



# SAHAS Newsletter



Issue 8



**Biofuel ToT &  
Expert Trainings** ②



**Effect of Home  
Gardening Training** ③

## Support to Fisling bridge accident victims

On December 16, SAHAS-Nepal provided relief support to the victims of the bridge accident in Fisling. The bridge joining Bhumlichowk VDC, of Gorkha with Fisling VDC of Chitwan, had collapsed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October leaving 2 people dead, 1 person missing and 31 people injured. Despite pledges from the government to provide support to the victims for medical treatment, little had been done to provide relief to the victims. When news about the poor victims being unable to avail of medical treatment reached SAHAS-Nepal, 2 severely injured victims, Ramesh Chepang and Rasmila Gurung, were each supported with Rs. 50,000. Of the total money supported to the victims, the advisor of SAHAS-Nepal, Claudia Mahneke provided Rs.20,000 (with support from colleagues in Germany) and SAHAS-Nepal provided Rs. 80,000. Chief District Officer



of Gorkha, Kamal Bhattarai, was the chief guest at the event. He assured the local people of rebuilding the bridge very soon in the future. After receiving the money, the victims expressed their plans to use the money for further

### EED merging with bread for the world in 2012

In 2012 EED will merge with Bread for the world, a campaign of the protestant churches and free churches in Germany to bring about justice for the poor.

As decided in 2008 both organisations will jointly provide all instruments for professional development work. By means of financial contributions, personnel involvement, scholarships and consultancy services, disaster management, national development politics, the new service called “ Bread for the world – Church development service” supports the development work of churches, Christian and secular organisations. In this worldwide partnership, the new service is participating in establishing a just society. It takes and promotes action to arouse and enhance people's willingness to stand up to overcome need, poverty, persecution and violence.

EED will relocate its office from Bonn to Germany's capital Berlin. The Relocation will start from June 2012 and will be completed by 2013.

### Open Defecation zone declaration

On the initiation of the people from Magri VDC of Mugu and with support from CEFALS project of SAHAS-Nepal, Magri village has been declared as an Open Defecation Free (ODF) zone on February 2, 2012. The program was coordinated by Deuraj Baduwal of toilet construction committee with representatives from Rara FM, KIRDAC Nepal, different political parties, Village Development Committees, Schools, District Health Office, and other people from the community.

This type of ODF declaration programme is the third of its kind in Mugu and second in Magri VDC. SAHAS-Nepal had earlier supported for toilet construction for each household and other 2 groups in the VDC affiliated with SAHAS-Nepal were each supported with Rs.5000. More than 500 people had attended the programme at the end of which, a group meal was also organised.



## Disaster Risk Management training

With support from FELM-Nepal; Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal and SAHAS-Nepal, jointly organised “Disaster Risk Management Training” in Kathmandu from December 22-25. 12 participants from Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal and 15 from SAHAS-Nepal had participated in the training. Participants learnt about risk management during earthquake, fire and flood. Besides, they also learnt about first aid treatment during disasters. Training materials were given and practical classes in the training helped participants to learn effectively.



## Civic Education Project-III workshop

A 2-day-workshop programme was organised jointly by SAHAS-Nepal, Shtri Shakti and Sansthatag Bikas sanjal in Sauraha, Chitwan from December 6 to 8, 2012. The first day of the workshop focused on the orientation of the 3rd phase of the project while advocacy was the main topic for discussion on the second day. The 3rd phase of the CEP was recently approved by EED for implementation in 15 districts of Nepal.

## Participation in FELM-Nepal's workshop with partner organisation

A 5-day-workshop was organised by FELM-Nepal from September 15-19 in Gokarna Forest Resort. 10 partner organisations working with FELM-Nepal participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop held annually was to give information of various projects implemented by partner organisations. Discussions were also held on various topics related to climate change, human rights and other development issues. Also, discussions were held on future plans of FELM-Nepal and its guidelines. The workshop provided SAHAS-Nepal an opportunity to establish linkage and cooperation with other partner organisations and also helped to learn about the status of FELM-Nepal. Saban Shrestha, the acting Executive Director of SAHAS-Nepal, Somaya Gurung, Finance and Administrative Officer; and Kashinath Chiluwal, Project Coordinator of ELLEP, participated in the workshop.

## Biofuel ToT & Expert Trainings

From December 16 to 20, PEEDA & SAHAS-Nepal jointly organized two training sessions at the Jatropha Research Centre of the Everest Bio-Diesel Company in Chumling.

The ToT (Training of Trainers) was organized for female and male farmers from Okhaldhunga who might be helpful in transferring the knowledge and skills as “multipliers” to other farmers and community members. The training focused mainly on the technical issues of Jatropha cultivation; however knowledge was transferred also for processing and marketing the plant oil.

The ToT is seen as a crucial element of the Sustainability Action Plan of the project and gave the participants a deeper understanding of the complexity of the biofuel world.

