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With Climate Change Adaptation, We Protect Ourselves from Starvation



To increase awareness of climate change, CDRM&CDS facilitated community discussion about mitigation and adaptation strategy. One of which was discussion with Makukuet Sub-Village farmers who suffered long dry season. “When paddy started to grow, water flow need to be high. However, the long dry season causing irregularity of irrigation in our paddy fields, so that we could not cultivate paddy and our rice production has been de-

creased,” Resni Taileleu (36), farmer and also one of CDRM&CDS’ partner households at Makukuet Sub-Village, said.

To adapt with that situation, the villagers took the initiative to stem the water spring. “Besides facilitated to build the dam, CDRM&CDS also facilitated us to construct simple irrigation from bamboo, which will running down the water towards our rice fields,” she said.

Now all of householders (23

householders) at Makukuet Sub-Village have utilized this irrigation canal. “The irrigation has been built, and the water has been flowed through our rice fields, even during the dry season. In spite of climate change, we could adapt and plant paddy at any season. Our rice production slightly improved, and we also built fish pond around the water spring. We have been protected from starvation,” Resni said happily. ■



Renewable Energy ensures Climate Smart Farming in Riot Torn Assam, India

Agriculture plays an important and significant part in the socio-economic fabric of India. Agriculture is the backbone of many families in rural India. The farmers in riot torn Kokrajhar district of Assam are usually depend on seasonal rainfall for irrigation which is not enough to practice sustainable agriculture farming. This has often forced the farmers to mortgage their land in an effort to sustain their families. This was kind of regular phenomenon and stories unspoken over the years in riot hit villages where LWSIT is operational.

There are fourteen Solar Irrigation Pumps were assisted by LWSIT to the partner communities at various locations which catered to 27.79 acres of arable land, benefiting 78 farmers and 2 Village Development Committees in Sindhrihora and Panwary village. The user committee have been formed which ensures proper utilization of the Solar Pump and also proper distribution of the water in the control area.

The availability of water for irrigation



has contributed to very good yield for the farmers those involved in farming in the identified area. The farmers could able to cultivate different seasonal crops based on geo-climatic conditions. The crops such as potato, garlic, brinjal, chilli, tomato, cauliflower, oil seed, mustard and many more are taken up in the plot of land by the farmers of Sindhrihora and Panwary village. This has also stopped the trend of mortgaging land in the area and contributed towards food security amongst farmer families.

Mr Rambai Rabha is one of the farmers who is benefiting through the support of Solar Pump. He along with other neighboring

farmers is able to cultivate approximately 9 acres of land through the water drawn with the help of solar pump. In this plot of land, he is now growing potato, garlic, chilly and arum. The farmers committee has procured the

tend to install a movable PVC reservoir for storing water.

Rambai Rabha's seven member family is food secured and he is also able to cater to other needs of the family from the money he is making from the ag-



extension pipe which has enabled to irrigate the land to the far of places, thus ensured further increase of agriculture coverage. In near future, they in-

riculture produce. He was not only able to purchase utensils for his household but also meet educational and health needs of the family. ■

Cyclone 'Phailin' Response Program: Janaki finds new shelter

Janaki Das – a Dalit woman lost her thatched house, her backyard poultry and other household materials during cyclone 'Phailin' that caused on 12th October 2013. It was unprecedented situation for Janaki to face and cope with disaster situation incurring heavy loss not only of her house but livelihood too. The three children and her husband never thought to leave on the road at the aftermath of cyclone in view of their damaged house.

Biripur village is situated very close to river Rusikula under Karapada Gram Panchayat, Ganjam Community Development Block in Ganjam District. The history revealed that, in view of the huge production of black gram in this village, farmers used to get buffer yield which they not only make consumption as part of food stuff but also sold in the market and earned good income. Hence, Biri in Odia language means Black Gram. In this perspective the forefathers have named the village as BIRIPUR (the house of Black Gram).

The poor woman Janaki Das, wife of Sri Ramesh Das, is a daily labourer who depends on her livelihood on daily wage earning either in her own village or neighbouring village. More often she use do walk for miles together and make herself available in other villages to work as daily labourer. She lives with her husband, three sons (eldest is in Class - II, second is about 5 years old and third is about of 3 years old) and her father-in-law who is bed ridden with 70 year old. The landless and illiterate Janaki faced the plight of cyclone when she lost all her belongings including her house. She was totally shocked and broken down to see her destroyed house caused by cyclone Phailin upon her return to the village at the aftermath of cyclone. During cyclone period Janaki and her family members took shelter in the village school as it was safe and permanent structure. Looking at the plight of the



Janakin with her family at dilapidated house after cyclone



Janaki with her kids at new house

situation, Gram Panchayat authority provided the plastic sheet just to put up as temporary shelter. In such situation it was never possible for Janaki to rebuild her house with her little money which is available with her that she had earned from daily wage labour.

