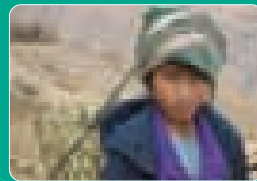
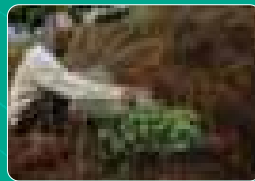




Aim 1 Reducing vulnerability

Aim 2 Market and livelihoods

Aim 3 Improving access to useful services, systems and structures



 **Practical Action Nepal**
ANNUAL REPORT 06/07

Practical Action

Vision

A sustainable world free of poverty and injustice in which technology is used to the benefit of all.

Mission

To use technology to challenge poverty by:

- building the capabilities of poor people,
- improving their access to technical options and knowledge, and
- working with them to influence social, economic and institutional systems for innovation and the use of technology

Core principles

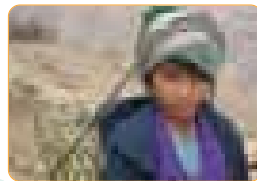
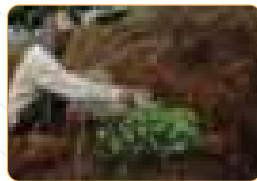
- Putting people first
- Working in partnership
- A concern for future generations
- Respect for diversity



Aim 1 Reducing vulnerability

Aim 2 Market and livelihoods

Aim 3 Improving access to useful services, systems and structures



Practical Action Nepal

ANNUAL REPORT 06/07

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Message from the Country Director

The year 2006 was a year of growth and some stability, both in terms of the country and the organisation. The country and the people finally saw some signs of hope with the people's voice slowly being heard. The war that went on for over a decade finally came to an end with the Maoist leaders stepping into the government. Though the end of the war did give a reason for the people to sigh in relief, the problems of the large number of people who got displaced are yet to be sensitively addressed.

In the organisation front, we see substantial growth - we have succeeded in raising funds for two new projects. Two new field offices have been established, and a big team of new staff added to our team. In terms of project delivery, the output this time indicates almost a two hundred percent increase. This indicates that we are now more effective and successful in the solutions we provide, while also indicating the hard work the entire team has been putting in. This year, we continued doing what we had to in order to help the poor and improve their livelihoods in spite of all the difficulties and hardships in the field due to the insurgency. What is certain is that we are moving forward, standing firmer each day, more effectively on our mission to eradicate poverty.

This year the outreach of our work has drastically increased. We have now reached to 6,360 households of beneficiaries directly through our projects. Similarly, the geographical coverage of our work has also widened with the launching of two new projects. Resource wise also we are becoming strong compared to the preceding years of operation in the country. This year our total delivery in financial terms was around £700,000 which was larger than our originally planned budget for the year.

This year proved fruitful also in reaching out and sharing knowledge of the work that we do. We responded to over 200 enquires through our technical enquiry service and had over 400 visitors in our Resource Centre. We had both national and international individuals and organisations showing interest in our work and the information we share. Coverage of our work on climate change in the renowned UK national newspaper the

Guardian, the launching of indoor smoke and health forum web portals, participation in a number of exhibitions and conferences helped us to further reach out to other organisations and the general public. Similarly, to improve the internal sharing across the organisation and establish a sharing culture we introduced SharePoint as a tool which will be implemented full fledged in the coming year.

It was this year Practical Action globally started to revise its group strategy. Thinking more on the longer term impacts, our work will have a wider reach to the people in need and provide a bigger contribution in eradicating poverty.

2006 also proved to be a year of being acknowledged for the work we have been doing. We received the prestigious global leadership award for the contributions we have made in reducing indoor air pollution. Three of our staff members won different positions in the second and third knowledge sharing contests announced within the organisation, globally.

The year 2006, in this way, has been a year in which we grew together to shape ourselves and our work. We look forward to making a difference in the lives of our wider beneficiaries including the rural and urban poor through our innovative programme approaches. With the experience we have had this year and with boosted confidence, together with partner organisations, funders and other Practical Action offices, we are sure that we will be able to reach more milestones in the coming years.

I would like to thank the donor organisations, UK supporters, partners and stakeholders for their continued support to make our mission possible. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards those communities living in the rural areas that just need a small push but are able to shape their future themselves, and are very willing to do so.

Achyut Luitel
Country Director

Acknowledgement

Practical Action Nepal sincerely acknowledges the financial and moral support provided by individuals and organisations in the Europe and elsewhere. We would like to express our gratitude to the following organisations in making it possible for us to touch and make a difference in so many lives.

Allachy Trust
British Embassy
Caterham Overseas Aid Trust
CO-OP Bank, UK
Department for International Department (DFID), UK
DGIS Netherlands
ETC Foundation, Netherlands
European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO)
European Union (EU)
George and Margaret Taylor
H C D Memorial Fund
P J K Holland Charitable Trust
Persula Foundation
Rufford Foundation
South Asian Network for Development and Environment Economics (SANDEE)
South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI)
Slowe Trust
States of Guernsey Overseas Aid
Transport Research Lab (TRL)
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN HABITAT)
University of Catalonia
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Woodlands Trust
World Jewish Relief
Zurich Cares Overseas

Acronyms

4S	Surya Social Service Society
ANR	Agriculture and Natural Resources
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBDM	Community Based Disaster Management
CC	Climate Change
DDC	District Development Committee
DESERT	Dolpo Educational, Social and Environmental Reservation Team
DoLIDAR	Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads
ECOSAN	Ecological Sanitation
EWS	Early Warning System
FORDA	Fountain of Development Research
HH	Household
IAP	Indoor Air Pollution
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IMT	Intermediate Mode of Transport
ISWM	Integrated Sustainable Waste Management
LGP	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MIT	Micro-irrigation Technologies
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PCIA	Partnership for Clean Indoor Air
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PMC	Participatory Market Chain
PPM	Production, Processing and Marketing
PROLINNOVA	PROMoting Local INNOVation
REV	Renewable Energy Village
RIMS	Resource Identification and Management Society
SALT	Sloping Agriculture Land Technology
SDS	Society for Development Studies
SHG	Self-help Group
SMT	Senior Management Team
ToT	Training of Trainers
udle	Urban Development through Local
UKP	United Kingdom Pound
UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
USD	United States Dollar
VDC	Village Development Committee

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Practical Action in Nepal

The radical economist Dr. E.F. Schumacher established the Intermediate Technology Development Group in 1966 to prove that his philosophy of Small is Beautiful could bring real and sustainable improvements to people's lives in developing countries. With its Head Office in the UK, this organisation (now called Practical Action) works through its country and regional offices in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Practical Action is committed to reduce poverty. It supports the efforts of poor men and women to improve their livelihoods by providing appropriate technology options, associated information, knowledge, and skills, and the capacity to organise and use all these to get more control over their lives and livelihoods. The people centred unique and innovative approach of Practical Action incorporates local knowledge and skills, which ensure their wider adoption and replication respecting sustainability, basic human rights, and strategic partnership.