The Expert Training was intended to build the capacity of the PEEDA and SAHAS staff involved directly or indirectly in the Biofuel Consolidation Project. It gave a compact upgrade knowledge of the latest developments of Jatropha cultivation, production, post-harvest aspects and its economic and environmental benefits and challenges. This was based on the experience of current biofuel projects in Nepal, India and other parts of the world. The participants learned about the latest technical progress in biofuel



production & processing and about the fast moving developments on international policy platforms. The team got a good knowledge on how this technology could be efficiently used in the Nepali context, particularly in the hilly regions of the country.

Both the trainings were facilitated by Dr. Khem Raj Bhattarai, a leading expert in the Jatropha Biofuel field of Nepal.



## Effect of Home Gardening Training

Bimala Syangtang, a member of Khotar Sunaulo Krisak Samuha is an energetic farmer of Nallu-9 VDC of south Lalitpur. She was one of the participants of three day Ecological Home Garden Training conducted by the LIFT Project, Lalitpur. After the participation in the training, remarkable changes have taken place.

She has grown 20-22 different vegetables and fruits plant in her home garden plot. Earlier, she used to grow only Rapeseed and radish but now she is happy to be able to grow so many varieties of vegetables and fruits in her garden. This has increased diversity within her plot and her family no longer has to buy vegetables.

The plot has a drum for collection of manure and urine of livestock which she uses for the organic control of insects and pests. There is also a pit for collection of waste water in order to utilize the waste water from cooking, washing and cleaning. She also uses Effective Microorganisms (EM) which makes the cultivation organic. Her mother who is 70 years old spends most of her time in the plot and she has found a good way to utilize her time.



The plot has been exemplary for other members of the community and they are also willing to learn the technique and implement them practically. Bimala says she is very happy with her efforts so far and is willing to teach other members of the group.

## Perfect example for kalikot farmer



Dalsur Shahi, resident of Ramnakot-3 is a teacher by occupation but has established himself as a successful farmer producing apples. He participated in the 5 day Jam, Jelly & Juice making training organised by CEFALS Project of SAHAS-Nepal. Similarly, he also participated in the 4 day study tour to Phoimahadev where he learnt about apple processing and storage.

After the training and the study tour, he was encouraged to utilize the excess apples produced in his farm by processing them to produce jam, juice and jelly. He took the initiative to market it in the nearby market of Jumla, Nagma, Manma and Kathmandu as well. Selling of these products has enabled him to earn about Rs. 35000 in one season. He has used his earnings to maintain his orchard as well as plant more saplings, which clearly indicates his intension to continue this enterprise in the future.

This was not all; he was even awarded for his products during the agricultural product exhibition fair held in the district headquarter at Manma. After this, he became well known in Palata area of Kalikot district due to which the VDC assembly honored him with Rs. 1,00,000 for his sincerity and hard work.

Today, he has become a role model for farmers in Kalikot district.



## Celebration of Lhosar 2012 in Mugu

Topla group and Laligurans Farmers' group in Mugu, with support from SAHAS-Nepal jointly organized a programme in Mugu from January 29 to February 1, 2012 on the occasion of Lhosar festival 2012. Programmes such as awareness raising inter group deuda competition, quiz contest, bow and arrow competition and volleyball competition were organized on the occasion. More than 1500 people had participated in the event including representatives from different political parties, Village Development Committee, local schools, Village Health post, District Police Office, and media personnel. Participants performed deuda songs on issues such as sanitation, modern farming practices, food security and various other matters for awareness creation.



The 3-day-program on the occasion of Lhosar festival was exclusively covered by Rara F.M and other local F.M stations.

## Orientation programme on "Right to Food"



FIAN-Nepal and SAHAS-Nepal jointly organized an orientation programme on "Right to Food" in Mugu district from December 18 to 20, 2011.

Representatives from various organisations working for food security and right to food in Mugu district had participated in the 2-day-programme. Participants included project leaders, political party representatives, journalists and media personnel as well as other members from the community. The main objective of the programme was to give information about the situation of right to food as well as the economic, social and cultural rights in Nepal. The program also aimed to discuss about these rights in Mugu district and collect information about the food security situation in the district. The program was facilitated by Indira Shankar, Programme Officer at FIAN-Nepal, and Satya Toyana, Advocate and EC member of FIAN-Nepal. Chief of the District Agriculture Development Office in Mugu, Keshab Adhikari was also invited in the programme to give an overview of the food security situation in the district. The programme was managed by SAHAS-Nepal, Mugu.

On the last day of the programme, district network on the right to food was formed in order to address the issues of food rights violation in the district. The network is an open network, and therefore various organisations and interested people can easily become a member. Janasamudayik Sewa Kendra, Mugu, a local N.G.O was handed the responsibility of establishing a secretariat of the district network in Mugu.

## Congratulations



We would like to congratulate Ms. Bineeta Gurung, Documentation Officer at Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS), Nepal, for being awarded the "Nepal Bidhya Padak, Ga" by the honorable president of Nepal on the occasion of Education Day, September 8, 2011, for securing first position in B.Sc. Agriculture, 2009 from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University.

**Brahmadhoj Gurung**  
Chairperson  
And  
**Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS), Nepal**  
family