

Activity No. 2.3 Promotion and documentation of the best indigenous knowledge and practices

Activity No. 2.3.1 Conduct sharing interactions on natural resource management (NRM)

In total, eight sharing interactions on Natural resource management conducted at project districts with a total of 230 (or F 73/M 157) people from CPG, community forestry user' groups (CFUGs) and local concerned authorities, i.e. district forest office (DFO) of one day for each interaction during the period of March - July 2012.

Topics/activities covered

The purpose of the activity was to provide a forum for sharing between indigenous ecological and ethno-botanic knowledge and community forestry management system to boost natural resource, particularly the forest management in harmony with nature.

Prior to conduct the sharing interaction, the project has accomplished some important preparatory activities, such as identification and enlistment of existing CFUGs, local knowledgeable people or traditional institutions, i.e. Choho, Mijar, Badya, Amchi, Bonbo, Kabiraj, herbalist, etc., coordination with the concerned authority, i.e. District Forest Office (DFO) and sendout invitation letters to identified CFUGs, individuals or institutions by mentioning the objective, date, time and venue of the interaction.

Representative of CFUGs, local knowledgeable people or traditional institutions in the project VDCs, district forest office (DFO), selected members of CPGs were participated in the sharing interaction. The project has successfully conducted a total of eight sharing interactions with the technical support of the concerned authority- DFO. The interaction was scheduled for one event of one day in each project district.

Key issues, such as roles of traditional institutions in forest management, traditional knowledge of medicines, traditional pasture management and recent practice of community forestry management were exclusively discussed in the interactions. All the interactions were facilitated by the officials of DFO, namely Mr. Khaghendra Raj Baral, AFO (Kaski), Mr. Suk Lal Jaisawal, DFO (Lamjung), Mr. Shiva Shrestha, AFO (Gorkha), Mr. Dilli Pd Bhattarai, AFO (Kavre), Mr. Babu Ram Aryal AFO (Dhading), Mr. Bishwo Koirala AFO (Rasuwa), Mr. Baburam Upreti, AFO (Chitwan), and Mr. Achyut Lamichhane, AFO (Makwanpur).

The sharing interactions were concluded into simple action plans dedicated to the integration of those traditional and contemporary community forest management knowledge systems into forest resource management at local level to live in harmony with the nature. The DFO and CFUGs also showed their interests in the documentation of traditional knowledge on natural resource management to share, learn and excel knowledge on forest resource management.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

A total of 230 (or F 73/M 157) people from CPG, traditional knowledge/institutions, community forestry user' groups (CFUGs) and local concerned authorities, i.e. DFO got the opportunity to share, learn and excel their knowledge on forest resource management.

The interaction built rapport and linkage between traditional and contemporary forest resource management knowledge to enhance knowledge and technology of forest management in harmony with the nature, and to protect and promote traditional knowledge in natural resource management.

The interaction valued traditional knowledge system in contemporary community forestry management. As a result of which, a simple action plan was developed to integrate traditional and contemporary community forest management system into forest resource management at local level. Brief information on the interactions provided as:

Table 21: Brief information on the interactions on NRM

SN	Location and Date (dd.mm.yy)	Participant by different grounds				Participant by sex		
		CPG	Local knowledge*	CFUG/DFO	Total	F	M	Total
1	Pokhara, Kaski (24.6.2012)	9	5	6	20	7	13	20
2	Bensisaha, Lamjung (7.7.2012)	13	3	4	20	5	15	20
3	Gorkha, Gorkha (10.6.2012)	9	5	6	20	10	10	20
4	Dhilekhel, Kavre (9.3.2012)	12	6	7	25	10	15	25
5	Dhading Bensi, Dhading (24.3.2012)	26	5	5	36	5	31	36
6	Dhunche, Rasuwa (5.5.2012)	17	8	4	29	7	22	29
7	Narayangarh, Chitwan (23.3.2012)	23	9	6	38	15	23	38
8	Hetauda, Makwanpur (20.3.2012)	22	8	12	42	14	28	42
	Total	131	49	50	230	73	157	230

*indicates both local knowledgeable person and their traditional institutions

Activity No. 2.3.2 Conduct sharing interaction between traditional medicine practitioners and health workers

A total of eight sharing interactions between traditional medicine practitioners and health workers of modern health facilities conducted at eight districts with a total of 230 (or F 73/M 157) people representing target community, traditional medicine practitioners and health institutions, i.e. health posts in the project VDCs and District Health Office (DHO) of one day for each interaction during the period of March - June 2012.