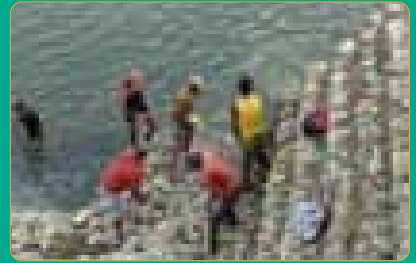
To help achieve its mission and responding to the changing global development scenario, Practical Action has made a major shift in its priority areas for the benefit of the needy people in developing countries. Practical Action's programme objectives are based on the following four International Programme Aims:

- **AIM 1 - Reducing vulnerability** - by strengthening the ability of poor people to use technology to cope with threats from natural disasters, environmental degradation and civil conflict.
- **AIM 2 - Market and livelihoods** - by enabling poor people to use technologies to build secured

livelihoods, through improved systems of production, processing and marketing.

- **AIM 3 - Improving access to useful services, systems and structures** - by improving access of poor women and men to locally managed services, by developing and disseminating technologies related to water and sanitation, housing, shelter and secure tenure, modern clean and sustainable energy, transport, solid waste and communications.
- **AIM 4 - Responding to new technologies** - by enabling poor people to assess and respond to the challenges of new technologies and to develop and adopt applications that improve their livelihoods.

In Nepal, Practical Action started its work in 1979, mainly involved initially in the micro-hydro sector by developing and transferring micro-hydro and end use technologies, building the capabilities of the local manufacturers and imparting knowledge and skills to the rural entrepreneurs and advocating for appropriate policies and institutions. In 1998, Practical Action formally established its Country Office in Nepal and diversified its activities from the micro-hydro sector to the development and promotion of other forms of renewable energy and to the two new programme areas ~ agro-processing and rural transport. Now, Practical Action Nepal is working in seven broad priority areas ~ disaster management; adaptation to climate change; food security; improving market access; integrated infrastructure services (alternative transport and renewable energy); clean air initiatives; and waste management and sanitation for a sustainable urban environment.



Programme Priority Areas in Nepal

Reducing Vulnerability

Market and Livelihoods

Improving Access to Useful Services, Systems and Structures



Reducing Vulnerability [Aim 1]

Practical Action Nepal works under three programme areas within this Aim to help reduce vulnerability of the rural and urban poor. The overall programme goal is to strengthen the ability of the poor people to use technology to cope with the threats from natural disasters, environmental degradation, food security and climate change.

The programme areas include:

- Reducing Risk from Disasters
- Securing Food for the Poor
- Adaptation to Climate Change

Reducing Risk from Disasters

Nepal, with climatic variations and increase in vulnerability of communities, needs different types of coping strategies to reduce the effects of natural disasters. Poor economic conditions, insufficient knowledge on disasters, low literacy rates, inadequate physical infrastructure, poor forecasting facilities and unplanned settlements result in a number of problems that evolve too frequently.

Objective

The overall objective of the programme is to reduce the loss of lives and property of the vulnerable communities from disasters, especially water induced. The objective is also to assist the vulnerable communities to cope with disasters by building their capacity for preparedness and disaster management.



▲ Locals constructing new bridge at Meghauri, Chitwan to improve their accessibility during the flooding season.

Projects

- Strengthening the capacity of communities to manage Early Warning Systems (EWS) to reduce the impact of floods in Chitwan and Nawalparasi district
- Mainstreaming livelihood centred approaches to disaster management

Practical Action Nepal, along with its local NGO partners, is implementing two of its projects to better prepare communities in Chitwan and Nawalparasi to face disasters. Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts are among the most severely flood-affected in Nepal with damage and loss of life increasing annually along the Rapti and Narayani rivers due to changing settlements, agricultural land use patterns and the consequences of climate change. The first project is co-funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) which will be completed in June 2007. The second project is funded by the DFID and will be completed in 2010.

▼ Locals getting acquainted with the flood watching tower at Meghauri, Chitwan.



▼ An emergency shelter at Prasauni, Chitwan.



▼ Locals participating in the mock drill session at Prasauni, Chitwan



Highlights

Awareness on Early Warning System (EWS)

Awareness campaigns and exhibitions on disaster preparedness and mitigation were held at school and community levels. School children were oriented about disaster management, preparedness and early warning systems. Students from the primary, lower secondary and secondary level took part in art, essay and poetry competitions which were held in six VDCs of Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts. Similarly, to further increase awareness and community participation, street dramas and song competitions were organised in which local artists and community members participated and shared their stories. Slogans and messages on early warnings and flood awareness were prepared and broadcasted through the local FM stations. Similarly, various Information Education and Communications (IEC) materials such as posters, leaflets, pamphlets, hoarding boards, calendars and t-shirts were produced and widely distributed.

Appropriate Warning Systems

Foundation work for the construction of 5 Early Warning Towers, an improved form of the

traditional *machan*, have been completed, the construction of which will be completed during early 2007. Likewise, six meteorological stations with rain gauges and maximum/minimum thermometers were established in the school grounds, one each in the six VDCs. In each of the sites, the school management committee supported the installation and an orientation course for teachers covering the management of equipment and data recording.

Infrastructure Support

A total of six multipurpose emergency shelters were built in six VDCs, each within the school premises. Eight bridges and six dykes have also been constructed with the active participation of the community members. The community supported the construction by providing local labour and materials. The community also made 15 boats, each 24 feet long that will be used to cross the river during evacuation. The communities are also using these boats for income generation by transporting people from one end to another. Similarly, 70 life jackets were provided in order to strengthen the capacity of communities to manage evacuation in times of emergency.

CASE STUDY

Boats for income

Of the 72 districts in Nepal, Chitwan district is well known for its fertile soil and also as a major tourist destination. The beautiful region, however, is also one of the most severely flood affected in the country with damage and loss of life increasing annually along the Rapti River, especially during the monsoon. Practical Action Nepal, along with its local NGO partners, have been working since March 2006 to better prepare the communities to cope with water induced disasters.

Jagatpur is one of the villages where Practical Action Nepal has been working to help equip the people to carry out rescue activities. Three boats were built and handed over to the EWS committee in the village, along with life jackets and other rescue materials. The local school, where the emergency shelter is located, has been taking responsibility for the management of the rescue materials.

Though initially built for rescue purposes, the boats are now also being used to help generate additional income to strengthen the community and the management committee. During the beginning of each year, the popular festival "Bikram Baba Mela," takes place in Jagatpur. Thousands of people visit the village to participate in the festival and pay homage to the local temple situated there. This year the recently handed over boats became a very useful means to cross the Rapti river and the local committee raised some funds from it.



Photo: Rajesh KC

A local child enjoying a moment on a boat in Jagatpur, Chitwan.

The students of the local school managed the event allocating the right number of people for each trip. Passengers were charged NRs. 5 (£ 0.04) per person per trip. In 30 days the committee was able to raise NRs. 1,36,000 (£ 1046.00), which is much higher than the amount spent in building the boat.

The collected amount was shared between the EWS management committee and the local community to further strengthen themselves and better cope with possible disasters. The EWS management committee plans to build more boats, maintain the old ones, while also taking initiatives to encourage local communities to participate in the on-going activities. The school management, EWS management committees and the general public now feel they are more capable and confident in dealing with a range of possible natural disasters and in carrying out other livelihood improving activities.

Securing Food for the Poor

The issues related to food security in Nepal are crucial and complex in terms of production, availability and access. The majority of the people in rural villages are struggling for enough year-round food to sustain their lives and livelihoods. The lack of knowledge and skills on crop diversification, food production and management has made it more challenging for the poor communities.

