

NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

REACHING OUR GOALS

The partnership between North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) and Adharshila for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation and Welfare (ASSET & W) is focused towards developing goat cluster for rural livelihood in the West and South districts of Sikkim. The partnership was launched on the 17th of March, 2017 and have completed three quarters of implementation on the 31st of December, 2017. This is the third quarterly report in the series of reporting of project implementation from the field.

The activities planned for the quarter October –November-December 2018, as per the work plan agreed upon at the start of the project included the following:

- i) Farmer Producer Organization Training
- ii) Pre Cooperative Training
- iii) CAVE Training—Phase 2
- iv) Exposure Visit to Nepal

However with the delay in the flow of funds and change in ground conditions the planned activities were deferred, with mutual agreement from NERLP and ASSET & W. As per the objective of the partnership ASSET & W is responsible for developing Package of Practices and draw possible interventions for developing a replicable and scalable model. To this effect in the earlier quarters 20 CAVEs and 30 CSPs were trained in Animal Resource Management and building social capital through Cornerstone trainings. ASSET & W further facilitated promoting these trainings by the CAVEs and CSPs in the community.

As per the project requirements identified, prioritized and shared and in consideration with available resources certain activities were undertaken in the two focussed districts:



ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN THE THIRD QUARTER—WEST SIKKIM

(October 2017—December 2017)

(Budget Utilization certificate in Annexure 1)

Activities

Completed

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| i) Cornerstone Training of all OG, POG and SHGs | (_____, 17) |
| ii) Improved Animal Resource Management Training of all OG and SHGs | (_____, 17) |
| iii) 3 months of Farmer Field School | (_____, 17) |

FFS Outcome in treatment groups

- ◆ 6 out of 8 tagged goats gave birth
- ◆ Improvement recorded in terms of Weight, Body Condition scores and FAMACHA scores
- ◆ Improved birth weight and weekly weight increase
- ◆ Adoption of Azolla, Mineral Mix and Mineral Blocks
- ◆ Adoption of Azolla cultivation in self-constructed low cost tanks using plastic
- ◆ Adoption of Shed Repair Practice including formation of raised platform, partition and Manger
- ◆ Sowing of Soya bean for fodder in 2 households (done in a trial basis)

Field Update

* 270 goats dewormed	* 170 started Azolla cultivation	* 60 goats vaccinated
* 20 pigs dewormed	* 270 families started using mineral blocks	* 45 shed improved
* 16 cows dewormed	* 210 families started using mineral mix	* 59 goat registration
* 43 poultry dewormed	* 36 new families inducted in goat rearing	* 41 goats castrated

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ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN THE THIRD QUARTER—SOUTH SIKKIM

(October 2017—December 2017)

(Budget Utilization certificate in Annexure 1)

Activities	Completed
i) Cornerstone Training of all OG, POG and SHGs	(_____, 17)
ii) Improved Animal Resource Management Training of all OG and SHGs	(_____, 17)
iii) 3 months of Farmer Field School	(_____, 17)

FFS Outcome in treatment groups

- ◆ 6 out of 8 tagged goats gave birth
- ◆ Improvement recorded in terms of Weight, Body Condition scores and FAMACHA scores
- ◆ Improved birth weight and weekly weight increase
- ◆ Adoption of Azolla, Mineral Mix and Mineral Blocks
- ◆ Adoption of Azolla cultivation in self-constructed low cost tanks using plastic
- ◆ Adoption of Shed Repair Practice including formation of raised platform, partition and Manger

Field Update

* 118 goats dewormed	* 17 started Azolla cultivation	* 78 goats vaccinated
* 98 cows dewormed	* 1,009 families started using mineral blocks	* 419 shed improved
* 130 poultry dewormed	* 357 families started using mineral mix	* 649 goat registration
	* 98 new families inducted in goat rearing	* 81 goats castrated

As per the local estimate, from April 2018 onwards, import of crushed maize, oil cake and other concentrate ingredients will be banned. Azolla cultivation will be an added advantage in that situation as it can compensate the mineral deficiencies for the domestic animal to some extent if combined with other local fodder.

In this quarter, the regional team of ASSET & W have imparted training and modification of reporting system as well as data entry on different activities undertaken by CSP and CAVE as per PME software. The team also trained the CAVE and Paravet on medicine kits.

As per an official memorandum dated 30th November 2017, shared by NERLP distribution of livestock (goat) is identified as a critical activity to advance goat rearing in the community and promote Passing of the Gift. ASSET & W have provided Technical Specifications for selection of goats for purchase. The field team of ASSET & W have worked with NERLP team to identify over 200 goats locally for purchase. It is noted that CAVEs and Paravets will have to be trained for such selection of goats at scale. The field team also visited the New India Assurance Company at Gangtok to explore opportunity for insurance of female goats in the community. Availability of quality goats has come up as a challenge for procurement at scale. Option of purchasing goats from West Bengal area is also examined however, it comes with a risk of high mortality of livestock due to geographical condition mismatch.

Activities planned for the next quarter, January–February–March, 2018, subject to release of funds are as under:

- i) Farmer Producer Organization Training
- ii) Pre Cooperative Training
- iii) CAVE Training—Phase 2
- iv) Exposure Visit to Nepal
- v) Completion of Farmer Field School

A detail report update from the Farmer Field School and Budget is attached along with this report.

