

## **Arman Community Awareness Center: Towards economic enhancement from citizen empowerment.**

Tikbang Basti is a remote settlement of Arman VDC-9, Myagdi district. The settlement was prioritized as the almost poor and marginalized when VDC access and resource mapping was carried out in the village. Thus a Citizen awareness Center was established Tikbang.

In the early days of CAC facilitation, the members were not able to introduce themselves with one another. Now they are able to discuss community issues in a group confidently. Amongst many others, one of the most important common issues of the center was how to improve on the economic and livelihood status of the member. After much discussion, member mutually agreed to utilize the resource of 30,000.00 rupees which the center receives annually for its operation from DDC. The members decided to use this resource for organic vegetable farming collectively. The CAC also decided to request agriculture service center for technical trainings.



**Photo 1 : Technician from DADO describing about the practical skills of farming.**

Local land owner Mr Ran Bahadur Budhathoki and Shak Bahadur Budhathoki supported the initiation of the members by providing 2 ropanis of their fertile land for a year on free of cost. The Agriculture service Center near Tikbang supported the CAC members by providing necessary trainings and practical skills regarding organic vegetable farming. Now the members are growing vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage, and variety of beans, radish, ginger and other variety of vegetables. The produce were sold in the nearby markets. The benefits from the earnings have helped members manage their household better and support their children's education.



**Photo-2: CAC members farming**

The DDC has now supported the CAC with 1 lakh under livelihood improvement scheme. "This fund is mobilized as a revolving fund with very nominal interest rate on the basis of business plan prepared by the members in CAC and on their own decision", said Khamisara Shrish Thapa, Social Mobilizer of Arman VDC. Two of the other members have started poultry farming and three other members started vegetable farming with the support of 20 thousand rupees from CAC.



**Photo 3: CAC members in collective effort of farming.**

The Center encompasses 30 members in which 28 members are female and remaining 2 are male. Regular discussions are made here depending on the underlying causes of poverty and other socio-economic and personal issues for citizen empowerment.