Objective

The objective of this programme is to reduce the vulnerability of the marginalised and disadvantaged communities through improved natural resource management, skill enhancement and access to technologies and resources so as to secure year-round food needs.



▲ A local farmer in Banke collecting cucumbers to take to the market.

Projects

- Improving livelihood security of socially excluded communities in Nepal

After a long experience in agro-processing and value addition activities, Practical Action Nepal has started supporting vulnerable communities to secure year-round food supply in selected VDCs in six conflict affected districts. The districts include Banke, Kailali, Doti, Surkhet, Nawalparasi and Rupandehi. Food security is a broad area comprising mainly of food production, food redistribution and nutrition. The current programme covers these major three dimensions targeting the ultra-poor villagers. The project is co-funded by the European Union under its NGO Co-financing grant and will be completed in 2010.

▼ A member of a leasehold farmer group picking vegetables in Nawalparasi.



▼ A happy local farmer showing his beans in Nawalparasi.



▼ A local farmer selling his vegetables in the local market in Banke.



Highlights

Improved Income and Employment

To provide the landless and marginal farmers with an alternative livelihood option, altogether 18 land management plans were prepared by members of 45 leasehold farmer groups. The plan is being implemented by identifying and leasing out land, making written agreements and forming farmer groups. Fifty-three leader farmers have established 53 off-seasonal vegetable nurseries in their land with the support from partner NGOs and the local farmer groups. The nurseries are providing healthy and robust seedlings for cucumber, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, chillies and okra.

Capacity Development

To promote entrepreneurship among local artisans, women and self help group members, training on business development services, entrepreneurship development, market chain integration and collective marketing and linkages were provided. The training helped sensitize and motivate the beneficiaries to adapt to the challenging market trends. Similarly, a two day training course on accounting and a training course on agricultural technologies were provided to the accountants of the partner

organisations, farmer group leaders and representatives of the local CBOs and NGOs.

Individuals were also trained to become local Resource Persons on improved vegetable production. These Resource Persons have further provided training to 51 leader farmers on improved methods of vegetable production and nursery management. These trained farmers are now capable of working as local agricultural technicians and provide technical support to fellow villagers.

Twelve sessions of participatory planning workshops were conducted in all of the project districts. The first phase involved the training of trainers, where the district project team and leader farmers were provided skills on conducting participatory planning with the beneficiaries. Following this, each district prepared its own district annual plan. The second phase of on the spot one day participatory planning workshop was participated by selected group members, leader farmers and members of the VDC level steering and coordination committee. These training courses helped the participants to be more confident in the work they undertook and earn a better living for themselves and their families.

Community Empowerment

To empower the community with savings and credit mechanisms, a total of 48 leasehold farmer saving groups were formed. Altogether 457 individual farmers are members of these groups, among which six are all women groups. The farmer groups are being developed into SHG where the focus has been on improving the technical know how, group strengthening and capacity building of the participating farmers.

Infrastructure Support

During the first year of the project altogether 26 hectares of land were leased out by leasehold farmer groups. All these leased plots now encompass irrigation facilities provided through installation of micro-irrigation technologies (MITs) such as treadle pumps. The beneficiaries chose these technologies as they are affordable, user friendly and sustainable.

CASE STUDY



A piece of land to call her own

Tharus, traditionally belonging to farming communities, in large possess inadequate skills other than agriculture to earn a living. Even today the majority of them lack their own land to cultivate. They are known to have worked as bonded labours, locally known as Kamaiyas in the past. Today, due to the lack of other alternatives, even after the government abolished the concept of Kamaiya in 2000, some are still forced to continue doing so.

Sunkesari, a woman in her late thirties, resides in Majgaon, a Tharu settlement of Sripur VDC 7. Her family were formerly Kamaiya and though no longer in the bonded business today, they own only 3 *kaththas* (10,677 sq. ft.) of land.

Practical Action Nepal approached Majgaon with its intervention in July 2006 and started working with the local farmers. The aim was to

enhance the farming skills the people there already possessed. Acting on this aim, a farmer group - Pragatishil Farmer Group, with 10 household members was formed. The membership comprised of nine women and one man, all at some point in the past being Kamaiyas. Sunkesari is leading the group today and to date the group has leased out 20 *kaththas* (71,188 sq. ft.) of land from the local land owners in their vicinity to cultivate vegetables.

The project facilitated the land leasing process and provided technical backstopping to the farmer groups. In the process the project provided training on improved methods of vegetable cultivation and nursery establishment to Sunkesari and her group. They were also provided inputs on issues such as improved seeds, fertilisers and water spray tanks which



Photo | Rajesh KC

Members of the farmer's group inspection new seedlings.

were otherwise unavailable in the village. They even learned to collect cow dung and plant litter to prepare organic fertiliser. Sunkesari, who initially did not know how to apply fertilisers, now skilfully knows how to prepare and use them. Today she plants bottle gourd, bitter gourd and cucumber in the fields and has also motivated her group in doing so.

With the newly acquired skills and confidence Sunkesari is capable of growing crops even during the off-seasons. Initially unsure and

skeptical, she is happily harvesting the fruits of her labour today. Sunkesari started selling vegetables since the second week of April until the end of May. Within this period, she was able to sell 150 kg of bottle gourd and 100 kg of cucumber for which she earned NRs. 4,200 (£ 33.00) and NRs. 6,500 (£ 50.00) respectively. She also intercropped bitter gourd which fetched her NRs. 200 (£ 1.60) additional income. Her group members are also doing equally well.

Sunkeshari's group has started to collect a monthly saving at the rate of NRs. 5 (£ 0.04) per member to cover their 25% contribution to land rent in the coming year which sums up to NRs. 500 (£ 4.00) per person. The group has now decided to plant early varieties of cauliflower and cabbage during the winter season and are also planning to increase the area of the leased land.

Sunkesari has proved herself to be a good leader and set an example for her community by working hard and persevering to uplift the economic condition of her family with the little help she received in the short span of time.

Adaptation to Climate Change

Climate change has become a global issue now and coping with it is one of the major challenges the world faces today. Though Nepal contributes very little to the overall change in terms of carbon emission, the effects faced here are no less. In fact with more people under the poverty line and less equipped to deal with the changing scenario, people here end up being exposed to more adverse conditions. The lack of information and awareness tends to make the whole scenario even worse.

Objective

The broad objective of this programme area is to strengthen the resilience of poor communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change through adaptation strategies.



▲ A mother with her three children in front of her vulnerable hut in Kabilash, Chitwan.

Project

- Increasing the resilience of the poor communities to cope with the impacts of climate change

Since October 2004, Practical Action Nepal has been working with six settlements in Kabilash VDC of Chitwan district, covering a population of 1,100 to help cope with the impacts of climate change. Adverse climatic conditions have accosted lives and properties, and shrunk the livelihood opportunities of the communities over the past several years. Key strategies developed and implemented by Practical Action Nepal along with the local authorities to better cope with climate change are: a) natural resource management for reducing climate change effects; b) adaptation to changing farming systems and practices; c) strengthening coping strategies of the communities and enhancing complementary livelihood options; and d) establishing the monitoring systems of climate change at the community level considering the social, economic and natural resource parameters.

▼ A local farmer tending his vegetable garden in Kabilash, Chitwan.



