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Empowering the disempowered

Manoj Harijan, a Dalit from Dhankauli-5, Kapilvastu, who could hardly earn Rs 24 a day previously, now earns Rs 150 a day. He is no longer a Haliya (bonded labour). He says he is now free from the torture he used to get from the local landlords. He is mulling to buy another Rickshaw to raise his families. "Life has a different meaning for me now", says elated Harijan.

Gopal Bahadur Magar, a member of ethnic Magar Community, Rampur VDC, Ramechhap earns a decent living from his Nursery. He received trainings on nursery management and he now runs a nursery in his village, providing seedlings of different fodders and fruits.

Malati Lama, a woman in her fifties, Lalpur-6, Siraha runs a retail business. A former wage labourer- Lama wishes to expand business. "If poor gets a little bit of support, they will definitely improve their living conditions," Says Lama.

Harijan, Magar, and Lama are mere three of thousands of dalits, ethnic groups and women who have benefited from the PAF's initiatives aimed at addressing exclusion.

PAF, established for the purpose of poverty alleviation under the World Bank's support, has recognized that

exclusion is one of the underpinning factors of poverty in Nepal. Hence, inclusion of community excluded by the virtue of gender, caste and ethnic origin is one of its major goals. It has adopted a modality to address the issue through the implementation of targeted programme.

Under the programme operation modality, PAF has made sure that the Community Organizations that implement PAF programme have sufficient participation of excluded groups.

PAF has channelled its programmes in poor households, like that of Harijan, Magar and Lama, who are defined as the households whose food grain production from self-operated land and wage earnings are sufficient to meet the food requirement of the family for less than a year.

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PAF NEWSLETTER

veevika

MARCH 2007

JOHN W. MELLOR*
PRESIDENT

JOHN MELLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.

Complementarities between PAF and APP

Establishing complementarities between programmes designed to reduce poverty and programmes to accelerate agricultural growth rate are complex, but important. This write-up divulges into the key aspects of this relationship.

Growth is Essential to Break the Back of Poverty

Cross-country and cross-state studies of Ravallion and his colleagues at the World Bank, Timmer and his colleagues at Harvard University and Thirtle at DFID have shown that rural and agricultural growth contributes more to reduce poverty than urban or industrial growth. Mellor and his colleagues have provided insight of this relationship and have emphasized on support to the rural non-farm sector for growing farm incomes. The Indian data also shows that direct action programmes have little aggregate effect on poverty reduction due mainly to population growth, as it expands the number of poor faster than what the poverty programmes can lift out of poverty. Hence, the growth programmes, which utilize public expenditure to empower private resources, particularly land and labour of farmers, break the back of poverty.

Shortcomings to Growth

However, there are severe shortcomings of growth in poverty reduction. Specialized poverty alleviation programmes can counter those by dealing with following gaps.

Firstly, there are substantial lags from Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP) type investment in the growth of farm production and income generation. Lags exist because public spending takes few years before actually triggering the growth of farm income. Statistical analyses have shown that such time lag could range from 3 to 4 year. Hence, poverty programmes can provide some relief while the growth process gets underway.

Secondly, the agricultural growth strategy works where modern high-yield crop varieties or high value crop's can be grown. In Nepal, it can work in most part of the Terai, much of the middle hills, and some of the high mountain region. However,



the soils must be responsive to increase yield and transportation service must be good to transform the yield into income. In unresponsive areas, anti-poverty programmes can play a major role.

Thirdly, opportunities in the rural on-farm sector cannot be grasped by some people, particularly the very poor who are short of capital for even low capital intensive ventures. In such a case, poverty programmes can contribute to prosperity by expanding market.

Fourthly, substantial numbers of poor are bound to be left out of the growth and its multiplier effects. Special poverty programmes can reach those groups. Those programmes should be tailored to target special characteristics each of the groups left out of benefits of the growth.