Topics/activities covered

The purpose of this interaction was to support in establishing linkage between traditional and modern medicine systems by sharing, mutual learning and exchanging the both systems in rural health development. The activity also aimed at supporting revitalization and integration of traditional knowledge of medicine in rural health development.

After completion of preparatory activities, such as identification of existing traditional health practitioners, modern health facility, i.e. sub-health posts, health posts and primary health care center and clinics run by traditional and modern health practitioners in the project VDCs, the project has organized an interaction program between traditional medicine practitioners and health workers of modern health facilities of one day in each project district for a total of eight interactions.

A sizeable number of traditional medicine practitioners, i.e. Amchi (Tibetan medicine system, largely based on indigenous knowledge), Vaidya (herbal medicine practitioners, based on Ayurveda), Bonbo, Lama and faith healers (spiritual knowledge of healing, based on religious beliefs) representing traditional healing system; Health Auxiliary/Assistants (HA) from health post and sub-health post and medical personnel of District Health Office (DHO) representing modern health facility; and selected members of CPGs were participated in the sharing interactions in their respective districts.

A total of eight sharing interactions were successfully conducted in eight project districts. Key issues, such as existing traditional knowledge and experience of ailment management, significance of modern and traditional ways of health care, identification and sharing of best practices of traditional ways of health care in rural health development were discussed in the interactions.

The concerned district health authorities, namely Dr. Misanta Dhakal (Kaski), Dr. Santa Lal Sahani (Lamjung), Dr. Jeevan Regmi (Gorkha), by Mr. Dipendra Shrestha, Sr. HA (Kavre), Dr. Subhas Pande, Medical Officer (Dhading), Dr. Surya Bushal, Medical Officer (Rasuwa), Mr. Aita Singh Chepang, knowledgeable person on Chepang traditional medicines (Chitwan) and Dr. Bhola Chaulagain, Medical Officer (Makwanpur) have facilitated the interactions in their respective districts.

Reason for modification or delay

The project has accomplished a total of eight sharing interactions as per the budget planned for the activity. However, it was planned for 2-round interactions in each project VDCs, which means 16 interactions described in the the project document contrary to the budget plan.

Results

A total of 256 (or F 67/M 185) people representing the target community, traditional health practitioners and modern health facilities got the opportunity to share, learn and enhance their knowledge of health care in rural health development.

The interaction helped to build rapport between traditional and modern health care systems to enhance healing practices and helped to establish linkage between traditional and modern medicine systems to share, learn and promote the both systems in rural health development in the future.

The interaction valued and recognized importance of traditional medicine in rural health development and sensitized concerned authority for the protection, promotion and integration of traditional medicine practices in rural health development. Brief information on the interactions between traditional medicine practitioners and health workers provided as:

Table 22: Brief information on the interactions between traditional medicine practitioners and health workers

SN	Location and Date (dd.mm.yy)	Participant by different grounds				Participant by sex		
		CPG	Local knowledge*	HP/SHP DHO	Total	F	M	Total
1	Pokhara, Kaski, (25.6.2012)	9	7	4	20	7	13	20
2	Bensisahar, Lamjung (8.6.2012)	11	6	3	20	5	15	20
3	Gorkha, Gorkha (11.6.2012)	10	6	4	20	10	10	20
4	Dhilikhel, Kavre (10.3.2012)	22	11	5	38	13	25	38

5	Dhaning Bensi, Dhading (23.3.2012)	15	9	6	30	10	20	30
6	Dhunche, Rasuwa (6.3.2012)	12	11	9	32	8	24	32
7	Bharatpur, Chitwan (13.3.2012)	18	13	6	37	8	29	37
8	Hetauda, Makwanpur (17.3.2012)	33	13	9	55	6	49	55
	Total	130	76	46	252	67	185	252

*indicates traditional medicine practitioners or traditional institutions

Activity No. 2.3.3 Produce and disseminate of Journal on indigenous knowledge and practices

A total of 4500 copies of annual journal containing articles and contributions on different social and cultural issues of indigenous communities produced and disseminated to a wider range of organizations, project stakeholders and individuals within and out of country during the project period.