Photo \ Rajesh KC

▼ Community members participating in a meeting in Kabilash, Chitwan.



▼ A local keeping a different breed of goats in Kabilash, Chitwan.



Photo \ Rajesh KC

Highlights

Awareness Building

During the year, awareness raising activities on conservation, agriculture and erosion control measures, especially in slash and burn type slope agricultural practices were completed. To further enhance the knowledge of the beneficiaries on disaster preparedness and management, beneficiaries were exposed to different conservation sites to gain visual evidences of various preparedness mechanisms. Community members, representatives of local governments, NGO/CBO and relevant stakeholders participated in the tour. Similarly, at school level, awareness among students was raised by distributing information leaflets, making presentations and teaching them how to measure and record the weather data in the meteorological station established within the school premises.

Capacity Development

The project provided on-site training on eco-friendly vegetable cultivation to the beneficiaries which helped them to increase their theoretical and practical knowledge about cultivation. Farmers were informed about the locally available resources for pest control and techniques for nursery

establishment. Farmers were also trained on Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) to implement it onto their marginal slopes which are exhausted from cultivation and depleted of any topsoil leached away by heavy downpours.

Infrastructure Support

The project provided technical and financial inputs in six villages to rehabilitate irrigation canals that were badly damaged by the floods and landslides during the previous years. Similarly, reconstruction of a washed away wooden bridge, construction of check dams at different strategic points along the streams, irrigation canals and drinking water intakes were also supported to protect life and properties of the beneficiaries.

Policy and Opinion Influencing

As an outcome of the regular sharing with the relevant government and non-government stakeholders, the project has been successful to influence local government bodies. Convinced with the workable approaches and the visible impacts in the intervened villages, the VDCs has now allocated 10 per cent of its annual budget on integrated watershed management focusing on adaptation to climate change and its impacts.

CASE STUDY



Embracing change

Tap Narayan Shrestha, 31 years of age lives with his family of 11 in Kabilash, a village in Chitwan. The family migrated to this village in 2004 from the hills due to the Maoists insurgency. They now own around 23 *katthas* (81857 sq. ft.) of land.

In 2004 Practical Action Nepal started its intervention on Climate Change adaptation in the village. During the intervention, the existing small irrigation canals in the village were repaired and the local farmers were trained on vegetable farming, domestic animal healthcare, and goat-raising. Tap Narayan participated in most of the training and became very interested in vegetable farming.

Before the intervention, his land was mostly uncultivated due to the lack of irrigation. After repairing the irrigation canal, he was able to start off-season and multiple vegetable farming as he could now control the water flow. The project further supported him with seeds and technical knowledge.

In 2005 he produced enough vegetables for his family's consumption, cutting down his family's expenditure on nutritional consumables. The next year, he increased the production and sold the vegetables in the nearby local market. From his initial trips to the market, he earned NRs 5,000 (UKP 39.00) which was very motivating for him as he had never thought he would be able to have a good income from farming on the land which remained uncultivated most of the time.



Farmers growing off season vegetables after receiving training on vegetable farming.

With irrigation facility, he now grows 4 crops (maize, paddy, cauliflower and radish) a year on the same plot. The technical support provided by Practical Action Nepal proved to be instrumental for him and to the rest of the villagers.

Today Tap Narayan is also involved in collecting milk from other farmers in the village who started animal farming after the training. He supplies milk to the dairy firm in the nearby town. He is now more confident and happy, and believes that the training and the awareness campaigns made him and the villagers more capable in dealing with situations like droughts and floods by making alternative livelihood options available.



Market and Livelihoods [Aim II]

Practical Action Nepal has been working with the local communities to help increase the access to established markets for small enterprises. Small producers and entrepreneurs are unable to earn as per their potential due to the lack of awareness and of technical and organisational capacities. The organisation works with people to address these issues.

This aim - Market and Livelihoods, has been on a low profile for some time now. The Aim is now being reestablished by conducting a study to prepare position papers and by recruiting a new Team Leader.

The programme area of this aim includes:

- Strengthening Market Access

Strengthening Market Access

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) continue to be the main source of livelihood for over 80 per cent of the people in Nepal. However, despite the heavy reliance on ANR many rural communities continue to suffer from poverty with an estimated 70 per cent of the people earning less than USD 2 per day. Practical Action Nepal is implementing the Participatory Market Chain (PMC) approach in order to engage the small producers, including other market actors, in understanding the specific problematic areas of constraints and identifying viable solutions to address these problems.

Objective

The programme aims to improve the livelihood of the poor farmers and producers involved in the production, processing and marketing of local farm products and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).



▲ A local juice producer labeling a bottle of seabuckthorn juice before sending it to the market.

Projects

- Strengthening governance of NTFP utilisation in the Karnali region of western Nepal
- PROMoting Local INNOVation (PROLINNOVA)

Practical Action Nepal with the financial support of the British Embassy has been working with the communities of the Karnali region, Western Nepal to help them improve their livelihoods by making the best use of the locally and naturally available resources. Similarly, a pilot project on PROLINNOVA has started in Kabilash VDC of Chitwan district to support local innovators to better implement their innovations in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management.

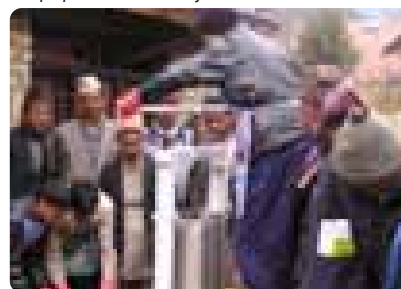
▼ Committee members of a NTFP group during a meeting.



▼ A local couple tending their NTFPs.



▼ Locals being trained on the improved method to prepare seabuckthorn juice.



Highlights

Awareness Building on Good Governance

To raise the awareness of the local NTFP stakeholders on good governance workshops on good governance were conducted. Forest users, entrepreneurs, NTFP's cooperative members and government stakeholders participated in the workshops. Likewise, exposure visits to the Resource Identification and Management Society (RIMS) Gajuri, and District Forest Office, Hetauda, was organised for the community members, traders and representatives from partner NGOs and the District Forest Office to observe the systems and procedures these organisations are applying to ensure good governance.

NTFP Management Group

The NTFP management groups were formed in Jumla and Dolpa, the project districts, to create a platform for NTFP collectors and users at the grassroots level. Members of the management group actively participated during the project period interacting and raising issues with the government stakeholders, specifically with the district forest office. A total of 17 NTFP management groups were formed and are currently functional with regular meetings and coordination activities.

Capacity Building

A week long institutional development training was held in Dolpa district that comprised courses on basic accounting and book keeping, leadership, organisational development and gender equity. Training on appreciative enquiry approaches was held in the project districts which were facilitated by the staff from partner organisations (4S in Jumla and DESERT in Dolpa). The training dealt with the principles, steps and methodologies of appreciative practices. Similarly, skill development training on herbal tea and seabuckthorne processing and marketing was also held in the selected districts.

Local Innovators and Innovations Identified and Documented

An interactive workshop was held in the community, at Kabilash VDC, Chitwan, in October 2006 where local farmers, innovators, community leaders and government representatives participated. The Participatory Innovation Development (PID) process for the innovations was discussed with the actors after observing them the following day. The four innovations identified were; bee hives for local bees, improved water mills (*Ghatta*); herbal medicines and treatment for sprains and fractures (Orthopaedic) and intercropping (banana, vegetables and cereal crops).

