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Nepal: The GTZ Experience of Self- Help Promotion at Local Level

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Nepal: The GTZ Experience of Self-Help Promotion at Local Level

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PREFACE

Documentation and dissemination of development experiences are important activities of ICIMOD in the context of fulfilling its goal of evolving appropriate approaches, strategies, policies and programmes for sustainable development of mountain areas and alleviating the poverty of mountain people. As part of this endeavour, the Centre brings out publications resulting from its own research studies, workshops, meetings, and consultations on a regular basis. ICIMOD also, from time to time, draws on the experiences of other agencies that are of significant interest and relevance to the development of mountain areas.

The present document prepared by Dr. Krishna B. Bhattachan and Dr. Durga P. Ojha of the Impact Monitoring Unit of GTZ, Nepal, summarises the experiences of five Grass Roots' Level Self-Help Programmes undertaken by GTZ in Nepal. It presents the basic elements and structure, objectives, scope, and coverage as well as strengths and weaknesses revealed in implementing each of these programmes. It is hoped that this paper will be very useful for government agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and other agencies involved in formulating and implementing poverty alleviation programmes in Nepal as well as in other mountain regions.

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ABSTRACT

A major strategy of GTZ-supported rural development (RD)/poverty alleviation (PA) projects in Nepal is to promote and strengthen self-help capabilities at the local level. This paper summarises the experiences of five different self-help programmes and raises some policy issues for poverty alleviation. The programmes are (i) Swabalamban, (ii) Self-help Banking, (iii) Banking with the Poor, (iv) Small Farmers' Cooperative Limited, and (v) Grass Root Level Institutional Development in Gorkha. An analytical framework is presented which identifies the conditions of poverty reproduction in rural Nepal as the interaction of the prevailing social and economic structures that reinforce each other. Based on experiences in Nepal and South Asia, three pre-conditions to poverty alleviation are specified — effective organisation of the poor, human development, and access of the poor to economic resources and income generating opportunities. The concept, approach, strategy, and status of the five programmes are summarised and their strengths and weaknesses are examined within this framework. The paper concludes with important policy issues such as target group orientation, sustainability, mass orientation and replicability, comprehensive vs. partial approach, and environmental issues.

GDLP German Development Project
GO Group Organizer
GTZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German
Technical Cooperation)

HELVETAS Swiss Technical Assistance
IMG

IRD

NFE
NGO

ON

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB-Manila	Asian Development Bank-Manila
ADB-N	Agricultural Development Bank-Nepal
BSP	Biogas Support Programme of SNV
BWTP	Banking with the Poor
ChFDP	Churia Forest Development Project
CSD	Centre for Self-help Development
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDP	Dhading Development Project
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GATE	German Appropriate Technology Exchange
GDP	Gorkha Development Project
GO	Group Organiser
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
HELVETAS	Swiss Technical Assistance
HMG-N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
IBP	Intensive Banking Programme
IDS	Integrated Development Systems
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IG	Inter Group
IGA	Income-generating Activities
IGG	Income generating Group
IMU	Impact Monitoring Unit
IRD	Integrated Rural Development
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Project
LCP	Local Contact Person
NFE	Non-formal Education
NGO	Non-government Organisation
O & M Fund	Operation and Maintenance Fund

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