Topics/activities covered

To facilitate the process, IGD has developed basic guidelines and widely shared with a sizeable number potential contributor, i.e. scholars, researchers and organizations for their contributions of articles. The guideline contained a brief of the project, and purpose, broader contents, language, length, deadline address for submission, etc. of the article.

Moreover, the project made regular follow up with potential contributors and collected their articles for the selection. After the selection of articles, the project has made a contract with editor to make articles reader friendly and published in the journals, namely Redings on Indigenous Culture and Knowledge, series I - III on yearly basis. A sizeable number of scholars, researchers and academicians have contributed to the journal through their well researched articles. Those articles were not selected, sent back to the contributors. Similarly, the project has made contract with a printing house on the basis of comparative benefits such as cost of production, quality of service and other benefits for the publication of the journals.

The journal of year 2010 published a total 13 articles covering diverse issues related to indigenous culture, knowledge system and traditional institutions contributed by the scholars and submitted to the project. Some of them are preservation and promotion of the Gurung culture through indigenous priest, thrust of indigenous knowledge and culture in community development, traditional knowledge of Magar community on Medicinal, Raute and indigenous knowledge, Kohla son Pre Toh: ancestral homeland of the Tamu-Gurung, traditional governance system in Tamang society, historical exclusion of Tamang and the needs of Tamasaling (ancestral Tamang land).

Similarly, the journal of year 2011 has contained a total of 14 articles- preservation and promotion of indigenous culture, state building, social movement and inclusive citizenship, traditional knowledge on medicinal plants and forest management, ancestral homeland; soio-economic condition, life cycle ceremony, traditional economy, significance of indigenous knowledge and culture in community development, traditional governance system, dentity construction and reconstruction and spatial distribution of target indigeous communities.

The journal of year 2012 contained a total of 12 articles- mapping indigenous lands in nepal, enlarging livelihood choices: a case of Community Forest , a case of non-timber forest products based livelihood in Tharu community, marginalization and Change among the Dalits, indigenous practices of common

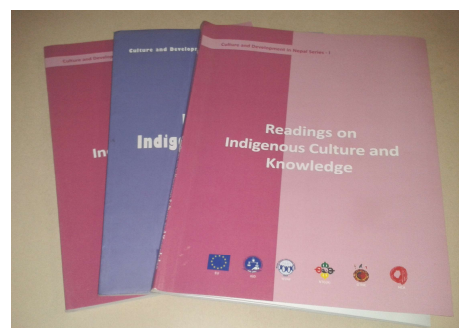
management in Nepal, Magars and their knowledge of forest management, Nepal's transition to secularism and practices, a case of nexus of poverty, local development enterprises and social capital, prospect and challenges of home-stay in Nepal, traditional knowledge and practice of health care in Nepal, an overview of rituals of the chepangs, a governing institution among Magars in Nepal.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

In total, 4500 copies (1500 each year) of journal, titled Redings on Indigenous Culture and Knowledge series I - III containing of a total of 39 articles on different aspects of indigenous cultures have published and widely circulated to a wide range of organizations, libraries, concerned stakeholders and individuals in and out of the country to inform and increase the knowledge on indigenous cultures and knowledge, ***please find the journals of years 2010, 2011 and 2012 with this report.***



Journal Series I – III (2010 – 2012)

A wide range of organizations, educational institutions, libraries, concerned stakeholders and governance experts within and out of contry received the journal, and made access of information on the different socio-cultural aspects of indigenous communities of Nepal. Journals were distributed through delivery, on demand and displayed during different workshops, seminars, etc. organized and participated by IGD and implementing partners of the project in Nepal. It is hoped that the journal will be served as the documentation for future reference.

