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Training Programmes for
Development of Micro-enterprises
in the Cottage and Small Sector
in Nepal

M. M. Gurung

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Preface

Development experiences in most of the mountain areas of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, over the past decades, have shown that the prevailing predominant mode of their economies - subsistence agriculture - is becoming increasingly unsustainable both economically and ecologically. Diversification of economic activities into products and services, for which these areas offer a comparative advantage, through enterprise-based production for the market is considered necessary for sustaining livelihoods and alleviating the poverty of the rapidly increasing population. It is in this context that ICIMOD established a programme on 'Development of Micro-enterprises in Mountain Areas' with the objectives of identifying constraints and opportunities and developing policy, programme, and training guidelines for enterprise development in hill and mountain areas of the HKH region. As part of this programme, the Centre has commissioned a number of studies in different countries and areas of the HKH region with a view to documenting experiences of development and functioning of enterprises covering different aspects such as comparative advantages of products, processes, and factors in enterprise development, technology, credit, marketing, and development of entrepreneurial skills as well policies and programmes by government and non-government agencies for promotion of enterprises.

The present paper 'Training Programmes for Development of Micro-enterprises in the Cottage and Small Sector in Nepal' by M. M. Gurung is one in this series of studies. It is being published with the hope that it will be found useful by those engaged in research and development, policy-making, programme formulation, and implementation for the promotion of enterprises, as well as by the present and potential entrepreneurs in their respective activities.

T. S. Papola Head, Mountain Enterprises and Infrastructure Division

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M.M. Gurung

The study suggests a more specific group approach for training rather than the general one being followed by most organizations. Groups could be location-specific, i.e., mountains or plains, rural or urban, as well as product specific it also stresses the need to coordinate the training with other inputs and services such as credit, consultancy, and marketing information. The study recommends that the various organizations should also coordinate their programmes with each other in order to maximise the benefits from the available training resources.

Abstract

Training for entrepreneurship development has been recognised for over one and a half decades as an essential ingredient in the development of small and micro-enterprises in Nepal. Currently, several organizations are engaged in entrepreneurship development programmes, training about 1,500 persons annually. The present study examines various aspects of the training programmes carried out by different organizations and attempts an evaluation of their effectiveness, particularly on the basis of a sample survey carried out among recent trainees in Kaski and Tanahu districts. While most organizations follow a more or less similar format for the selection of trainees and contents and the delivery of training, post-training backup and support provided by these organizations vary. Overall, about 35 per cent of the trainees have set up enterprises after receiving training, the rate of course varies, depending on the organization imparting the training and the location; the success rate among women trainees is lower than that among men trainees. The present study also identifies training-related and post-training factors that lead to a relatively low success rate.

The study suggests a more specific group approach for training rather than the general one being followed by most organizations. Groups could be location-specific, i.e., mountains or plains, rural or urban, as well as product specific. It also stresses the need to coordinate the training with other inputs and services such as credit, consultancy, and marketing information. The study recommends that the various organizations should also coordinate their programmes with each other in order to maximise the benefits from the available training resources.

Nepal Bank Limited

Acronyms/Abbreviations

ADB Asian Development Bank

ADB/N Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal

ccs Complementary Credit Schemes

CDO Chief District Officer

CEFE Creation of Entrepreneurs and Formation of Enterprises

CIDA Canadian International Development Agency

CSI Cottage and Small Industries

CSIDB Cottage and Small Industries' Development Board

DDC District Development Committee

DCSI Department of Cottage and Small Industries

EEC European Economic Council

FAO Food and Agricultural Organization

FNCSI Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GTZ German Technical Cooperation

HMG/N His Majesty's Government of Nepal

IEDI Industrial Enterprises' Development Institute

MLD Ministry of Local Development

NBC New Business Creation
NBL Nepal Bank Limited

NGO Non-Government Organization

PBI Planning and Business Information
PCRW Production Credit for Rural Women

RBB Rasriya Banijya Bank

SBPP Small Business Promotion Project
SBC Small Business Consultancy
STI Services to Institutions

TRE Training for Rural Employment TRUGA Training for Rural Gainful Employment Project United Nations Development Programme UNDP Women's Development Division **WDD** Women Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal **WEAN**

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