

Laligurash RBG, Temma VDC Khotang

Laligurash RBG is one of the successful groups of Temma VDC in Khotang. Fifteen laborious people comprising 7 female and 8 male are unified in this group. One Dalit family head is also representing the group. Temma VDC located towards the south takes about 4 hours of walk from Diktel Bazaar, the district headquarters of Khotang.

Before the programme, most of RBG members had no clear idea about income generating opportunities within their settlements. They neither realised the importance nor the trust on collective group endeavours in improving livelihoods. They were unknown about the group and its importance. But the provision of programme compelled them to form groups and work together. Accordingly, with little hope of betterment, they formed a group to involve in road construction works with the guidance of NGO social mobilizers. While they involved in teamwork basically in road construction works they realized that combine force might deliver significant volume of work, which would beyond imagination in the case of an individual.



Group members engaged in construction works

After engaging in road building works in nearby locations from their settlements, group members began to collect part of their wage earnings in their group saving funds. Now the group saving is NRs 202,915 with per capita saving of NRs 13,526, which is ever increasing with the engagement in construction works. The group is dedicated to construction works and work regular, except in special occasions. The average monthly earning of the group has remained in a range of NRs 95,000 - 1,60,000, with an average per capita monthly earning of NRs 9,000 of each member of the group.

Almost all members are adding 2-4 livestock (goat/pig/buffalo/bull) from wage earnings. Four members of the group are keeping livestock and two cultivating vegetable commercially. By the involvement of such income generating activities, the group income has reached at NRs 122,800 up till now. All the group members are found very motivated to create alternative means of livelihoods after road completion scenario, where no more employment opportunities will be available in the local vicinities.



An IG activity: Akabare chilly cultivation

Out of 15 twelve households succeeded to purchase the solar *Tuki* (light) at the price of NRs 3,500. Likewise Mr Mahesh Khatri purchased solar panel set at NRs 36, 000. They have now realised that these lightings have helped improve children's education. They are using smokeless improved cooking stoves. Similarly, they have started building toilets. Group members say that every 10 members of each group all along the road corridor have replaced roofs by CGI sheet roofing by spending NRs 8,500 in an average. They proudly say that they are now free from loan and have been able to save part of their wage earnings and to initiate some sort of IGA on their own. They have set an example of strength of teamwork and seemed to continue intact in future as well. They are feeling better social prestige in the society now.

Man Bahadur Thapa, Dandagoun-1 Khotang

Mr Man Bahadur Thapa of Suryajyoti RBG is an example of successful member in Dandagoun VDC. He involved in the group as the road construction works mobilising RBGs progressed nearer to his place of living. Before labour employment in road building he didn't have any income source. Since his economic status was not so strong, he had to borrow loan from local moneylender in higher interest rates. It was difficult for him sustaining his family life. From his land he was able to manage food only for 9 months in a year.

When RAP started its implementation in this VDC, he involved in a road-building group named Suryajyoti RBG. He got employment in road building works. He began to save wage money earned from the labour work. Now, he has saved NRs 8,500 in the group fund.

Beside the roadwork he is involved in other income generating activities too. He participated in different types of training and got agricultural technical know-how. Before the project, he used to follow traditional type of farming system and now he has introduced new crops and new production technology (see picture to the right). He has got the support of his family too. He cultivates vegetables like cauliflower, broccoli, tomato akabare, cabbage, ginger, onion, cucumber, squash and four seasonal beans.



Mr Thapa says that he had borrowed NRs 2 lakhs loan before. After RAP by the income from wages and IGA activities he returned this loan slowly. He had purchased one and half tola (15 gram) gold from Diktel Bazaar and he also purchased house land (half kattha) land in Gaighat.

He always says, 'I am very satisfied with this programme because it generated employment, provided ideas that helped improve my family life'. Now his 5 children are going to school regularly and he doesn't have problem of money for household expenses.

His activity in IGAs, construction work and social work is increasing. He plays active role in group meetings and use to share his experiences and ideas. He is very happy because he is recognized and reputed by society now.