CASE STUDY

Innovation for local bees

Krishna Bahadur Tamang is 56 years old and is a farmer by profession. His main source of livelihood is agriculture but he also has skills in carpentry. It was this skill that helped him develop a bee hive, utilising locally available materials that suited the local requirement.

The bee hive Krishna developed is designed to best suit the average number and body size of the local bees. It comprises of a thin layer of ply wood with small slots which could be manually opened and two compartments separating the queen bee from the other worker bees. It is appropriately slotted such that the queen is unable to enter the upper compartment where honey is collected.

Krishna Bahadur started to experiment on these hives around two years ago and it has been a gradual and an independent process towards the final product. He feels there are still a few changes needed that might further benefit the hive. He currently owns four of these self made hives. He has also sold a few outside the village.

After experiencing the problems of bee predators like hornets and wasps, he also decided to make a trapper for these insects. Although the trapper on its own has nothing new about it, the innovativeness that Krishna has brought is the optimum use of locally available resources, user friendliness and simple repair and maintain mechanism.



Krishna Bahadur Tamang, the local innovator, with his wasps' trapper.

This innovative farmer has not obtained any formal education nor is he a professional bee keeper. He experimented with making a local bee hive after he learned how to make a bee hive suitable for more commercial bees like *Melifera*. He knows that Kabilash is a potential area for bee keeping as Chiuri trees are found abundantly in the forests. During the flowering season of the chiuri trees, private bee keepers from the adjoining towns and villages bring their hives in large numbers to feed their bees. Despite the potentiality, the community of this VDC has not yet been able to utilise this opportunity. Hence, in the long run, innovations, in which an individual like Krishna is working on, could pave the way towards technically, economically, socially and environmentally viable options to the community.



Improving Access to Useful Services, Systems and Structures [Aim III]

Practical Action Nepal has been working towards providing alternative technologies and sustainable solutions to increase the access of the poor to basic services. It has identified and has been working under the following three thematic programme areas to help achieve this goal:

- Accessing Basic Services
- Breathing Clean Air
- Managing Urban Environment

Accessing Basic Services

Nepal, due to its harsh topography, still lacks transportation facilities in many parts of the country. Even the available but inadequate facilities break down frequently during the monsoon, making lives of the local communities more difficult. Also, electricity has not yet reached many villages and people there are still forced to use traditional lighting and heating systems. Practical Action Nepal is working towards providing appropriate alternatives to overcome these problems. The organisation has introduced and successfully demonstrated various alternative transport systems such as gravity goods ropeways, *tuins* and renewable energy technologies.

Objective

The broad objective of this programme is to improve access of poor people living in the isolated rural villages and urban slums to various integrated infrastructure services at the community level.



▲ Local Chepang children from REV.

Photo | Rajesh KC

Projects

- Renewable Energy Village (REV)
- Low cost wind systems for Human development in Nepal
- Improving access to useful services, systems and structures
- Rural community transport
- Economic benefits of non-motorised IMTs: case studies of rural Nepal
- Access for opportunities, Nepal

Practical Action Nepal started to work in this programme area since April 2004. The area encompasses the established sectors of renewable energy and alternative transport, integrating it with the new themes of water and sanitation, and waste management. These include the scaling up of intermediate means of rural transport (non-motorised especially wire bridges, gravity ropeways, bicycle based ambulances and trailers); and promoting decentralised renewable energy technologies focusing on wind energy systems.

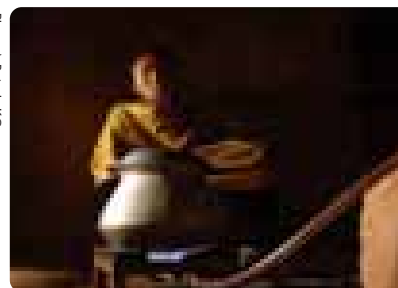
▼ Local women participating in small wind home system installation.



▼ A local girl passing by a chimney hood in REV, Gorkha.



▼ A woman using the newly installed biogas plant in REV, Gorkha.



Highlights

Capacity Development

With the aim to promote low cost sanitation technology, training on using low-cost ECOSAN toilet was provided to ten households in two out of the six villages in the Renewable Energy Village (REV) in Gorkha. Similarly, training on building low-cost irrigation facilities and the operation and management of community cooperative building was also conducted to build the capacity of the beneficiaries.

Knowledge Sharing Initiatives

After the successful intervention, Practical Action Nepal promoted the decentralised rural energy service concepts of REV through organising workshops in Nepalgunj and Pokhara. Altogether 65 district level energy stakeholders from six districts ~ Tanahun, Dhading, Pokhara, Banke, Bardiya and Surkhet participated in the workshop. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC).

Infrastructure Support

Biogas Units

Altogether 11 Biogas units were installed in the selected households of the REV, benefiting 72 individuals. Practical Action Nepal arranged the services of the local biogas company to install the plants. The community decided to create an energy

fund utilising the subsidy received from the government for biogas. The fund will be used mainly for the maintenance of the energy infrastructure ~ micro-hydro, pico-hydro plants, wind and solar hybrid systems install in the village.

Smoke Hoods

Indoor smoke from kitchen fires is one of the problems faced by the local community in the REV. A total of 47 households that were unable to access the biogas facilities installed the smoke hoods .

Ecological Sanitation (ECOSAN)

The beneficiary community identified sanitation as one of their priorities. Considering this, several ECOSAN toilets were constructed to demonstrate good sanitation practices. The user HHs were trained on the proper use and operation of such toilets. They now have the knowledge and skills on how to manage the urine and sludge effectively for reuse on their farms and gardens.

Marketing Initiatives

To expose the community to agro-processing techniques and technologies, two metal solar dryers were installed in the REV project sites. The community were trained on the use and benefit of these solar dryers. Similarly, marketing training was organised with the objective of organising the villagers into groups to market their products together, hence saving time and allowing them to receive a fair price. The villagers also built a

▼ School children crossing the river using tuin in Gorkha.



▼ The downstation of the gravity ropeway system in Toriswara, Dhading.



▼ A local farmer working on the irrigation system on his fields in REV, Gorkha.

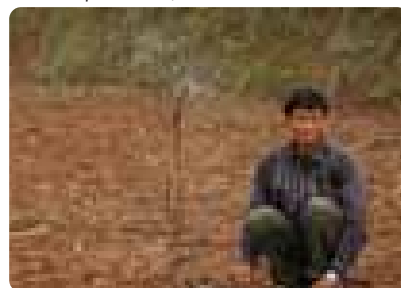


Photo \ Rajesh KC

multipurpose marketing shed on the side of the Trishuli river with the support from the project. This shed now serves as the community meeting room and storage and collection centre prior to marketing the produces.

Irrigation Work

The representatives of the community were taken to an irrigation technology demonstration site in Kathmandu as part of an exposure visit. After the exposure the community came up with irrigation plan of four drip and one sprinkle irrigation systems. The installation of this system is now benefiting over 150 people.

Tuins for River Crossing

During the year, altogether two *tuins* (river crossing cable cars) were installed in Thumka and Kanchanpur of Gorkha and Mahendranagar districts respectively. These tuins were handed over to the local management committees for operation and maintenance and also to resolve any issues that may arise during the process. Two existing tuins were also repaired in Syanja and Tanahu districts. Now, in total there are 12 *tuins* operating across the country installed by Practical Action Nepal.