A substantial portion of the rural poor have small plots of land, which are insufficient to provide full employment or income. As rural non-farm jobs dominate both labour and income, such farmers tend to take less interest in increasing farm production. However, even if they only earn one-quarter of their income from such plots, programmes that double their yields would generate a substantial rise in income. That is a worthwhile effort for poverty reduction. Hence, establishing complementarities between the APP and the PAF is very necessary to break the back of poverty. □

** Prof. Mellor, a renowned Agri. Economist, was involved in the formulation of APP in Nepal.*

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PAF Gets New VC

"We wish that PAF reaches every poor household as earliest as possible." -Dr. Yadav

Government of Nepal, on January 11, 2007, nominated Dr Ram Prakash Yadav, 60, as the new Vice Chairman of PAF. A policy Analyst, Dr Yadav has more than 30 years of professional experiences in the field of agriculture, resource management and rural development policy analysis and programme implementation. Dr Yadav, a Ph.D in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, USA, took charge of his new assignment from January 25, 2007. In past, Dr Yadav has worked as a consultant with the World Bank, ADB/M, IFAD, FAO, GTZ, SNV and several organizations. He served International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as the first Deputy Director (1984-1991) and was a member of National Planning Commission, from 1991--1994. He was the founding member of Agricultural Projects Services Centre (APROSC), where he served as Executive Director in 1979. He also worked as Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington D.C. from 1982 to 1984 and as a Country Director of Winrock International in Nepal. He has authored a score of books, research reports and papers to his credit.

In an interview with Jeevika, Dr Yadav shared his plans and vision to drive PAF towards its goal of poverty reduction. Excerpt of the interview is as follows:

JEEVIKA: You have over four decades of experience in the field of development. How do you find your new assignment in PAF?

Dr YADAV: In my experiences in the past while working with several institutions, I understand that we have always tried to solve the problems of poverty through the approach of SARVODAYA, i.e through the prosperity of all. In doing so most of our efforts remained at the top and we could not address the issues of hard-core poor at the bottom. Nepal began its rural development based on Community Development Approach of India in 1958. A few economic or social infrastructural programs were carried out but it didn't address the poor directly. Similarly the Integrated Rural Development Programs of 70's and 80's did the same thing. Moreover, there were no continuity of the program and no agency took ownership of those programs. Sectoral line agencies were involved but IRD was not internalized in their regular program. So in spite of very large resources invested in the IRD, we don't see visible sustainable impact except development of a few infrastructures which couldn't be even maintained by the community.



Now at PAF, I find a clear targeting of the poor to whom this program is addressed. It has a unique combination of five major characteristics, namely (i) Antodaya i.e. bringing prosperity of the poor who are at the bottom of the economic ladder, (ii) Social Inclusion, (iii) Transparency, (iv) Demand Driven programmes and (v) Direct Funding to the Community Organizations (COs). So we are very confident that this program will help uplift the economic and social conditions of people at the lowest rung of the economic ladder. We have engaged competent local organizations as our partner organization (POs) to carry out PAF's activities with COs. We believe, for the success of PAF, the Government of Nepal must give this program the highest priority in its development agenda. We are very pleased to find that our Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala raised the issue of poverty in the SAARC Regional Meeting in New Delhi recently and urged for the highest level of commitment to be given to poverty alleviation in the SAARC countries.

PAF is a young and dynamic institution, equipped with competent team of dedicated and competent professionals. So, I am enjoying my new assignment very much.

JEEVIKA: What are your immediate priorities and vision for PAF?

Dr YADAV: PAF has committed itself in transforming lives of the poor. We plan to expand its activities to as many households as possible, so that poor, excluded and underprivileged communities in other districts could also have the access to the same opportunity. We are currently working on long term vision/plan and accordingly we plan to extend PAF programmes in 55 districts from 25 districts. Our immediate priorities, hence, are to prepare the foundation for implementation of the future plan, besides continuing with the implementation of the present programs.

We also want to interact with other agencies and programmes which are complementary to PAF programmes in the districts. Thus we want to have cordial relation with District Development Committees, Village Development Committees and sectoral line agencies. We will take every initiative in developing such relations and links with other organizations. PAF can't go alone. It needs goodwill and support from all.

JEEVIKA: Development experts and the World Bank have much praised the initiatives and outreach of PAF. How do you plan to ensure sustainability of PAF programmes/projects in the long run?

