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 22nd 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...
Disaster Risk Management training

With support from FELM-Nepal; Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal and SAHAS-Nepal, jointly organised “Disaster Risk Management Training” in Kathmandu from December 22-25. 12 participants from Sansthagat 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.

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 famers 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.
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 intention 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.
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, Tribhuwan University.

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