Gravity Ropeways

To ease the transportation of local goods to the nearby market centre, this year two new gravity goods ropeways were installed at Toriswara and Chiraundi in Dhading District. These two gravity ropeways are giving easy and affordable transport options to the local villagers. The ropeways connect the village with the Prithvi Highway benefiting at least 702 people from 117 HHs. Both ropeways have been handed over to the local user committee for its operation and maintenance after building the confidence of the management committee. The user committee themselves are adopting different management approaches in these two sites. Similarly, preparatory work for one more gravity ropeway has been completed in Tanahu and is ready for installation.

Wind Turbine

Practical Action has been promoting small scale wind turbines in Nepal over the last few years. It is also conducting research and study through installing such plants in the rural villages for demonstration purposes. This year one small wind home system (IT-PE-100 watt) was successfully installed at Phakhel Village in Makawanpur district. The system is providing lighting to three off grid isolated households in the village.

CASE STUDY

Renewable Energy Turning Lives

Phul Maya Chepang, 36 years old, lives with her husband and three children in Bhumlichowk, a village 100 km west from Kathmandu. She has had no formal education and her family owns only 6 *Ropanis* (0.3 hectare) of land. Before Practical Action approached her village, Phul Maya and her husband had a very hard time earning a living for their family by cultivating traditional crops on their small plot of land from occasional wage labour.

Practical Action Nepal has been implementing and promoting renewable energy options to help improve the living conditions and increase the earning capacities of the local communities in this village. It conceptualised the demonstration of decentralised rural energy services in Renewable Energy Village (REV) which includes six villages of Bhumlichowk VDC in Gorkha district. Phul Maya's village, is also part of the REV.

Phul Maya initially got interested in the concept when she was first introduced to drip irrigation technology. With this knowledge she applied the irrigation system on her land. In the first year, she earned NRs. 25,000.00 (UKP 193) by cultivating crops on the same land on which she had been growing vegetables using the traditional methods for years. The earning increased 5 folds helping her to better manage the expenses involved in her children's education.

With the technical and financial assistance of Practical Action Nepal, she installed a smoke hood which helped reduce the indoor smoke and hence improve the kitchen environment. The smoke hood also resulted in the efficient



Photo | Rajesh KC

Phul Maya Chepang working on her farm with other woman.

use of fuel, drastically reducing the amount of wood required for cooking. Phul Maya now also has electricity from the wind-solar hybrid system which was installed in the village as part of the integrated intervention. Her children are happier with the electricity as they can now study without straining their eyes from the smoke of the wig lamp. The availability of electricity has also saved money and the drudgery that was involved in fetching kerosene from the local market.

Phul Maya has also constructed an ECOSAN toilet within her premises which has helped to keep the surrounding area clean and has also saved her family from the risk of going nearby forest during the night. She is now also planning to generate organic fertiliser from the ECOSAN toilet to use on the vegetable garden, which will help further improve crop production.

She is happy today with the direction her life has taken since Practical Action Nepal approached her village with new appropriate integrated interventions.

Breathing Clean Air

Practical Action Nepal developed this programme area, initiating largely on the works of smoke, health and household energy, in the upper hills. The programme helps to work towards improving the health conditions of people, particularly children and women, and thereby contributing in reducing child and maternal mortality rates as well as promoting environmental sustainability.

Objective

The main objective of this programme area is to enhance the health of the poor by working on technologies to reduce indoor air pollution.



▲ Children from the village of Gatlang.

Projects

- Burden of indoor pollution and viability of its mitigation effort: A study of Nepal
- Improving the health and living conditions of the poor by promoting technologies to improve healthy household environments in Gatlang, Rasuwa
- Researching pathways to sustainable smoke alleviation
- Strengthening the indoor smoke and health forum, Nepal

Practical Action Nepal started its intervention in reducing indoor air pollution in 2001. The work on indoor air pollution focuses on the promotion of locally appropriate technological solutions for smoke reduction, fuel switching options, the best ways of drying and storing biomass fuels for their efficient use and room ventilation and insulation options.

The programme has helped generate sufficient knowledge and evidence on the impacts of air pollution (specifically kitchen smoke) on human health. With the help of the national network on smoke and the smoke campaign at the regional level, the programme has also been able to influence other stakeholders and policy makers in this regard.

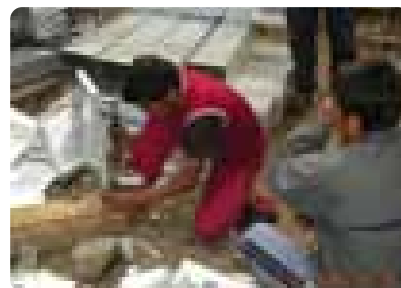
▼ A local woman preparing traditional food.



▼ Community members participating in a training session.



▼ A local being trained to assemble improve smoke hoods.



Highlights

Health Awareness

Community health awareness camps were organised, related documentaries were showcased and orientation and training on socially acceptable low cost technology that the communities themselves could develop and implement were provided. To reach out to a wider audience, posters informing about the impacts of smoke on health and the measures that can be taken to reduce it were published and widely distributed. Videos, both in English and Nepali, were produced for wider dissemination covering the ongoing activities in the selected villages.

Capacity Building

To promote individual household sanitation, water storage and space heating, ten households from two different villages were oriented and trained on the participatory design and development of low cost technology systems. The capacity of ten more households was built through training workshops for the effective use and maintenance of services at the household level. Also, a tailored training course covering scaling-up modality and revolving fund management was attended by 35 committee members.

Similarly, to ensure a smooth supply of smoke hoods, entrepreneurs were trained in different areas. Eight

new entrepreneurs were trained in hood manufacturing, five in business planning and marketing promotion and 14 in business planning and record keeping.

Infrastructure Services

Construction work for communal stand post rehabilitation, kitchen improvement, wall insulation, ventilation, drinking water supply, toilets and waste management system, and courtyard pavement were carried out during the year in Gatlang. Working committee formed by local communities in each village and the local masons and semi-skilled labours were trained in plumbing, mud plastering and carpentry. A revolving fund was established in DDC with the aim to install smoke hood in households that cannot afford them. The DDC also made financial contribution to the fund.

Website Launched

The Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum Nepal was established in March 2005 with the objective of undertaking studies and research on policy issues related to indoor air pollution and health to generate ideas that address these issues. The website www.indoorair.org.np for Indoor Air Pollution and the Health Forum Nepal was launched this year. The website has been useful for disseminating knowledge widely across the globe on indoor air pollution reduction initiatives and advocacy initiatives of which Nepal has been undertaking.

Policy Reviews and Technical Studies

To identify the policy gaps and to recommend appropriate policy instruments in the region, a south Asian level policy study on indoor air pollution and household energy and health covering India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh was conducted. This was done jointly with different institutions namely - India (Tata Energy Research Institute), Pakistan (Rural Development Policy Institute), Nepal (National Academy of Science and Technology), Practical

Action Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The researchers at the country level presented their draft reports in Nepal in the presence of the National Smoke Forum members and collected feedback to finalise the report.

Similarly, a study on inventory of smoke alleviating products in Nepal was commenced. The study contains a technical inventory of various low and medium cost technologies being used in Nepal that help reduce smoke pollution inside the house.

