

Field Report

Sarlahi and Chitwan

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PERIOD and LOCATION:	March 1 to 4, 2017 (inclusive of travel time), Parwanipur, Lalbandi, Malangawa, Ratnanagar, Madhi, Naaryani and Chitrawan municipalities and Sarlahi DDC,
PROJECT:	Environment Friendly Local Governance Program (EFLGP)
MAIN PERSON (S) CONTACTED:	Executive Officers, Social Mobilisers, Municipality officials, Local Service Providers, Local Communities
OBJECTIVES:	Discuss EFLGP effectiveness and sustainability Discuss effectiveness of LGCDP Social Mobilisation Process

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 and field observation outcomes.

Parwanipur of Sarlahi District

There are a total of 305 household in ward no 4 of Parwanipur VDC of Sarlahi District. The settlement was established in 1972 since when malaria was eradicated from the Terai. With an objective of accessing drinking water and creating wallowing facilities for buffaloes, local communities constructed a pond in public land in 1979 when the settlement was in crisis of water. To uphold multiple use value of the pond, the local communities got Environment Friendly Local Governance Program (EFLGP) support to increase volume, heightened boundary wall, maintain inlet & outlet and plant fruit tree species all along the periphery of the pond. With this the economic and environmental value of the pond has increased greatly.



Multipurpose Pond in Parwanipur

The ponds have multiple use value. It is a source of drinking and wallowing water for cattle. Having regular source of water in the village, people are opting improved milking buffaloes these days. Every day they sell about 600 liter buffalo milk in local market. Similarly, the pond has been contracted annually with Rs.100000 for fish. According to local people, due to the pond, water has been recharged below at the southern part of the pond and it has resulted in greenery and more biomass production. Moreover, the pond is providing habitat for wildlife species like duck, deer, wild boar, blue bull, etc.

Poorest of the poor segment of the village were yet to reap the pond benefit as they do not have capacity to rear improved buffalo and own adequate agricultural land for irrigation. People put forth demand for various programs such as river control, temple renovation, among others. It was reported that with the support of President Chure Program, river protection work was implemented at the bank of Kalinjor River, adjacent to the village. However, these activities were carried out without coordination with local government and local communities, said local.

EFLGP support was instrumental to address the real demand of local people, said Mr. Bharat Dahal a local resident. Further, Mr. Dahal said as the EFLG Program is just initiation in this village; it should be continued for showing visible impact.

Lalbandi of Sarlahi District

Under EFLGP support, Lalbandi Municipality has implemented various environment friendly local development activities such as park construction, Hatbazar maintenance; landfills site development, tree plantation, awareness raising, river bank protection, water source conservation, maintaining multiple use ponds, and memorial park maintenance. As program is just in initiation in Lalbandi, it needs longer time to show impact, said Municipality Executive Officer Mr. Hum Bahadur Thapa. Moreover, EFLGP support was very effective for public land management and raising awareness among local communities towards adopting environment friendly behaviors, said Mr. Thapa. Coordinating line agencies work to harmonize EFLGP activities was very challenging to Lalbandi Municipality. Most of the EFLGP activities got matching fund from the Municipality.

Malangwa Municipality and Sarlahi DDC

While interacting with Executive Officer (EO) and his team in Malangwa Municipality, it was said that road construction and canal improvement were two priority activities of the municipality. The municipality was planning to declare one environment friendly ward in the near future. EFLGP supported in public toilet was yet to be completed. Therefore, it is wise to release next installment from EFLGP for the Municipality in condition that they complete the public toilet first. According to Planning Officer in Sarlahi District Development Committee, results of the EFLGP are being gradually visualized therefore time of the program should be extended. He further said, project sites of EFLGP are located geographically in diverse areas and hence regular monitoring is very difficult. Out of 1000 activities planned by Sarlahi DDC for FY 2073/74, only about 20 activities were completed during the time when we visited.



Meeting with Municipality Officials in Malangwa

Ratnanagar Municipality

In an average 12 EFLGP projects are being implemented in each ward of Ratnanagar Municipality. The Municipality has already declared Ward no 8 as environment friendly. Two more wards were in process of declaration.

