

Field Report

Udayapur, Siraha and Saptari

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PERIOD and LOCATION:	February 1 to 4, 2017 (inclusive of travel time), Triyuga, Katari, Rajbiraj and Sambhunath Municipalities
PROJECT:	Environment Friendly Local Governance Program (EFLGP)
MAIN PERSON (S) CONTACTED:	Social Mobilisers, Katari Executive Officer, EFLGP - M&E Officers, Local Service Providers, Officials of Rajbiraj and Sambhunath
OBJECTIVES:	Discuss effectiveness of LGCDP Social Mobilisation Process Discuss EFLGP effectiveness and sustainability

During the four days field visit, interactions with social mobilisers and observation of EFLGP supported ongoing activities were carried out. The following sections highlight the interaction outcomes and progress status of ongoing activities.

1. Observation on Social Mobilization

1.1 Community Empowerment - outcome

Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) and Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) are empowered adequately to influence policies and decision making process of local bodies in Udaypur District. Access and participation of CAC and WCF over decision making process for public goods and services have been increased noticeably.

With financial support of Triyuga Municipality, CAC members in Ward no 10 of the Municipality completed a project on gravelling of earthen road recently. The project completion report was audited publicly in presence of WCF of Ward no 10. Similar practice of engaging WCF in public audit was done by Ward no 15 of the Municipality for Rs. 50,000 gravel road project.

With coordination support of LGCDP - Social Mobilisers, CAC of ward no 6 of Triyuga Municipality was linked with SAHAS, a local NGO for accessing integrated agricultural activities. Similarly, CAC of Ward no 12 and 15 of Triyuga Municipality got program support from Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) and District Cottage and Small Industries Office (DCSIO). The support extended by MEDEP and DCSIO include training on sewing and knitting, beauty parlor, running serf enterprises, incessant stick & mudha chair making, running of retail shop among others. Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal together with Triyuga Municipality supported CAC of Ward No 15 with a total number of 250 Improved Cooking Stoves.



1.2 Community Empowerment - outputs

LGCDP support of Livelihood Improvement Project (LIP) and Small Infrastructure Projects (SIP) were found very useful in raising income of local CAC members in Udaypur DDC. As an effect of successful social mobilization process, women participation in ward level planning meeting has increased considerably over the years. These days WCF are being engaged in ward level planning process. With social mobilisers efforts, 100% vital registration and social security allowance distribution to all eligible people in ward no 1 of Triyuga Municipality has been accomplished. Similarly, Social Mobilisers helped declaring Ward no 3 of Triyuga Municipality as Open Defecation Free (ODF) zone where 99% toilets are in use. Almost all CAC members in Triyuga Municipality have received citizen certificate. LGCDP approach has been found very effective towards addressing the issues of poorest of the poor people in Triyuga Municipality, said Local Service Provider Coordinator Mr Suman Pariyar. Right based approach of the LGCDP for service delivery is very relevant, said Mr. Pariyar.

1.3 Community Empowerment - Activities

CACs are being oriented on their rights and responsibilities during REFLECT classes. Moreover, CACs are supported with LIP of Rs.100000 and SIP of Rs. 300,000. The supports are being invested in subsistence use. Activities carried out under LIP and CIG

Box 1

LGCDP formed a Citizen Awareness Centre at Chyanggaa settlement of Ward no 6 of Katari Municipality in 2012. The 23-member CAC is graduated now. It means all the basic indicators of social empowerment have been fulfilled. Under Livelihood Improvement Project (LIP) and Small Infrastructure Project (SIP) support of LGCDP, the CAC constructed an irrigation pond and purchased water supply polythene pipe in 2015. The pond irrigates about two *bigaha* agricultural lands now. The CAC has also farmed fish in the pond and from where they have already earned a total of Rs.1500, though small amount last year. With the pond, the communities are doing organic vegetable farming now. Moreover, the CAC with the facilitation of Social Mobiliser was linked with Helping Hands (SAHAS - Nepal), a partner NGO of CARE Nepal.

Thanks to SAHAS-Nepal, the CAC is now engaged in various integrated pro-poor environment friendly income generation activities such as organic vegetable farming, livestock shed management to use urine as pesticides and mushroom farming



among others. "We are successful in making a lot changes in the society except reducing alcohol drinking habit of men", said a CAC member. It would be wise to upscale the successful initiatives of partnership approach for integrated development all across the country through LGCDP next phase.

supports includes goat raising, pig rearing, poultry farming, pond construction for irrigation and fish farming, vegetable farming, banana plantation, mushroom cultivation among others. WCFs are oriented towards overseeing, planning and monitoring of activities in their respective areas.