In this crisis situation, LWSIT came forward to support Janaki by providing necessary support to construct the house which is permanent in nature and would withstand to any

natural hazards like floods, cyclone or earthquake. Entire family was engaged in house construction by providing their helping hands to the mason and other workers those engaged at work. With criteria being established by LWSIT, the selection of this right holder was done in democratic process during village development committee in Biripur village.

Upon completion of the house construction, Janaki –

the key right holder and her family members could stay in their newly built house and they were overjoyed to own their house. With great appreciation she expressed her thanks to LWSIT. In her language, "this LWSIT has ensured our living under a permanent Umbrella and we all will take care of this, maintain this and worship in this house. We are very sure that, God will not take away our permanent Umbrella".

Transparency: The Way Forward



Starting in mid-2014, LWF became the first NGO in the Delta region that initiated a Complaint & Response Mechanism (CRM) program, which enhances mutual trust, respect and transparency between LWF and its partners. LWF conducted CRM trainings, displayed CRM posters and installed ‘complaints boxes’ in public places around the LWF implementation areas.

In every step of project implementation, LWF ensures transparency and accountability. This complaint-response mechanism helps maintain relations between the implementers and rights-holders (people from the communities) and aims to make future project plans run smoothly.

U Hla Htay, a farmer group leader, from Ta Yoke Seik village shared his insights on CRM “I made a phone call to LWF Pyapon Office and complained against the football competition held at the International

Youth Day in my village in August 2014. During the match, I found out that LWF staffs are unfair in decision making as they want only their team to win. One day after my phone call, the Empowerment Officer, U Thit Lwin, came to the village and solved the problem. We had face-to-face discussion with the youth group members and LWF field staff till both of us was satisfied. Then, we considered this case as a lesson learned and the responsible staff was given written and verbal warnings as far as I know.”

The chairperson of Pale’s Village Development Committee (VDC), U Hla Nyein, also expressed that after attending a CRM training conducted by LWF staff in his village, he started to realize the importance of transparency and how it helps him when he prepares and produces financial reports for VDC activities. “Transparency is very important when it comes to development. This

practice reduces conflict and makes relationships better between two parties,” he says.

“The CRM is one of the great supporting tools for our Community Empowerment Facilitators as it is the best solution for potential doubt, mistrust, and misunderstanding amongst each other. It makes our RBEP activities smooth and efficient,” said Hein Maung Maung, an LWF Community Empowerment Facilitator assigned in Pyapon Township. ■



THE
LUTHERAN
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Myanmar Program

More Help Needed for Improving Food Security



To improve living condition of poor villagers in 13 target villages in Vieng Phoukha district Luang Namtha province Laos is one of the specific objectives of LWF development project. Food security is critically important to the lives of villagers in poor rural villages in particular in the context of climate change especially the ones whose living rely on local farming and livestock raising e.g. rice farming both up-low land, plantation and poultry, animal raising etc.

Supporting vocational training is progressively activity toward improvement of living conditions of poor villagers. Vegetable planting, Bio-Extract (BE) and compost training to promote small income generation activities and improve nutri-

tious food are seen gradually improving the lives of villagers that mostly belong to farming and plantation. They've been using materials and equipment e.g. vegetable seeds and some gardening equipment given by LWF to start making BE and fertilizer to plant vegetables on their home garden.

Ms Souk, living in Konthu village, who received the support, said that "I often make BE and fertilizer to water my vegetables because I feel that it doesn't require complicated things to look after and it grows very well." Making BE and fertilizer is not costly and simple. "I improve my vegetable home garden by following instruction of the trainers and it works. I can earn some small income from selling them to my neighbors and

can cook them for my children when needed," she said.

Mr. Phonexay, LWF Laos Community Empowerment Facilitator based in Konthu village said that "because most of villagers already had some experiences and skills in making vegetable home garden, the new farming techniques they obtained from the training added more values and drove them for successes."

Since climate change is increasingly affecting the people and causing lots of risks and disaster, there is more helps needed. To address these challenges, LWF development project will also need to find effective and sustainable ways to support and improve the food security as well as to ensure sufficient nutrition.

Local government officials receive training on land dispute resolution



CAMBODIA — Commune councillors, district councillors and LWD field staff successfully completed a five-day advanced training course on “Conflict Management and Mediation Skills for Land Dispute Resolution”, in late February this year, organized in Phnom Penh by LWD in partnership with Cambodian Center for Mediation.

The training course, which was sponsored by Finn Church Aid, aimed to build the capacity of participants to be able to

(i) analyze the concrete issues of land disputes by using specific conflict analysis tools; (ii) practice specific mediation skills in relation to the real cases at the communities; (iii) strengthen the com-

mune mediation committees already established at each commune under the LWD’s target areas in order that they provide mediation services to the local communities.

There were 23 participants attending the training course. They are first and second vice commune chiefs, commune chiefs, commune councillors, district councillors and LWD field staff. They are from Kampong Speu, Pursat and Battambang provinces.



About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

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