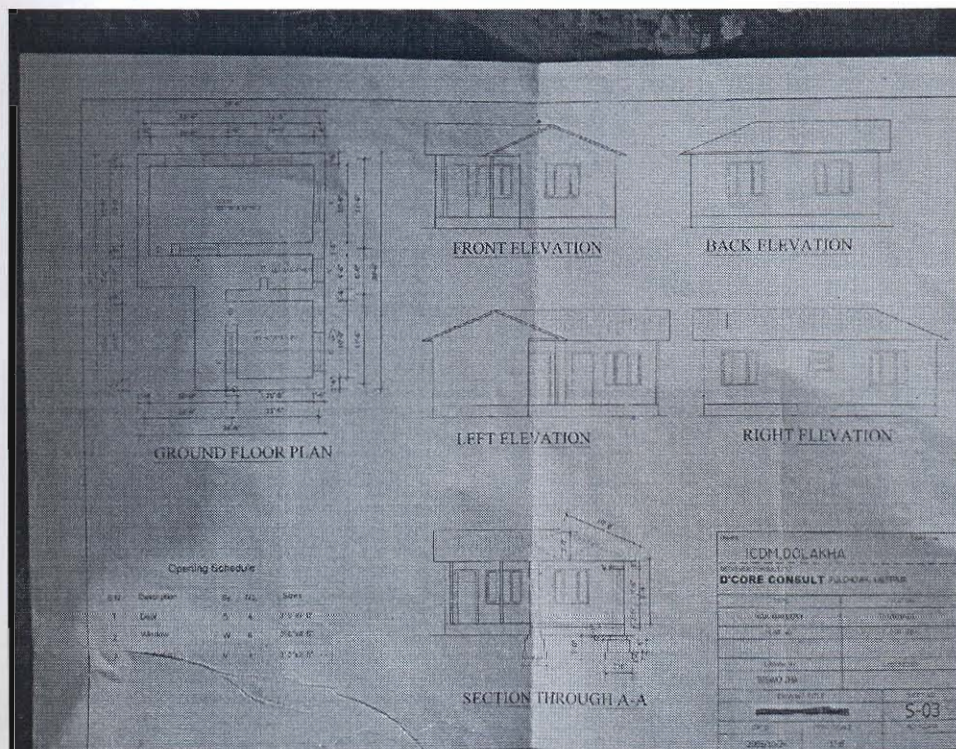
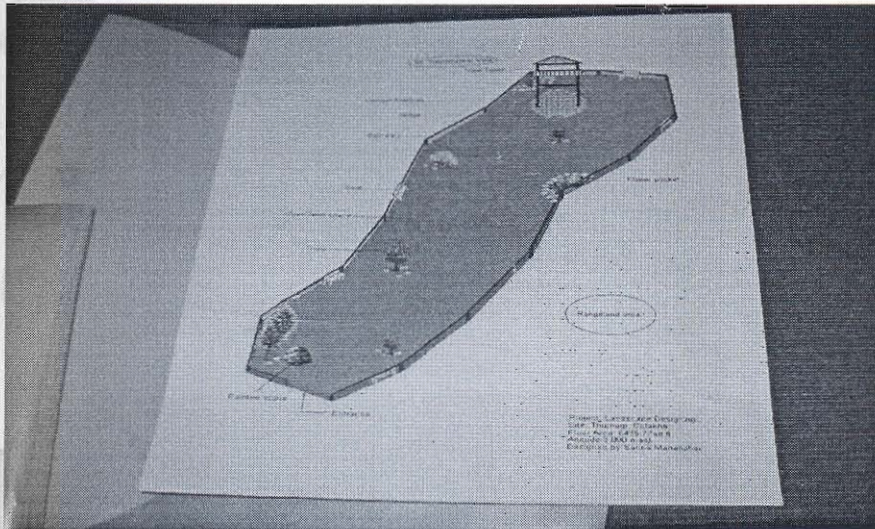
## **5. Activities**

### **5.1 Feasibility study, Baseline information collection and documentation.**

The detail feasibility study was carried out with the help of senior technician. Project site for the construction of yak gallery and view tower was selected by feasibility study team survey estimated and survey was carried out by the land escaper and engineer in Kartic . Like wise the detail information on yak and chauri production system and traditional products, socio-economics aspects and farmer opinion on the way forward will be collected using tools such as household survey key information survey and transect walk of the site by multidisciplinary team. A video documentary is prepared including the details of the project “promotion of yak through tourism’ The finding information has been documented to guide the project as well as for the future for streamlining yak and chauri development in the main development stream of the country.











