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Janaki finds her way for Sustainable Livelihood



Jayanti is Happy with her Cow

Jayanti Barik, a member of Maa Sidhamari-chiani Community Based Disaster Manage Team (CBDMT) of Tubihuda community in Kendrapada district of Odisha is now very happy and maintaining her life with dignity. She has a small family and living with her husband and two children. At the time of LWSIT's intervention in the community in 2007, Jayanti was dependent on daily labour and struggling to provide food to her family members. Her family's only asset was a two-roomed thatched house. With the initiation of the Dan Church Aid (DCA) supported DRR and Food Security Programme in the community, she was provided with a milch cow in February 2013. Since then life has not been the same

for Jayanti or her family. She is now contributing Rs 2,400 (US\$ 37 approx.) monthly towards her family's expenses on equal footing as her husband, from her income through the sale of milk.

By 2015 significant changes have been observed in Jayanti's family. Her son is now studying in college while her daughter is in the 8th standard and secured a 2nd position in the class. Jayanti has also acquired certain assets such as a colour television, ceiling fan and some utensils. Even after her cattle shed was damaged by the heavy rain in 2014 which she could not repair the damage. During that time, Jayanti's husband fractured his hand and was unable to work for more than a month. But, Jayanti did not lose

her confidence, rather could be able to support and maintain her family through her earnings from the milch cow.

Jayanti is now self-reliant and set an example for other women and her community to show that 'woman is no longer depended on others and can manage the family as a man'. She has also utilized her own earnings to purchase a sewing machine worth of Rs 5,000 (US\$ 77 approx.), through which she is able to fetch some additional income. With this escalated income in the family, now Jayanti and her husband have planned to send both of their children for higher study. This reflects the gender empowerment initiatives facilitated by LWSIT the Project operational area. ■

Now we can dry our paddy grain with AFILUO

My name is Faog-sokhi Telaumbanua (45), a farmer living in Tetehosi I Village, Nias Islands. CDRM & CDS has facilitated me to join Community Resilience Unit (SATLINMAS) in my village. After engaging with the SATLINMAS, my knowledge about global warming and climate change and adaptation skill to climate change has increased. An important adaptation skill I have gained is to dry our agricultural production like paddy

After harvesting, we usually dry the paddy before marketing it. We usually find difficulty in drying paddy during the rainy season. The grains usually sprouted after being exposed to rain water splash.

We are very happy with the rice dryer tool called "AFILUO" in our mother tongue Nias, developed by local people. AFILUO means solar wings as this dryer is wings-shaped and utilizes solar power.

Usually, AFILUO is used to dry cacao beans. This is the first experiment of using AFILUO to dry paddy grains. Using sim-



ple materials of UV plastic and 2 wings made of zinc sheeting painted black, we already have our rice dryer. AFILUO could increase the temperature up to 80 C and accelerate

rice drying time. Before, the paddy drying time in the dry season is 1 week and it could take 2 weeks in the rainy season. Using AFILUO, the drying time is only in 3-4 days in dry

season and 5 days in rainy season, and the result is better. Now 5 farmers have used AFILUO in my village. We hope more farmers could benefit from this rice dryer tool in future. ■

Life is better now



It is a story of Md. Jamshed Ali. Farm laborer Jamshed Ali lives in Kurigram. Jamshed Ali, 32, tells his story of struggle, dreams and success.

“I am a farmer and live in nearby a WAPDA embankment. I have one son and one daughter. Both of them are going to primary school. My family is consisted by five members. I used to live hand to mouth with my family as I would earn very little. The life was full of struggle. It is not easy to find a work every day. It becomes worse during flood. The

area of the embankment and the village roads goes flooded, or damaged every year. In that situation, we cannot move out to find work and face hardship in life, said Jamshed Ali.

Md. Jamshed continues, RDRS started a project “Recovery Support to the Flood Affected Families of North-Western districts of Bangladesh (RSFAF)” end of the year of 2015 in our area. A consultation meeting was organized where I was present and selected as Cash for Work (CfW) beneficiary. CfW will cover 30 days duration

@Tk.200/day. I was informed that Tk. 6,000 from cash for work and Tk. 3,000 from livelihood cash grant support altogether Tk. 9,000 will be provided to me. After completing the CfW period I received Tk. 9,000. Then, I purchased cattle for Tk.8, 000 for rearing and future benefit. On the other hand, I got engaged in road repairing work under this project”. After losing houses and assets in a devastating flood, Cash for work of RSFAF project brought success and solvency to Jamsed Ali’s family, and many others.

Ex-Haliyas succeed in getting their debt written off



Mr Nand Lal Ayer, a former landlord from Ajaymeru village of Dadeldhura, being felicitated for writing off the debt of his Haliya.

Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj Federation Nepal (National Federation of Ex-bonded Ploughmen Society Nepal), an implementing partner of LWF Nepal, has recently felicitated two ex-landlords from Ajaymeru village of Dadeldhura district in the far western part of Nepal. The erstwhile landlords were felicitated for the ‘improved acceptance of former landlords for the rehabilitation of ex-bonded laborers campaign’, as part of the Action for Advancing Freedom of Freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamlaris project.

At a program held on 16 September 2015, Mr Jaya Ram Paneru, a former landlord, willingly wrote off debt amounting NPR 2,500 (€ 23) of freed Haliya Mr Ram Bahadur Tiruwa. Mr. Tiruwa had borrowed the amount from Mr Paneru in 1961. Similarly, Mr Nanda Lal Ayer heartily wrote off a debt of NPR 4550 (€ 41) of freed Haliya Mr Bhim Parki. Mr Parki had taken the loan in 1999.

Mr Krishna Bahadur Ayer, Secretary of Ajaymeru village development committee, honored Mr Paneru and Mr Ayer by awarding them letter of appreciation. The ex-landlords

happily annulled the deed of debt by signing formal debt-exemption papers.

Speaking at the program, Mr Paneru, said, “In spite of longstanding traditional and inhuman practices of forcible bonded labor, we are now morally and legally bound to respect government decision to abolish the Haliya system. We have to walk hand in hand with ex-Haliyas, and contribute, as much as we can, to their rehabilitation and enhanced dignity”.

Likewise, Mr Ayer, another former landlord said, “Debt cancellation campaigns like these not only foster harmony between former landlords and ex-bonded laborers, but also serves as a precedence for others, which ultimately contributes to establish harmony in the society.”

Despite growing awareness among the landlords and the bonded laborers in different forms like Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamlari, thanks to the community empowerment by the local and international NGOs, media which proliferated following the Popular Movement of 1990 that restored democracy in Nepal, and the government initiatives to liberate the bonded

laborers, there are remnants of the slavery in the mid- and far western parts of Nepal.

Particularly Tharu men and women served their landlords as bonded laborer known as Kamaiya and Kamlari respectively in the Tarai of western, mid-western and far western parts while the poor and marginalized mostly the Dalits, who are treated as ‘untouchable’ as per the Hindu hierarchy were bonded for tilling the land of the rich especially the so-called upper caste people.

LWF Nepal played an important role in getting the government announce the liberation of the bonded laborer on 17 July 2000 through a decree. LWF Nepal has, in partnership with the local organization, particularly the National Federation of Ex-bonded Ploughmen Society Nepal, working to ensure the rights of ex-bonded laborers in 12 districts with 19,069 ex-Haliyas. Out of them 11,669 have been verified, 691 rehabilitated and 996 are in the process of rehabilitation. In 2007, the government declared all Haliyas free, but their debt had not been written off by their masters. ■

Rebuilding livelihoods in conflict-affected communities in Rakhine State



U A Phyu Maung is ready to fish in Ba Won Chaung Wa Su camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, Myanmar.

LWF started implementing livelihoods activities in Rakhine State in partnership with Federal Foreign Office (AA) and Diakonische Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), Germany in May 2015. The aim of the project that will run until April 2016 is to promote living conditions and build relationships between the IDPs, and host and nearby communities in Rakhine State. Over 24,000 people from 11 camps and nearby villages in Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships are expected to benefit from the project.

As part of the project, LWF Myanmar constructed and repaired shelters, toilets, road, pathways, foot bridges, culverts,

school building, Pauktaw general hospital waiting room and fenced water ponds. LWF Myanmar also supported 240 HHs for home gardening; 49 families received fishing nets; 20 HHs received fishing boats; and 45 women received tailoring/dress making training.

U A Phyu Maung is a 47-year-old fisherman who lives in Ba Wan Chaung Wa Su camp, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State. He has a wife and 8 children and relies on fishing for his livelihood.

“I used to own a fishing boat but it was destroyed during the conflict in 2012. I didn’t have a boat for about 3 years. During

that time, I sold vegetables in the Pauktaw market. The profit was not stable,” he explained.

“I had my own fishing net but I had to borrow or rent a boat from others. After LWF Myanmar provided me with a fishing boat, all the profit is now mine as I do not need to rent one anymore.”

He shared his future goal. “I would like to expand my fishing business. If I earn enough money, I will buy one more boat. Then I will sell fish in Sittwe Town. Three out of my eight children are attending school in Pauktaw. Because of fishing, I can support my children’s education much more effectively.”

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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