Awareness among stakeholders on the importance of environment friendly development activities for improving health and hygiene have raised considerably after implementation of the EFLG Program. Tendency of burning plastic at public places has been reduced substantially. Similarly, solid waste segregation has been initiated from household level. Moreover, solid waste management programs are mainstreamed into local development planning and budgeting process of Ratnanagar Municipality. Tole Lane Organizations (TLOs), of Ratnanagar Municipality has

started demanding budget with the Municipality for solid waste management. The other impacts of the EFLGP includes Solar Street lamp are adopting LED bulb, and demand for environment friendly development activities such as cleanup campaign, bio-gas, cattle shed improvement from citizen awareness and ward citizen forum has increased. Recently, in recognition of best performance in sustainable environment management, ward no 8 of Ratnanagar Municipality got Rs. 5.5. Million from Chitwan DDC.

EFLGP should be viewed as campaign rather than a project. Campaign can change the course instead of termination. Therefore, the next phase of the EFLGP should focus towards promoting adoption of advance EFLG indicators. It was reported that LGCDP - Social Mobilizers Conference was held a few days back in Chitwan. According to Social Mobilisers, they had concluded the conference with three demands to be fulfilled from the government. First, their salary should be increased. Second, they should be retained by the respective Municipality. Lastly, they should get employment priority in LGCDP next phase. Moreover, they don't want to be attached with Local Service Provider (LSP) in the coming modality

Madhi Municipality

Interacted with EO, M&E Officer, Social Mobiliser, Engineer, Buffer Zone User Committee Chairperson. It was reported that Local messengers (katwal) are mobilized in each settlement of Madhi Municipality to inform local to participate in public meetings.

In total 36 local messengers were in existence in Madhi. There are a total of seven CACs and 49 TLOs in the Municipality. All 49 TLOs carry out clean up campaign twice in a month, according to the Municipality Officials.



Meeting in Madhi Municipality Office

Municipality wards are gradually being declared as plastic free zone. Praza communities, poorest of the poor segment of society are being engaged in producing environment friendly bags. The bags are being purchased by the Municipality with Rs.50/bag. CAC's own saving is mobilized in preparing environment friendly bags.

Social Mobilizers said they were overloaded as they have to do municipality as well as community work simultaneously. According to them compare to the given task, the salary was very low.

There are many organizations in Madhi Municipality who work with the CACs these days. The organization and programs that work with CAC, TLOs and WCF include Helvetas, DLSO, DAO, Hariyo Ban Prorgam, among others. CACs are engaged in various income generation activities such as vegetable farming at home yard, river bank farming, and poultry farming among other.

CACs are heading towards entrepreneurship life style from traditional subsistence level. A CAC is rearing upto 40 goats in Madhi Municipality, said Social Mobilisers. CAC members Ms. Sarita Regmi and Ms. Sabitri Regmi are being acknowledged in various social events as chief guest and guest. Social status has been heightened since when they are represented and empowered through CAC. They are represented in decision making position of social institutions like in chairperson of school management committee.

The other issues raised by the Municipality Officials include management of sand, gravel and stone and waste. Early warning system installed last year was not functional as internet service was not in use and even no technician was assigned to manage the early warning system in Madhi

Narayani Municipality

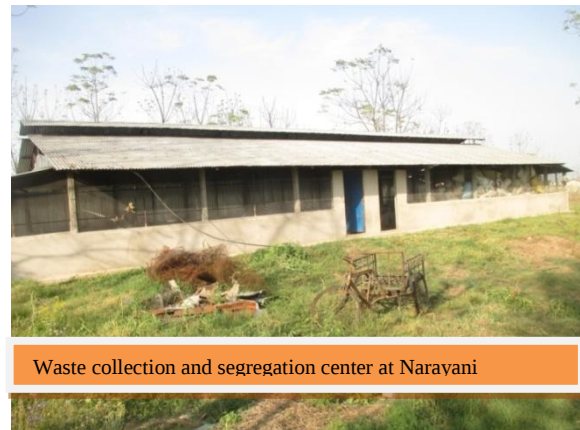
Under EFLGP, plantation, cattle shed improvement and plastic management are key activities implemented by Narayani Municipality. Due to EFLGP, the impact and awareness level has been raised at the community level.

Ward level plan includes environment friendly development activities. Cooperatives are implementing environment friendly training from their own income sources. Ward no 1 has allocated Rs.50, 000 for environment awareness activity in FY 2073/74.

