**From the Editor**

More we involve with our rural communities, more scope we generate to work despite the challenges we are faced with. It is our commitment to work for the social cause and betterment of the least privileged people in the country with their involvement and participation. Having kept ‘service from the heart’ as an integral part of our development philosophy, we do not hesitate to face whatever challenges lies ahead of us. Keeping our rural communities at the core intervention level, the needs of holistic development are assessed in collaboration with Tarayana Foundation.

This time, surveys are being carried out covering more than 523 households in the four Dzongkhags of Mongar, Samtse, Tsirang and Pema Gatshel to identify the households requiring rain water harvesting technology to mitigate drinking water shortage. The demonstration of rain water harvesting system was done at Tsirangtoe in July 2014. According to the findings of our field officer, another 300 households under Tsirang Dzongkhag requires rain water harvesting in addition to the ones already identified.

Bhutan is also on track to meet MDG 1c (halving 1990 rates of child underweight by 2015). Tarayana Foundation carried out study on “Rapid Community and Household Food Security Status” in three districts of Trongsa, Samtse and Zhemgang. After survey results and recommendations, Tarayana, under the support of World Bank SAFANSI (South Asia Food & Nutrition Security Initiatives) project fund provided trainings to basic food and nutrition education trainings to housewives and Buzip (ECCD) care givers in eight villages of Trongsa.

We are happy to inform here that 102 village in 10 Dzongkhags are benefited by Tarayana Foundation.

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**Baseline Survey on water availability, use and demand, and projected climate change impacts on water resources**

**Lotokuchu Singye, Samtse**

**Samtse**

**Water source at Kapashing, Tsirangtoe**

**Tsirangtoe**

Supported by NAPA (National Adaptation Plan for Action) II project, Tarayana Foundation is conducting a baseline survey on water availability, use and demand, as well as projected climate change impacts on water resources in four identified Dzongkhags of Samtse, Monggar, Pema Gatshel and Tsirang. This will essentially involve a study to access the baseline situation of general and seasonal water availability, use and demand as well as projected climate change impacts on water resources in the targeted areas. 154 households were surveyed in four villages of Dorokha Gewog under Samtse Dzongkhag, 90 households in six villages of Tsirangtoe Gewog under Tsirang Dzongkhag, 90 households in Monggar, 189 households in the two Gewogs of Pema Gatshel are also being carried out at present.

**T h e m a i n objectives of the NAPA are to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes are prevention of soil run-off, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table. This enables multi-cropping and the introduction of diverse agro-based activities, which help to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the water harvesting.**

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**SPSS Training- In-House Capacity Building**

Tarayana Foundation conducts in-house capacity development of its employees to enhance competency at work. One such training was conducted from July 21 to July 25 under the coordination of Madam Sonam Pem, and Mr. Chencho Dukpa, Chief Research Officer from the CORRBB, MOAF as the resource person. The training was on SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences), to enhance data analysis and interpretations. This training is expected to reduce dependency on outside expertise in data analysis and interpretation. Valuable experiences from the past surveys conducted by the foundation are also included in the training programme.
Food and Nutrition Survey

The recent survey conducted by Tarayana Foundation in three districts of Trongsa, Samtse and Zhemgang on “Rapid Community and Household Food Security Status” revealed alarming gaps and opportunities for intervention to improve food and nutrition security among the people of identified districts. The survey was organized with the aim of understanding behaviors and practices of households and communities in securing food and nutritional needs, and understanding existing hygiene behaviors among families.

Based on the survey results and recommendations, Tarayana Foundation provided basic food and nutrition education training to housewives and Buzip (ECCD) care givers of Trongsa communities like Jangbi, Wangling, Phumzur, Tongtophy, Koshala, Baling, Pangzur and Endocholing on July 5 and 6, 2014. The training was supported by World Bank under SAFANSI (South Asia Food & Nutrition Security Initiatives) project. Similar trainings will be provided to other districts in the following months.

Quality Control Training

Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently supported a training programme on quality control of potato chips making to 15 farmers in Pema Gatshel. The farmers belonged to various potato chips making groups from Mekuri and Bangyul villages of Dungmin Gewog. The one day training on July 6 covered hygiene, packaging of chips, checking of crispiness and standardization of the products. The training was facilitated by Mr Pema Tshewang, Agriculture Extension Officer of Pema Gatshel.

Tarayana Clubs in Action

We are happy to introduce yet another new member of Tarayana school club. Phuntshothang Middle Secondary School under Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag became the newest addition for the year 2014. According to the club coordinators Mr Thinley and Lopon Tshering Dorji, the club was initiated after witnessing the need of support for the people with physically challenged, and economically disadvantaged. Besides, they also support the medical staff in advocating on various issues, help improve the living standard in the community with regard to cleanliness, and uplift the culture of the country through advocacy and competitions.

Nine teams participated in one day Tarayana fund raising volleyball knock- out tournament in the school. Marshala United won the final by defeating Deothang United. The chief guest, Dasho Major from RBA presented the prizes. He commended the organizers for the initiative to help the disadvantaged and the vulnerable groups through such valuable initiatives.

Students from the school contributed labour for the construction of abbot’s quarter at Ngajur Kuengachoeling Goenpa in Zanghi, Deothang, sponsored by Mr Tshering Duba; a shopkeeper of Raiter. 67 Tarayana club members including seven teaching and non-teaching staff and scouts volunteered for the construction of Pemathang Chorten near Damdara where the hilly walk starts for the people of Neynatal.

Upcoming Events

August, 2014

-Training on vermi compost for 290 community members and financial literacy training for 190 members of ten self help groups at Kengkhar Gewog, Monggar Dzongkhag.

-Construction of work shed at Ugyentse, installation of electric dryers in seven households and vegetable group food processing training at Kuzugang, Ugyentse, Tendu, Nagawang Droemete, and Denchuka at Samtse Dzongkhag.

-ADB Project monitoring visit to 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.

Tarayana Foundation, P.O. Box 2003, Tarayana Centre, Chubachu, Thimphu, Bhutan
Phone: 975-2-329-333 Fax: 975-2-331-433 Email - tarayana2003@gmail.com
www.tarayanafoundation.org
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
https://www.facebook.com/TarayanaFoundation
@TarayanaFoundn