CASE STUDY

Dolma saved from killer smoke

Dolma, 37 years old, a mother of six children exposed to indoor smoke for many years suffered from eye irritation and constant coughing from chest infection. Not aware that smoke could be such a hazardous culprit, Dolma took all possible measures to cure herself and her family members from the ailments. Believing it could be the work of witchery she even visited shamans. When nothing helped, as a last resort she visited the health post located at a distance over three hours walk away, spending a hefty sum of money, time and energy. It was there she was first told that the smoke that she lived in everyday was the cause of the ailments. She of course, did not believe this at that time.

It was later when Practical Action Nepal introduced its project in the Gatlang village that Dolma learnt in detail the hazardous effects smoke can have on health. It came as a shock, an unbelievable truth initially but she was later convinced by her friend who had seen the smoke graph on the computer. After she was convinced, Dolma became actively involved in surveys, discussions and chimney hood



The installation of improved smoke hood has improved the health of many women and children by reducing indoor smoke.

installations. She even plastered the walls of her kitchen for insulation in spite of the long held beliefs about the benefits of smoke. During the process, she also motivated other community members to do the same, by sharing newly gained knowledge.

There were immediate improvements observed in the everyday life of Dolma and her family after the installation of the hood over the traditional cooking stove. They now have improved health, a cleaner and warmer kitchen environment and much less medical expenses. Also, the plastering of the walls helped reduce the number of mice that frequented the house.

Managing Urban Environment

In Nepal, like in most of the other countries, urbanisation is increasing at an alarming pace putting enormous pressure on the limited resources and infrastructure of the urban area. Under this programme area, Practical Action Nepal is working to address the problem of the urban poor and their inclusion in urban development which enhance their livelihood and contribute to the national development.

Objective

To reduce environmental threats to health and livelihoods of the urban slum dwellers, thus helping to reduce poverty in the selected area



▲ A recycling site in Butwal.

Projects

- Integrated approaches to improve the urban environment in Asia
- Strengthening local capacities in Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) in the small and medium municipalities of Nepal

The programme is being implemented in Butwal, Bharatpur, Birendranagar, Nepalgunj and Vyas Municipalities. In Butwal, the programme has been supporting participatory planning at the neighborhood level and CBO capacity building, while also establishing and strengthening partnerships between CBOs and other stakeholders. In other above mentioned municipalities it is going ahead with the aim to improve the health and environmental conditions of the disadvantaged people living in the emerging municipalities by focusing on Integrated Sustainable ISWM. Both of the above mentioned projects are EU supported projects under its budget line Asia Pro Eco II.

▼ Locals from Butwal being briefed during the exposure visit to Kirtipur, Kathmandu.



▼ A local community member being trained to prepare cement slabs.



▼ A local woman presenting her ideas during a capacity development session in Butwal.



Highlights

Community Awareness Building

In order to increase awareness and provide exposure to the local communities, exposure visits were organised to the Bharatpur, Hetauda, Thimi and Kirtipur municipalities. The local community members and officials of the Butwal Municipality participated in the visits. During the exposure visits, the participants observed various sanitation related techniques and technologies. Further, the participants also received information on local saving and credit groups.

Neighbourhood Planning and Monitoring

Eight meetings in the selected eight slum settlements in Butwal were carried out to agree on the concepts of neighbourhood plans by engaging the local authorities. The concepts include the methodology of preparing the plans, basic information of the settlements, analysis of the problems of the project settlements and the

proposed activities. The overall objective of developing neighbourhood plans is to assess and analyze the situations of the settlements and reflect upon the problems in the plan as per the priorities of the communities.

Capacity Building

To support income generation and employment, 30 community members from the project settlements in Butwal were extensively trained in plumbing and house wiring. A three day waste management training course was organised with participation of 23 community members and two municipality staff. During the training they learned various ways to re-use old plastic and paper, making organic fertilisers and using waste as a resource.

A three day communication and leadership training course was also conducted for 16 potential leaders in the selected communities. This training helped the community members in voicing their demands for basic services and land rights to the municipality.

CASE STUDY

Waste as a resource

Bishnu Sinjali lives in Pragatinagar, a slum settlement in the Butwal Municipality, with her husband and three children. Pragatinagar is one of the project settlements under the project Integrated Approaches to Improving Urban Environment in Asia. Bishnu has been living there since 1996. The nearby river - *Tinau* had been the only source of income for her and her family from where they collected stone boulders to sell to contractors.

During the project implementation Bishnu participated in the three day waste management course conducted by the Butwal Municipality in partnership with Practical Action Nepal in November 2006. From the training Bishnu realised that waste could be used as resource and hence could help improve the neighbourhood environment, while also serving as an extra means of income.

Since the training she has stopped throwing plastic products in the river bank and household organic waste on the streets. With the newly acquired knowledge and skills, she started making organic fertilisers from the organic waste and useful articles such as utensils and body scrubbers from the plastic waste.

Bishnu has now developed an understanding that one should first improve ones thinking in order to improve the world. She believes that if every citizen thinks for the betterment of the



Plastic products prepared by Bishnu using waste plastic.

environment, our world will be a living paradise. Nowadays she has started motivating her neighbours to throw the waste in a proper place and not on the bank of the river or on the street. After the training, waste on the street and settlements has been significantly reduced. Further, the community is now planning to organise themselves to collect the plastic waste to reuse it or to sell it to scrap dealers.

In a very short time, Bishnu has proved that a small initiative can make a huge positive difference. She has been supportive of the ongoing work of the project and believes more positive changes are needed to manage the slum settlement and that are possible with participation of slum dwellers.

News

CEO Visited Nepal Office

Simon Trace, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Practical Action, visited Nepal from 8th to 16th February 2007. The main objectives of his visit were to support the Nepal office in strategic planning, to get exposure of the project sites and to launch two of the new projects, *Access for Opportunities* and *Strengthening local capacities in Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) in the small and medium municipalities of Nepal*.

To observe the ongoing field work, he visited some of the project sites including the Climate Change project site at Kabilas, the DIPECHO project site in Nawalparasi and the Food Security project sites in Banke, Kailali and Nawalparasi.

In order to help in the process of developing strategic plans, he met with the individual Aim Team members and the Support Unit staff. Prior to that, he also made a half an hour presentation on the Practical Action global strategy to all the staff which was followed by discussion.

Projects Launched

Practical Action Nepal initiated two new projects; *Access for Opportunities, Nepal* and *Strengthening Local Capacities in Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) in Small and Medium Municipalities of Nepal* officially launching them on the 15 of February 2007. The event was chaired by Mr. Simon Trace, CEO, Practical Action and the chief guest of the program was Hon. Ramakanta Gauro, Member of the National Planning Commission of Government of Nepal. Various representatives from ministries, national and international organisations and donor agencies, including the European Union, were present at the occasion.



Of the two, the *Access for Opportunities, Nepal* project aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of 14,834 marginalised households within 24 VDCs of Achham, Kalikot, Gorkha and Tanahu districts through improved access to transport services and complementary livelihood activities. Similarly, the overall objective of the second project is to improve the health and environmental conditions of 5000 disadvantaged households living in four emerging municipalities, namely; Bharatpur, Vyas, Nepalgunj and Birendranagar. Both the projects are funded by the European Union.