It is reported that the journal is perhaps a single noteworthy documentation on the indigenous cultures and knowledge systems. It is also noticed that those organizations and individuals who received the journal have appreciated the efforts of the documentation and dissemination of the indigenous culture and knowledge system made by the project. It is said that the journal can be a major source to know and understand about the indigenous communities, cultures and knowledge system for a larger community. Brief information on the production and distribution of the journal is provided in the table below:

Table 23: Brief information on the production and distribution of the journal

A. Production			B. Distribution		
SN	Title of journal and published year	No. of copies	SN	Reciepent bodies	No. of copies
1	Redings on Indigenous Culture and Knowledge, series I, 2010	1500	1	Partner organizations*	2750
2	Redings on Indigenous Culture and Knowledge, series II, 2011	1500	2	Educational institutions, libraries, national/international orgaqnizations and individual scholars/researcher	426
3	Redings on Indigenous Culture and Knowledge, series III, 2012	1500	3	Displayed in different workshops and seminars, etc. in Nepal	6000
Total		4500	4	IGD and its stock	724

*partner organizations distributed the journal to a wide range of organizations and individuals

Activity No. 2.3.4 Produce and disseminate calendar containing a brief note and photograph of cultural treasures

In total 7500 copies of calendars (2500 each year) containing the treasures of historical, cultural and artistic resources published during the project period by following Nepali calendar year (which generally starts between April - May) and disseminated to a wide range of organizations, concerned stakeholders and individuals.

Topics/activities covered

The purpose of calendar publication was to increase awareness on the historical, cultural and artistic treasures of indigenous communities as the means for documentation and promotion of indigenous cultures.

During the preparation of each calendar, the project has made a round of consultative meetings among implementing organizations and knowledgeable persons of the Tamang, Gurung and Chepang communities to furnish the calendar precise, correct and meaningful.

The calendar comprising of 6 pages containing the name of the project, funding agency and project reference number at the top, followed by the photographs of cultural resources with short notes, the datebook in the middle and the flag of EU including logos of implementing organizations at the bottom published in Nepali language by following the Nepali calendar year.

In the middle of each page of the calendars displayed selected photographs of cultural resources with a short description. They were different forms of indigenous culture, i.e. historical and religious places, traditional costumes, cultural ceremonies, traditional knowledge, skills and technology, cultural ceremonies and traditional musical instruments of the Tamangs, Gurungs and Chepangs in the calendar of 2067 BS (or 2010/11 AD).

Similarly, the scripts, traditional settlements, significant forms of cultural music and dances, traditional attires, traditional foods, traditional institutions and religious places, life cycle ceremonies (birth, marriage and death rites) of the target communities were displayed with a brief notes in the middle of each page of calendar 2068 BS (or 2011/12 AD).

The calendar of year 2069 BS (2012/13 AD) illustrated some photographs with short descriptions of traditional skills based enterprising, i.e. textile, bamboo crafting and weaving, thanka painting; traditional sports usually observed during cultural celebrations; traditional knowledge on NRM medicine and healing practices; etc.

Each page of the calendar categorically organized with suitable themes, photographs with short information, voices of cultural concerned, datebook and the project title at the top and the means of visibility of the donor and implementing organizations in the calendar and in the project, ***please find the calendars of years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/2013 with this report.***

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

In total, 7500 copies of wall calendars containing photographs with a brief note of cultural resources published and disseminated.

More than 7000 government and non-government organizations, public service institutions (schools, health post, etc.), CSOs, IPOs and their networks, concerned stakeholders and individuals received the calendars and informed on the cultures and cultural resources of target indigenous communities.

The calendar which contained the voices and concerns of the target communities also helped to make concerned authorities, stakeholders and general public aware of on the need and importance of the protection and promotion local cultures, cultural rights and cultural diversity.

It is experienced that the calendar served as successful means in disseminating information, community's aspiration about local cultures and cultural resources, leading a move towards the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural resources. Brief information on the production and distribution of the calendar is provided as:

Table 24: Brief information on the production and distribution of the calendar

A. Production			B. Distribution		
SN	Published year	No. of copies	SN	Recipient bodies	No. of copies
1	Calendar 2067 (2010/11 AD)	2500	1	Organizations/institutions within and the target community	4800
2	Calendar 2068 (2011/12 AD)	2500	2	Partner organizations*	800
3	Calendar 2069 BS (2012/13 AD)	2500	3	Displayed in different workshops and seminars, etc. in Nepal	1500
Total		7500	4	IGD and its stock	400
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*partner organizations distributed the calendar to a wide range of organizations, individuals and coverage

Activity No. 2.3.5 Broadcast radio program on the best indigenous knowledge and practices from different radio spots

In total, 52 weekly radio programs were developed and aired through nine radio spots (Ujyalo 90 FM, a community radio network in Kathmandu and eight radio spots in the project districts) during the period of October 2010 - August 2011.