Dr YADAV: Ownership of programme, capacity building and empowerment of communities hold key to sustainability of programme. Since PAF programmes are generated from communities themselves, there is no question over its ownership. Communities are taking ownership of this program. So, our plan is more focused on capacity building and empowerment aspects. PAF has ever supported and facilitated skill development of targeted communities. We would like to intensify that. We are also exploring with the communities organizations, and our partner organizations (NGOs working with us) on various structures and models of COs and their relationship with facilitators and other stakeholders, so that their stronger financial, technical and managerial capacity could be ensured in future. The goal of PAF is to help the poor find a sustainable path out of poverty and close up the PAF.

JEEVIKA: Political leaders at local level at times have raised concerns over weak coordination between local development agencies and PAF. How do you plan to address that concern?

Dr YADAV: We understand campaign against extreme poverty can not be won in isolation. PAF takes local bodies as its important stakeholders and partners. PAF's working process ensures their active participation and guidance so as to reach out the targeted poor households. It will further intensify interaction with them, take their inputs and seek cooperation for making its programmes effective. We will explore the possibility of building stronger ties with all the stakeholders.

Moreover, the development of the strong and democratic grass root institutions is the ultimate goal of PAF and of local bodies. So what PAF is currently doing-empowering the disempowered--would ultimately benefit the democratic culture at the local as well as national level. □



Mugu is one of the least developed districts in the Karnali Zone of Mid Western Development Region of Nepal. It ranks 75th position in overall composite index of Central Bureau of Statistics. The district is bordered by Dolpa in the East, Jumla and Kalikot in the South, Bajura in the West and Humla and Tibet in the North. The district is situated at an altitude of 1201 metres to 6717 metres above the mean sea level. The district is divided into 24 Village Development Committees (VDCs). Gamgadi is the head quarter of the district. Geographically, Mugu is further divided into four regions: Karan, Gum, Soru, and Khatyad.

non-poor through participatory well being ranking, organizing poor into the community organization, need identification and prioritization, preparation of community sub-projects based on the communities' demands. Five Partner Organizations are playing facilitators role in all of the above said activities.

Income generation and infrastructure development are two thrust areas of PAF in Mugu. Major activities run under PAF-supported income generation sub-projects are goat raising, yak raising, vegetable farming (in green house and open field), and carpet weaving, knitting and buffalo raising. Likewise, drinking water schemes, water harvesting tank construction, irrigation sub-projects and micro-hydroelectricity schemes are being run under infrastructure development sub-projects. Some COs are also implementing activities such as construction of school buildings, furniture, improved water mills, trails improvement, wooden bridge and health post.

Till date, 54 different sub-projects, including 38 income generation and 16 infrastructure development sub-projects, have been completed in Mugu. Those have contributed greatly

in improving livelihood of the communities, raising their capacity and building their confidence. Thanks to the positive impact of these programmes, communities are now confidently demanding additional programmes they deem necessary. 59 sub-projects are in the middle stage and remaining are at the initial stage of implementation. Additional 50 sub-projects are currently in pipeline in the district.

The completed IG sub-projects includes goat raising, pit green house, knitting

and weaving, and poultry farming. Under infrastructure development sub-projects, 2 micro-hydroelectricity subprojects (Jhyarikhola MHP 6.5 KW and Shalim Khola 11.0 KW) have been completed and are providing electricity to 249 households. Five micro-hydroelectricity schemes are under construction, which on completion would electrify additional 288 households. Six drinking water supply sub-projects have been completed, while 7 others are ongoing. Of the 9 micro-irrigation schemes including water harvesting tanks, 4 have been completed. One school building sub-project and 1 school furniture sub-projects have also been completed. Similarly, three wooden bridges, two trail improvements, one mill construction sub-projects have been completed.

In Mugu, PAF funding has gone more in infrastructure development sub-projects than income generation subprojects. PAF has disbursed Rs.22.1 million for infrastructure development subprojects, which makes some 53 percent of total funding made available in the district. PAF has disbursed Rs. 19.9 million for income generation sub-projects.