1.4 Suggestions

Social mobilisers were of the view that the CAC coverage should be expanded in Triyuga and Katari Municipalities as there are many supports needy settlements are still left out from LIP and CIG benefits of the LGCDP. Over and above of the regular assigned responsibilities, Social Mobilisers are compelled to spare considerable time in linking CAC and WCFs with other likeminded organizations to make them self reliant on income generation activities. Social Mobilisers had a demand of incremental facilities for the additional non-assigned responsibilities. Economic empowerment based activities should get priority in the next phase of LGCDP.

2. Effective Public Land Management

Public land management has been evolved as a viable strategy towards safeguarding revenue source of local government and addressing anticipated issues of climate induced flood, drought and landslide hazards in EFLGP implementation areas. In this regards, over 50 hectare encroached public land for settlement development and agricultural expansion has been reclaimed by Katari Municipality alone.

The reclaimed lands are being used productively by local bodies. For instance, two memorial parks - one each in Triyuga and Katari Municipalities has been constructed. In name of their beloved one, people are planting various tree species in the memorial park. Species planted in the Memorial Park include mango, juniper, and varieties of flowers. A total of 93 and over 300 tree saplings have been planted so far in the memorial parks of Triyuga Municipality and Katari Municipalities respectively. As

most of the parks are constructed in river banks, the choice of tree species like juniper were not found matched with the site. Further, it was said that there was an irrigation pump that functioned well until it was stolen a couple of months ago in Katari. Katari Municipality has a plan to bring a generator and motor pump soon.

Therefore, it was recommended to replace the dead and dying saplings with locally available tree species. Moreover, sustainability of the Parks after termination of EFLGP support was in question. YoNSED, a local NGO is supporting the concept of memorial park, has been requested to refund the unspent budget of the plantation work to the park management committee. Moreover, Municipalities should allocate part of their own resources for sustainable management



Memorial Parks in Katari and Triyuga & pond in Triyuga

of the parks. Water storage pond in Triyuga and irrigation pond in Chyanggaa settlement of ward no 6 of Katari Municipality were constructed in reclaimed public lands. In the starting year, Chyanggaa settlement has already been benefitted from fish farming, i.e about Rs.1500 from the irrigation pond. Katari Municipality has made an inventory of encroached and reclaimed public land, which was found as one of the innovative works of Katari Municipality that demands upscaling all across the country. Further, the documentation of public land is prerequisite of EFLG declaration. Katari Municipality reclaimed over 50 hectare encroached public land of around NRs.70 crore (US\$7 million) from land mafia in the last two years.

3. Information and Communication Technology

Triyuga Municipality Information Communication technology (ICT) work was well appreciated by the Municipality. With ICT Volunteer's initiation, the Municipality has maintained web sites, Face book, group SMS, digital display, said the Municipality Accountant Mr. Baburaja Prajapati. Others municipalities could save a lot of time and resources allocated for communication if Group SMS is replicated. According to Pratistha Pyakurel, M&E Officer in Katari this would be of huge help in EFLG as well specifically co communicate with Tole Dev Committes. Moreover, he has extended support to train municipality staff on basic knowledge of computer, web based reporting and publication of newsletters. The activities were found useful towards making municipality work more transparent and effective said, Mr. Prajapati.

4. Observation in Rajbiraj and Sambhunath Municipality

Location	Key activities observed	Features of the observed activity	Recommendations for improvement
Rajbiraj-1, (Near Rajbiraj municipality)	Bhagawati pokhari (this pond was constructed last fiscal year)	Inlet of pond Rest area (bench) and shed at the side of pond. Way to round pond. Fishery of this pond.	This is nice pond but it needs few maintainance. It can be developed into tourism area.
Rajbiraj-7,	Conservation and construction of Purni pokhari (this is the progressive program of this year)	Met with user committee who are responsible to construct and conserve this pond. According to them, there were three separate ponds which have been merged in one pond. Clearance of the weed and grey water hycienth had finished and deepening work is on going now. They explain that the drainage of Rajbiraj which has mixed up within this pond will be channelized separately and park will be constructed at the side of the pond for tourism.	It should be finished as soon as possible. There must be more careful to make channel because it is the outlet of whole area of Rajbiraj.
Rajbiraj-7	Totaram pond (this is the progressive program of this year)	Met with user group of this pond. Clearance of the pond is ongoing now. According to the Satyjib singh, sub engineer of rajbiraj municipality, fencing, and inlet outlet of this will be constructed.	Municipality must concern about the demand of local people.