### 5.3 Construction of yak gallery/Breeding centre including Eco-parks

Yak gallery has been constructing for tow month at Tulnagi area on the Jiri-Lukla trek rout. The structure of the gallery is developed by maximum utilization of local resources. Likewise yak briding centre has been constructed in Cherdungphedi for production of Chauri. Surrounding yak briding centre and yak gallery, Eco-parks have been setup.







#### **5.4 Purchasing of Yak for breeding**

One yak is brought from solukhumbu and kept in the cherdung for the breeding which is strong, unique and wonderful. 5 Cows Has been pregnant by this yak in this year.







## **5.6.Training Program.**

1. Management Training : Management Training has been provided to 11 persons of implementing organization. They knew more about social mobilization as well as accounting and record keeping.

2. Training for far mers group: Farmers group training has been provided to 20 persons of Chauri husbandry farmers group by the specialist in Jiri Thulnagi area. The farmers learnt about feeding, breeding health cure and management of there cattle i.e. Yak/Chauri.





## **5.2 Farmers' group formation, orientation about project and Guideline preparation**

Yak and chauri farmers' group on the project side (Bull dada- Thulnagi Jiri) is formed in-corporation women farmer and socially/economically disadvantaged farmers I this community

The objective and modality of the project titled "promotion of yak/chauri through tourism was put forward and necessary suggestion of the farmer was taken for the implementation of the project activities such that they felt the project of their own.

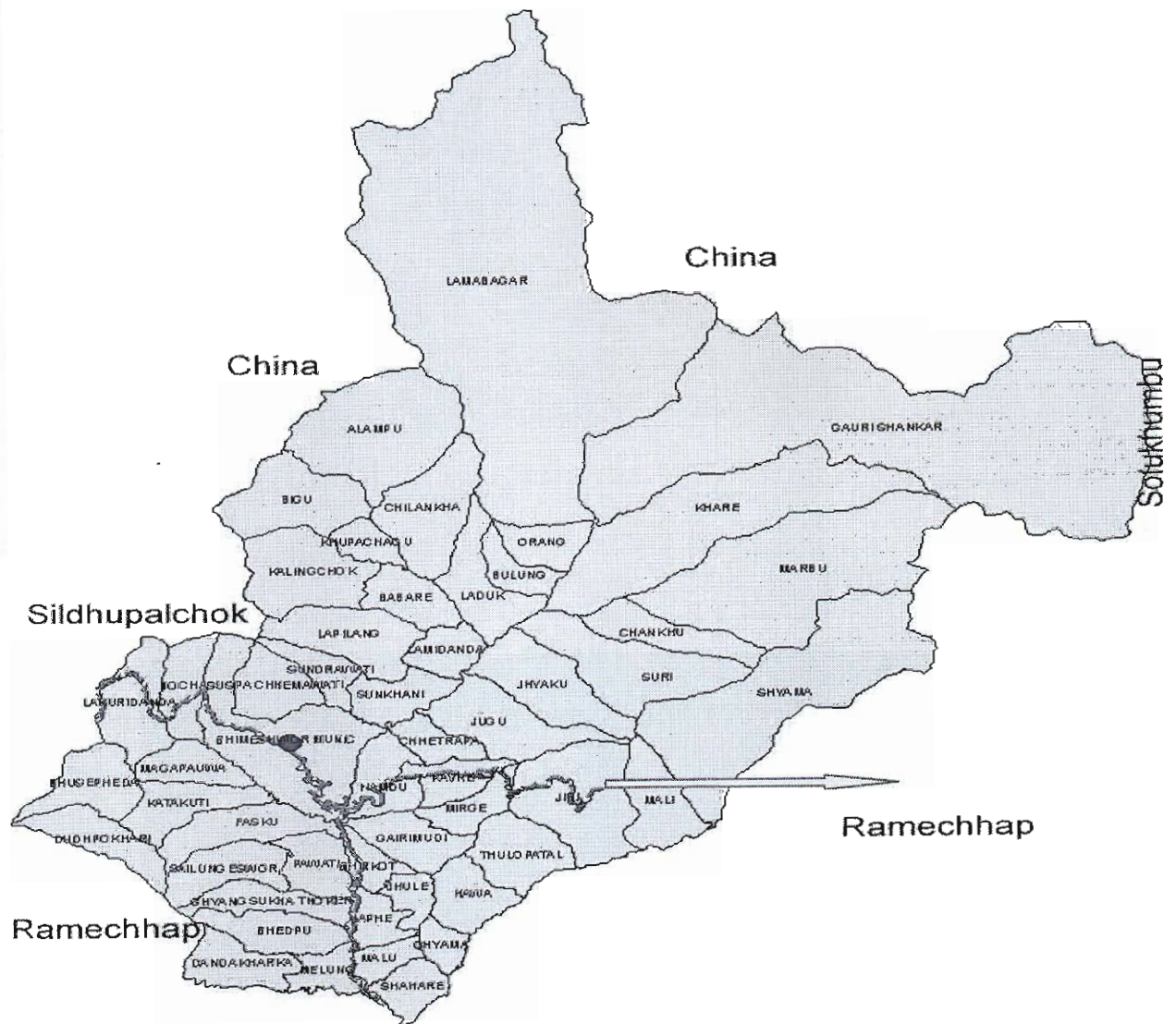
The basic concept rule and regulation responsibilities and rights of farmers' group without contradicting current act for the conduction of whole process of project is prepared in the form of documentation with consensus of all stakeholders. One person from the project (facilitator) from local community is appointed for running project.