Implementation of PAF programme has encouraged poor and socially excluded rural people to organize and enabled them to take decisions on their development needs. PAF has also taken initiatives to ensure transparency at the community level. It has put public notice boards at places where sub-project activities and budgets of all COs are displayed for community people. This approach of PAF has received much appreciation at the community level.

Inspired by transparency and local ownership of sub-projects, communities have expressed readiness to contribute in the programmes as well. □

GENERAL DISTRICT INFORMATION

LOCATION	MID WESTERN REGION
Area	3100 Sq KM
Altitude range	1201 m to 6717 m
Accessibility	Only By Plane/Helicopter
Political Division	24 VDCs
Population	43,937 (Female 51.5 %)
Pop growth	2.09 %
Economically active population	50 %
Literacy rate	26 % (34 % male, 9 % female)
Drinking water facility	51 %
School Enrollment rate	93 % Boys, 41% Girls
Life Expectancy	36 years
Rank in HDI	75th

Being one of the remote and poor districts, PAF selected Mugu as one of its pilot districts and implemented poverty reduction programmes from 2005. PAF programmes currently covers 19 out of 24 VDCs in Karan, Soru and Gam regions of Mugu. Local, regional as well as national level Non-Governmental Organization are facilitating social mobilization and contributing on activities such as identification of poor settlements, categorization of households into hardcore poor, medium poor, poor and

Micro-hydel brings cheers in poor community

SUCCESS
STORIES

Until a year ago, residents of Rowa VDC, Mugu, were required to move to forest and collect light-wood in order to lighten their homes. They had no escape from time and trouble they needed to bear for the purpose. Smoke generated from the wood used to leave still adverse impact. But, this problem of Rowa dwellers has become a story of the past.

Thanks to a micro-hydroelectricity project that PAF supported, whole of the village has lit up and cheers have come on the faces of its residents. Children who used to go to bed early now stay till late to study. Life has changed significantly after micro hydroelectricity in Salim river started generating electricity. 169 Chhetri and

dalits households of the Rowa, Salim and Ryakchakati villages are enjoying electricity services from four months.

The project was completed with investment of Rs 2,726,820. Credit of designing the project goes to the six community organization formed within the project area. They have formed Salim Khola Laghu Jalbidhyut Karya Samuha to lighten the village. PAF provided Rs 2,493,107 for the construction of the project. Local community put in labour contribution worth Rs 233,713. Currently, 12 KW of electricity is being generated from the project, according to Rup Singh Nepali, president of the working group.

The project has provided 50-100 watt electricity in each of the member

households and distributes electricity from 6 pm to 7 am. Each household pays Rs 40-80 per month for the service, depending upon the electricity consume. The project has hired 2 local youths to look after and distribute the electricity service. Each of the staff are paid Rs 2500 per month.

;"The project has freed us from physical trouble and health hazards. Now we can live healthy," said Paljun Makri, a local. The service has improved locals living condition and checked deforestation as well. "Following the availability of electricity, people are developing plans to start small industries and other income generation activities operated through electricity," said Padam Bahadur Rawal, president of Jana Nepal Yuva Club. □

Plastic pond changed face of Chepang village

People who reach Polaghari, a remote village of fast-disappearing Chepang community in Manahari VDC-2 of Makawanur district, today find it difficult to believe it is the same place they visited few years ago. Hilly terrain and arid land, which barely supported villager's food requirement for 3 months, has at present turned colourful with green vegetables, tomato, chilli and radish, among others, which locals have successfully grown.

Poor Chepang community are now reaping maximum profits from vegetables and banana plantation - thanks to a plastic pond built under the Special Innovative Programme of PAF. "Gone are the days when people were required to travel for hours to get hold of a pitcher full of water. Neither do they have to

wait for rain for irrigating the land," said Sher Bahadur Praja, president of Churiya Mai Community Organization.

The plastic pond of 4-meter length, 3.5-meter width and 5-meter height, which can hold 23,000 litres of water, was constructed on demand of the organization constituting 19 Chepang households. It has also installed 4 water taps. PAF extended financial support of Rs 239,782 and people contributed Rs 168,000 worth of labour donation for its construction.