<p>Sambhunath Municipality</p>	<p>1. Monitoring of Public Toilet Construction Sambhunath Municipality ward No. 6 Kathauna Bazar</p> <p>2. Monitoring of Construction of Solid Waste Management Demonstration Site Sambhunath Municipality ward No. 7 Devdhar</p> <p>3 Monitoring of Children Park Construction Sambhunath Municipality ward No. 3 Sambhunath</p> <p>4 Monitoring of Zerman Pokhari Tourist Centre Construction Site Sambhunath Municipality ward No. 3 Kanchandaha Tole</p>	<p>1. Public Toilet Construction was just completed</p> <p>2. Fencing on the Solid waste Management demonstration site was undergoing, three Compost pits were constructed, Shed for Solid waste segregation was under construction</p> <p>3. Bal park Construction Undergoing Coloring on the wall completed, Swimming pool was under construction, garden construction undergoing</p> <p>4. Fencing around the Pond was undergoing</p>	<p>1. For Public Toilet There should be access way to Public toilet There Should be hoarding board on public toilet, It should be in use immediately</p> <p>2. Solid Waste Management Demonstration Site 1. There is a need grading of 2.5 km road from highway to demonstration site.</p> <p>2. Plantation should be done around the site to maintain greenery</p> <p>3. Children Park 1. Child friendly infrastructures should be added, Public toilet near by the park should be constructed</p> <p>4. Zerman Pokhari 1. Shed construction should be done, other infrastructures for tourism attraction should be added</p>
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5. Activities Implementation Status

It seems that almost all activities planned for 2073/74 are implemented smoothly and if all goes well 100% physical progress against the plan will be achieved. About 15% activities of a total of 250 projects in Triyuga have already been completed and agreements for another 60% activities have been signed. Similarly, out of planned 16 activities of EFLGP in Katari, agreement for 30% activities have already been signed and user committees formed for another 44% activities. The other 30% activities were under agreement preparation process. Out of the 19 activities of EFLGP in Rajbiraj municipality, 36% activities are ongoing, 21% activities have signed for agreement. In Sambhunath Municipality There are altogether 8 activities under EFLGP, out of which 25% activities were completed. Remaining 75% activities were under implementation stage.

6. Miscellaneous

- Both Katari and Triyuga Municipalities have adopted computer receipt system. The collected money is being deposited in the nearby bank the next day.
- Regarding the municipality advance system in Katari, upto 30% advance has been given to construction committees, particularly for large sized project but in case of Triyuga zero advance policies have been adopted.
- In Siraha, Sanautha VDC was yet to settle EFLGP advance payment of FY 2071/72 and FY 2072/73. In this connection, after consultation with Siraha District Local Development Officer together with the DDC Officials, an investigation committee was formed for FY2072/73. Based on the investigation committee's recommendation, the advance settlement process will be begun. As said by the LDO, advance settlement process for FY2071/72 has already been initiated. Therefore, it was noted that within two-three all advance will be settled.
- 30% advance has been given to the user group and NGO by Rajbiraj municipality.
- In Sambhunath Municipality Evaluation based Payment (zero advance) policies have been adopted for all activities of EFLGP

Field observation Rajbiraj and Sambhunath Municipality



7. Conclusion

Social mobilization process has resulted in empowerment of citizen awareness center and ward citizen forums. Beneficiary communities are shifted gradually from "social transformation to economic transformation" approach. Public lands are being managed very innovatively under ELFG Programs. Some of the EFLGP supported public land management programs are being linked with income generation activities of citizen awareness center. The upcoming LGCDP and EFLG programs should strengthen the capacity of local communities towards adopting natural

resources based income and employment generation activities. LGCDP supported CAC coverage needs further expansion and role of WCF should be strengthened towards planning, monitoring and accountability processes.

8. Next steps

- LGCDP - Transition Phase should put priority on social mobilization process that focus on economic empowerment of CAC implementing sustainable environment friendly income and employment generation activities
- LGCDP - Transition Phase should expand more CACs as there are many poorest of the poor settlements are left out from the benefit of government
- Efforts should be paid towards linking ongoing income generation activities of CAC groups with other likeminded organization so as to make them self reliant
- It is wise to upscale integrated environment friendly development activities like in Chyanggaa settlement of Katari Municipality all across the country
- Public land management can be made effective through implementing various innovative activities such as developing database, constructing memorial park and rehabilitating ponds. Therefore, EFLGP-next phase program should upscale this kind of innovation all across the country.
- The documentation of detailed information of encroached and reclaimed public land, which was found as one of the innovative works of Katari Municipality needs replication
- Aware YONSED - Local NGO to make arrangement for better management of the memorial park so that the innovative activity can be implemented sustainably
- Undertake follow up of the advance settlement of a VDC of Siraha DDC
- There can be developing tourism area, exercise spot and other innovative activities in Bagawati pokhari of Rajbiraj municipality.
- Children Park and Zerman Pokhari both has high potential of tourism so that they can become good source of income to the municipality if other required activities for tourism attraction are added.