From the Editor

We are most fortunate that our Hon’ble President, Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk, not only provides strategic direction and guidance, but also undertakes monitoring visits to our project sites in the rural pockets. This provides opportunities for the local community members to interact directly and also to appraise the Hon’ble President of implementation challenges as well as the progress being made.

These visits are always special and it is wonderful to see the bonds of love and concern blossom into clear strategies and programmes that will further empower our rural communities. These visits are very significant and can help bring about quicker positive social transformation. The local community members pay attention and work harder because HM The Queen Mother has inspired them, has visited their homes, work areas and shown genuine interest in improving their wellbeing.

During this monitoring visit the Hon’ble President also visited Droemte and Taba and was moved by the living conditions of the people there. Though these two villages were closer to motor roads and to the bustling town of Phuentsholing, their lives had not improved in comparison to the significant improvement in the lives of the Lhops of Lotokuchu Jigme, Lotokuchu Singye and Lotokuchu Wangchuck where Tarayana’s targeted interventions were taken up. In an spontaneous gesture of compassion, Her Majesty The Queen Mother renamed the two villages as Ngawang Droemte and Namgyel Taba, believing that the name of Zhubdrung Ngawang Namgyel would bring them prosperity, peace and progress. Tarayana was also instructed to start implementing holistic rural development in these two villages immediately.

It is in these moments, one gets a glimpse of true compassion at work. It inspires us to be better social workers and mindful facilitators as we serve the remote rural communities and empower them, helping them help themselves. On behalf of all our rural community members we would like to thank our Hon’ble President for inspiring us and showing us how to serve through example.

Hon’ble President, HM Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk
Inaugurates Gravity Ropeway, Samtse

On 9th February, Her Majesty, accompanied by Dasho Dzongda, officials from Dzongkhag and Drungkhag administrations, Regional Director and officials from Practical Action, Nepal and Programme Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP, Representative from GNHC and Tarayana staff joined the inauguration of ‘Gravity Goods Ropeway’ in a traditional ceremonial procession led by Samtse Lam Neten. The 980 meters long ropeway that connects Changjiu and Thrikha will benefit more than 150 households and takes less than two minutes for each load.

According to the communities, this gravity goods ropeway will reduce their transportation burden. They were also very excited about the possible expansion in their crop production as both time and cost of transporting the produce was significantly reduced. This pilot gravity goods ropeway was handed over to the “Griling Tshokpa” a committee formed locally. This committee will be responsible for the management of the ropeway. Two caretakers who will be paid Nu.3, 000 each as salary and Nu.200 for cell phone vouchers will be responsible for everyday functioning of the ropeway. The ropeway is designed to carry a maximum weight of 25kg from Thrikha and 130 kg from Changjiu, according to Mr. Ganesh Ram, Engineer from Practical Action, Nepal.

Electric Dryer Donation

The two electric dryers costing Nu.22,500 each were donated to Thrikha community. This simple technology will make it possible for the community members to dry excess fruits and vegetables safely and hygienically. The dried fruits and vegetables can be used for home consumption during the off season and the surplus sold in nearby markets.

Farming is the main source of livelihood in the Lhop villages. Her Majesty, on 11th February, 2014 distributed small agricultural tools to 191 households of Lotokuchu Jigme, Lotokuchu Singye and Lotokuchu Wangchuck.

191 Household Gets Agriculture Tools
Training on Marketing and Business Development

On 26th and 27th February, a group of 15 members from Dechen Pelri, Gelephu were trained in Marketing and Business Development Strategies to improve the functioning of their Brick and Tile making units.

The training was conducted by Ms. Vidushi Malhotra, an FK exchange participant from Development Alternatives, Delhi, and Mr. Karma Wangchuk, Programme Officer. The members were trained in the basics of cooperative business, marketing, business development and various strategies. The training also involved a component of practical learning in which the members were allowed to take part in marketing and selling role-plays. This helped them to get a taste of how things work in the world outside and also helped hone their presenting and communication skills.

Training on Natural Dye Processing and Dyeing Process

A 11-days training in natural dye making as well as dyeing processes was conducted for the Monpa communities of Trongsa: Phumzur, Wamling and Jangbi from 4th to 14th February, 2014 with technical support from the National PostHarvest Centre (Paro) and the National Organic Program (NOP).

The training was funded by APIC, a project under the Ministry of Economic Affair. Local experts Aum Singye Wangmo and Aum Tshendu Choden also shared their knowledge and experiences in natural dye making as well as dyeing processes, with the trainees.

The trainees were taught different processes of making dyes, operating equipment and their individual functions in the dye making process. Demonstrations on the process of making organic dyes as well as manual dyeing were also conducted.

Engaging local trainers proved effective because the group found it easy to connect with them and inspired them to share their own ideas and even invent new ones for processing the natural dyes. The trainees also expressed keen interest in learning how to weave and hence the group will also take part in the planned weaving training in the near future.

A small dyeing centre was also opened and a self help group consisting of 10 members was formed to set up a small enterprise using the dyeing centre as their base.

Training on Tailoring for Home-based Workers

Funded by HomeNet South Asia, a tailoring training to empower the home based workers to enhance the skills and livelihood capacity of rural women was conducted for 22 trainees from two gewogs - Chimong and Mikuri, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag, for 3 weeks starting from 3rd February 2014.

The participants were trained to fix the machine, stitch tego, wonju, kira, and in the final week, they were taught to measure and cut different shapes and sizes.

Upcoming Events

March, 2014

4th-8th Natueco Farming in Jigmeling and Gelephu

23-29th: Visit to Japan; HMQM, Aum Chime P. Wangdi and Chhimmy Pem (Tourism), Wangmo and Tamiki

26th-31st: Mitsukoshi Department Store Bhutan-in-Bhutan Fair

Construction of market shed, Zimzurung, Monggar

Week Training on Book keeping in Samtse

Support Tarayana

We invite you to be a part of reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our society through your support to Tarayana. We operate with financial support of individuals and organizations, without which we would not have the opportunity of helping so many families help themselves. Tarayana complements and supplements the initiatives of the Government in empowering rural communities towards sustainable livelihoods.

The Foundation maintains its accounts in accordance with accepted financial norms and is audited annually by the Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan. An audited financial report and an annual progress report are published every year and is available for all interested individuals and organizations.

Please contact us for more information.