The completion of drinking water project has enabled villagers to enjoy easy access to clean water, save their time and use it productively in household chores and farms. "Water flows from the tap throughout the day," says Buddhi Maya

Praja, a member of the organization, adding "when it is not in use, we collect the water in the pond to irrigate land through an extension pipe."

With the irrigation facility, almost all members of the organization have jumped into vegetables and banana farming. "Banana farming fetches me a profit of up to Rs 1,500 per month," said Santa Bahadur Praja, a local. "This has eased my livelihood," said he.

From the total project cost, the organization members even saved Rs 19,000 and utilized it in goats rearing. "This has generated additional income opportunity for us," said Seti Maya Praja, a member of the organization.

According to a statistics of Nepal Chepang Association, 37 percent of the total 70,000 Chepang population live in Makawanour district. A large number of Chepang household can not sustain living with their production for more than 6 months. For the remaining 6 months, they work as daily wage earners and depend on tubers to sustain life. □

By: Suman Luitel □

SNIPPETS



Visits/Events/Activities

PAF organizes regular visits to its project sites to interact with CO members, monitor the sub-projects' activities, observe trainings and share knowledge. It also holds interactions with stakeholders both at the centre and local level to foster coordination between PAF, donors, government bodies and local development agencies. Some of the activities carried out under such initiatives are highlighted below:

VISITS

■ A mission of the World Bank visited PAF on March 20, 2007. The new Vice Chairman of the Fund Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav welcomed the mission personnel. PAF executive director Raj Babu Shrestha apprised the mission on the status of implementation of PAF programmes

and the way forward along with the long term vision planning.

Two separate case studies on RR study and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kapilvastu were also showcased. The mission members then interacted with the PAF officials. Some

even joined meeting at OAG on performance audit and financial management issues. The mission, headed by Geeta Sethi, Task Team leader, was in Nepal from march 18-27, 2007. The mission also visited Ramechhap district during its stay in Nepal.

■ Country Director of the World Bank, Dr Kenichi Ohashi visited PAF on February 8, 2007 and interacted with PAF officials. All PAF division chiefs, COMs, PMs and other professional staff attended the briefing and sharing meeting with Dr Ohashi. The visit was brief, during which PAF officials briefed and shared their vision thrusts and got feed back from the WB country director.

■ A four-member team of government officials including Secretary of Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Dr. Swayambhu Man Amatya, and National Planning Commission visited Kapilvastu district on December 26-29, 2006. It was second visit of the government officials in the PAF district. A similar visit to Ramechhap district was carried out on november 19-22, 2007. In Kapilvastu the officials interacted with the members 12 COs of 3 POs namely; Kalika, Rise and Sunshine. They also held face to face interactions with other

stakeholders of the district including the CDO, during which the officials said they very much impressed with PAF intervention in the hard core poor population. The officials were excited to visit the remote areas of the district where PAF target group lived. The members of the COs were also encouraged because of the presence of high-level government officials.

WORKSHOPS

■ PAF organized a daylong "Sharing Workshop on Baseline Survey, Rate of Return Study Report and Monitoring and Evaluation Manual" on January 4, 2007 with an objective to share the outputs of the M & E baseline survey report, RR study report and M & E systems and tools with the PAF personnel and stakeholders. In the first half of the workshop, M & E Baseline Survey Report and RR/Benefit Study Report were presented, while in the second half, participants discussed on M & E Manual prepared by Central Department of Population Studies/TU to fine tune it to serve PAF needs. The workshop concluded after preparing draft manual. PAF hired Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS)/TU to conduct M&E Baseline survey and develop a participatory M&E system manual. A separate team of consultants were assigned to carry out Rate of Return (RR)/Benefit study on the completed Community Organization (CO) sub-projects.

