

Activity No. 3.2.2 Develop producer's cooperatives

In total, three producers' cooperatives (one cooperative in each target among, Gurung and Chepang communities) in Lamjung, Rasuwa and Chitwan developed with 430 (F 93/M 337) people who participated in different types of skill enhancement training programs, and traditional knowledge based existing and potential entrepreneurs and the creators of cultural goods during the months of June - August 2012.

Topics/activities covered

Traditional livelihoods knowledge and skills of indigenous people have gradually deplete due to many reasons- poverty among the people, lack of policy and support mechanism, are major ones. Indigenous creators of culture goods often come from economically and socially deprived backgrounds. They are largely ignorant of consumer preference and their knowledge and skills and supply of the products are not adequate to use them as income earning objects. Therefore, this activity aimed at promoting traditional enterprises for improving wellbeing and dignity of the target communities, and encouraged indigenous artists and creators to assert their rights to protect their products.

In total, three producers' cooperatives of the training graduates of traditional wool textile training, including existing and potential entrepreneurs of traditional skill based enterprises of the target Gurung community, the training graduates of Thangka painting and traditional dress training, including existing and potential entrepreneurs of traditional skill based enterprises of the target Tamang community, and the training graduates of bamboo furniture and handicraft and chiuri collection and processing training, including existing and potential entrepreneurs of traditional skill based enterprises of the target Chepang community developed in Lamjung, Rasuwa and Chitwan district respectively.

A total of 430 (F 93/M 337) members or shareholders are organized in the cooperatives. However, each cooperative is governed by an executive committee of 11 members, selected and nominated by the General Assembly (GA) of general members or shareholders. The GA or the membership size of the cooperatives varies, which ranges from 31 members or shareholders of Traditional Products Producer's Cooperative Ltd., Besisahar, Lamjung of the target Gurung community at the minimum and 372 members or shareholders of Praja Cooperative Ltd., Shaktikhor, Chitwan of the target Chepang community. Whereas, Tamang Paramparagat Samuhik Uddhomi Cooperative Ltd., Syafrubesi, Rasuwa of the target Tamang community has a total of 27 members or shareholders, ***please refer to Annex 26: List of producer's cooperative and member of executive committee.***

These cooperatives have been formed and have the plan to extend member or shareholder upto a manageable size of membership by mobilizing existing local creators/entrepreneurs of traditional or cultural goods in the district. Due to the legal constraint (recently changed legal provision of cooperative registration allows to register cooperative at local level only), the project has not been able to register the cooperatives with the coverage of larger area. On the request, the project has got success to register the cooperatives at district level.

Of the total, two cooperative- Traditional Products Producer's Cooperative Ltd. and Tamang Paramparagat Samuhik Uddhomi Cooperative Ltd. are newly registered, whereas Praja Cooperative Ltd., which was almost non-functional for a couple of year. The project has revived Praja Cooperative Ltd. considering as an asset of the community and the base for the idea of cooperativism of the project. The Praja Cooperative Ltd. Was revived by renewing legal registration and memberships, rephrasing objectives and bylaws, and reshuffling executive committee through the assembly of general members or shareholders.

For the new registration, the partner IPOs have organized community gathering of the training graduates of skill enhancement training and existing and potential artists and creators of cultural goods or traditional knowledge based entrepreneurs for the purpose to form and register the cooperativeators/entrepreneuers in their respective areas. Partner IPOs have informed on the process, legal provisions, bylaws (drafted by the partner IPOs), purpose, membership, formation of executive committee, the support of the project, etc. to the gathering. The consent of the gathering helped to facilitate further process of cooperative registration.

Then, the Sr. project personnel, visited to the Department of Cooperative to request for the registration of the cooperatives with a larger geographical and administrative coverage. Finally, District based cooperative authorities approved the cooperatives for the registration with maximum coverage of one district. The district authorities also provided an orientation on the legal provisions, obligation, operation process and procedures, etc. to the members of the cooperatives for two days.

Now, three cooperatives with technical and start-up support from the project are functioning in Lamjung, Rasuwa and Chitwan. The cooperatives have been producing and saling a wide rage of products based on their traditional knowledge, skill and technologies.

Reason for modification or delay

None (however, originally this activity was planned for 2011, due to some reasons, such as intensive works for the year 2011, changes took place in the legal provision of cooperative registration and governance, delema on the implementation of the activity put the activity leg behind and replannd for the year 2012).

Results

In total, three producers' cooperatives developed and registered in the district cooperative office in Lamjung, Rasuwa and Chitwan. A total of 430 (F 93/M 337) people those who participated in different types of skill enhancement training programs, and traditional knowledge based existing and potential entrepreneurs and the creators of cultural goods organized into three cooperatives.

A total of 120 selected existing and potential entrepreneurs and creators of cultural goods have received five different types of skills enhancement training on traditional knowledge and techchnoly based entrepreneurship development trainings just before they organized into cooperatives.

Futhermore, a total of 40 selected members of three cooperatives received self-financing cooperativism and market related trainings for the development and institution building of cooperatives.

The cooperatives also received startup cost to establish of cooperatives and small topup fund to produce traditional knowledge based and cultural goods as the means to livelihoods of traditional entrepreneurs and creator of cultural goods and the taget communities.

Though, the cooperatives have been recently registered and are fully functional with the space to functions their day-to-day operations, necessary knowledge, skills, and resources. Cooperatives are producing goods and saling them to earn income. In order to make the cooperatives viable, the project has organized two exhibitons for the promotion of the cooperatives and their products in Kathmandu and Pokhara, for detail of the exhibitions, please refer to the activity no. 3.4.1.

It is hoped that existing infrastructures, knowledge and skills to produce and sale goods, collectiveness, availability of the market and support of the respective IPOs who are possessing cooperatives as their cultural and economic activity provide strong base to run the cooperative profitably in the future.

Table 32: Brief information on the producer's cooperatives

SN	Name, location and date	Excecutive committee			Total members		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1	Traditional Products Producer's Cooperative Ltd., Besisahar, Lamjung (Aug 22, 2012)	7	4	11	26	5	31
2	Tamang Paramparagat Samuhik Uddhomi Cooperative Ltd, Syafrubesi, Rasuwa (Aug 10, 2012)	11	0	11	24	3	27
3	Praja Cooperative Ltd., Shaktikhor, Chitwan (Jun 2, 2012)	2	9	11	43	329	372
	Total	20	13	33	93	337	430