Global Leadership Award

During the third Biennial Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA) Forum in Bangalore, India, the Partnership For Clean Indoor Air presented the Global Leadership Award to Practical Action Nepal. The award was presented acknowledging the initiative of Practical Action Nepal in the field of indoor smoke reduction.



Practical Action Nepal started the work of promoting clean indoor air at the ground level with some initial research in the year 2000. The implementation began in 2002 and the work has been going on to date. Originally initiated with the WHO and the University of Liverpool, today there are over 120 organisations involved in this issue globally.

Knowledge Sharing Contests

This year Practical Action head office organised global knowledge sharing contest within the

organisation. From Nepal three entries received prizes in two different contests. The *Guidelines to Participatory Innovation Development (PID)* a resource manual based on participatory approaches built on farmer innovation received third prize under knowledge product category. Similarly, two case studies titled *Mason to Smoke Hood Manufacturer* and *Getting Electricity to Lugdi Village* received second and third prize respectively in case study category.



Workshop on Indoor Air Pollution and Policy Gaps

Practical Action Nepal, along with the Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum Nepal, organised a two day workshop on *Policy Gaps on Household Energy, Indoor Air Pollution and Health in South Asia* in Kathmandu, Nepal from 19 to 20 February 2007. About 50 participants including policy researchers from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka participated in the workshop.

In the workshop, it was observed that the solution to the widespread problem of indoor air pollution should be based on a country's need. In some countries shifting to cleaner and more efficient fuels such as LPGs and kerosene are appropriate solutions while countries like Nepal the promotion of more fuel efficient and cleaner technologies such as improved cooking stoves, smoke hoods, solar cookers and biogas may be the better option.



Visit of Trustees

Over the reporting period, two of the trustees visited Practical Action Nepal Office. A briefing programme was organised for Mr. Hugh Belshaw and Mr. Bryan Stevens by the SMT on 11 of September 2006. The trustees were very enthusiastic about the kind of projects being implemented in Nepal and had interactions with individual staff members during the day. Later during their stay, on 25 of September, Mr. Bryan Stevens visited project sites in Jagatpur, Chitwan together with the Country Director of Nepal office. He had interaction with the beneficiaries who were engaged on river protection work during his visit. He also had an interaction with the officials of partner organisations. Bryan was pleased to see the ground work and opined that it helped him to understand the development work more clearly. Practical Action Nepal family heartily thanks both the trustees for their kind visit and takes up the suggestion and advices that they have given.



Internal Information Sharing

Practical Action Nepal staff were trained on using SharePoint, an internal information sharing system during early 2007. In order to increase internal information sharing and learning, and provide a platform through which to reduce data redundancy and increase the efficient use of the available information, Practical Action aims to set up the system and train staff in its headquarters and all the overseas offices.

Regional Offices Established

During 2006/07 Practical Action Nepal established and operationalised Regional Offices in Nepalgunj and Chitwan. Both of these offices are strategically located to reach out to the poor and marginalised communities in the two main geographic clusters where Practical Action Nepal concentrates its work within the country. The contact points for the project people, partners and other stakeholders, the new offices are regional in nature.

Technical Information to International Visitors

A team of 14 members from UN Habitat Afghanistan and a three members team from ActionAid Afghanistan visited Practical Action Nepal office in order to learn about the technologies that are promoted by the organisation. During the visits it was discussed about possible replication of the technologies in Afghanistan. Similarly, from the Ministry of Agriculture of Bhutan, a team of three visited in order to learn about gravity ropeways and possible extension of the technology in various parts of their country. The international teams visited the project sites along with the project staff. Dr. Ravi Narayanan, the ex-CEO of WaterAid UK also visited Practical Action Nepal in relation to external evaluation of UN Habitat programmes in Nepal.

Stakeholders Visit to Project Sites

In December, Practical Action Nepal organised an exposure visit to its gravity ropeway project sites for donors, government authorities and wider stakeholders. The participants of the visits were very much impressed with the work and highlighted the need to scale-up such work in other parts of the country. During the feedback session the World Bank and DoLIDAR declared their commitment to include gravity ropeway in their joint project by incorporating in the Annual Plan.

Information Dissipation

The news on Practical Action's work continued to come in many national dailies. During the year prominent coverage was done by the Guardian, a leading and prestigious newspaper of the UK which covered Practical Action Nepal's work in preparing the poor and marginalised communities to better cope with the impacts of Climate Change.



Practical action's Publication

Financial Update

Statement of financial activities for the year end of 2006/07 in GBP



Information Technology Development Group Limited (former of Practical Action)				Year
Statement of financial activities for the year ended				31 Dec 2007
		2006/07	2005/06	TOTAL 2007
		£	£	£
110	Government Grants	248,000	7,000	255,000
112	MSD Grants	170,000	170,000	340,000
116	Other Grants	26,200	10,000	36,200
118	Donations	26,000	7,700	33,700
119	Other Income	-	-	-
120	Sales of Materials	-	200	200
121	Financial Contribution Fund	-	-	-
122	Bank Interest Receivable	-	200	200
126	Income Taxpaid	(24,700)	-	(24,700)
TOTAL	Income	485,500	235,900	721,400
210	Marketing and Fundraising	-	6,600	6,600
211	Marketing Materials	(60,000)	-	(60,000)
212	Printing Materials used for their People	(7,200)	-	(7,200)
213	Printing Access to Information Services	(18,000)	1,000	(17,000)
214	Printing to New Technologies	-	-	-
220	Country Operations, Finance, Admin, Personnel (P)	-	7,000	7,000
221	Printing Technology Area	-	-	-
TOTAL	Expenditure	(85,200)	14,600	(70,600)
Net Movement		400,300	221,300	621,600
Brought Forward		(24,000)	(14,000)	(38,000)
Carried Forward		376,300	207,300	583,600

The notes on pages 4 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

[Signature]
 Andrew G. Laidlaw
 General Director

[Signature]
 T. R. Clark
 Finance Manager

[Signature]
 S. H. Walker
 Partner
 TFC & Co
 Chartered Accountants

Providing Practical Answers

Practical Answers is a free service run by Practical Action to help meet the technical information needs of individuals and organisations. The service runs on the fact that technical information can be of immense value to the poor people and that practitioners, entrepreneurs and organisations at all levels need to know about the available options and innovations. The service provides access to a wealth of technical information held by Practical Action and its partners.

Practical Answers Comprises of : Technical Enquiry Service

Technical Enquiry Service helps us to directly work with information seekers and provide them with the technical information they are seeking. Queries are also received and answered through phone, email and fax. Every month, on an average about 17 queries is handled through this service in the Nepal office.

Information Resources

Practical Action has created a range of materials such as leaflets, CDs, journals and online resources covering many appropriate technology subjects. There are over a 100 well documented manuals, case studies, practical guides and videos that provide detailed information on various technologies in the Nepal office.

Resource Centre

Practical Action's Resource Centre is open to the public and holds a distinctive collection that covers wide subject areas including agriculture, energy, water, manufacturing and processing, among others.

Enquiries can be sent to us directly by contacting us at
Practical Action Nepal
PO Box 15135
Pandol Marg, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal
or by emailing us at info@practicalaction.org.np
or by visiting www.practicalaction.org

PRACTICAL ACTION

Technology challenging poverty



Practical Action Worldwide

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