■ MEDEP/UNDP held a short presentation workshop on poverty issues in PAF on March 11, 2007. Workshop was organized with an aim to share information and enrich PAF officials on issues related to poverty. Officials of PAF attended the presentation workshop. □

PAF Album on key social issues

In an effort to mobilize innovative tool to raise people's awareness on key social issues such as Dalits and women and send message on how the poor can lift themselves out of grinding poverty, PAF this year supported production of a Deuda album. The album was produced in 1000 copies. Since the songs are in the form of Deuda, a popular style of mid-and far-west regions that are among the poorest regions of the country, the album is expected to serve as an excellent tool to reach out to the poor and general mass. The songs have become popular and regularly feature in the broadcasts of the FM stations of the regions. The themes covered by the songs in the album includes; ways to alleviate poverty, resources, dalit utthan, dreams of dalits, women's agony, women uplifting (utthan), dalit/nondalit, and language/culture. □

.....contd. from page 1

For example, PAF statistics as of February-end 2007 shows that 69 per cent of the total Community Organization members are hardcore poor followed by medium poor at 23 per cent and Poor at 8 per cent.

Of the total of 111,641 poor households that have been organized in Community Organization so far since PAF was launched two years ago, Dalits like Harijan occupies 44 percent Janajatis like Magar occupies 30 percent followed by Chhettri at 16 percent, Brahmin at 3 percent, Muslim at 2 percent and others at 5 percent.

PAF has categorized those households as 'Ka' or 'Hardcore - Poor' that are food sufficient for less than 3 months, 'Kha' or 'Medium-Poor' as those who are food sufficient for 3 to 6 months, 'Ga' or 'Poor' as those that are sufficient of 6 to 12 months, and 'Gha' or 'Marginal Non-Poor' as those who have food sufficiency of more than a year. It identifies the target groups on the basis of this Well-Being Ranking.

In consonance with PAF belief that the poor and disadvantaged groups should be placed in the driving seat of development efforts, Malati Lama is the chairperson of the Jyoti Mahila Samudayik Sanstha, Siraha, comprising 16 poor households.

"PAF has really opened my eyes and now I can see the world differently and that

too with an optimistic view," says Malati with a smile.

Latest figure also suggests that out of the total 9,597 key positions in Community Organizations, such as President, Treasurer, Secretary, 53 percent are Dalits, 27 percent are Janajatis followed by Chhettri, Muslim and others.

Like Malati, female has a share of 55 percent in key positions of PAF supported Community Organizations. Similarly 66 percent of Community Organizations members are female.

PAF envisions the creation of an inclusive society by addressing the plight of the marginalized and excluded communities. PAF also holds the conviction that the country's development is possible only when the issues and problems of the lower rung of the society are addressed equitably.

The PAF has set the following strategies to address the above mentioned issues:

- Gender and social inclusion sensitive planning, programme, monitoring and evaluation systems and processes;
- A holistic strategy and action plan developed for the inclusion of women and the excluded into all level of program cycle;
- Reaching the poor - the targeted beneficiaries, ensuring social harmony, community cohesiveness and solidarity.

By Kanchan Tamang, PAF □

PAF IN BRIEF (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY, 07')

		REGISTERED WITH PAF		AGREEMENT	
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS		4254		3779	\$ 22.43m
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS				222	
VDC Covered	PAF Total VDCs			1249	
	VDC where Pos have begun work			703	
	VDCs where COs are implementing programme activities			547	
Districts Covered	PAF total districts			45	
	PAF Regular districts			25	
	PAF Innovative Districts			20	
PAF Investment	Income Generating Activities			84%	
	Community Infrastructure			16%	
Total no.				111,641	
CO Member Beneficiary HHs	Hardcore Poor			69.10%	
	Medium Poor			22.70%	
	Poor			7.80%	
	Marginal Non-Poor			0.40%	
	Male			34.00%	
	Female			66.00%	

PAF reviews innovative projects

PAF on November 14, 2006 organized the three-day workshop on 'Review and Sharing of Experience of Innovative Projects for PAF's Future Programme' with an objective to discuss ways to spearhead innovative projects across the country.