Topics/activities covered



Calendars published by the project in year 2010 -2012



Community leader receiving calendar 2010, Lamjung

The purpose of radio program was to promote and disseminate indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge as a means to increase awareness for the protection and promotion of local culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity.

The project has selected nine radio spots by using basic criteria, such as existing infrastructure/facility, capacity of coverage, public recognition/reputation, membership in radio network (for local FM), locations of radio spots and nature of aired programs, etc of the FM radio stations. Namely Ujyalo 90 FM, a community radio network in Kathmandu, Radio Namobuddha in Kavrepalanchowk, Radio Abhiyan in Rasuwa, Radio Dhading in Dhading, Radio Gorkha in Gorkha, Radio Gandaki in Kaski, Radio Marsyangdi in Lamjung, Pathibhara FM in Makwanpur and Kalika FM in Chitwan were selected and made contract with them to air program.

Similarly, to produce the radio program on the indigenous cultures, knowledge and practices, the project has developed a team of four young radio professionals including a radio technician who have proven track records on the related field. The team, by following the broader framework and guidelines prepared by the project developed radio programs and aired through nine radio spots during the period of November 2010 - August 2011.

Radio program was scheduled for 30 minutes on every Friday at 7:30 o'clock in the morning. However, Pathibhara and Kalika FM aired the same program just after 30 minutes due to unavailability of time. Radio program tried to cover different facets of indigenous cultures- awareness and education on cultures, artistic forms of culture and cultural resources, traditional institutions in the protection and promotion of local cultures, traditional knowledge system, arts and technologies, rights of culture and updates of project's initiatives in protection and promotion of local cultures. For detail of radio program, ***please refer to Annex 16: Detail program information on the radio program.***

In the late of 2011, the project has carried out a rapid impact review of the radio program containing key issues, such as access to/availability of radio sets, coverage of radio, number of radio listeners, relevance and quality of the key contents, effectiveness of radio program to bring about the changes in knowledge, attitude and practices for the promotion of indigenous culture and cultural resources.

The principal methods and tools employed in the review were group discussion and key informant interview by using semi-structured questionnaire. A total of 162 (F 84/M 78) people representing the target communities, CPGs, local government bodies, political parties, social leaders, youths, school teachers, etc. of six locations- Shaktikhor and piple of Chitwan, Dhulikhel and Anaikot of Kavre and Lwangghlel and Bensisahar of Lamjung met and interviewed during the review. The review found some positive sides and constructive remarks of the radio program.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

In total, 52 weekly radio programs on the different cultural issues of target communities developed and aired through Ujyalo 90 FM, a community radio network in Kathmandu and eight radio spots from the project districts during the period of October 2010 - August 2011.

Radio program has remained successful in raising awareness and informing a large number of people and organizations on different cultural issues and concerns of target indigenous communities. Radio program

also remained as the means of project visibility by covering the activities and progress made by the project, including the views of the target beneficiaries on the activities and progress.

A team of three young radio professionals and a radio technician made utmost efforts in developing and airing radio program efficiently and effectively, and controlling quality of the program. The radio program formally concluded in August 2011. The team has also compiled and documented overall radio programs in an electronic form, i.e. CD rom and provided to all partners as the means to education and for the future reference.

A rapid impact review carried by the project revealed that about 80 per cent households of the project area have reported that they listened the radio programs regularly, whereas 19 per cent people reported that they neither have idea nor listened radio program due to some reasons, such as lack of radio set, lack of radio coverage and daily workloads.

Similarly, the respondents of the review also reported that the contents of radio program were very important and instrumental in raising awareness and educating people in the different issues of indigenous cultures. The people of Shaktikhor and Piple have reported that the radio program helped to tell again about our cultures, situations of our culture and cultural rights, and aware about the cultures of the Tamangs and the Gurungs.

They also added that the radio program brought the changes on the mindsets of Chepang youths by broadening knowledge on the importance of cultures. In even the recent past, we felt very shy to say that we are Chepangs. However, we were trying to come out from this situation, and the radio program helped us to live with ones own cultural identity. Now, we are feeling proud to talk about our community and our culture.