

NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

REACHING OUR GOALS

'North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) aims to assist the rural poor and vulnerable communities including women in improving their livelihood. The project components include social empowerment, economic empowerment, partnership development and project management.'

NERLP projects are spread across the states of Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Following an earlier assessment conducted by ASSET & W, NERLP and ASSET & W have partnered in March 2017, to promote goat rearing as a source of livelihood in the West and South districts of Sikkim.

The objective of the partnership is to promote Goat Cluster in the south and the west district of Sikkim. The project is spread across 50 Gram Panchayats in the two districts, 25 in each district. The intervention target 3,600 households in the two districts. One Gram Panchayat consists of three to four wards. One ward comprises of 50 to 100 households.

As per the plan, ASSET & W will develop a cadre of community resource person (Nos 50) in the form of Community Service Providers (CSP) (Nos. 30) and Community Agro Vet Entrepreneurs (CAVE) (Nos. 20). The community resource person will be supported by NERLP and ASSET & W to mobilize the community and implement the project. ASSET & W will also facilitate in training and promoting Improved Animal Resource Management Practices and Social Capital building in the community through NERLP.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN FIRST QUARTER

(April 2017—June 2017)

(Budget Utilization certificate in Annexure 1)

Scheduled	Completed
i) 7 days training of trainers on Heifer's 12 Corner stones to 50 participants	(24th to 28th April,17 & 1st to 5th May,17)
ii) 5 days training of trainers on Improved Animal Resource Management to 30 participants	(17th to 21st July,17)
iii) 2 days Performance Self Review and Planning and Vision Building training to 50 participant	(28th of April,17 & 5th May,17)
iv) 10 days of Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneur training to 20 participants	(22nd May to 31st May,17)
v) IEC material developed and submitted	(Done)

(2 days of Cornerstone training is planned for the NERLP staff in each district to monitor implementation at community level)



NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

We have provided more than 30 days of training in the last quarter and have developed a cadre of 50 community resource persons in the form of Community Service Provider (CSP) and Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs (CAVE). Each district has 15 CSPs and 10 CAVEs to implement the project.

CSPs and CAVEs are trained in Improved Animal Management and Heifer International's Cornerstone training. CAVEs are further trained in primary animal health services to support the community with accessibility to basic animal well being services at a nominal fee in their doorstep. They also connect the community to the local veterinary centres for more support.

Trained CSPs are training the community in cornerstones while trained CAVEs will be training the community in Improved Animal Resource Management. Cornerstone values are widely accepted by the community and have shown keenness on passing on the gift as their production improves. Community is identifying the value of collectivization, empowering them with better bargaining power for trade. Improved Animal Management training by the CAVE will be started as the original group families are identified.

Methods of selecting households for Original Group and Pass On Group was shared with NERLP. These parameters will be contextualized and implemented to identify 3600 households across the two project districts. A template to access community adoption of best practices was also shared with NERLP.

As improved animal management practices are adopted by the community and production increases, a critical factor to sustain such impact would be to have a business plan at family level as well as at community level. ASSET & W has shared a template of business plan that can be contextualized to the local need.

Challenges Identified

- ◆ CSPs and CAVEs are committed a remuneration from the project for the trainings they provide to the community. As they have not received the same, it has become a critical factor to keep them motivated for community mobilization.
- ◆ CAVE Kit is a necessity for the CAVE to impart animal well being services to the community. As they have not received the same from the project they are not able to provide their services in the community. With improved animal management training and increase production, this will be a critical component to sustain the impact.
- ◆ Trainings planned in the project are conditional to organizing of logistics and community participation. This has critical impact on project output and is dependent on necessary internal approval. Thus, ASSET & W is providing training schedule and requirements to NERLP in a month in advance.

SCALE up Opportunity identified

Swine Farming, Dairy and Backyard poultry are identified as prevalent practice in the project community. These value chains may be strengthened to complement household income thus making them more resilient. The cadre of CAVE and CSP planned through this partnership may be utilized for this effort. ASSET & W will share an estimate of resource hours that would be required to strengthen Swine, dairy and Backyard Poultry production in the project area, leveraging on this partnership.