CACs were supported with goats in two places. Fish and maize farming has done by a CAC in leased land. The fish farming yielded encouraging results. However, goat farming due to imported goat and lack of adequate technical support were found unsuccessful.

M&E Officer together with SM and WCF has created awareness through orientation training at tole level. Solid wastes are being segregated at household level. Non bio-degradable solid goes into segregation center. Plastic and recyclable wastes sell and the hazardous they dump.

Community based solid waste management program was found very successful in Narayani Municipality. In total three locals are employed for segregation with RS.12500 per months' salary. Hard plastic sell in Rs.40/kg and soft in rs.20/kg and polythene bag in rs.6/kg



Chitrawan Municipality

Activities such as memorial park, Rani Pokhari developing as touristic center, water recharge centers - 7, plantation in coordination with DFO, effective waste management centre at ward no 5 and exhibition center were the successful program of EFLGP in Chitrawan Municipality.

At least seven more wards will be declared as environment friendly by this fiscal year. The Municipality is heading towards zero waste municipalities. Ward no 2, 6 and 9 have already been declared as plastic free zones. EFLGP is mainstreamed into local development planning process.

According to Municipality Executive Officer, there is a symbiotic role between Social Mobiliser and the Municipality. SM's role towards supporting the Municipality work is very positive. When LGCDP phase out then half of the municipality work will be phased out, as there will be no SM, said EO of the Municipality. Therefore, requested to extend LGCDP tenure.

Best practices

1. Community based solid waste management in Narayani Municipality and Zero waste management policy adopted by Chitrawan Municipality were found very effective in managing solid wastes. These kind of initiatives need to be upscaled all across the country.
2. Community organizations such as Citizen Awareness Center, Ward Citizen Forum and Cooperatives have started allocating budget for waste management in Ratnanagar Municipality
3. Engagement of CAC in pond conservation for fish farming in Narayani Municipality and environment friendly bag production in Madhi were found very effective for raising income and creating employment opportunities at local level.
4. CAC and WCF are being developed as common organization of various agencies for undertaking environment friendly development activities in Madhi Municipality
5. Mobilization of TLO for raising awareness and undertaking cleanup campaign was found very effective in Madhi Municipality
6. Demand for environment friendly development activities have created from household, CAC and WCF level in Ratnanagar Municipality. The demands have been reflected into local annual development plans. Further, solid waste management has been initiated from Household level in Ratnanagar Municipality
7. CAC and WCF are being recognized as target group of various development organization in Madhi Municipality that needs to be replicated

Issues

1. Local bodies are yet to expedite declaration of more and more wards as environment friendly wards
2. SMs were of the view that their salary structure needs to be reviewed in the changing context when the same qualification in the government service receives more salary. Moreover they wanted to be internalized in the Municipality structure.

3. LGCDP support for goat rearing was not found effective in Narayani Municipality.
4. Poorest of the poor sections of the society are yet to reap the EFLGP benefits in Parwanipur VDC
5. Coordinating line agencies work to harmonize EFLGP activities would yield effective results in Lalbandi Municipality
6. Malangwa Municipality need to priorities EFLGP activities so that more and more wards and settlements can be declared as environment friendly entities
7. Expedite the project implementation process in Sarlahi DDC so that timely budget can be spent

Recommendations

1. Best practices should be further dig out and upscaled in other parts of the country in the EFLGP next phase
2. EFLGP activities in Ratnanager should focus advance indicators in the next phase
3. Massive awareness campaign should be launched upto household level to create demand for environment friendly development activities in local development plans.
4. Engage poorest of the poor sections of the society in EFLGP activities in Parwanipur VDC
5. LGCDP support for goat rearing should be discouraged instead should promote natural resources based income and employment opportunity generation like fish farming and environment friendly bag production
6. Extend EFLGP work for another few years to realize fullest impact of the program
7. EFLG Coordination Committee should be made more functional. Coordinating line agencies work to harmonize EFLGP activities would yield effective results in Lalbandi Municipality
8. Malangwa Municipality need to priorities EFLGP activities so that more and more wards and settlements can be declared as environment friendly entities
9. Expedite the project implementation process in Sarlahi DDC so that timely budget can be spent

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