## **6. Conclusion**

Obviously, it is impossible to promote Yak /Chauri farming without value addition of products and linking to tourism. Our project puts new values to promote yak/Chauri farming through tourism. This idea will be implemented elsewhere where Yak/Chauri farming being carried out i.e. northern high altitude ranges of Nepal and other parts of world.

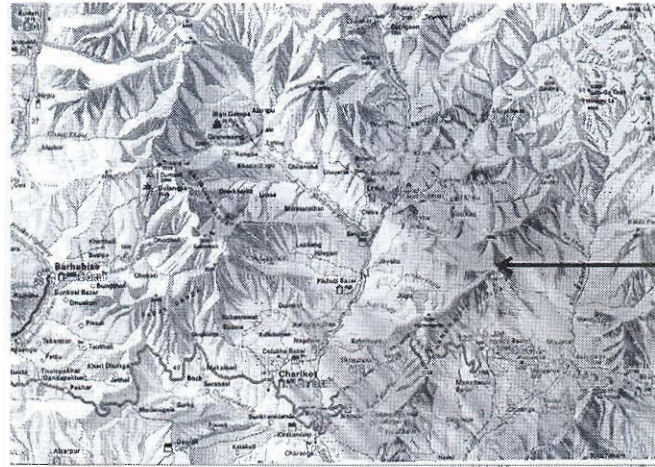
# Project implementation area Dolakha District



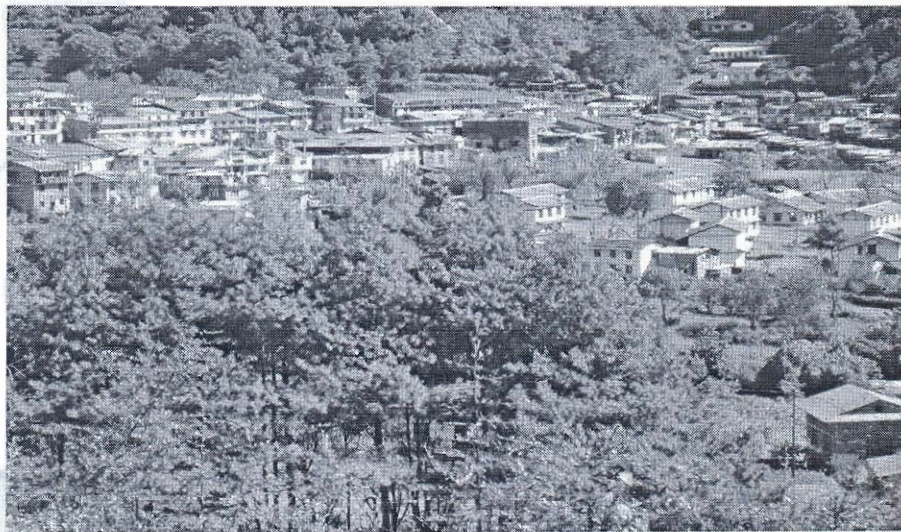
0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers



## Topographical Map of Project Area



Project site  
(Yak  
breeding  
centre with  
eco-park)



## Project Site

Jiri : Gateway of Mt. Everest