Over 100 representatives from various grass root organizations, partner organizations, senior government and World Bank officials, experts and other stakeholders discussed and recommended the basic characteristics of innovative projects, evaluation and selection criteria for such projects to be implemented across the country. □

PAF features in UN Secretary General's report

In a landmark recognition for the contribution it made in poverty reduction initiatives in the country, PAF featured in the report of the UN Secretary General on the request of Nepal for UN assistance in support of its peace process (2007/7). Section 6.5 of the report sheds light on the importance of PAF and the role it would play in social re-integration, business promotion and job creation. "The World Bank plans to use the existing PAF to assist community-based reintegration; it is supporting large infrastructure projects and pushing for the reform of labour laws to promote businesses and job creation," says the report. Social inclusion at the grass root level and also at the centre has been well wrapped in the programmes of PAF. □

Workshop on Long Term Vision Plan

PAF in January 2007 organized a workshop on "Long Term Vision Plan" with an objective to develop a vision document, which would lay down ground work and concept document for PAF long term vision plan (2008-2015).

PAF officials, experts and stakeholders attended the workshop, during which they discussed on policy operations and strategy input for the preparation of long term vision plan. They also worked out premises and methodology for preparing district level vision plan and identified issues related to the implementation of vision plan. □

Income Generation and Micro-Enterprise Promotion

PAF has laid a strong focus on Income Generation (IG) and Micro-Enterprise Promotion activities in order to combat poverty. IG

activities have been exclusively launched among the target groups (TGs) such as women, Dalits, Janajatis and other poor living below poverty line. The activities have been supplemented and complimented by others components like Social Mobilization, Community Infrastructures and Capacity Building.

So far, 3765 IG and IG-Infrastructure sub-projects have been launched in PAF districts. In order to empower TGs, which operate in the form of Community Organizations (COs), and enable them to launch various economic activities, PAF has provided them with necessary entrepreneurial skill trainings. Management skill training/exposures and technology have also been provided to TGs.

Economic activities demanded by target groups have remained diverse. Broadly, they can be categorized under:

- Agriculture and Others
- Animal husbandry
- Manufacturing and others
- Service sector
- Trade

Analysis of COs agreement signed with PAF shows that 64 percent of households are currently involved in

animal husbandry followed by 17 percent in agriculture, 13 percent in trade, 5 percent in services and 1 percent

Status of IG and IG-Infrastructure sub-projects run under PAF initiatives are as follows:

TYPES OF SUB-PROJECTS	TOTAL NO.	STATUS		
		COMPLETED	MIDDLE STAGE	NOT STARTED
IG	3005	198	1591	1216
IG-Infra	760	264	453	43
Total	3765	462	2044	1259

in manufacturing activities. Similarly, from the investment perspective, 68 percent of the total fund invested in IG activities has gone in animal husbandry followed by 12 percent in agriculture, 13 percent in trade, 5 percent in services and 2 percent in manufacturing activities.

The 462 sub-projects, which have been completed so far, have directly benefited 14,242 households, enabling them to raise income level and earn improved living. A detail breakdown of coverage and investment of the completed sub-projects are presented below:

Hence, animal husbandry forms the bulkiest IG activities of PAF. There is an increasing demand for new animal husbandry programmes.

Given that the number and coverage of ongoing sub-projects is still large than completed sub-projects, PAF is confident that lives of tens of thousands additional beneficiaries would transform through its IG activities in the nearest future. □

COMPLETED IG SUB-PROJECTS

DISTRICTS	TOTAL NO. SUB-PROJECTS	TOTAL BENEFICIARY HHS	TOTAL INVESTMENT	PAF CONTRIBUTION	CO & OTHERS CONTRIBUTION
Siraha	61	1531	24,396,443.00	22,210,061.00	2,186,382
Ramechhap	15	357	4,771,400.00	3,437,660.00	1,333,740
Kapilbastu	5	130	1,843,097.00	1476267.00	366,830
Pyuthan	1	33	187,910.00	177,710.00	10,200
Mugu	49	1,772	16,414,069.00	12,042,928.00	4,371,141
Darchula	32	1,027	4630938.00	4072915.00	558,743
Rautahat	30	807	17,456,537.00	15,696,724.00	1,759,813
Sarlahi	4	113	1,776,570.00	1,645,670.00	130,900
Morang (Innovative)	1	51	928,805.00	848,105.00	80,700
Total	198	5,821	72,405,769.00	61,608,040.00	10,798,449